



Temple Shalom

Shofar

January 2005 • Tevet/Shevat 5765

Volume XLVIII Issue V

www.templeshalom.net

Saturday, Jan 1
Service/Torah Study
10 AM
Parashat Shemot
Genesis 1:1-6:1

Friday, Jan 7
Family Shabbat Service
7:30 PM
6th Grade Leads Service
Parashat Vayeshev
Genesis 37:1 - 40:23

Saturday, Jan 8
Primary Age 9:30 AM 2nd Gr.
Service/Torah Study 10 AM
Jr. Cong. 10:45 AM 5th Gr.
Parashat Va'era
Genesis 6:2-9:35

Friday, Jan 14
Social Concerns Shabbat
8 PM

Saturday, Jan 15
Service/Torah Study
10 AM
B'nai Mitzvah of Ross
Bushnell & Daniel Wilkes
10:00 AM
Parashat Bo
Genesis 10:1-13:16

Friday, Jan 21
Tot Shabbat 6:45 PM
Shabbat with Shir Shalom
8 PM

Saturday, Jan 22
Service/Torah Study
10 AM
Bat Mitzvah of Julia
Glueck 10:00 AM
Parashat Beshalach
Genesis 13:17-17:16

Friday, Jan 28
Kabbalat Shabbat 6 PM
Shabbat Service 8 PM

Saturday, Jan 29
Service/Torah Study
10 AM
Parashat Yitro
Genesis 18:1-20:23

MLK/Social Concern's Shabbat Talk Guest Speaker: Tony Cohen, Menare Foundation



Underground Railroad

**8 PM Friday Night
January 14, 2005**

Tony Cohen is the Executive Director of the Menare Foundation, a national non-profit organization dedicated to the documentation, preservation, and restoration of Underground Railroad safe-houses and environments. The organization grew out of Cohen's 1996 journey from Maryland to Canada. The 800-mile quest traced routes of the Underground Railroad via foot, boat, and rail. Cohen's journey and ensuing work has been featured on the Oprah Winfrey show. In June 2004, Temple Shalom joined with other Jewish congregations and the local Muslim community to help renovate a farmhouse in Germantown that will become Menare's living history museum. Please join us on Shabbat the evening of January 14 for our annual Martin Luther King Jr. speaker series, where Tony Cohen will inspire us with stories from his journey and his important work with Menare.

In This Issue

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Jewish leaders converge on Washington to take action on the issues that shape our lives. Page 15.



JANUARY



sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday

							1 Service/Torah Study 10 AM
2 No Religious School	3 Sanctuary Committee Mtg. 7:30 PM	4 A Survey of Jewish History 7:30-9:30 PM	5 Minyan 7 AM Brotherhood Meeting 6:30 PM Confirmation Class 7-8:30 PM	6 Prophets 12:15 PM Choir 7 PM Worship Committee	7 Family Shabbat Service 7:30 PM 6th Gr leads 6th Gr Shabbaton at T.S.	8 Primary Age 9:30 AM 2nd Grade Service/Torah Study 10 AM Jr. Cong. 10:45 AM 5th Gr. 6th Gr. Shabbaton at T.S.	
9 Madrichim Meeting 2 PM Confirmation Class PostCon Renaissance 6:15 PM Film: <i>A Gentleman's Agreement</i>	10	11 A Survey of Jewish History 7:30-9:30 PM	12 Minyan 7 AM Confirmation Class 7-8:30 PM	13 Prophets 12:15 PM Choir 7 PM Bereavement Group 7:00-8:15 PM Board of Trustees Mtg 7:30 PM	14 Social Concerns Shabbat 8 PM	15 Service/Torah Study 10 AM B'nai Mitzvah of Ross Bushnell & Daniel Wilkes 10 AM	
16 Joy of Judaism 9 AM Brotherhood Hal Bruno Brunch 10 AM	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Office Closed	18 A Survey of Jewish History 7:30-9:30 PM	19 Minyan 7 AM Confirmation Class 7-8:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting 7:30 PM	20 Prophets 12:15 PM Choir 7 PM	21 Tot Shabbat 6:45 PM Shabbat with Shir Shalom 8 PM	22 Service/Torah St. 10 AM Bat Mitzvah of Julia Glueck 10 AM Tu b Shevat Sedar & Pot Luck Lunch following Torah Study	
23 No Religious School Faculty In Service Retreat 6th Gr. BJE Trip 9 AM 7th/8th Gr. TASTY/HS	24 Introduction to Judaism Youth Group Ski Trip	25 No Hebrew School Tu b'Shevat	26 Minyan 7 AM Confirmation Class 7-8:30 PM	27 Prophets 12:15 PM Choir 7 PM Executive Comm. 7:30 PM	28 Kabbalat Shabbat 6:15 PM Artist in Residence Caesar Lerner Shabbat Service 8 PM 9th Grade Retreat	29 Service/Torah St. 10 AM Confirmation Class at Torah Study 9th Grade Retreat Caesar Lerner Concert 7 PM	
30 No Religious School 9th Gr. Retreat 6th Gr. BJE Trip 9 AM 7th/8th Gr. TASTY/HS	31 Introduction to Judaism						

The Whole World is Holy



Often—
too
often—
we hear
people
say some-
thing like

this: “You know, I’m not very *religious* or anything. But, you know, I’m a *deeply spiritual* person!”

This perceived dichotomy between “religion” and “spirituality” is grist for books and seminars and sermons. The two words are too often set in opposition to one another (AA says it well: “Religion,” one AA saying goes, “is for people who are afraid of going to hell. Spirituality... is for people who have been there.”)

It is a bit problematic that no one person uses the word “spirituality” in quite the same way. I *think* what people mean when they say this is something like: religion is about borders, and boundaries, and distinctions. Spirituality is about openness, and connections, and unity. The first feels divisive; the second brings us all together.

One column can only begin to touch on a single aspect of this issue, and it is a topic that I will return to again, in other settings, and in other ways. It is a subject of profound importance: for the future of Judaism, and for the “spiritual” lives of many, many individuals.

Will Rogers used to say: “I belong to no organized political party. I’m a Democrat.” I often feel like saying something similar to those who complain about “organized” religion. So, you should feel right at home in Judaism! But except as a jest, or a gentle reminder that we have no hierarchical ecclesiastical authority, this response misses the person’s point. Someone who says this has grave doubts about institutions, is uncomfortable with bureaucracy, or does not see the need for buildings. I can’t convince such a person with words. It’s a different world view, and is not subject to frontal persuasion or logical arguments.

Instead, I can try, I can begin to express how and why I believe there is an umbilical connection, an ultimately unseverable bond... between “religion” and “spirituality.”

What is the central idea of Judaism? Monotheism: the idea of one God. What is the central declaration of Judaism? The *Shema*, the proclamation of the oneness of God. If God is the Creator of the world, if God made the universe, and God is one, then all aspects of our lives, all experiences and phenomenon of the universe must be able to reveal the pulsing pattern of divinity. If God created everything, then anything, any experience, should be able to lead us back to God.

(It is interesting, in this regard, that the “Holy Grail” of that most “physical” of sciences, Physics, seems remarkably... spiritual. The great quest, the Nobel Prize waiting to happen, the “string theory” waiting to be tied together, is the Grand Unified Field Theory, the idea, in physics and cosmology, that all the basic phenomenon of the universe can be described with a single set of mathematical equations—even if those equations will have to function in twelve spatial dimensions to work, and they were only, in any event, valid for the first billionth of a billionth of a second of the life of the universe.)

Do you remember the question asked of the rabbi at the beginning of *Fiddler on the Roof*? Is there a *berakha*, a blessing for the Czar? And the response: of course. There is a *berakha* for everything! That is one of the single most important ideas in Jewish life. Perhaps it alone can serve as a summary of Judaism.

But does the word *berakha* really translate well as “blessing?” After all, there is a *berakha* to be said upon hearing the news that a loved one has died (*Barukh ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melekh HaOlam, Dayan HaEmet*; Praised are You, Eternal Our God, Judge of Truth.) And the word “blessing,” in English, implies something good. What, then, might the word really mean? Rabbi Lawrence Kushner suggested: “awakening.” We could also say: “aware-ing.” Or even: “acknowledgment.” Acknowledging the presence of a pattern of the extraordinary,

lurking behind the hidden realm of the ordinary and everyday events of our lives.

But what’s it do? What does saying a *berakha* accomplish?

In this regard I am reminded of the scene at many a Bar/t Mitzvah celebration, in which the DJ who has taken over as MC announces in mellifluous tones: “And now, Uncle Itzy will come and bless the bread!”

Is that what we do? Do we really “bless the bread?”

In its discussion of *berakhot*, the Talmud notes that there are verses in two different Psalms which seem to contradict each other. (Note as an important tangent here: the Talmud, the highly edited records of the debates of the rabbinic sages, often seeks to harmonize different aspects of Biblical literature, where the Biblical writers, serving different purposes or writing at different times, might never have seen a problem with such seeming contradictions at all!) The first verse is from Psalm 24:1, which asserts (in language familiar to those who remember the old *Union Prayerbook*) that “the earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof.” The other is Psalm 115:16, which states that “the heavens belong to the Eternal, but the earth God gave over to human beings.”

So which is it? Does everything belong to God? Or does the world and its wonders, its riches and resources, belong to us?

There is no contradiction, the Talmud asserts. For the first (everything belongs to God) is the situation before we say a *berakha*. The second (that there is a realm which is holy, and realm which is human) applies after we say one.

What an astonishing insight! According to this view of things, blessings function in a way very different than what we might have thought. Instead of *making something holy*, they actually *remove what we want to use* from God’s realm, and bring it (safely) into our own. A *berakha* is therefore like acknowledging prior ownership and respectfully asking permission to use something, at the same time.

The Talmud goes on to say that using *berakhot*—the particular six-word formula which opens many Hebrew prayers—link us

continued on page 4

From the Rabbi: The Whole World is Holy

continued from page 3

not only to God, but also to the community of Israel. We awaken to, are aware of, acknowledge the wonder of the world around us. And we are able to do so, according to our tradition, as Jews. Or: in a uniquely Jewish way.

So we learn, in the end, that the whole world is holy. All of it is filled with the remnants of Creation, subtle evidence of the Creator. Our tradition—our religion—offers us gateways to spirituality: ways in which we, as individuals and as a community, can trace the encounters and experiences of life back to their ultimate Source.

One question remains, for those who have made it all the way through this rather long

and complicated column. It is this: how can we balance the words we inherit, the multitude of blessings passed down from our tradition which can become rote and mechanical if we are not careful, with a liberating but still Jewishly-rooted sense of individual spiritual expression? To learn this balance, to blend the old and the new, Hebrew and English, tradition and creativity is a gift that can be the luminous foundation for our own individual spirituality. To share this approach is one of the greatest goals of my teaching, of my rabbinic, of my sense of a meaningful Jewish life. But it will have to remain the subject for

another time, or another setting.

For now, I simply will write: To say a blessing is to acknowledge a gift. To say thank you for the world, and all that is in it, our lives, and all that fills them. If that's not spiritually powerful, then I don't know what is.



Michael L. Feshbach

Rabbi

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Marilyn Ripin

Temple Shalom has three Torahs in our main sanctuary, each with its own amazing story. Jewish tradition teaches us that the world is sustained by three

things: truth, justice and peace. Thus, our three Torahs are titled Truth (Emet), Justice (Din) and Peace (Shalom).

Torat Shalom (Peace) was commissioned by the congregation in honor of its then Senior Rabbi Bruce Kahn, on the occasion of his 18 years of service as the Rabbi of Temple Shalom. It is a brand new Torah, and serves as a physical link to the Jewish people past, present and future, throughout history and around the world.

Our two other Torahs, Din (Justice) and Emet (Truth) both survived the Holocaust. One is from Bialystok, Poland, which was home to a vibrant Jewish community. It was written around 1915, by a master scribe and used regularly until it was hidden by the Jewish community when the Nazis approached the city. Many of these hidden Torahs were found and destroyed by the Nazis, but a Jewish man tried to rescue this Torah from a warehouse where it was being stored. He was spotted by the Nazis, who caught him and forced him to dig his own grave. The man was then shot and the Torah

scroll was placed into a body bag and thrown into freshly dug grave along with the dead body. Unbeknownst to anyone, the man's son was watching. In 1999, the son led a scribe from the Washington area, Menachem Youlus, to the spot where the Torah was buried. They dug it up, and began the work of restoring it, which included removing the bootprint of a Nazi soldier from the scroll itself.

The other Torah is from Lvov, in the Ukraine, which was also a center a Jewish life before the War. Rabbi Youlus was in Lvov to recover a different Torah when he was approached by elderly priest who showed him a Torah that had been buried for many years in the subbasement of a ruined synagogue. The Torah had been written by a famous scribe, Shmuel David Greenwald, and purchased by a wealthy man, Rav Waldman. It turns out that the priest's parents had worked in the factory owned by Rav Waldman and that they had been responsible for turning the Waldmans in to the Nazi authorities. Before he died, the priest wanted to atone for what he and his family had done. The Torah was in terrible shape, but Rabbi Youlus was able to restore it. Using these Torahs here today is an act of true redemption, connecting us with our past and ensuring Jewish continuity.

Rabbi Youlus, of the Jewish Book Store on Georgia Avenue, has rescued hundreds of Torahs that were hidden, lost or stolen during the Holocaust. They continue to be located in basements, warehouses, bombed out buildings, or antique shops. These Torahs are identified, purchased, taken and repaired by Rabbi Youlus and other sofers (a licensed Jewish

scribe) and placed in appropriate Jewish communities where they can be used, loved and honored.

If you would like to learn more about these Torahs and how they are rescued visit the Save a Torah site at www.saveatorah.com,

About Erev Shabbat (Friday Evening) Services at Temple Shalom in January

It is our "usual" custom (not every month, but most months) that Shir Shalom, our Temple Shalom choir, participates in our service on the second Friday evening of the month, and we often hold a "Social Concerns Shabbat" on the third Friday of the month. Because of both Martin Luther King, Jr. day (which follows the second Friday of the month) and Shabbat Shirah (the singing of Exodus 15, the "Song of the Sea," often accompanied by "musical" themes or celebration of one form or another; falling this year on the third Friday night of the month), we are switching our usual order. The second Friday night in January, January 14, will be our Social Concerns Shabbat (details front page); the third Friday in January (Shabbat Shirah, January 21) will be the service during which the choir will participate this month.

(Details of that service page 17).

L'chaim One New Jewish Thing:



Here are some more ideas for adding One New Jewish Thing to your life, ideas that fellow congregants have put into practice:

"I am lighting Shabbat candles,"
Mary Beth Lewis

"I am studying Jewish Philosophy with Rabbi Feshbach,"
Marilyn Ripin

"I signed up for 10 minutes of Torah on the Web,"
Mark Ross

"We are inviting Temple Shalom families to our home for Shabbat Dinners 6 times this year,"
Linda and Mike Gurevich

"I joined the Choir," Lori Weinstein

Are you stuck for ideas?

Look at the Shofar, look at the flyers, check out the Wednesday Temple Shalom email. (If you don't get the email, send an email with a request to Olga Shpitalna at oshpitalna@templeshalom.net and that can be One New Jewish Thing!

A Survey of Jewish History

In January, Rabbi Feshbach will be teaching *A Survey of Jewish History*, on Tuesday nights, January 4th (Ancient: Abraham to Ezra,) January 11th (Medieval: From the Talmud to the Telescope,) and January 18th (Modern: Judaism and Modernity.)

The Joy of Judaism

The Joy of Judaism classes led by Rabbi Serotta and Cantor Tasat continue, and on January 16th, focus on Tu Bishevat, Trees and Sabbath of Song. You need not have attended before; each class is a joy unto itself.

Hal Bruno Brunch

Did you ever attend a Brotherhood Brunch? They are not only for guys. Indeed, a highlight of each year at Temple Shalom is the *Hal Bruno Brunch*, and it takes place this year on January 16. Hal Bruno, an astute political observer and a

fascinating speaker, is a member of Temple Shalom. This is a not to be missed opportunity, and, if it is new to you, it is One New Jewish Thing.

Calendar of Religious Services

Our calendar of *Religious Services* is a full one in January, with Family Shabbat, Shabbat morning services and Torah Study, Tot Shabbat, Primary Age Shabbat, Social Concerns Shabbat, Kabbalat Shabbat, and the special once a year Shabbat Shira. Just look at the calendar, and pick one, or several, or One New Jewish Shabbat experience. And if you want to do even more, contact Rabbi Daniel Swartz at: danielstree@comcast.net or call the Temple Office at 301-587-2273 and leave him a message. Rabbi Swartz, Rabbi Feshbach, Rabbi Serotta, Cantor Tasat, JoHanna Potts, Susan Zemsky—all would be happy to work with you to develop a plan to increase your Jewish connection.

So—L'Chaim, to life, to one New Jewish Thing in the secular new year.

Try it!

L'Chaim Coupon

Name: _____

One New Thing: _____

May we use your name in the Shofar or put your coupon on a Temple Shalom bulletin board? Yes ___ No ___



In the Community

The Foundation for Jewish Studies

The Foundation for Jewish Studies Bethesda Lunch & Learn will study

“When Bad Things Happen to Good People: Study of Jewish Views on Theodicy”

on Wednesdays, January 5, 12, 19, 26

with Rabbi William Rudolph, Congregation Beth El. This series will meet at the Dennis & Phillip Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Road (at Lone Oak Drive East) in Bethesda. 301-897-1518. Brown bag dairy/pareve lunch is 12:15 – 12:30 PM and study is 12:30 – 1:30 PM. Hot beverages provided. Bring a Bible. No previous study required. Fee for the series is \$25.

The Foundation for Jewish Studies Downtown Lunch & Learn will learn about

“Kabbalah, Acher, and a Journey into Pardes”

on Thursdays, January 6, 13, 20, 27

with Rabbi Joel Tessler, Beth Shalom Congregation & Talmud Torah. This series will take place at the Hillel International Center, 800 8th Street, NW (8th & H Streets, Gallery Place metro stop on Red Line) 202-449-6500. Brown bag dairy/pareve lunch is 12:15 – 12:30 PM and study 12:30 – 1:30 PM. Bring a Bible and beverage. No previous study is required. Fee for the series is \$25.

The Foundation for Jewish Studies Northern Virginia Lunch & Learn studies *“How Jews and Judaism See Christianity”* on Tuesdays, January 11, 18, 25 (snow date, Feb. 1) with Rabbi Arnold Fink, Emeritus, Beth El Hebrew Congregation. These sessions take place at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia (library), 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA. 703-323-0880. Brown bag pareve/dairy lunch is 12 – 12:30 PM. Hot beverages provided. Study session 12:30 – 1:30 PM. Bring a Bible. No previous Bible study is required. Fee is \$20.

Registration is by check, payable to The Foundation for Jewish Studies, 6101 Montrose Road, Suite 206, Rockville, MD 20852

INTERAGES

Bring the joy of reading to a child!

Interages, Inc., a non-profit serving Montgomery County, needs your help for immediate openings to serve one hour per week as a reading tutor for a second grade girl or boy. Volunteers tutor the same child each week, meeting at Montgomery County public elementary schools throughout the county. Tutors receive training, books and other materials, and ongoing on-site support. Interested? For more information contact Sara Cartmill at 240-463-7411 or cartmill@interagesmd.org

This new Ruth Rales Reading Tutorial Initiative (RRRTI) will help 840 second grade students in 56 targeted schools with the highest poverty rates learn to read fluently. RRRTI is an expansion of “Reading Together,” a structured tutoring program used with great success in 30 schools last year. The expansion is made possible in part by a pledge of \$270,000 over the next three years by Debby and Joshua Rales of the RFI Foundation. On average, students in the program gain at least one grade level in reading fluency and comprehension by program completion. RRRTI recently was named the Maryland winner of the Civic Star Award from the American Association of School Administrators and School Services.

Tu b'Shevat Seder in February

Mark Your Calendars NOW!

**Tu b'Shevat -the 15th of
Shevat is the New Year of the
Trees.**

A time to celebrate the agriculture of Israel as well as explore our environmental responsibilities. Come to our pot-luck seder—you bring a dairy dish—we'll provide the ritual foods—as we sing, eat, and learn together using a haggadah produced by Neot Kedumim, the Biblical Landscape Reserve in Israel. Led by Cantor Ramon Tasat and JoHanna Potts immediately following Torah study on January 22 at noon.

Genocide Threat In Darfur, Western Sudan

A humanitarian crisis is brewing in Sudan, where hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians are being displaced from their homes in the Darfur region by government-backed militias fanning the flames of ethnic and religious warfare. The world has thus far remained shamefully silent in the face of these atrocities. It is now time for moral voices to be heard.

"Is silence the answer? It never was." Elie Wiesel

Background

The emergency in Sudan's northwestern region of Darfur presents the starkest challenge to the world since the Rwanda genocide in 1994. Government-backed Arab militias, known as the Janjaweed, have been engaging in campaigns to displace and wipe out entire communities of African tribal farmers. Villages have been razed, women and girls are systematically raped and branded, men and boys murdered, and food and water supplies specifically targeted and destroyed. Tens of thousands have died. Well over a million have been driven from their homes.

The situation has become especially volatile in the past month with Government forces encircling camps set up for those internally displaced by the conflict and denying access to UN aid agencies and other humanitarian groups. The Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Sudan, Jan Pronk, recently predicted that Darfur could "enter a state of anarchy; a total collapse of law and order" as a result of the deteriorating security situation in the region.

On November 10, the Government of Sudan and rebel forces signed two accords. These accords, to ease the delivery of humanitarian aid and to accept a no-fly zone over the Darfur region, represent important preliminary steps in the right direction. However, both sides have violated previous agreements. The international community must ensure that both the Government and the rebels honor these new accords.

The government of Sudan, under the guise of suppressing a rebel uprising, has pursued a

scorched-earth offensive and supported Janjaweed attacks on civilians. The rapid escalation of violence in recent months has developed into what many are describing as the world's worst humanitarian crisis today. There is no time to waste in responding. Many Darfurians—in dire need of food, medicine and sanitation—bear witness to the utter ruin of people's lives. Meanwhile, the government of Sudan downplays human rights violations and blocks humanitarian assistance.

According to the United Nations, of an estimated population of 6.5 million in Sudan's Darfur region, more than 2 million people are being affected by an ongoing campaign of ethnic cleansing carried out by the Sudanese government and its proxies against the region's black African population.

The government-supported Arab militias—collectively known as "Janjaweed"—have attacked the civilian populations of the Fur, Masaalit, and Zaghawa ethnic communities, bombed and scorched entire villages and towns, destroyed water sources and food stores, and systematically targeted black African civilians for mass killings, rape, and slave raids.

In the past year, an estimated 30,000 civilians have lost their lives; more than one million civilians have been internally displaced; and more than 200,000 have fled to neighboring Chad, according to U.N. figures. Refugee camps in Chad endure persistent assaults from the Janjaweed militia.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) estimates that the humanitarian crisis could claim 350,000 additional lives within the next nine months, mainly from starvation and disease. Already tens of thousands suffer from malnutrition. A combination of the approaching rainy season and restricted humanitarian access threaten to cut off food and medical relief.

Recent peace agreements give hope for an end to the bitter and devastating 21-year civil war between Sudan's northern Muslim region and its southern region, comprised of mostly Christians and Animists. More than two million people perished as a result of the brutal North-South conflict and famine, and another five million were driven from their homes. However, the worsening situation in Darfur threatens the credibility of the peace process.

Recently, the U.N. Security Council called for the immediate deployment of international

monitors in the Darfur region. The African Union is preparing to send 60 military officials and 30 civilian monitors within the next couple of months, although difficult arrangements hinder their arrival. Currently, few relief organizations are working on the ground, and U.N. agencies claim they have not yet raised the funds needed to avert disaster.

For only the second time in its history, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's Committee on Conscience issued a Genocide Warning Alert on behalf of the victims in Darfur.

How YOU Can Help

As a people intimately acquainted with the horrors of genocide, we are obligated to speak out and take action when other peoples are similarly threatened. As Jews, we cannot remain silent. Below is a list of actions we can take now to address the imminent crisis in Darfur:

Donate funds to the Reform Movement's Sudan Relief Fund. Make a donation on-line, or send checks payable to the Union for Reform Judaism (write "Sudan Relief Fund" in the memo section of your check) to:

**Union for Reform Judaism,
Attn: Sudan Relief
633 Third Ave. 7th Floor
New York, NY 10017**

Donations to the Union's Sudan Relief Fund will be used to provide humanitarian aid to the people of Sudan through reputable agencies. The Reform Movement will work with its coalition partners in the *Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief*, convened by the *American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee*, and the *Save Darfur Coalition*, convened by the *American Jewish World Service* and the *US Holocaust Memorial Museum*, to identify the most appropriate recipients of these humanitarian funds.

Send emails, letters, faxes and phone calls by visiting the *RAC's Legislative Action Center* and urging your Senators and Representative to address the needs of the Sudanese people by increasing U.S. aid while also supporting UN and other international efforts to address the crisis in Sudan.

Encourage other community members to take action by giving sermons, hosting expert speakers, or distributing flyers and other resources at the synagogue.

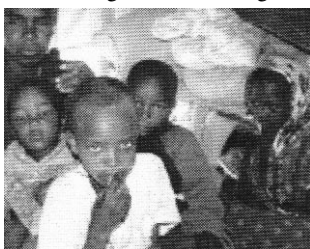
Position of the Reform Jewish Movement

The Reform Jewish Movement has been quite vocal on the issue of universal human rights. Almost half a century ago, the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR, the representative organization of the Reform Rabbis, called on the United States to ratify and sign the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights. In 1963, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations passed a resolution entitled "Human Rights," which concludes that racism is a moral evil. In 1979, a resolution entitled *Genocide* was passed which calls for the United States to approve and for the President to ratify the International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Also, a resolution entitled *Jewish Commitment to Africa* was passed in December, 1999. It calls for the Secretary General of the United Nations and the President of the United States to condemn acts of violence against innocent populations, and reaffirms our commitment to basic international human rights. Also in 2004, the CCAR passed a resolution on the current *crisis in Sudan*.

Jewish Values and Sudan

Judaism compels us to translate into reality the sacred ideal of the humanity of each individual and the Divine spark within us. Judaism not only condemns all racial bigotry; it affirms the belief in the sanctity of humans created in the image of God. Judaism thus places a moral responsibility upon its adherents to affirm the equality of all human beings as children of the One Universal God.

The Jewish community has been the quintessential victims of religious persecution, and of all people, we understand the duress of this persecution and will devote ourselves to any measures designed to lessen its impact. It is our duty and obligation to prevent this persecution in the future. The most repeated commandment in the Torah, appearing 36 times, is that we must not discriminate against the stranger in our midst, for we were strangers in the land of Egypt.



Tot Tu b'Shevat

January 21

6:45 PM

**TOT SHABBAT is a 30-40
minute worship experience
open to all, but
especially geared
toward children
ages 2-5 years and
their parents.**

ATTENTION TASTY Jr. & Sr.!!!!

(That would be all 6th-12th graders)

It's time for our Third Annual TASTY Ski & Snowboard Trip to Ski Liberty!

- When:** Monday, January 24th
(there in NO MCPS that day)
- Time:** 8:00 AM drop-off at Temple Shalom
8:00 PM pick-up from Temple Shalom
- Cost** Please read carefully, *(it gets a little confusing)*

Package #1: LIFT TICKET ONLY \$51

- Provides access to all open lifts and trails
- For skiers and boarders who have their own equipment and do NOT need a lesson

Package #2: Learn to Ski or Snowboard \$67

- Lift Ticket valid on appropriate lifts and trails only
- Includes rental ski or snowboard equipment AND beginner lesson
- You may start out snowboarding and switch to skiing for an additional \$5 charge.

Package #3: All Mountain Package \$78

- Lift ticket valid on all open lifts and trails
- Includes rental ski or snowboard equipment
- Includes a class lesson at the skier's ability

ALSO included in the above:

- Bag breakfast (bagel, cream cheese, juice, etc)
- Transportation to and from Ski Liberty

NOT included in above prices:

- Lunch and/or dinner
- Any other incidentals requiring spending money
- You may bring a bag lunch if you like. There is a food court available for food and drinks.
- Please bring ample spending money.

*Other notes: Joyce will be accessible on her cell phone at all times at 301-523-2327 during the trip.
She will also have a Ski Liberty pager in case of emergency on the slopes.*

Parents and siblings over age 8 are welcome to join us at the same rates as above, space permitting.

You MUST contact Joyce directly to register NO LATER THAN JANUARY 17th.

If we do not have 28 people by then, we will have to cancel. Please call Joyce at 301-593-1122 and leave a message OR E-mail her at youthdirector@templeshalom.net.

You will receive the actual registration form after you RSVP to Joyce. Space is limited so please act soon!

UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM

The Value of Tzedakah

Thanks to the generosity of Reform Jews throughout the Movement, more than \$138,000 has been donated to the Union for Reform Judaism's Sudan Relief Fund to help the victims of genocidal activity in Darfur, Sudan. As of the late November, \$80,000 has been sent to Care USA, Catholic Relief Services and the International Rescue Committee, and the Union is evaluating which organizations can best use the funds remaining.

The situation in Darfur continues to be the worst humanitarian situation in the world today, and funds are urgently needed.

Donations may be made at www.urj.org/relief;

for more information about the crisis, see

www.rac.org/advocacy/issues/issue_sudan/sudangen.

Summer Learning

If you're interested in spending five unforgettable days learning and studying among a vibrant community of committed worshipers, why not investigate the 2005 Summer Kallah? Scheduled for July 19-24, 2005 at Franklin Pierce College, in Rindge, NH, the theme of this year's Kallah will be Aiyekah—Where are we now? Where are we as Reform Jews and where are we headed? Join us for a unique combination of Jewish learning and spiritual renewal.

For more information, visit the Web site at

**www.urj.org/educate/kallah,
or contact Joan Glazer Farber,
212.650.4087, educate@urj.org.**

A Gap Year in Israel for High School Graduates

If you know a high school senior who is interested in spending a year pursuing academic and informal studies in Israel, make sure he/she knows about Carmel, the Reform Movement's new program for high school graduates. Carmel participants receive academic credit for Jewish and general studies at the University of Haifa, while developing an in-depth connection to Israeli Reform Jews, traveling throughout Israel, and studying Hebrew. Applicants who apply by January 30,

continued on page 14

NEW YEARS EVE AT TEMPLE SHALOM

Friday, December 31, 2004

Services 6 PM

Food, Friends,
Family, Fun!

Shabbat Dinner 7 PM



Adults \$12
Children \$6

On December 31, 2004
Friday night services 6 PM

Please make your reservations by Wednesday, December 28

Name _____

followed by a

Home Phone Number _____

Shabbat Dinner at 7PM
where we will serve Kosher food.

Adults _____ # Children _____

**\$12 Adults and
\$6 for children.**

I am willing to help set up _____

I am willing to help clean up _____

I have enclosed \$ _____

Amount enclosed _____ (Please make all checks payable to Temple Shalom). Return to the Temple office or mail to: Temple Shalom,
8401 Grubb Rd. Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Dedication Service and Gala A Night to Remember

On Saturday evening December 4th close to 200 members of our congregation gathered in our beautiful new sanctuary to begin a Year of Dedication of this sacred space and to honor the success of our Shalom L'Olam Campaign.

The evening began with a moving Havdalah Service followed by a very special Service of Dedication led by Rabbis Feshbach, Serotta, and Kahn, Hazzan Tasat, and Director of Education JoHanna Potts. Then Marilyn Ripin hosted our Service of Appreciation as we thanked those members whose generous donations made it possible for us to renovate our sanctuary and ensure that our Rabbi Bruce E. Kahn Endowment Fund would be able to guide our congregation for many years to come. Everyone who served on a Shalom L'Olam campaign committee was honored with a beautiful kippah made from our former Ark curtains. Special accolades went to Betsy Kingery and Steve Eisen for the incredible time, effort and love they put into chairing the Shalom L'Olam Campaign. Finally, we celebrated with our Temple Shalom family at a terrific dinner dance. Boy can this congregation party! You should have seen the "boogeying" that was going on on that dance floor!! Special thanks to Andrea Karp, Susan Medick, Linda Krauss, Linda Kushner, Kathy Rosen, Marilyn and Barrie Ripin, Dan Freedman, Marty and Carolyn Shargel, Alan Lewis, Maury Schlesinger, and Susan Zemsky for all their help decorating and setting up the social hall.

It was truly a very special night in the life of our congregation. We look forward to celebrating again on Shabbat morning, April 16 as our Year of Dedication continues.



Temple Shalom





**The
Dedication
Gala
Committee
would like
to thank
event's
corporate
sponsors for
their
generosity:**



**M.E. Jewelry
301.379.3762**

**Paper Link
301.384.5870**

**Tragara Ristorante
301.951.4935**

**Ultrasound DeeJays
301.217.9595**



RENAISSANCE GROUP

On Sunday, November 7, about 30 members of the Temple Shalom Renaissance Group enjoyed a delicious dinner together at La Panetteria in Bethesda. The food, service and ambience were excellent, and as is usually the case with Renaissance Group events, everyone had a delightful time. If you were not able to join us on that occasion, hopefully you will attend some of our events planned for the rest of the year.

Several of our programs for the year 2004-05 were planned as a commemoration of the 350th anniversary of the first Jewish community in the United States.

The first event for 2005 will be our **4th annual movie night on January 9th**. The film we are screening is *Gentlemen's Agreement*, chosen because of its depiction of anti-Semitism in the United States and its impact on the Jewish community.

On **February 13**, we are planning a theatre party at the **F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in Rockville** to see Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*. Keeping with tradition, we are arranging an optional dinner at a nearby restaurant for those who would like to join us.

On **Tuesday, April 13th**, there will be a docent-led tour of the Modigliani exhibit at the **Phillips Collection in Washington, DC**. This exhibit was recently on view at the Jewish Museum in New York, and record crowds waited on long lines to visit it.

And, last but not least, the Renaissance Group has reserved a block of tickets to the Kennedy Center's production of the Tony-winning smash hit, **Hairspray**, for Sunday evening, **August 14**. We hope that you will be able to attend some, if not all, of our programs.

As always, your ideas and suggestions are welcome. For further information about the Renaissance group, contact Francine Simons at francine311@comcast.net, **301-838-9530**. Also, please let her know if you wish to be added to the Renaissance Group's email list. If you already have asked to be on this list but have changed your email address in the last six months, please forward your new address to her.

The Temple Shalom Renaissance Group is for Temple members over 50 who want to join other members in a variety of social activities.

TEMPLE SHALOM BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Looking for a good book to read? Try these, and come to a book discussion:

Sunday, February 27—*The Song of Names*, by Norman Lebrecht (Starred Review Winner of the 2002 Whitbread Prize for a first novel)—a vivid and accomplished first novel by a well-known English journalist and BBC music critic, filled with artistry, music and loyalty [NEW DATE]

Sunday, April 17—*As a Driven Leaf*, by Milton Steinberg (Foreword by Chaim Potok; on the UAHC List of Significant Jewish Books)—magnificent work of modern fiction that brings to life the age of the

Talmud, in Rome, circa 70 C.E.—Rabbi Serotta will participate in the discussion [NEW DATE]

Sunday, June TBD—*When I Lived in Modern Times*, by Linda Grant (#1 bestseller in London and the winner of Britain's prestigious Orange Prize for Fiction)—an unsentimental coming-of-age story of both a country (Israel) and a young immigrant from London to Palestine in 1946

Two sessions of each discussion: 9–10:30 AM or 11:30–1 PM Bagels and coffee.

No fee to participate. All are welcome.

For more information, contact Heidi Coleman at

UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM

from page 10

2005 will receive a \$500 tuition reduction. For more information, visit the Web site at

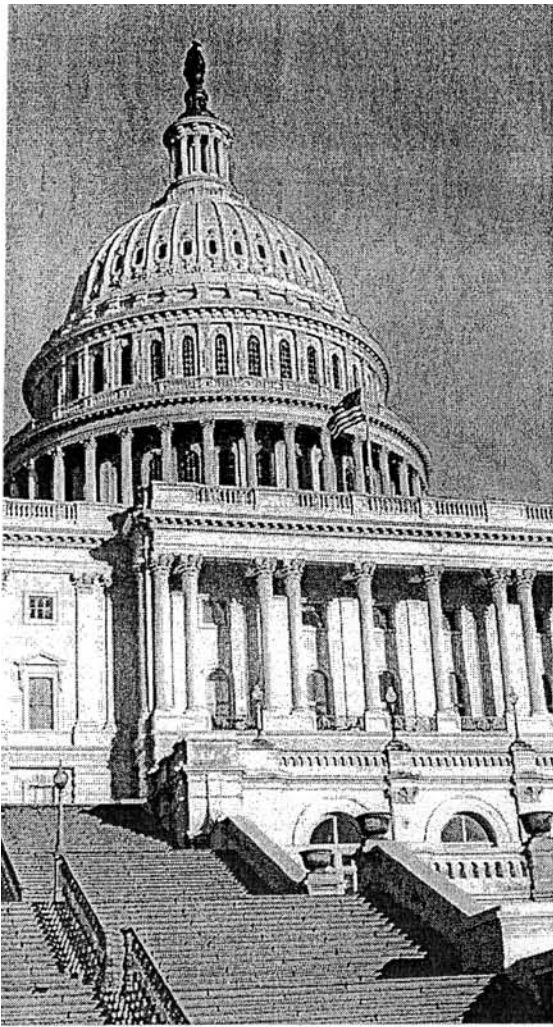
www.keshernet.com/carmel,

or contact Shira Koch-Epstein at 212.452.6571, sepstein@urj.org.

When is the Consultation on Conscience?

The dates for the next Consultation will be Sunday, March 13–Tuesday, March 15, 2005

SEE PAGE 15 FOR DETAILS!



Religious Action Center
of Reform Judaism

SAVE THE DATE

2005
Consultation
ON CONSCIENCE

Sunday, March 13 -
Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Join Jewish leaders and activists in
Washington, D.C., to learn from key
policy and government leaders about
the issues that shape our lives, to explore
the connection between Jewish texts and
current events, and to build strong social
action and advocacy skills to use in
your congregation.

*The Consultation on Conscience is generously supported
by the J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Conference Program Fund.*

THE CONSULTATION ON
CONSCIENCE IS A UNIQUE
OPPORTUNITY TO:

- Discuss key issues with Jewish activists, Reform Jewish Movement leaders, and Congressional and Administration leaders
- Understand hotly debated and timely political issues
- Explore the impact of Jewish values on current issues
- Exchange exciting program ideas with other participants
- Meet with your Members of Congress



UNION FOR
REFORM JUDAISM
האיחוד ליהדות רפורמית
SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information and schedule details, visit the Religious Action Center's website at www.rac.org, e-mail: consultation@rac.org, or call 202.387.2800.

WANT TO DO A MITZVAH?

Photos from
Sunday,
October 31st



The Temple Shalom Music Committee and Hazzan Tasat proudly present

Shabbat with Caesar Lerner

Friday, January 28 at 8:00 PM

An Artist in Residence Shabbat

Saturday, January 29 at 7:00 PM

Songs of Redemption

Concert for the Arrival of the New Week

CAESAR LERNER, member of the duo Klezmer in Buenos Aires, Mr. Lerner has performed to tremendous acclaim both in Argentina and at major festivals throughout Europe, the United States, and Latin America. As a composer, he has received several awards for his movie scores. "Lost Embrace," a film shown at the DCJCC Jewish Film Festival, features his score.

Please come to pray and sing with an extraordinary artist.

Tickets for the 90-minute concert (no intermission) are \$10 per person; no charge for children under 12.

There will be light refreshments served after the concert.

To reserve tickets by mail send a check (payable to "Lerner Concert") to Temple Shalom, 8401 Grubb Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.



Shabbat Shira (Sabbath of Song) at Temple Shalom

Friday, January 21 at 8:00 PM

Cantor Tasat, with the participation of Shir Shalom, the Temple Shalom choir,

presents:

Great Figures in Jewish Music

*Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the
Birth of Cantor Salomon Sulzer*

Please bring your family for the special chant of the
“*Song at the Sea*” (Exodus 15:1-18).

Salomon Sulzer became the first musician in modern times to create a synagogue liturgy of the highest aesthetic standard by combining his cantorial heritage with the forms and performance techniques of modern European music.

People flocked from all over Europe to hear the new cantor and his choir. Not only Jewish worshippers came to the synagogue; some of the most sophisticated gentile musicians found their way to the Seitenstettengasse Temple in Vienna, Austria. Franz Liszt, the famous pianist and composer, said in his diary:

In Vienna we visited the famous tenor Sulzer, who served in the capacity of precentor in the synagogue, and whose reputation is so outstanding. For moments we could penetrate into his real soul and recognize the secret doctrines of the fathers . . . Seldom were we so stirred by emotion as on that evening, so shaken that our soul was entirely given to meditation and to participation in the service.[1]

Sulzer’s fame today rests on his liturgical compositions. Some of them became so popular that the congregation readily joined in singing. In fact, the melodies that Sulzer composed for *Shema Yisrael* and *Ki Mi Tzion* are heard in numerous synagogues today.

1. Franz Liszt, *Les Bohémiens et leur musique, in Sam Morgenstern, Composers on Music* (New York: 1956), p. 163.

Friday night comes alive with fun, friendship, families and food... and the return of an early "Kabbalat Shabbat" Service

We come together for our experimental, new,
intimate and informal camp-style service,
with singing and a celebratory welcome of Shabbat in the Sanctuary
followed by a Pot Luck Dinner in the Chapel.

**Our new service will take place
On Friday nights,
January 28
(and on the fourth Friday night of the month thereafter)**

6 PM: Snacks in the foyer

6:15 PM: Camp-style Kabbalat Shabbat service

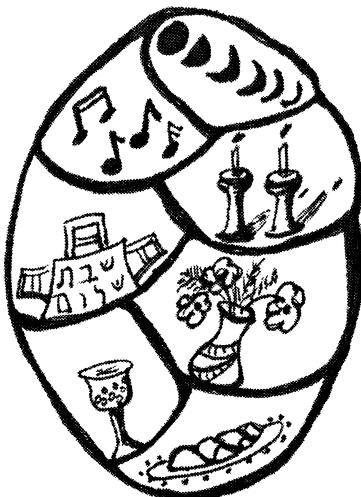
led by Ruti Kadish in the Sanctuary

7 PM: Pot Luck Dairy/Vegetarian Dinner in the Chapel

(Our "regular" 8 PM Erev Shabbat service in the Sanctuary follows
unchanged on all of these evenings; those attending the "late" service
should easily be able to participate in the 7 PM Pot Luck dinner as well.)

With questions or comments, please contact

**Susan Lott, 301-681-1548 or lotts@georgetown.edu,
Or Sandy West, 301-593-3727, Sandra_west@fc.mcps.k12.md.us**



For January 28:

Please bring: last names beginning with

A-C: Dessert and Drinks

D-Q: Main Dish

R-Z: Side Dish

for around 8 people.

(Remember: it is a dairy/vegetarian dinner)

**RSVP if possible (just so we can get some sense of who is bringing
what), or just come.**

Even if it is a last-minute decision.

And let's welcome Shabbat together.

Joy of Judaism: Moadim L'Simchah

A reJewvenation class before each holiday observance. Increase meaning and enjoyment throughout the year with these workshops with Rabbi Gerry Serotta and Cantor Tasat.

Held Sunday mornings 9–10:30 AM
Tu B'shevat: Trees & Sabbath of Song
January 16

A Survey of Jewish History:

Ancient: Abraham to Ezra
Medieval: From the Talmud to the Telescope
Modern: Judaism and Modernity

A survey of Jewish history, concentrating on the ever-evolving dynamic of Jewish survival and the balance between continuity and change. The course will serve as a broad overview of the events and ideas, culminating in the “streams” and “denominations” of Jewish life today. Taught by Rabbi Michael L. Feshbach

Held Tuesday nights 7:30 – 9:30 PM
January 4, 11, 18, 2005
Charge: \$40 for members \$50 for non-members

IN FEBRUARY: *Judaism and the East:* The Jewish encounter with the world is broader and deeper than the much discussed question of Jewish-Christian relations. This course will explore similarities, differences, and historical interactions between Judaism & Islam, Judaism & Hinduism and Judaism & Buddhism. We will explore such questions as how peaceful interreligious coexistence and cooperation can emerge, as well as delve into such recent phenomenon as the "JuBus" (Jews becoming or at least enamored of Buddhism as a spiritual path). Taught by Rabbi Michael L. Feshbach. Held Tuesday nights 7:30 – 9:30 PM • February 1, 8, 15, 2005. Charge: \$40 for members

Responding as Jews to the Crisis in Housing

Sunday, January 16
12:00 to 2:30 PM
Tifereth Israel Congregation
7701 16th Street, NW
(at Juniper St) Washington, DC12

This event is sponsored by AtOne (Area Tikkun Olam Network, composed of several congregations and other Jewish based organizations); JUFJ (Jews United for Justice); and Tifereth Israel Congregation Social Action Committee. If you can't come, but want to get involved, please email jufj@earthlink.net or call Avi Rosenblit at (202) 331-JUFJ.

In local Maryland and DC, there is a critical lack of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families and individuals. The people who make our region work—the bus drivers, teachers, nurses, police officers and service workers—are locked out of owning or renting.

Those who are unemployed or unable to work have even fewer options. What is our responsibility as Jews to ensure that affordable housing is available to those in need? What can we do to meet this challenge?

Come explore the issues with

- Michael Bodaken (moderator), President, National Housing Trust, and hear from invited state and local experts:
- Sharon Grosfeld, Maryland State Legislator
- George Leventhal, Montgomery County Councilman
- Adrian Fenty, DC Councilman

**A light brunch will be served.
Admission is FREE.**

All Are Welcome.

See flyer on Page 20

SNOW SNOW SNOW

In the event of inclement weather,
please check the WTOP website for information. While they do make announcements on the radio, they are not always timely.

We will also try to put information on the temple phone message.

301-587-2273

MLK's Call for Justice: Responding as Jews to the Crisis in Housing

**Sunday, January 16
12:00 to 2:30 PM
Tifereth Israel Congregation
7701 16th Street, NW
(at Juniper St)
Washington, DC**

In local Maryland and DC, there is a critical lack of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families and individuals. The people who make our region work – the bus drivers, teachers, nurses, police officers and service workers – are locked out of owning or renting. Those who are unemployed or unable to work have even fewer options. What is our responsibility as Jews to ensure that affordable housing is available to those in need? What can we do to meet this challenge?

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- **Sharon Grosfeld, Maryland State Legislator**
- **George Leventhal, Montgomery County Councilman**
- **Adrian Fenty, DC Councilman**

**A light brunch will be served. Admission is free.
All Are Welcome.**

This event is sponsored by AtOne (Area Tikkun Olam Network, composed of several congregations and other Jewish based organizations); JUFJ (Jews United for Justice); and Tifereth Israel Congregation Social Action Committee. If you can't come, but want to get involved, please

email jufj@earthlink.net or call Avi Rosenblit at (202) 331-JUFJ.



Temple Shalom

<i>Rabbis:</i>	Michael L. Feshbach Gerald Serotta
<i>Rabbi Emeritus:</i>	Bruce E. Kahn
<i>Cantor:</i>	Ramón Tasat
<i>Cantor Emeritus:</i>	Saul Rogolsky
<i>Executive Director:</i>	Susan Goutos Zemsky
<i>Director of Education:</i>	JoHanna Potts
<i>President:</i>	Marilyn Ripin

SHOFAR DEADLINE for the February issue is January 8

Submission should be on a computer disk, preferably in WordPerfect or Microsoft Word format. Please use no left or right justification, no hard returns, underlines, etc. **A HARD COPY MUST BE SUBMITTED ALONG WITH THE DISK.** Also please attach a separate hard copy of instructions as to where you wish centering, bolding etc. to appear OR you may e-mail your submission to:
execdir@templeshalom.net.

The second Friday night in January,

January 14,
will be our Social Concerns' Shabbat

page 1 for details

and the third Friday in January

Shabbat Shirah
the singing of Exodus 15, the
"Song of the Sea"

page 4 for details

January 21 & 28
will be services during which the choir
will participate.

pages 16 and 17 for details



Temple Shalom