

TEMPLE MEGILLAH



TIVET-SHIEVAT 5773

ISSUE 63- FEBRUARY 2013



Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013 1:30-4 PM

This is our Torah School's biggest fund-raiser! Volunteers are needed to work the event and to donate cakes. Please call the office for details.



Two Freedoms, and the Connection between Purim and Pesach

by Rabbi Lisa Bock

As I write this article for our *MEGILLAH*, we are preparing to read "The Megillah" – the scroll containing the words of the Book

of Esther, and soon, just weeks later, to celebrate Passover. It's almost as though we can "feel" these holidays coming... In my home, we know as spring arrives, it is time to stop buying cereal and pasta, in anticipation of turning our household upside down in celebration of Passover. Spring cleaning comes to mind. I think about fresh tablecloths, inviting friends and family to our Seder, and of course, getting out the haggadot, the booklets we use for our dinner table service. I start looking for horseradish root in the store – yes, I do make fresh horseradish that really does bring tears to the eyes. It is these tears that bring us a physical reminder of the pain of slavery. And of course, it is our freedom from slavery and bondage in Egypt that we celebrate.

But if we look a little deeper, it is not just physical freedom that we celebrate, we also celebrate spiritual freedom. We go from bondage to physical freedom, and we go from being unable to worship to being free to worship God.

The distinction between physical freedom and spiritual freedom is an important one. It can be a reminder that our circumstances can give us very real boundaries, and yet our spirit is nevertheless free. During the month or so before Passover, we have four Shabbatot that are called Shabbat Shekalim, Shabbat Zachor, Shabbat Parah, and Shabbat HaChodesh. Shabbat Shekalim is named for the portion of Torah we read on that Shabbat which discusses the half shekel (a form of currency) that each person contributes to support the portable tent in the desert, and later, to the Temple in Jerusalem. Shabbat Zachor, for Shabbat of Remembrance, is an admonition to remember Amalek - Haman, the villain in the Story of Esther, is a descendant of Amalek, and Shabbat Zachor is the Sabbath right

before Purim. Shabbat Parah is right after Purim, and is a reading about the Red Heifer, whose ashes were mixed with water to ritually purify anyone who was ritually impure, as only those who were ritually pure could eat from the Passover sacrifice. The fourth Shabbat is Shabbat HaChodesh, which this year is on March 9th, the 27th of Adar. The passage read on this Shabbat deals with Passover laws, and details on the observance of Passover. A final special Shabbat is Shabbat HaGadol, the Great Sabbath, just before Passover.

On Shabbat Zachor, the Sabbath of Remembrance, we are reminded to remember Amalek. This is an opportunity for us to prepare for Passover, and assess in our own lives our physical freedom, and spiritual freedom. Amalek can be thought of as a villain that we must prevail against, a sort of evil character that might be at the core of a good-guy, bad-guy movie. This we can think of as struggling for our physical freedom. Or, we can use the image of Amalek as a metaphor for that which stops us internally. This is the fight for our spiritual freedom. Our internal Amalek might be that voice which says, "I can't", "I'm not good enough," ... all the things we say to ourselves which stop us from accomplishing things and being our truest selves in our own lives and in the world. The internal Amalek is that voice of doubt, negativity and failure, and this is what we have the opportunity to remember. We are also instructed to forget the name of Amalek. By remembering, we are reminded to forget Amalek. Perhaps this is really a reminder to turn the volume down on that voice of doubt, negativity, and failure.

I wish for you and our whole Ner Ami family a fulfilling, meaningful, and joyous Purim and, coming soon, Passover.

With blessing,

Rabbi Lisa Bock



515 Temple Avenue Camarillo, CA 93010

www.TempleNerAmi.org

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Purim-Fest Weekend at Temple Ner Ami!

Cathy Lieb - Education Committee Chair/Purim Chair

Friday, Feb 22 Purim Shabbat led by our 4th graders

6:00 Bring your own dinner and enjoy beverages and hamentaschen provided by the Torah School.

7:00 Students will lead the Service and present a comical Purim Spiel. Come in costume, spin our groggers, and enjoy the company!

Saturday, 6:30-9:00, Feb 23 Purim Cocktail Party "FUN-Raiser"

Steve Moore is involved in planning this evening.... Need we say more?!!! :D

Get to know Gil Ramot, our new Torah School Principal. Socialize with food

and cocktails while we build Purim Baskets – our tokens of friendship and community.

Sunday, 1:30-4:00, Feb 24 Purim Carnival!

Feel like a kid again when you attend our Purim Carnival in costume and enjoy the game booths, Jolly Jump, and Cake Walk alongside our Temple youth! Our Brotherhood, Sisterhood, and Youth Groups are handling the menu options. Save on the discounted tickets offered in advance – watch for signs in February.







George Benson Gloria Brodie Arlene Cohen Ed Dworsky Karen Dworsky

Phyllis Mandel
Jean Shev
Jim Williams
Betty Fink
Joel Zneimer



Honorable Menschen





Several Somis and Camarillo families are warmer this month because of our very own Millie Seidler, who has created beautiful blankets for the families of Somis Pantry. Crocheted baby blankets and rag quilts--she does it all! Seeing the smiles on the faces of the parents and the kids is worth 1000 words.

Do YOU sew, knit or crochet? With the cold weather upon us--this is a beautiful and welcome gift.

If you don't sew, that's okay; we can also take "gently used" blankets or comforters. If you have any questions or want to give a blanket, please contact Julia Newman at the Temple.



Temple past-president **Sarene Wallace** was featured in an article in the **Ventura County Star** about her online food blog, **www.omgyummy.com**. In this photo from the article, Sarene laughs as she watches through online video her friend Beth Lee, who lives in San Jose, take a picture of her computer. The friends both prepared a meal from "Jerusalem: A Cookbook" by Yotam Ottolenghi and Sami Tamimi.

FAITH

An XL goal

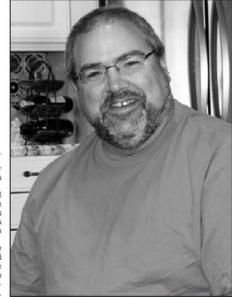
■ Man's weight loss to serve as fundraiser

By Stephanie Guzman

Steve Moore has a New Year's goal to lose more than 100 pounds. It's a big endeavor that'll

challenge his willpower, but the 46-year-old Camarillo man has 150 families cheering him on as he sheds inches from his waittling.

The congregants of Temple Ner Ami have rallied behind Moore and pledged money for each pound he loses as part of a fundraiser for the temple's upcoming Purim Camival on Sun. Feb. 24.



STEPHANIE GUZMAN/Acorn Newspag

The December 21st *Camarillo ACORN* had Emily and Alex Sadowsky on the cover lighting the family menorah at our Hanukkah Shabbat, and two weeks later Stephanie Guzman wrote a heart warming feature article on Steve Moore's "XL goal" of losing an extra large amount of weight as a fundraiser for the Temple. *MAZEL TOV!*

A CAMARILLO COMP



MICHAEL COONS/Acorn Newspapers

WARM LIGHT—Emily Sadowsky, left, and her brother, Alex, light their family menorah on the seventh night of Hanukkah at Temple Ner Ami in Camarillo on Dec. 14. Each family from the temple brought their own menorah to light during the dinner and Shabbat service. Sundown on Sunday was the last day of the eight-day holiday.



Sisterhood News!

by Bobbe Jacobs

Our New Year's Eve Sisterhood/Brotherhood evening went wonderfully, so please read Shari Brody's article on page 12.

Our next event is the **Purim Carnival** on February 24th, the Sisterhood will be selling **Hamantaschen** and we will need ladies to work in shifts that day. The Carnival is

from 1pm to 4pm. We would like two ladies per hour. I will be there at 12:30pm for set-up, so please contact me at either: bobbejacobs@gmail.com or 805-389-4320 to help out. Just 2 ladies for 1pm, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm for sale and clean-up (I will be there for clean-up as well). Thank you.

The event after that is our "**Dinner Concert**" on Thursday, February 28th with the Sisterhood providing the dinner for \$12 per adult/\$6 children under 12.

Concert by Terry Zeiler, and we are all going to try to wear Red-White-Blue to celebrate Presidents month. There is a great article on the event by Arla Crane on page 11. Please read it for more information.

A day event in March, we are checking out getting tickets for "The Price is Right" and would like anyone who is interested to contact us so we can start a list of those going.

Whether you are a member of Sisterhood or Brotherhood, please come and join us for our Temple events, we always have a good time and we get to see friends and members we have not seen in sometime. You just might want to join!

Bobbe Jacobs President













....More Menschen



The Temple's MOVIE NIGHT Impresario, Shlomo Kreitzer, recently took 3rd Prize in the **2012 Ventura County Writers' Club** Short Story Contest.

He reports there were about 100 entries, "so being a winner feels pretty good (affirming)!"

The winners were able to read their stories at the group's regular meeting on January 8th, in Camarillo. The judges suggested they might pass out tissues before his story. It was titled "A Message from Sharon" and is a moving story about the realtionship between a man and his wife who has Alzheimer's Disorder.

Congrats Shlomo!



Cheder Chappenings at Temple Ner Ami by Julia Newman

Shalom Haverim,

This month's Cheder Chappenings

features 2 of our upper-grade teachers: Avram Kohls and *Saul Lessler.* Their full biographies can be found on our Temple website: www.templenerami.org. Click on Torah School. Scroll down and click on Torah School Brochure.

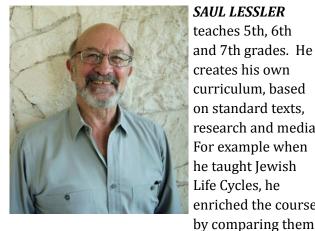
In upcoming columns we'll feature more of our faculty.



Avram (Stan) *Kohls* has been our 7th grade teacher for many years. Jewish studies for 7th grade focuses on Holocaust Education and Ethics. We use the Davidovich text, *Hitler's*

War Against the lews, along with a powerful curriculum from the ADL and Shoah Foundation. Guest speakers, Holocaust survivors, and a visit to the Museum of Tolerance add a strong component to our program. Ethics is the second part of our Jewish studies, as students wrestle with modern ethical dilemmas, learning the Jewish responses to them. Our text is called *Ma L'Asot: What Should I Do?* The kids call it the "Drowning Dog" book. We also discuss Jewish current events that arise.

Avram is the son of Holocaust survivors. In addition to his work at Ner Ami, he lectures to various groups on the Holocaust and separation of Church and State issues. In the 1960's he was a Civil Rights activist and was involved in demonstrations against the Viet Nam War. In 1975 he hitchhiked across North Africa. He is the owner of 3 scooters and 3 motorcycles, speaks German, sings in the Ner Ami choir, and he has a snake.



SAUL LESSLER teaches 5th, 6th and 7th grades. He creates his own curriculum, based on standard texts, research and media. For example when he taught Jewish Life Cycles, he

enriched the course

with the life cycle customs of other religions and cultures. For their Shabbat service, his students performed an original play by Saul, which included a "J-Date" parody of the Matchmaker song from Fiddler. Currently he is creating an original course on Prophets. 7th graders study Saul's course on Jewish American Heroes includes sports (no Jewish education is complete without learning of the greatness of Sandy Koufax-ed.), entertainment, law, politics and the Olympics.

Saul was recently featured in the *Ventura County* **Star** for his work in the Camarillo Library's Literacy program. The story was titled "the old Jewish man and the young Muslim". Reprints of the article are available in the Temple foyer.

Saul is a mediator and arbitrator for the Ventura County Superior Court, an active student in CSUCI's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, and a member of the Ner Ami choir.



TEMPLE NER AMI

My dear Friends,

As our tradition says, "To everything there is a season. A time to work and a time to refrain from working." And so it is in this season of my life that I transition into retirement as the Principal of Temple Ner Ami.

I have had the remarkable opportunity to be associated with the School for 17 years. That's a pretty good run. The School is well established, both in curriculum and programs, and most importantly, has an excellent and dedicated teaching staff.

With this strong foundation, I feel comfortable to hand the baton to a wonderful young man, Gil Ramot. In the last few months, Gil has continued as a teacher and youth leader in the Torah School. In addition, he has been adding some administrative duties. The Board of Directors has approved his appointment as Educator beginning July 2013. During the next months, Gil, the teachers and I will continue our transition to make it a seamless one.

Gil has been a teacher at Ner Ami for 6 years. He holds a Masters of Social Work with experience in at-risk youth, has been a Hillel program director and was the Ventura County Shaliach (emissary). You'll be hearing more about Gil in next month's MEGILLAH.

I intend to remain active in both Temple and School life. My role will shift from "Mom" to "Grandma." And I am looking forward to that.

To all of you I want to say that your support, affection and respect has been wonderful and I will always treasure it.

We should all be proud of what we have built over the years. Parents and grandparents, teachers and kids, congregants and volunteers have come together to create

"The Little School With The Big Heart."

B'shalom Julia Newman

> TEMPLE NER AMI - 515 Temple Avenue, Camarillo, CA 93010 Telephone: (805) 388-3824 FAX: (805) 383-1011 TempleNerAmi.org



International Holocaust Remembrance Day: Jan. 27th

Temple Ner Ami, together with the Camarillo Church **of Christ**, is honored to co-host a special presentation on *March of the Living* in observance of **International**

Holocaust Remembrance Day, at 6 pm on Sunday, January 27th, 2013.

The March of the Living is an international program that brings participants from all over the world to Poland and Israel, to march from Auschwitz to Birkenau, the largest concentration camp built during World War II. Participants also visit Krakow, Warsaw, Lodz and the death camps of Chelmo and Majdanek. The group then travels to Israel to observe Yom HaZikaron, Israel Memorial Day, and Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel Independence Day. In 2012, WWII veterans joined the March along with the Holocaust survivors they liberated, a truly unique and emotional reunion and event.

Through March of the Living, we pay tribute to the courage of those who survived the Holocaust - who rebuilt their lives despite the haunting

memories of the past - to be the bearers of their memories, the witnesses. It honors the heroic veterans of WWII who fought to liberate Europe from the hands of Nazi tyranny. It reminds us to never again allow any kind of discrimination directed by any individual or group against another. It inspires participants

to commit to building a world free of oppression and intolerance, a world of freedom, democracy and justice, for all members of the human family.

> In addition, The March of the Living helps participants enter into history and demonstrate to the world that the death of six million of our people and so many others has been marked and will never be forgotten.

This year, **Indy Rebhun**, Family Service Counselor of Pierce Brothers Valley Oaks-Griffin Memorial Park and Mortuary, embraced this journey, and will share her experience as a March of the Living participant through a multimedia presentation. During her talk, she will discuss the March of the Living program, share her personal journey to memorialize those who perished in the Holocaust, and relate her family's personal experiences. She will convey the insights she gleaned as a participant about memorialization and remembrance and how they align in her personal and professional life.

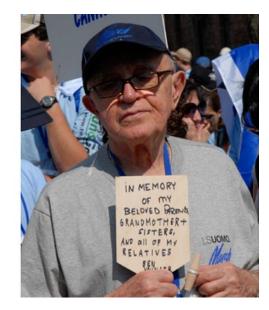
Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

It is our pleasure to invite you and your friends to this very special event. There is no charge to attend, but please RSVP so that we know to expect you, (805)388-3824 or admin@templenerami.org. Thank you.

For more info: http://motl.org/









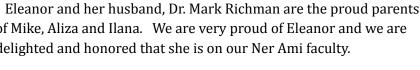
"A Woman of Valor who can find, for her price be far above rubies."

The Jewish Federation of Ventura County has chosen our very own *Eleanor Richman* as the co-recipient of the **2012 Woman of Valor** award. Eleanor will share this honor with Bobbi Swerdlin, who chairs the Federation's Teaching Tolerance program. Many of you will know Eleanor as Ner Ami's primary-grade teacher. She is also a leader, volunteer and philanthropist in Ventura County.

Eleanor serves on the Board of the Jewish Federation of Ventura County. She is a Lion

of Judah in Woman's Philanthropy and also serves on the Women's Board of Directors. For the Ventura Music Festival she is Chair of the Educational Outreach Committee, member of the Assistance League of Ventura County, member of Temple Beth Torah Youth Committee and WRJ Board Member At Large. She taught preschool, kindergarten and 2nd grade at TBT for 16 years and Children's World Preschool for 12 years.

of Mike, Aliza and Ilana. We are very proud of Eleanor and we are delighted and honored that she is on our Ner Ami faculty.





Mazel Toy!



PURIM Basket Fundraiser by Keith Elliott

Our third annual Purim Basket fundraiser is in full swing-we already have most of the materials, and it's going to be a doozy this year. Especially during lean years, events like this are very important for our community; not just because of the financial benefit.

but because they offer us another way to acknowledge our friends and fellow congregants. It's a traditional *mitzvah* to provide *Mishloach Manot* for others during Purim, so they may celebrate as well.

Here is how it works-for an \$18 donation, you can select up to four names or families, each of whom will receive a basket with goodies to help celebrate Purim. You can include a greeting to each recipient as well. Additional names can be chosen for an additional \$6 donation each. If a person is

selected by more than one person, they still receive a single basket, with all the greetings for everyone who selected them. The baskets will be available for pickup at the Purim Carnival on March 4th.

To order the baskets, we have a website set up at the Purim Project at:

http://www.purimproject.com/purim/index.asp

Everyone received an email and a letter with their own personal login and password-just visit the site and follow the simple instructions. If you don't have a computer available, don't worry; just talk to Mark Malloy or Keith Elliott and let us know what you would like, and we'll take care of the rest for

The deadline is Feb. 20th so HURRY! The baskets will all be assembled at the big party the night of Feb. 23rd, and I think they are going to look wonderful.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Members & Children

Rita Cooperman	Feb.	2	Cathye Clark	Feb.	14
Jordan Hartman	Feb.	5	Joyce Benson	Feb.	17
Daniel Hartman	Feb.	5	Harriette Heiss	Feb.	18
Allen Zatkin	Feb.	7	Jennifer Brown	Feb.	22
Richard Erlich	Feb.	7	Teri Milner	Feb.	23
Larry Sassower	Feb.	9	Jack Milner	Feb.	23
Arla Crane	Feb.	9	Becky Kamola	Feb.	24
Naomi Brill	Feb.	9	Ken Bock	Feb.	25
Shoshana Graff	Feb.	10	Sandra King	Feb.	26
Sophie Elliott	Feb.	11	Ariel Saleh	Feb.	26
Michael Posner	Feb.	13			

^{*} This table is based on Temple member records. If your information is missing or in error, please contact the Temple office.



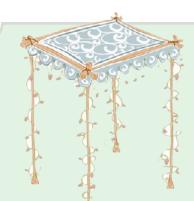
ORT VISIONARIES: Creating The Future Today

The Camarillo/Ventura Chapter of ORT

is having an Introductory Tea at the home of Gloria Brodie in Leisure Village

Thursday, January 31st at 1pm

Please RSVP to Syliva Lippe at 987-4477.



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Day	Date	Year
Marc & Alison Grossmann	Saturday	February 2 nd	15 th anniversary
Robert & Patricia Improta	Friday	February 8 th	35 th anniversary
Howard & Shari Brody	Sunday	February 10 th	21st anniversary

^{*} Listings based on Temple records. If your info is missing or in error, please contact the Temple office so we may correct our database.



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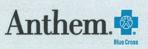
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Sisterhood to Host Dinner Concert

Need a night out? Let us entertain and feed you. The Sisterhood of Temple Ner Ami proudly announces its winter dinner concert featuring **Terry Zeiler**, popular Ventura County Songmaker. This family friendly concert will feature popular patriotic music in honor of President's Day.

The program will take place on February 28, 2013 at 6:30 for dinner, with the Concert taking place at 7:30. The cost will be \$12.00 per person for adults and \$6.00 for children (12 and under). Tickets include both dinner and the concert.



Dinner will include: baked chicken, salads, rolls, dessert, and, of course, coffee and tea. Make your reservations today. Send your check to the Temple office by Tuesday, February 26th.

For further info call 987-2000 or email us at: sisterhood@templenerami.org
See you at the concert!

Passover is "Early" This Year

Two things to keep in mind as we look towards the Passover holiday beginning March 25, 2013:

- 1. Temple Community Seder on second night, Tuesday, March 26th;
- 2. Finding/offering a place at the seder table.

Mark your calendar to join your friends for the community seder that is held at Temple Ner Ami on the second night of Passover. This year the seder will be on Tuesday March 26, 2013.

If you are interested in helping please contact the Temple at (805) 388-3824, or Susan Weinstein at (805) 388-8113 and leave your name and phone number for a return call.

As a part of the community, and as part of the spirit of the holiday, we offer a place at our seder table to those who may not have a place to go otherwise.

If you would like to attend the seder with a temple family on the first night seder, contact the temple or Susan Weinstein to be matched with a local family. Likewise, if you will have an extra place at your seder to accommodate a guest, please let the Temple or Susan Weinstein know. Temple phone number is (805) 388-3824. Susan Weinstein is at (805) 388-8113.

Sisterhood Dinner & Game Night

The Sisterhood of Temple Ner Ami sponsored a potluck dinner and game night on December 27th. Roast chicken was the main entree with a variety of salads, side dishes, rolls and desserts that were enjoyed by Sisterhood members, spouses and guests.

Arla Crane, Sisterhood Publicity
Chairwoman and Bobbe Jacobs, Sisterhood
President, planned and organized the evening
and Jay Crane carved the chickens. Josephine
Freifield, Oneg Co-chairwoman and her husband
Max were a big help with the cleanup.

At the Mah Jong table were Marlene Votion, Diane Rosenstein, Barbara Hoff and Shari Brody, Sisterhood Treasurer. Those who enjoyed playing Bridge were Arla Crane, Sharon Green, Lee Edwards and Howard Brody. In the Fellowship Hall there was a group playing the card game hand and foot: Carole Warren, Daryl Sobelman, Allen Zatkin, Elvira Cabelli, who serves as Sisterhood Recording Secretary, Gail Kleinman, Sisterhood Vice-President and Alan Hoff. Others who watched the games or chatted were Dale and Bobbe Jacobs, Max and Jo Freifield and Jay Crane, Marilyn and Frank Seiden and Arlene and Irv Bergman.

It was an evening of good food, fun and games as well as the last Sisterhood Activity of 2012.

Shari Brody

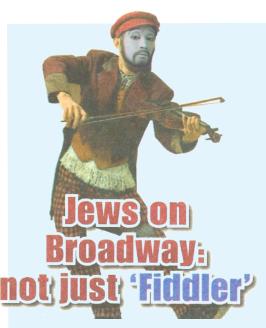












MOVIE NIGHT

Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy Saturday - February 16th, 6:30 pm

This PBS program documents the extraordinary role Jews played in the creation of the uniquely American artistic creation: the broadway musical.

Broadway Musicals: A **Jewish Legacy** showcases the work of some of the nation's pre-eminent creators of musical theatre including Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, George and Ira Gershwin, Lorenz Hart, Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein II, Kurt Weill, Sheldon Harnick, Jerome Robbins, Jerry Bock, Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, Stephen Schwartz, Jule Styne and others.

Did you know, for example, "It Ain't Necessarily So" (from Porgy and Bess) is the same melody as the prayer, Baruchu, so familiar to Jews?

Where, why and how did such shows happen? Show Boat, Oklahama, Fiddler on the Roof, The Producers, Westside Story, Cabaret, Gypsy. And also, such songs as "Easter Parade," "White Christmas," and "God Bless America."

Discussion afterwards. What is your favorite musical?



Theme for February – WELCOMING

To consider what you need to do to help make Temple Ner Ami a WELCOMING synagogue to any visitors, try imagining what you would do if they were visiting you at your home and living room.

Ron Wolfson's book, The Spirituality of Welcoming, outlines "Seven Tips for a Great Greeting" to help open our eyes to the mini-social steps that we need to be conscious of when welcoming any prospective new Temple members.



- 1) Do **acknowledge** the presence of the other person. Don't ignore anyone. Don't make anyone feel that they are less important than the conversation you are having or the task that you are completing.
- 2) Do approach people with an **attitude of Welcome**. Smile. Be enthusiastically friendly.
- 3) Do make the first move. Have your body language match your words. Make eye contact. Smile, nod, or **show warmth** in some other way.
- 4) In the synagogue, offer the appropriate greeting in addition to the usual, Hello, how are you? Say Shabbat Shalom or the holiday greeting, or *Mazel Tov*!. Since some people come to the congregation in mourning, greet them – if you are aware – with "I'm sorry for your loss."
- 5) Do answer all questions with respect. There is no such thing as a stupid Jewish question. If you don't know the answer, promise to find out and follow through.
- 6) Do introduce new people to others. **Build community by connecting** people who share a life stage, an affinity, or live in the same neighborhood.
- 7) Do thank people for coming. Say Shabbat Shalom and I hope to see you next Shabbat.

After reading these tips, you may find that being Welcoming to a new face at services comes a little easier to you!

EAGER READERS BOOK CLUB

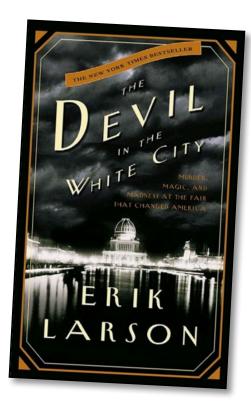
Meets Tuesday, February 12th, 11am

January Selection: The Devil in the White City by Erik Larson

Erik Larson—author of #1 bestseller In the Garden of Beasts intertwines the true tale of the 1893 World's Fair and the cunning serial killer who used the fair to lure his victims to their death. Combining meticulous research with nail-biting storytelling, Erik Larson has crafted a narrative with all the wonder of newly discovered history and the thrills of the best fiction.

(Book summary from amazon.com)

Each month a member selects a book for all members to read and discuss at the next meeting. Joining the club means you are reading at least one outstanding book every month. What a great idea! Please join us February 12th, in the Irv Dubin Library, at 11am.



Music Lessons

Learn How to Play The Instrument You Always Wanted Flute, Saxophone, Clarinet, Singing, Guitar, Bass, Piano, Keyboards, Drums, Percussions...

Instructor **Moses Mercado National Conservatory of Music**



First Lesson Free **New Students** Only

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President's Report *Keith Elliott*

I'm a musician, as many of you know, and I primarily play jazz, at least professionally. A conversation with some other jazz players on facebook this morning has gotten me to thinking. It's no secret that

music as a business is tough. Little or no security, terrible hours, constant fear of rejection, or worse-unemployment, unpleasant travel, fear about the loss of one's skills, and on and on and on. Why oh why do we do this to ourselves? The answer came to me reading the conversation.

When you perform, there are always two levels of performance. There is what the audience hears, and there is what you hear of yourself in your head. When I play, my first thought is to ensure that the audience hears what they deserve-quality art. They paid for it, after all. The second, though, is is my playing entertaining and exciting ME? what about my fellow musicians? In jazz, we often don't play from music; we're making it up as we go, with several people contributing to a whole that is constantly changing from the varied inputs of each player. I don't have non-musical terms to describe it, but I will try.

Done properly, ensemble jazz playing (as opposed to solos) will be "led" by one voice in the band, say, the trumpet. This trumpet is usually presenting some sort of melody or tune. As he plays it, other players form ideas about how to harmonize and accompany that tune. How they do that in turn affects how the first musician continues his process, which in turn affects those consequent decisions by the others. When everyone is on their game, a magical result occurs, and listeners often have trouble believing it was not pre-arranged. But, while the result may not be planned, it is not accidentalit is the skills, ears, and hearts of the players that create that magical whole.

Some days when I play, I have to force my brain to work; to create what is needed. Other days I seemingly don't need to think at all, I just open up and the notes flow of their own accord. This is somewhat rare. I call them my good days, where all effort is effortless. (On those days, in addition to playing well, my jokes all seem to be funny, my food tastes better, and people think I look attractive indeed, I am sure.)

Sometimes, my good days occur on the same day some other person in the band is having one. Then true magic starts, since two players in that state can interact uncannily well. I am able to feel what the other is going to play even before he does, and can adjust my playing to fit THAT. But, true magic happens when, once or

twice per year, everyone in the band is having that day. Everyone is acting as a channel for the whole, rather than a creator of the piece. It is rare, but the feeling is incredible. IT is WHY we spend years, even decades, learning instruments and practicing and standing in line in airports and dealing with hotels that don't look like the brochure and being away from home too long. The feeling is so magical, that once a musician experiences it, he'll do ANYTHING to feel it again. It is why my bandmates are my closest friends; even the ones I don't see off the stage.

Sometimes, I have the immense fortune to get a whiff of this feeling away from my musical world. That is why I'm writing this here. I'm sure I've told everyone that I didn't expect to find myself holding the trust of this congregation as President, but as I learn the job, I do get glimpses of those days where I know what I am doing (they are rare, believe me!). What makes it exciting is this-Temple Ner Ami has entered so many exciting new phases of our history. A new Rabbi, an incoming Educator (who excites me more after every conversation), a Board of Directors that can come up with and develop ideas in the most inspiring fashion. (Please, everyone-come to a Board meeting! See for yourself the excitement our leaders feel while serving TNA! I'm inspired by them after every meeting.)

We've been adding Programming, and classes, and lectures, and Adult Ed classes, and new services...Temple Ner Ami is doing everything that we need to do to become a truly serious Synagogue as well as a member of our larger Ecumenical community in Ventura County.

And how does this relate to jazz? In my band, we get that magic feeling only a couple of times per year. At TNA I'm finding moments that feel eerily similar-all of these creative people are managing to find the same ensemble strength, on a daily basis, that a jazz band can only aspire to rarely. All of us are able to run with ideas, be inspired by other ideas, modify our ideas based on that, and work as a terrific ensemble. When we disagree, we are able to say so, then discuss the issue itself, rather than argue our own position. When we do agree, it's even easier.

We've had a tough two years financially; it will remain tough for at least a while, as a result of the changes and events of the last two years. In spite of that, we're now growing. New members are noticing our energy and potential (and how I wish to meet with every one of them!). It's a lot of work, but I've said before that my entire life, I never could have guessed that I'd have a chance like this to help with that work.

(Continued on next page)

The Twelve Pounds of the Holiday Season

What came on all too easy, must now come off!

I don't know about you but that is exactly what I gained over the holidays, TWELVE POUNDS!

Between all of the parties, the boys being home for a couple of weeks, and all of the great food and sweet treats everywhere I turned-how do you not? I haven't figured that out yet, but I did manage to have lost (again) that twelve pounds. It sure comes on a lot easier than it comes off.

I am back on track and will do my best to be down 50-60 lbs. by the Purim carnival to help raise a little dough (nut, yummmm) for our temple.

I will be happy if I can hit that goal. I would have liked it to be more like 75 lbs. but I have been struggling a bit. I will still be striving to hit my goal of a total of (at least) 108 lbs. but I will be doing it at a slower but hopefully more sustainable pace of about 7 to 10 lbs. a month. I have been trying to lose about 5 to 7 lbs. a week, which I have done before(130 lbs. in 30 weeks) but it's just not realistic. I believe that if I make a real life change (not diet) then it will come off and more likely stay off.

Losing weight is the hardest thing that I have ever done in my life. Just today I got home in the late afternoon and started to watch "The Biggest Loser" that I had recorded. I love to watch it when I'm dieting because it helps to motivate me. So I am watching the show and I've been good on my diet so far today but I'm a bit hungry so I have a diet approved snack, I'm still on track. About 15 minutes later and still hungry (maybe even hungrier), I convince myself that it's okay to have a piece of buttered sourdough toast. Bad move, because before I knew it I had two pieces of toast and two cheese quesadillas. All the while watching my fellow fatties on the show busting their butts in their "last chance" workout before they have their elimination weigh in. What the heck is my problem, I'm thinking, as I'm sitting there stuffing my face!

I could have easily eaten three times that much if I hadn't of made myself get off my fat \$@# and gone for a walk. Thank God I did.

It's so easy to get off track-but it's also easy to get back on. It just takes a lot more effort to do so.

Alcoholics Anonymous advises we "take it one day at a time", but us fataholics have to more like take it "one

meal at a time". Just because you might blow it on one meal, don't use that as an excuse to blow it the rest of the day and start over tomorrow. Believe me, I've made that rationalization at least a thousand times and the sad thing is that the same thing usually happens tomorrow as well.

I remember that Rabbi Mike said once, "don't let the best ruin better" and I try to remember that in those circumstances. Just because you may have blown it on one meal and you can't have a perfect diet day, doesn't mean you can't get right back on track with your next meal. Maybe at the end of the day you will have had only one bad meal instead of three (or more in my case).

I don't mind telling you these little personal details of my daily life because I know that

some of you are having the same trouble I am and if I can help you with "the battle of the bulge" by sharing an idea or something, then I am glad to have helped.

I hope I will see you at the weigh-in at the Purim Carnival on Feb 24th.

Your "not as rotund" fund raising chairperson, Steve Moore

PS. Make a friend's day by sending them a Purim basket to show them you're thinking about them. It's easy and inexpensive to do and you can do it online. Just check the temple website at TempleNerAmi.org

(Presidents Report continued from previous page)

In the next few weeks, our Nominating Committee will be seeking people to join the Board of Directors next term, starting in August. If you are curious, come to some BOD meetings! They are the second Wednesday of every month, and are always open to TNA members. If you get a call from someone on the committee, don't say "no" too quickly. It may not be the sort of commitment you imagined. And who knows, you just might get a taste of that magic feeling of complete cooperation and interaction and creativity that we on the Staff and Board are able to experience more and more.

TODAH RABBAH - Means Thank You!

Dear Members,

I am pleased to report that twelve of you volunteered to be sponsors of our Onegs in January. They were: MURIEL ROSENKRANTZ, in memory of her husband, Calman Rosenkrantz; SHARON GREEN, in memory of her mother, Florence Koenig, DALE and BOBBE JACOBS, in memory of Bobbe's father, Seymour Cohen; ARLENE and IRV BERGMAN, in memory of their son, Gary Bergman; SANDRA GOODWIN, in memory of her Mother-In-Law, Kitty Copeland; HOWARD and SHARI BRODY, in memory of Shari's grandfather, Joseph Jacobson; SAUL LESSLER and JULIA NEWMAN, in memory Julia's father, Norman Newman; and SUSAN WEINSTEIN, in memory of her parents, Selma and Allen Grossberg.



A BIG THANK YOU to all these generous and thoughtful people for helping to make our Onegs so pleasant.

Again, I wish to remind all of you that you too can be a member of this elite group of members who help on Friday nights by calling ARLA CRANE at (805) 987-2000 and telling her when you would like to serve. You may either bring some of the food or write a check to the Temple for this honor. If you celebrate your birthday at the Temple, you will be given a "Happy Birthday" balloon to commemorate the occasion! Now who could resist that incentive!







Your Oneg Committee:

JOSEPHINE FREIFELD, Oneg Chair ARLA CRANE, Chair-Volunteer Sponsors (805) 987-2000 NAOMI BRILL, Editor

WE HELP PEOPLE For more than 25 years, Camarillo Vision Center has served Camarillo with quality eye health care and eyewear including: Comprehensive Vision and Eye Health Examinations All Types of Contact Lenses Available Fashion Eyeglasses and Sunglasses • On-Premise Lab for Fast Service Low Vision Evaluations for the Partially Sighted Camarillo Vision Center DR. MARTY SCHNEIDER • DR. VICKY CHOW Optometrists 2460 E Las Posas Road #B (In the Albertson Shopping Center) Camarillo, CA 93013 www.camarillovision.com MEMBER VISION SOURCE NETWORK

The Passover Series:

From the Biblical Story...
to
Hands-On Passover Cooking...
to
Creating Your Own Haggadah



Let's Take this Journey Together! 7 More Tuesday evening sessions, 7:30 PM

SAVE THE DATES: "The Passover Series"

Jan 29: Comparing Haggadot - Modern, Traditional, Yours!

Feb 5: Creating Your Own Haggadah - Session 1

Feb 12: Creating Your Own Haggadah - Session 2

Feb 19: Creating Your Own Haggadah - Session 3

Feb 26: Passover Cooking - An evening in the kitchen

March 5: Passover Seder - "How To" & "Hands On"

March 12: A Spiritual, Reflective Approach to Passover

This class is open to all, and if this is your first class or one of many, you are welcome to attend. All learning levels are welcome. Materials will be provided. *Please RSVP* by calling the office at (805)388-3824 or, *email and let us know that you plan to attend*!

All sessions will be on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 and led by Rabbi Lisa Bock, preceded by a Hebrew letters class at 7:00 pm.

This class is free to all Temple Ner Ami members.

A donation of \$10 per class is requested for non-members.

All are welcome.

The Temple Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Tributes & Contributions

Stan & Loretta Reshes, Isabel Blau, and Lee Edwards in loving memory of Max Heller.

Irving & Arlene Bergman in memory of their beloved son, Gary Bergman.

Isabel Blau in memory of her beloved father, Louis Miller.

Deborah Blum to thank Rabbi Lisa for the Misheberach.

Naomi Brill to thank Mark Malloy for his work running the Temple and the Church.

Naomi Brill in loving memory of Robert Nathan.

Naomi Brill in loving memory of her dear friend Max Heller.

Roz Feldman to thank Barbara Davis for featuring her in the MEGILLAH.

Bill & Claire Goldstein for the Yahrzeit of David Goldstein

Sandra Goodwin in loving memory of her mother-in-law Lida Goodwin, her grandmother Sarah Copeland, her husband Robert Goodwin, and her son Marc Goodwin.

Leah Harris in loving memory of her beloved husband, Jerome E. "Jerry" Harris.

Diane Honick In loving memory of her husband Gus Honick, and her father, Jack Gorelick.

Phyllis Mandel in loving memory of her father, David Schechtman.

Phyllis Mandel in support of Steve Moore's weight loss.

Verna Merrin in loving memory of her mother, Anne Borovay.

Verna Merrin in support of Steve Moore's weight loss.

Betty Stallman in memory of her beloved father, Morris Stolman.

Betty Stallman in memory of her beloved brother, Jack Stolman.

Betty Stallman in honor of Max Heller and Naomi Brill.

Note: The above listings cover donations received between December 14th and January 16th.



The Board of Directors wishes to thank those members who have made an extra special financial committment this year to support Temple Ner Ami.

Isabel Blau Naomi Brill Howard & Shari Brody Robert & Joyce Brown Setth & Charlotte Brandes Walter & Gina Burstein Jay & Arla Crane A. Dvoretsky & S. Spielman Lee Edwards Richard Erlich Judy Foxman Gregg & Sharon Hartman Robert & Patricia Improta John & Beverly Kerwien Judith Gale Krieger Verna Merrin Rabbi Lisa & Ken Bock Steve & Jennifer Moore Saul Lessler & Julia Newman Libby Pierce Moises Mercado & Bonnie Shubb Ron & Sarene Wallace **Doris Weinberg** Marc & Cynthia Wolfsohn Allen & Marcia Zatkin

Joel Zneimer & Betty Fink

February Members' Yahrzeits

Scheduled Friday, February 1st for January 27-Feb.2, 2013 (Sh'vat 16-22)

Grace Cohen**... Mother of Arlene Cohen Solie Cohen... Uncle of Robert Improta Samuel Keys... Father of Paul Keys Charles Marcus... Father of Naomi Brill Arthur Heller... Brother of Max Heller Ruth Perr... Mother of Jack Perr Anna Nadler... Mother of Clarice Shapiro

Scheduled Friday, February 8th for February 3-9, 2013 (Sh'vat 23-29)

Stuart Leventhal... Son of Sylvia Leventhal Irv Merrin... Husband of Verna Merrin Doris Lauer... Mother of Myrna Zimmerman David Brejensky... Father of Sol Brejensky Isador Gerber... Father of Ruth Fridberg

Scheduled Friday, February 15th for February 10-16, 2013 (Sh'vat 30-Adar 6)

Paul Wolfsohn... Father of Marc Wolfsohn
Sam Crane... Father of Jay Crane
Victor Epstein**... Husband of Bernice Epstein
Joy Hallman... Sister of Bill Goldstein
Bessie Kadish... Grandmother of Barbara Michael
Michael Heller**... Father of Max Heller
Harry Hirschorn... Father of Cynthia Wolfsohn
Daniel Bloom... Brother of Doris Weinberg

Scheduled Friday, February 22nd for February 17-23, 2013 (Adar 7-13)

Rami Yoffe... Cousin of Judith Krieger Sarah Rosenkranz... Mother-In-Law of Muriel Rosenkranz Herman Cohen... Father of Marilyn Seiden Ernestine Spielman**... Mother of Sharon Spielman Roy Benowitz**... Uncle of Aaron Dvoretzky Abraham Tenenbaum... Father of Muriel Rosenkranz Robert Silverman... Son of Frances Yasney Elias Shapiro... Father of Mike Shapiro Carol Lotker**... Late Wife of Michael Lotker Zoltan Borla... Father of Alex Borla Emil Goldstein... Father of Bill Goldstein Julius (Steve) Brodie... Husband of Gloria Brodie Esther Goren... Mother of Sharon Goren Shirley Sussman**... Friend of Shlomo Kreitzer and Lenore Harriman Ruth Heller**... Mother of Max Heller Jenny Brodie... Mother-In-Law of Gloria Brodie

Scheduled Friday, March 1st for February 24-March 2, 2013 (Adar 14-20)

Isadore Brodie... Father-In-Law of Gloria Brodie

Louise Freifield... Late wife of Max Freifield
Louis Kuznets... Father of Melvin Kuznets
Pearl Bailess... Grandmother of Stacy Lowenschuss
Irene Einstein... Mother of Gudi Amerikaner
Haskell Faber... Father of Alyse Borla
Licto Marzouk... Father of Susan Saleh
Robert Shubb... Late Husband of Bonnie Shubb
Louis Dektor**... Father of Dalya Dektor
Millie Cohen... Mother of Bobbe Jacobs
Louis Miller... Father of Isabel Blau
Sam Borovoy... Father of Verna Merrin
Morton Lit**... Husband of Harriet Lit and Son-in-Law of
Hilda Pergament

The Temple's *Yahrzeit* Board has spaces available for remembering loved ones who have passed away. The requested donation for memorial plaques on the *Yahrzeit* Board is \$350.00 per plaque.

^{**} Name on the Yolanda Cramer Memorial Yahrzeit Board.

z"I In blessed memory

TORAH SCHOOL CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Sat	2	B'nai Mitzvah Family Education (10:00-12:00-Learner's Shabbat)
M/W	4/6	Regular session
Fri	8	Teen Shabbat
M/W	11/13	Regular session
Wed	13	Regular session
Mon	18	NO TORAH SCHOOL - President's Day
Wed	20	Regular session - Camp Kadimah - Purim
Fri	22	Purim Shabbat - led by 4th Grade class
Sun	24	Purim Carnival 1:30-4 pm
Mon	25	Regular session
		Junior Youth Group 6:15 -7:30
Wed	27	Regular session

MARCH

Sat	2	Shabbat Service
M/W	4/6	Regular session
Wed	6	Regular session
Sun	3	JOLT - Israel (Consult General visit to
		Ventura County)
Fri	8	Shabbat Service led by the 2 nd /3 rd Grad

County) led by the 2nd/3rd Grade (Dinner) tentative

Sun 10 Museum of Tolerance (7th Grade)

M/W 11/13 Regular session

18/20 Regular session - Camp Kadimah Passover

Family Shabbbat Dinner (6pm), Service (7pm)

Special activity for tots Mon 25/27 NO TORAH SCHOOL - Passover

TEEN CONNECTION Calendar for February & March (6:00-8:00)

FEBRUARY	
Mon 4	OLAM
Fri 8	Teen Shabbat
Mon 11	NAUTY
F-Sun15-19	NFTY Convention
Mon 18	NO SESSION - President's
Day	
Fri 22	Purim Shabbat
Sun 24	Purim Carnival
Mon 25	TEEN TALK
<u>MARCH</u>	

		
Mon	4	OLAM
Mon	11	NAUTY
Mon	18	TEEN TALK
F-Sun	22-24	NFTY FLECTIO

CHOICES (8th Grade) Calendar for February & March (6:00-8:00)

FEBRUARY

Mon	4	OLAM
Fri	22	Purim Shabbat (8th graders
		supervise young children)

Sun 24 Purim Carnival Mon 25 Junior Youth Group

MARCH

Mon 4 OLAM

22 Family Shabbat (8th graders supervise young children)

Junior Youth Group Mon 25

February Outside Organization Meetings



CITY OF HOPE

Board Meeting, Mon. 1/28, 2/25 9:30am Donald Seidler - 805-987-0917 - President

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

Tues. Mixed Meeting 7-8:15 pm, Tues. Mtg. Pot Luck, Feb. 26th, 6pm Wed. Mixed Meeting 7-8:15pm Sat. Mixed 6:30-7:30 pm, Sat. Mixed Pot Luck, Feb. 9, 5:30pm Sunday (Men only) 7-8 am





ORT

Board Meeting- Thursday, Feb 7, 2013 - 10am General Meeting -Thursday, Feb 28, 2013-Noon

Speaker this month is Joseph Neman, Director of the Los Angeles ORT College, speaking about the academic and techical courses taught at the LA campus.

To RSVP for lunch call Silvia Lippe at 987-4477 For info call Shirley Law, 987-5468 President, Sharron Parker - 443-1998

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 International Holocaust Remembran 6p March of the Living Multimedia Program	28 9:30 City of Hope Board Mig. 4:15p Torah School Grades 4,5,6,7 6p Choices, 8th Grade Program 6p Teen Connection & Jr. Youth Grp.	29 1p Intro to Judaism 7p Hebrew Letters Class 7:30p Adult Ed - Passover Series	30 12p Torah - Women's Perspective 4:15p Mommy, Daddy & Me 4:15p Torah School - Prek, Kinder, 1s	25	7:30p Shabbat Service	2 Groundhog Day 9 Torah Study Class 10 Bhai Mitzvah Family Education 10 Shabbat Morning Service
3 Super Bowl Sunday Event	4 4:15p Torah School Grades 4,5,6,7 6p Choices, 8th Grade Program 6p Teen Connection	5 1p Intro to Judaism 7p Hebrew Letters Class 7:30p Adult Ed - Passover Series	6 12p Torah - Women's Perspective 4:15p Momny, Daddy & Me 4:15p Torah School - PreK, Kinder, 1s	7 10 ORT Board Meeting	8 7:30p B'day/Anniversary/Teen Shabbar 9 Torah Study Class	9 9 Torah Study Class
10 2:30p Temple "Super Sunday" Event	11 No Torah School 4:15p Torah School Grades 4,5,6,7 6p Choices, 8th Grade Program 6p Teen Connection	12 Lincoln's Birthday 11 Eager Readers Book Club 1p Intro to Judaism 7p Hebrew Letters Class 7:30p Adult Ed - Passover Series	13 4:15p Mommy, Daddy & Me 4:15p Torah School - Prek, Kinder, 1s 7p Board of Directors Meeting	14 Valentine's Day 7p Brotherhood Meeting	15 7:30p Shabbat Service	16 9 Torah Study Class 6:30p MOVIE NIGHT
41	18 No Torah School Today Presidents Day 4:15p No Torah School Grades 4,5,6,7 6p No Choices, 8th Grade Program 6p No Teen Connection	19 1p Intro to Judaism 7p Hebrew Letters Class 770 Adult Ed - Passover Series	12p Torah - Women's Perspective 4:15p Mommy, Daddy & Me 4:15p Torah School - Prek, Kinder, 1s	21 Fast of Esther 7p JFS Board Meeling	22 6p Bring Your Own Dinner 7p Family Purim Shabbat Service	23 9 Torah Study Class 6:30p Purim Cocktail Party 'Funraise
24 Purim 1:30p Purim Carnival	25 Shushan Purim 9:30 City of Hope Board Mig. 4:15p Torah School Grades 4,5,6,7 6p Choices, 8th Grade Program 6p Teen Connection-TEEN TALK 6p IT, Youth Groun	26 1p Intro to Judaism 7p Hebrew Letters Class 7:30p Adult Ed - Passover Series	12p Torah - Women's Perspective 4:15p Mommy, Daddy & Me 4:15p Torah School - PreK, Kinder, 1s	28 12p ORT General Meeting 7p Patrotic Concert/Sisterhood Mig. 7p Sisterhood Meeting	Mar 1 7:30p Shabbat Service	2 9 Torah Study Class 10 Shabbat Morning Service



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If you would like to make a contribution, the following	
funds are available. All donations are graciously accepted.	
The Temple's appreciation of your donation of \$36 or more	The MEGILLAH is published monthly
will be published in the following month's MEGILLAH :	for members of TEMPLE NER AMI.
Temple General Fund	Complimentary copies are available by contacting the Temple Office.
Temple Building Fund	Suggested donation for non-members
Newman Scholarship Fund	is \$36.00 per year. Make your check
Irv Dubin Teen Scholarship Fund	payable to Temple Ner Ami.
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund	For information call 805-388-3824, or
Temple Music Fund	eMail your request to:
Art Fund	admin@templenerami.org
Sigmund Jaffe Memorial Library Fund	Submission date for all material:
Temple Prayer Book Fund	15 th of each month
Social Action Fund	
Cantor's Discretionary Fund	
In honor of:	
In loving memory of:	
From:	