

Honoring Julia Newman – Gala Concert May 9th

I wonder how many of you know how much Julia Newman means to Temple Ner Ami? I'm sure you know that Julia is the volunteer (that means she's not paid a cent) Principal of our Torah School and has been for the last several years. What is easy to miss are the hours and hours that she spends at this job. On Torah School days, Julia will be found preparing class materials, talking to teachers, students and parents – doing everything she can to make sure our community's children have a quality Jewish education and a strong Jewish identity. She sends streams of emails to families, teachers and to her colleagues at other synagogues promoting these ends. Beyond this, Julia's wonderful family, her husband Saul and son Danny are virtual fixtures at the Temple volunteering wherever a need arises.

Of course our budget benefits from her donation of time (for your information, a part-time educator with qualifications equivalent to Julia's would cost the Temple in excess of \$40,000 per year), but our community and people benefit far more from her energy and enthusiasm. Since I've been associated with Temple Ner Ami, we have had three other Principals and none have come close to Julia's skills, energy, enthusiasm, passion and talent (I know this very well, since I was one of the Principals and I had the unique experience of firing myself).

Beyond all of this effort on our behalf, Julia is on the education faculty of Cal State University, Channel Islands, on the Boards of the Jewish Federation of Ventura County and the ADL. In our community, her work focuses on advocacy for special needs children and has served for many years as a court-appointed educational surrogate for children in foster care and the juvenile justice system. Her latest project as co-founder of the Somis Food Pantry has added another dimension to her life.

In recognition of all that Julia has done for the Temple, it will be our privilege to honor her with a Gala Concert here at the Temple on the evening of May 9, 2009 (which also happens to coincide with her 60th birthday). We have pulled out all the stops and managed to engaged internationally known Jewish songster Julie Silver for that evening. Julie, who has some half dozen CDs to her credit, will be known to long time congregants as our High Holy Days Cantorial Soloist way back in 1997-1998 and was, in fact, my first Cantor at my first High Holy Days at the Temple.

You can support this concert and honor Julia in a number of ways:

- As a sponsor of the concert at one of three levels:
 - Gold (*Macher*) at \$500 entitles you to five reserved seats, an invitation to the wine and cheese reception for Julia and Julie before the concert and a Julie Silver signed CD and photo with Julie and Julia.
 - Silver (*Mentch*) at \$200 entitles you to two reserved seats and an invitation to the wine and cheese reception for Julia and Julie before the concert.
 - Bronze (*Mitzvah*) at \$100 entitles you to one reserved seat and an invitation to the wine and cheese reception for Julia and Julie before the concert.

- By participating in the Tribute Journal that we are arranging for Julia in any of the following ad sizes (forms for the ads will be sent to you – we hope that you will also seek ads from local businesses). Please note that the deadline for ads is April 20th:
 - Full Page \$250
 - Half Page \$150
 - Quarter Page \$100
 - Business Card \$50
 - Torah School Student Tributes at \$10/line
- By coming to the Concert itself; ticket prices will be as follows:
 - Reserved Seats (Adults) \$30
 - Reserved Seats (Children under 13) \$18
 - Adult Seats \$20
 - Children under 13 \$12

Our goal is to “pack the house” that night and to this end, we have received a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Ventura County.

In summary, I do hope that you will join your rabbi and your Temple Board in honoring this wonderful woman who has done so much for us all