

***Membership Mitzvah: A Gift For You to Give!***  
**By Rabbi Michael Lotker**

Here's a switch! Instead of your Rabbi and Temple President and Board asking for a generous gift from you to the Temple, we have a gift for you to give to someone about whom you care. And what's more, the gift is precious and valuable in both financial terms and in terms of its potential impact on the lives of people you love.

The program is called *Membership Mitzvah* and it's really quite simple. By the time you read this, you will have already received a Membership Gift Certificate. You are free to give this to any Jewish individual or family under the following arrangement:

1. The Gift Certificate is good for a one year dues-free membership in Temple Ner Ami.
2. Each Temple member (single or family) will have one and only one gift membership to give.
3. The gift membership is good for any membership type (single, family, senior, etc.) for the current fiscal year (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010).
4. The membership does not include free tuition to our Torah School but we stand ready to offer Torah School scholarships to families in need of them.
5. Gift memberships may only be used by families or individuals who have not been a member of Temple Ner Ami during the last five years.

There are many ways in which you can help our Temple grow by gifting this certificate. Consider presenting a membership to an unaffiliated adult child who might just need a little encouragement to reconnect with Judaism; to a young couple who might enjoy attending our Shabbat services once in awhile (or one of our highly successful Tot Shabbat services); to a young family interested in our religious school for their children; or to a senior who might enjoy simply socializing with others at one of our seniors' programs.

Of course the key to whether these new members will make a difference in the life of Temple Ner Ami and whether Temple Ner Ami will make a difference in their lives will depend in no small part on how well we welcome them. We in the office will do our best but we hope that you will consider the new member that you invite as your personal responsibility and stay in touch with them and their Temple experience.

We hope that you will help make this new and exciting program a success by bringing your Jewish friends into the world of Temple Ner Ami.