



Shofar

Temple Shalom

July/August 2005 • Iyar– Aivan– Elul 5765

Volume XLX Issue XI

www.templeshalom.net

Friday, July 1

Erev Shabbat Services, 8 PM

Saturday, July 2

Shabbat Morning Worship and Study, 10 AM

Wednesday, July 6

Wed. Morning Minyan, 7 AM

Friday, July 8

Erev Shabbat Services, 8 PM

Saturday, July 9

Shabbat Morning Worship and Study, 10 AM

Wednesday, July 13

Wed. Morning Minyan, 7 AM

Friday, July 15

Erev Shabbat Services, 8 PM

Saturday, July 16

Shabbat Morning Worship and Study, 10 AM

Parashat Korach

Numbers 16:1–18:32

Wednesday, July 20

Wed. Morning Minyan, 7 AM

Friday, July 22

Erev Shabbat Services, 8 PM

Saturday, July 23

Shabbat Morning Worship and Study, 10 AM

Parashat Chukat

Numbers 19:1–22:1

Wednesday, July 27

Wed. Morning Minyan, 7 AM

Friday, July 29

Erev Shabbat Services, 8 PM

Saturday, July 30

Shabbat Morning Worship and Study, 10 AM

Parashat Balak

Numbers 22:2–25:9

Wednesday, August 3

Wed. Morning Minyan, 7 AM

Friday, August 5

Erev Shabbat Services, 8 PM

Saturday, August 6

Shabbat Morning Worship and Study, 10 AM

Parashat Pinchas

Numbers 25:10–30:1

Wednesday, August 10

Wed. Morning Minyan, 7 AM

Friday, August 12

Erev Shabbat Services, 8 PM

Saturday, August 13

Shabbat Morning Worship and Study, 10 AM

Parashat Matot

Numbers 30:2–32:42

Wednesday, August 17

Wed. Morning Minyan, 7 AM

Friday, August 19

Erev Shabbat Services, 8 PM

Saturday, August 20

Shabbat Morning Service: Sheed/Dine B'nai Mitzvah, 10 AM

Parashat Ma'asey

Numbers 33:1–36:13

Wednesday, August 24

Wed. Morning Minyan, 7 AM

Friday, August 26

Erev Shabbat Services, 8 PM

Saturday, August 27

Shabbat Morning Worship and Study, 10 AM

Parashat Devarim

Deuteronomy 1:1–3:22

Wednesday, August 31

Wed. Morning Minyan, 7 AM

Summer 5765 (2005) Service Schedule

Every summer Temple Shalom is blessed with the energy and creativity of many of our members who step forward to lead our Friday evening services.

All Friday night services in July and August begin at 8 PM, and are held downstairs in the Chapel.

This summer's schedule (with associated Torah portions) is:

July

Friday night, July 1

Parashat Korach

Service led by Jack Kramer

Friday night, July 8

Parashat Chukat

Service led by Marty Shargel

Friday night, July 15

Parashat Balak

Service led by the Silver Spring

Chavurah

Friday night, July 22

Parashat Pinchas

Service led by Anne Feinberg

Friday night, July 29

Parashat Matot

Service led by Dan Sikowitz, Ruth

Stuart and family

August

Friday night, August 5

Parashat Masei

“Camp Service”

led by Joyce Kammerman

Friday night, August 12

Parashat Devarim; Shabbat Chazon

WUPJ (World Union for Progressive

Judaism) Shabbat

led by Steven Hirschfield

with Cantor Ramon Tasat

Friday night, August 19

Parashat Va'etchanan

led by Rabbi Gerry Serotta and

Cantor Ramon Tasat

Friday night, August 26

Parashat Eikev

UPB (“Union Prayer Book”) Shabbat

led by Jack Lowe.

with Rabbi Michael Feshbach and

Cantor Ramon Tasat

And... of course, as you see on the left-side column,
Morning Worship Service followed by Torah Study continues
every Saturday ALL summer at 10 AM
and the lay led Minyan meets every
Wednesday morning at 7 AM

Let's come together for our joyous,
more intimate and always special
summertime services.



JULY



sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
					Erev Shabbat Services, 8 PM ¹	Shabbat Morning Worship and Study, 10 AM ²
³	⁴	⁵	Wednesday Morning Minyan 7 AM ⁶	⁷	Erev Shabbat Services, 8 PM ⁸	Shabbat Morning Worship and Study, 10 AM ⁹
¹⁰	¹¹	¹²	Wednesday Morning Minyan Service 7 AM Volunteer Luncheon, 12:30 PM ¹³	Board of Directors Meeting, 7:30 PM ¹⁴	Erev Shabbat Services, 8 PM ¹⁵	Shabbat Morning Worship and Study, 10 AM ¹⁶
¹⁷	¹⁸	¹⁹	Wednesday Morning Minyan 7 AM Finance Comm. Meeting, 7:30 PM ²⁰	²¹	Erev Shabbat Services, 8 PM ²²	Shabbat Morning Worship and Study, 10 AM ²³
²⁴ 31	²⁵	²⁶	Wednesday Morning Minyan 7 AM ²⁷	Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM ²⁸	Erev Shabbat Services, 8 PM ²⁹	Shabbat Morning Worship and Study, 10 AM ³⁰

August

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
	¹	²	Wednesday Morning Minyan 7 AM ³	⁴	Erev Shabbat Services, 8 PM ⁵	Shabbat Morning Worship and Study, 10 AM ⁶
⁷	⁸	⁹	Wednesday Morning Minyan, 7 AM ¹⁰	Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:30 PM ¹¹	Erev Shabbat Services, 8 PM ¹²	Shabbat Morning Worship and Study, 10 AM ¹³
Renaissance Group at Hairspray at the Kennedy Center, 7:30 PM ¹⁴	¹⁵	¹⁶	Wednesday Morning Minyan 7 AM ¹⁷	¹⁸	Erev Shabbat Services, 8 PM ¹⁹	Shabbat Morning Worship and Study, 10 AM Sheed/Dine B'nai Mitzvah 10 AM ²⁰
²¹	²²	²³	Wednesday Morning Minyan 7 AM ²⁴	Shir Shalom Choir Practice, 7 PM Executive Comm.Meeting, 7:30 PM ²⁵	Erev Shabbat Services, 8 PM ²⁶	Shabbat Morning Worship and Study, 10 AM ²⁷
²⁸	²⁹	³⁰	Wednesday Morning Minyan 7 AM ³¹			

Summer Reading? (or: What's on your nightstand?)



At my sons' Elementary School end-of-year picnic (held, as always, on a Friday night, but that is a whole other story)

I chanced upon a snippet of stray conversation between the owners of two different Pizza Parlors. One of them said to the other: "So, did you catch that piece in the latest PEQ?"

What, I wondered, was "PEQ?" I had my suspicions. So I asked. Sure enough, I was close (although not exact) in my guess. Turns out that PEQ stands for... *Pizza Equipment Quarterly*. Which I suppose just proves that there really is a magazine for everything.

But that only leads to a larger question. We are, it seems, not only what we eat. We are also.. what we read. So let me ask you a personal question. What's on your reading list? Or your nightstand? Or your...well, never mind.

Walk into a home, and you can tell a lot about the occupant by looking around. Art and decor. A mezzorah on the door post. A menorah on a lintel. Ways of organizing (or not) the home. And the books on the shelves (are there bookshelves?) and magazines on the tables.

If we are, at least partly, what we read, then what defines your household? As a rabbi asking this, what I mean more specifically is: what reading material in your home, what subscriptions that come in your mail, mark your house as a Jewish home? At this *Shofar*, our congregation's monthly bulletin, and *Reform Judaism* magazine (which all members of Temple Shalom should be receiving on about the same timetable as those pizza makers got *PEQ*) the only ongoing and, you should pardon the pun, periodic connections you have with the Jewish world?

If so, I suggest that this is not enough. Dan Rather was once approached by a man who claimed that he never read a newspaper, but

that he relied for all of his information about the world on the *CBS Evening News*. So, too, he claimed, did all of his friends. It wasn't just Peter Jennings and Tom Brokaw who shuddered at that comment. (I am dating myself; I can't even name all three of the lead network anchors today.) Dan Rather reported that he, too, shook with fear, for the future of America.

If who we are is reflected in what we read, then, as good as we try to be, the *Shofar* and *Reform Judaism* are not enough. (By the way, if you are a member of Temple Shalom and have not been receiving *Reform Judaism* please be in touch with our front office to make sure that we correct that.) They are not enough for a competent, educated, connected Jewish home.

So let me make a few additional suggestions. I would begin with our own community. How many of you subscribe to the *Washington Jewish Week*? It is an imperfect organ (I say this knowing full well that some of its editors will absolutely, positively read these words), and yet it is far better than the Jewish papers of many other communities. (Trust me on this one; I'm not just saying this to get out of trouble for the opening comment.) And it is the newspaper of our Jewish community. A connection with a single congregation is an important step in a Jewish identity. We try, indeed, to provide for all of your Jewish needs (and will be closer to doing so once we have a preschool... someday!!) But we are not the be all and end all of the Jewish world. Knowing what is going on in Jewish Washington is almost a requirement of "citizenship" in this community. You can find out more about the *Washington Jewish Week* at www.washingtonjewishweek.com.

My next recommendation would be a national Jewish weekly newspaper, *The Forward* (www.forward.com). This is the English language edition of what was once a Socialist-leaning Yiddish daily paper. The Yiddish paper played an astonishingly important role in the acculturation and assimilation to America of new immigrants from Eastern Europe, and was the vehicle for a broad range of intellectual discourse equaled in few forums anywhere today. Hints alone remain of that heritage (perhaps including a pen-

chant of the headline writers to overuse the word "big" referring to major leaders -- clearly an Anglicization of the Yiddish term "*g'doylim*," meaning exactly the same thing). And there are occasional anti-religious or anti-rabbinic undertones in *The Forward*. But the fact remains: I read about some stories going on in the Jewish world in *The Forward* first. They are there with the story, even if it is not always told the way I would want it told.

This past High Holy Days I mentioned other periodicals: *The Jerusalem Report* (www.jrep.com) and *The Jerusalem Post* (www.jpost.com). Since my Rosh Hashanah sermon last fall the editor of the first (a bi-weekly magazine with a liberal editorial line but all viewpoints well represented) has become the editor of the second (a daily English paper in Israel which was once leftist, then rightist, and now seems centrist, available overseas as a weekly paper). I also recommended checking out the online English language edition of the Israeli *New-York Times* equivalent newspaper, *Ha'aretz* (www.haaretz.com). There is also *Moment Magazine* (www.momentmag.com), the most interesting and influential fully independent monthly magazine in the Jewish world (in my opinion); the slightly more serious but very important monthly called *Sh'ma: A Journal of Jewish Responsibility* (www.shma.com), which is a short (12-pages?), readable, extremely interesting dialogue on a single topic, from different points of view; the very left-wing/Jewish renewal and occasionally off-the-wall and even (to me) aggravating *Tikkun* (www.tikkun.org); and, finally, out of fairness, the apparently still-being-published once-very-influential right-wing monthly *Commentary* (www.commentarymagazine.com), in which I actually read a pretty good article recently on the gender-issue scandal at Harvard.

This is obviously only scratching the surface. And we live in a world in which you do not even need to find a newsstand to check all these out; just type in a URL and click a mouse.

My larger point, I suppose, is simply this: the synagogue is and always has been the central institution that nurtures and sustains the spiritual life of most Jews. (In the back-and-forth

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Annual remarks from President Marilyn Ripin at the Annual Meeting June 9, 2005



It is a pleasure to have this opportunity to give the

Board of Trustees Annual Report. The Rabbis have taught us that “a community is too heavy for anyone to carry alone” (Deuteronomy Rabbah 1.10). Since becoming President of the Temple I have come to fully appreciate this teaching. At Temple Shalom we are blessed with many people working together to carry our community starting with an extraordinarily talented professional staff—our Rabbis, Hazzan, Education Director and Executive Director. You know what each of them does for our Temple, let me just mention a few of their other accomplishments.

Rabbi Feshbach was on NPR twice this year giving a religious response to the tsunami and the Terry Schiavo case, which led to an invitation to give the keynote address at a national Jewish convention as well as to write a chapter in an upcoming book on Jewish views of genetic testing. Rabbi Serotta continues to serve on the Board for Rabbis for Human Rights and recently retired and was honored for service on the Board of Faith and Politics an interfaith effort to engage members of congress on public policy issues.

Our nationally and internationally known Hazzan, Ramon Tasat, is a frequent Artist in Residence and performer throughout the US as well as founding Shalshet, The Foundation for New Jewish Liturgical Music. JoHanna Potts has been asked to be the national co-chair of CAJE conference the summer of 2006. (the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education). Susan Zemsky is the co-president of Montrose Civic Association and has just retired from the Board of Kehila Hadshah.

Similarly the lay leadership of this Temple is extraordinary. I had the opportunity to attend the URJ sponsored Scheidt Seminar in Atlanta for incoming Presidents in the spring of 2004. At the seminar there was a discus-

sion of how to deal with difficult Boards and unpleasant members and I sat there thinking—not at Temple Shalom. After a year of working with the staff, lay leadership and members of our community, I can confirm that we do not have a difficult community—not at Temple Shalom. We are blessed with a supportive, caring committed congregation and I hope we can strengthen our support and commitment in the coming years.

With this as a theme, I will review some of the events and success of the past year and comment on how we will continue to move forward in these areas in the year to come.

Last year at this time when we met for the Annual Meeting our Capital Campaign was on-going but the renovation of the sanctuary had not yet begun. We met in our orange chairs, surrounded by the brown brick to which we were all accustomed and for which many of us had great fondness. But the familiarity of our sanctuary masked some problems that we knew about and some we did not find out until the renovation began. We knew that the carpet needed replacing, that it would be nice to have book holders on the chairs, to have natural light streaming in and that most of all we needed to provide better access for handicapped and elderly service participants. So with a certain amount of trepidation and a large measure of optimism we began the sanctuary renovation. The immediate goal was to hold High Holy Day services in the sanctuary even if it was not completely finished. We met that goal. On Rosh Hashanah we gathered in the sanctuary on uncarpeted floors, with unfinished windows, our old ark and chairs but we gathered and we worshiped together in our own Temple home. Through the months the renovation continued to move toward completion. Today we have a beautiful sanctuary—but still not complete. The sound system is still being worked on, and the room lacks the warm touches that will make it more welcoming. For example, we have had a generous, anonymous donation for gold lettering over the ark. I anticipate that we will be “working” on the sanctuary for some time to come.

This summer, to continue the process of improving and maintaining our building facility, we will be working on the classroom wing. Anyone who has visited our classrooms lately know they need painting, hole patching, blind and shade replacement and general

repair. Over the past few years we have not paid attention to the normal maintenance of the school wing and we look forward to having our children return to school to clean, bright and inviting classrooms.

Equally important, maybe even more important, the Capital Campaign has provided funds for the growth of our Bruce E. Kahn Endowment fund. Interest from money in this fund will be used to support program-

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Summer Reading?

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power-pull between synagogues and Federations we often hear that the synagogue is the only institution that “creates” Jews. I find the phrasing a bit arrogant but the point is perhaps well-taken in today’s world of “drop-off” Judaism. It is the synagogue which may be the best suited Jewish institution to both welcome Jews and Jewish families in all the configurations in which we come today, all our shapes and sizes and flavors—and still challenge the individual members of those families to find a place of not only celebration and embrace and acceptance, but also of study and struggle and spiritual growth. The synagogue, then, remains, to me, the first and central communal address (after the home) of Jewish identity. But it cannot be the only address.

So let us open our mailboxes. And let us look at our nightstands. And let us find, in our homes, not just a congregational bulletin, but a connection with a community, and a lifeline into the vibrant, rancorous, but urgently compelling voices of the larger Jewish world.

What’s in your mailbox?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael L. Feshbach". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rabbi Michael L. Feshbach

Annual Meeting June 9, 2005

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ming at the Temple and should the need arise provide a source of funds for emergencies.

Now is the time to think about how we will continue to grow the Endowment fund balance in the years to come. It has become increasingly clear that it is not possible to finance the Temple's budget through dues and fundraising. I plan to establish an Endowment Committee to address this issue and make recommendations to the Board on how to proceed in future years.

To plan for our future, this year we established a new committee--the Long Range Planning Committee. David Frager has agreed to chair the committee which is charged with looking out at the long term--5, 10 and 15 years—and asking questions like—what will our membership look like, what is the make-up of the professional staff we will need, what will be the status of our facilities and what are the budget implications of these scenarios and what do we need to do now to get ready? The committee has just begun to meet and get organized and we look forward to getting briefed on their thinking in the next year.

Our sanctuary has a new look and I believe potential new members that visit us will feel its serenity and warmth. But in today's world most potential new member's first look at a synagogue is not its sanctuary but it the web page. Thanks to Ben Bederson and Allison Druin we have a new, attractive web page. It has current events, membership information, bios of our staff and an up-to-date and very useful calendar. If you have not visited Temple Shalom on-line lately I suggest you take a look at www.templeshalom.net Special thanks go to Royal Hutchinson for putting up our first web page and continuing to keep the current one up to date.

Last year during Sukkot we met as a community to dedicate our new cemetery space at Gan Zikaron, Gates of Remembrance. We have long been a congregation that supports each other in celebrations and trouble, in joy and sorrow but until now we were not able to offer our congregants a beautiful communal burial site.. Together with our Rabbis, Hazzan, choir, members of the Cemetery committee led by Marta Tanenhaus and fellow congregants we dedicated a beautiful site and that fulfills our personal and community obligation as Jews to care for the dead. Thank you again to Marta and everyone on her committee for their dedication and hard work

to make this mitzvah of *chessed shel emet* possible for all of us.

At the Yom Kippur last year we initiated the "One New Jewish Thing" program. I am pleased to announce that over 50 people have added one Jewish thing to their life. To celebrate these accomplishment program participants will be honored at a Shabbat service in the fall. Special thanks go to Karen Lowe, Carolyn Shargel, Linda Harrison and Ira Zuckerman who devoted the time and energy to make this opportunity happen.

Social action has always been a hallmark of our temple. This year the Tikkun Olam committee took the initiative to bring together a consortium of Reform and Reconstructionist congregations in Montgomery County and Washington DC to form a network of congregations to strengthen and support each other's advocacy work. The consortium, named AtOne, has selected affordable housing as the first issue they will focus on. Caryn Anthony, Suzanne Mintz, Larry Katzman and Rabbi Serotta are a few of the movers in this effort supported by a large and active committee.

After many years we are reemphasizing the role of fund raisers at the Temple. Fund raising events are crucial to balance our budget without raising dues to unacceptable levels. In the past year we raised money—and had fun—at a dinner dance to celebrate the successful Capital Campaign and a wonderful concert that delighted the ears. We need to continue the tradition of holding fund raisers that provide a fabric of social events for members and support the budget. We have planned two fund raisers for next year that we hope will be fun, social events and raise money for the Temple. Needless to say, you will be getting more information on these and I hope to see you there.

No review of the past year's events could be complete without talking about Shir Shalom. Our renown choir, under the direction of Hazzan Tasat, began the year by participating in the choral festival in upstate NY where they receiving an honorable mention, followed by a series of concerts at the Temple one co-sponsored by Shalsholet. Throughout the year the Hazzan Tasat and the choir, through their love and knowledge of Jewish music, have moved our worship experience to a higher plane when our voices joined with theirs in singing traditional and new liturgical music. Thank you for the ruach you add to our worship.

At Temple Shalom lay led and staffed committees are the organizations that develop and execute programming and develop Temple policy in conjunction with the professional staff. In this past year we have added to and strengthened our committees but more attention needs to be focused in this area. First let me review the good news.

The Membership Committee has been revitalized under the leadership of Ben Bederson and Allison Druin. We will again be delivering welcome baskets to new members and becoming more visible through new and innovative outreach efforts.

The Renaissance Group continues have fun. What else can you say? This group, led by Francine Simons the steering committee, plans one great social event after the other while always being ready to support Temple projects whenever asked. We need to consider if we need more groups that follow this model for other age groups. What about a group for the parents who have just become empty nesters? What about one for young families where activities are tailored to the younger set?

And have you seen our Judaica shop lately? It is stocked with beautiful art objects, seasonal goods for the holidays and if you want to place a special order for a gift—you can do that too. The work to revitalize the Judaica shop was a labor of love by Alexandra Halpren. And not only did she get the Judaica shop back up and running, she single handedly ran the Second Seder at which 100 people attended.

After many years we have established an Israel Committee under the leadership of Julie Knoll that will work in conjunction with Joan Kalin and ARZA. The Board voted to support the URJ Hineini program to help two Reform congregations in Israel build new synagogues.

Did you see the Adult Education booklet this year? Anne Feinberg, chair of Adult Ed, developed a comprehensive booklet of the multitude of Adult Education programs available for members and nonmembers at the Temple. The Religious Services committee plans and manages logistics for the High Holy Days, the Religious Education committee meets with JoHanna regularly to support the school community, the Worship committee together with the professional staff study and make recommendations about structure,

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ENGLISH TUTORS NEEDED

Help Immigrants Learn an Invaluable Skill

Rockville, MD-The Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA)'s Newcomer Resettlement program, offering intensive resettlement services to Jewish refugees from the Former Soviet Union and Iran, needs volunteers to teach English to new immigrants.

The ability to understand and speak English is critical for immigrants entering the United States. This skill is required to pass the U.S. naturalization test and achieve citizenship, and is imperative to one's ability to find jobs leading to economic self-sufficiency.

Free training and materials are provided to all volunteers, who also receive ongoing support from JSSA staff.

For further information or to register for training, contact:

Nina Sznurman at 301-770-5120.

www.jssa.org

In the Community



I'm Ben Zauzmer, and I'm twelve years old. I am a member of Congregation Beth Or in Spring House, PA.

For my Bar Mitzvah project, I compiled a CD with many popular Jewish singers on it called "Mitzvah Music." Each of these outstanding performers graciously donated and gave me full permission to use a song: Debbie Friedman, Craig Taubman, Dan Nichols, Rick Recht, Cantor Bruce Benson, Rabbi Joe Black, Steve Dropkin, Kol B'seder, Julie Silver, Mah Tovu, Danny Maseng, Judy Caplan Ginsburgh, Mark Bloom, Matt Stamm, the Shabbatones, the Klezkidz, Cantor David Green, and the Congregation Beth Or Junior Choir. Now I'm going to try to sell this CD across the country.

The proceeds from the CD will go to Camp Dream Street, held on the grounds of the URJ's Henry S. Jacobs Camp in Utica, Mississippi, and sponsored by NFTY Southern. Kids with physical disabilities such as spina bifida and cerebral palsy come here, free of charge, for a magical week of summer fun where they can just be kids, away from hospitals and constant reminders of pain. For more information on this branch of the non-profit Dream Street Foundation, please see these websites:

www.dreamstreetms.org

www.nfty.org/mc/dreamstreet.html

www.dreamstreetfoundation.org

Although the NFTY counselors and medical staff all volunteer their time and skills, the medical equipment and other supplies required to run this camp are very costly. I'm fortunate enough to attend the URJ's Camp Harlam. My goal is for this donation to help disabled children have fun too.

The sticker price is \$18 per CD, or \$15 a CD for an order of 10 or more. This includes all applicable taxes, shipping, and handling. A complete list of songs and other information about the CD can be found at www.mitzvahmusic.com, and the CD can be purchased at this site.

I would really appreciate it if you would consider publicizing "Mitzvah Music." Any way that you would be willing to help out would be fabulous, such as putting the attached flyer in your temple newsletter or other mailings, on your bulletin board, or in your announcements, or selling the CD's in your synagogue gift shop or at events. Also, it would be incredible if you could please forward this e-mail to anyone who you think might be interested in this great music and great cause.

I am eagerly awaiting your response.

Thank you very much,

Ben Zauzmer

1880 Nicole Drive Dresher • PA • 19025 • 215-643-2020 • bzauzmer@comcast.net

www.mitzvahmusic.com

CEMETERY

Temple Shalom Cemetery at Gan Zikaron (Garden of Remembrance) In Clarksburg, Maryland: Our Bet Olam (House of Eternity)



Most of you have heard by now that Temple Shalom has purchased over 100 burial plots in the Temple Shalom Cemetery (over 80 of which are available for sale), which is located within Gan Zikaron (Garden of Remembrance) Memorial Park in Clarksburg, Maryland. But, do you know about the history of Jewish cemeteries in general? Are you familiar with the history of the land on which our cemetery sits? Are there any connections between Jewish tradition and the particular part of Montgomery County where our cemetery sits? The answers to these questions are contained in this two-part article, the first part of which is, of course, presented here. It will provide a brief explanation of the traditional history of Jewish cemeteries. The second part will examine the history of the Clarksburg area and explore any connections between these themes.

According to Rabbi Feshbach, “one of the most important acts of the very first Jew was securing property for a gravesite.” Thus, Genesis, Ch. 12 describes that when Abraham’s beloved Sarah died at the ripe old age of 127, he – being a sojourner in the land

he had been promised – had to purchase a place for her burial from the Hittites. In a remarkably gentlemanly negotiation, Abraham purchased a field containing a cave in Machpelah from the Hittite, Ephron, son of Zohar, for four hundred shekels of silver. Sarah was then buried in the cave of Machpelah – “the first Jewish cemetery,” says Rabbi Feshbach. Rabbi Serotta emphasized that the burial of Abraham’s loved ones in the promised land was “important to more firmly establish roots in this land and demonstrate Abraham’s commitment to staying there.”

According to “A Guide to Life,” in biblical times, special sepulchers were constructed for the kings of Judah (II Chronicles 21:20). Prominent (presumably, land-owning) Jews preferred to bury their loved-ones in family plots or caves. For instance, Menasseh “was buried in the garden of his own house” (II Kings 21:26). Ordinary folks, however, were buried in communal burial places – “the graves of the common people” (II Kings 23:6; Jeremiah 26:23). The tradition of graveyards containing caves, tombs, sarcophagi and catacombs continued in talmudic

times. However, it was not until the Diaspora that Jewish communities began purchasing land for communal cemeteries in the same way that we do today. Indeed, Jewish cemeteries that have characteristics not too dissimilar from our Temple Shalom cemetery date back to the eleventh century in western Europe. Jews were known to take such tender care of their cemeteries that they came to be known as Hortus Judaeorum (Garden of the Jews).

With the establishment of the Temple Shalom Cemetery at Gan Zikaron, we proudly carry on the tradition of Jewish cemeteries that are tranquil, beautiful, sensible and affordable. We encourage you to visit and see for yourself. For more information, please contact Temple Shalom Executive Director, Susan Zemsky, at 301-587-2273 or e-mail Susan at szemsky@templeshalom.net.

Next issue:

Clarksburg, Maryland – An Appropriate Location for our Temple Shalom Cemetery.

Annual Meeting June 9, 2005

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time and content of services, the Communications committee makes sure our events are publicized within and without the Temple. I cannot mention each committee here tonight but let me remind you that our members also work on the B’nai Mitzvah committee supporting our b’nai mitzvah students and their families, the never-ending work of the House and Grounds committee continues eternally, Finance committee that manages and invests the Temple’s funds, Mitzvah Corps ready to help when families find themselves in need of support, Music, Youth, Chavarah, College Outreach are all working for the benefit of the Temple.

Each of these committees is staffed by dedicated volunteers dedicated to doing their part to make our synagogue a place where members can come for worship, social action and learning. To each of our volunteers I say thank you on behalf of the Temple membership.

Now the problem—many of these committees

are not committees at all. They are staffed by one or two people. And at this level of participation, we do not have enough volunteers to sustain the level of programming that we have created at the Temple. It is an absolutely true fact that people are very busy with family and jobs. But I believe it is more than that. We have not done a good job at the Temple of involving people who have said they are willing to help. We have not done a good job of defining jobs that have a beginning and end for people who do not want to be on a committee but would like to do something for the community. We have not done a good job of fostering a culture and community that understands that if the Temple is going to be there for them, they need to be here to support the Temple. I see this as a major thrust for next year—a way to develop a culture of volunteering and to move our community to the place where each person is ready to do at least one thing for our community each year. In conjunction with effort we will be developing a covenant of membership for our members and under the guidance of Anne

Feinberg we will rerun our Leadership Workshop to develop the new leaders we need to move forward.

Let me close by thanking each and every person who has worked and volunteered in the past year to make Temple Shalom the wonderful place that it is. Thank you to the professional staff—our Rabbis, Hazzan, Education Director and Executive Director, the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee—it is pleasure to work with each of you—and each and every volunteer whose efforts are the heart of our Temple Community.

May we go from strength to strength and be together next year celebrating yet another year in the life of our Temple.

Marilyn Ripin

Marilyn J. Ripin

ARZA leads Reform Movement down Fifth Avenue at New York City's 41st Salute to Israel Parade



NFTY kids show their love for Israel!

On a hot and sultry spring afternoon that felt more like Tel Aviv than New York, an estimated 100,000 people participated in the 41st annual "Salute to Israel" parade in Manhattan on Sunday.

Twelve Reform temples from around the region took part individually in the march, while people from other local congregations came down on their own and banded together

to march with ARZA and the Greater New York Council of Reform Synagogues as a group.

ARZA's WZO Campaign Coordinator Scott Dubin and Marketing and Communications Director Sigal Shaldag proudly carried the ARZA banner along the parade route.

"The event was great!" exclaimed ARZA Event Chair Sandy Tankoos, summing up how everyone felt at the conclusion of the parade.

Tankoos devoted many hours of her time calling congregations and communicating with Parade officials. She also donated a thematic banner and scores of t-shirts

for our marchers.

"It was wonderful to be part of a pro-Israel experience that all Jews can enthusiastically participate in together," Tankoos said.

She noted the large turnout and thanked everyone involved in making the Reform Movement's participation in the parade a success.

Jay Greenfield, advisor to ARZA for the

event, said that the parade had infused the marchers with excitement about Israel and the Reform Movement.

"The marchers from my synagogue returned even more enthused about Reform Zionism [than before]," Greenfield said.

"The Salute to Israel Parade was a terrific opportunity for ARZA to show New York and the world just how we support and celebrate Israel," said Ahron Shapiro, ARZA Marketing and Communications Assistant.

Reform temples marching included Temple Beth Haverim of Mahwah, NJ, Beth Abraham, Tarrytown, Shaarey Tefila, NYC, Community Synagogue of Rye, Central Synagogue of Nassau County, Larchmont Temple, Temple Israel of Westport, The Hebrew Tabernacle of Washington Heights, Union Synagogue of Brooklyn, Temple Sinai of Roslyn and Temple Judea of Massapequa.

Central Synagogue of Manhattan not only marched, but for the second year in a row, hosted a light brunch for NFTY youth.

Marchers, clothed in bright tie-dye shirts, carried colorful balloons and waved large Israeli flags, along with a few American flags in keeping with the parade's theme this year, "Saluting Israel, Celebrating America...Two Golden Lands." The theme was chosen to acknowledge the 350th anniversary of Jewish life in the United States.

UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM

Summer Learning

Whether you're headed for the beach, the mountains, or the countryside this summer, you can bring a bit of Jewish learning with you – just bring along your laptop, Blackberry, or other means of logging in. Ten Minutes of Torah, introduced at the 2001 Boston Biennial and delivered directly to your e-mail inbox each weekday, offers a personal connection to a Jewish text, issue or topic, including insight on the week's Torah portion, Israel, social justice, and Jewish ethics. To sign up, visit www.urj.org/torah/ten.

**THE TEMPLE SHALOM
RENAISSANCE GROUP**

Save the date for our

*Fifth Annual Meeting and
Ice-Cream/Dessert
Social*

Sunday, September 25, 2005

7:00 PM

Meet the Renaissance Group Steering Committee

Learn about our plans for the coming year

Give us your suggestions for Renaissance Group activities



Enjoy a delicious dessert

Renaissance Group Update

On Sunday, May 22, late in the afternoon, 30 members of Temple Shalom's Renaissance Group and several Temple staff members, got together in the Temple Chapel for a couple of hours of sipping wine and nibbling delicious cheeses, crackers, grapes, strawberries and other goodies. By all accounts, it was a terrific party. I was especially pleased to see several newcomers to Renaissance Group events mingling with our "regulars," and I hope that this trend will continue into the next season.

The Renaissance Group Steering Committee is currently planning events for next year. The

Annual Meeting/Ice-Cream and Dessert Social will be held this year on Sunday evening, September 25th, at the Temple. We hope to have as our speaker, Rabbi Menachem Youlus, of the Save-A-Torah Foundation, speak to us about work rescuing endangered Torahs.

At this time, we are planning to visit the Baltimore Museum of Art in October and the National Archives in November. Further details for the year will be discussed at the annual meeting in September. We hope you will join us then. 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.

FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Annual remarks from JoHanna Potts, Director of Education at the Annual Meeting June 9, 2005

Good evening. I appreciate the opportunity to report on some of the activities of the Religious School this past year as we have some wonderful things to share.

The first is a note about our dedicated faculty. For several years now the faculty has been requesting a retreat of their own. After all, we know how wonderful the retreat program is for the students. We applied for and received a grant from Federation to have a faculty retreat on teaching Israel and to hold the retreat off-site overnight. We put the date on the calendar, reserved the Pearlstone Conference Center in Baltimore for Saturday night and Sunday, designed the program, and were all ready to go when it snowed and all of a sudden no one was sure they wanted to drive at night to a place they'd never been in the snow and ice. Nevertheless, the next morning as all of the schools around town were canceling class, the faculty met at the temple and covered most of the content of the retreat. Even though their colleagues around town had the day off our faculty were engaged in learning with and from each other. That is how dedicated our faculty is.

The second is about our parents programs. The major parent program is the Family Education program. This year Rabbi Swartz served as the Family educator working closely with the faculty to help them enrich the content of the grade level family education pro-

grams. We have three major goals for these programs: 1) Jewish knowledge at an interesting, adult level — such that they might want to pursue more learning!

2) Ways to approach doing (or doing more) Jewish things as a family — a combination of praxis, pep talk, hearing their questions and issues, etc.

AND 3) ways to improve their family life in general, not only in the Jewish realm, but how to create together, listen together, establish boundaries, learning about kid's development and the implications of development for different family interactions etc. Along these lines the Religious Education Committee offered a Sunday evening Parenting Series. The first evening focused on Setting and Communicating Appropriate Expectations for your Teen. The second was titled "Hebrew School, ADHD, and Your Child." Each of these evenings had twenty five parents participate. There was a request for a follow-up for parents of teens and we offered a third on De-Stressing when dealing with your teen. The third had over 50 parents in attendance. All three of these workshops were facilitated by psychologists who specialize in these areas. It was wonderful to see our parents sharing ideas and solutions as well as sympathetic looks with each other. It was also important for the temple to be able to provide this support for our families as we

know there are many doors through which to enter this community. While we are on the subject of doors....Starting last January, on Sunday mornings when you entered the down stair doors and walked into the main office door you entered the Parents' Café, a joint project of the Brotherhood and the Religious Education Committee. You could buy your bagel from the Youth Group and come in for free coffee and conversation. As you know the hallways downstairs are just too narrow for schmoozing so a "new" space was created to provide that opportunity. By the late spring it moved to the Parents' Lounge but the need for casual, spontaneous conversation was still met.

And now I want to say a few things about our students and their learning. To call our program a school is to miss much of what it is about. It is true that our students do much of their learning in classrooms and they do much of their learning from teachers and they even do much of their learning from books. And while we certainly have learning goals and curricular expectations, our hopes for our students are more than just learning the content of some subject matter. It is really about trying to become something. And that something is a person who cares about both the world as a whole as well as the Jewish world. A person who cares about people in need and yet feels a different responsi-

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FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

from page 11

bility to meet Jewish needs. Who knows that the world calls us to respond to cries for help and that we need to do that because we are Jewish and our Jewish texts tell us to do that. I don't believe that we can accomplish this by the time our students graduate at the end of tenth grade nor do I think that we can do this alone. But I do want to think that we, as a community, can create the expectation that our students are on a journey to become the persons I described. So on Mitzvah Day, we study texts that relate to the various activities offered, on Sukkot we study about the obligation to not only build sukkot but to take care of the homeless. On a school-wide Family education day we look at texts to explore the complexity of the term Israel – do we mean the People Israel, The Land of Israel or the State of Israel and to which do we feel the most connected. We do this by creating a community of people, parents and teachers, staff and congregants who care about our students. People who are willing to give up weekends and sleep to spend time with our students and teach them and learn with them and just talk with them. People who will even travel to California with 8 teens for a NFTY

convention instead of being home with their families. People who volunteer their time to make the bar/bat mitzvah preparation of someone else's child so meaningful. This is how we learn at Temple Shalom.

We had a beautiful dinner thanking the faculty for their efforts but there are a few others who should get some words appreciation tonight. Susan Zemsky as the Executive Director has tried to smooth all of the bumps so that the school program can operate smoothly. It is a major task to have all of the set-ups for the school done and for us to have reliable custodial support. Thank you so much. The Rabbis and Cantor were thanked at the dinner but I want to thank them again. The Confirmation program, the Chai School, the Retreat Program and the Family Education Program all are as rich as they are because of rabbinic guidance and involvement. Thank you to Rabbis Feshbach, Serotta, Kahn and Swartz. We have made huge strides in our Torah reading program this year. Two years ago Cantor Tasat made a CD as part of teaching torah trope to the sixth and seventh graders. This year, we had 9 seventh graders learn a piece of a Torah por-

tion before becoming bar/bat mitzvah to read at Friday evening services. Having this extra practice and opportunity to meet with the Cantor was very special to those students. Thank you for making the time to do this with them. Speaking of time, Linda Harrison has co-chaired the Religious Education Committee for three years. She has spent time in meetings planning meetings, running meetings, and organizing the many activities which the Religious Education Committee sponsors to create a community of parents, teachers and students. She has decided to head in new directions this coming year and I want to thank her for her support and energy and especially time on behalf of the School program. Her co-chair this year has been Ira Zukerman who will continue on for another year offering his creative insights to our mission. Thank you for this past year and I look forward to another year of working together.

And I look forward to next year's report including the details of the school wing face-lift, new faculty endeavors, and expanded parent programs.

Jewish Washington: Scrapbook of an American Community

National Building Museum

June 24, 2005 – January 08, 2006

Jewish Washington: Scrapbook of an American Community, organized by the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington, is the first exhibition to explore the rich and unique history of the Washington area Jewish community from its beginnings in 1795 to the present. The exhibition examines the people, places, and events that have shaped the history of Washington's Jewish community, which began downtown in the National Building Museum's neighborhood. It reveals the community's growth and development through engaging and accessible personal stories and expands on the themes found in the NBM's exhibition Washington: Symbol and City.

National Building Museum · 401 F Street NW · Washington, DC · 20001 · 202 272-2448 · www.nbm.org





Temple Shalom

**“I want to make the decisions.
After all, it’s my life.”**

If you don’t choose a cemetery and make burial arrangements while you can, someone else will have to do it for you.

That may be a person very close to you, now burdened further at a difficult time. Or a distant relative who can only guess what you may have wanted.

With guidance from a member of this congregation, you can plan for the future now. After all is said and done, it’s your life. Call Susan Zemsky today at (301) 587.2273, ext. 101.



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Temple Shalom

Rabbis: Michael L. Feshbach
Gerald Serotta

Rabbi Emeritus: Bruce E. Kahn

Cantor: Ramón Tasat

Cantor Emeritus: Saul Rogolsky

Executive Director: Susan Goutos Zemsky

Director of Education: JoHanna Potts

President: Marilyn Ripin

SHOFAR DEADLINE for the September issue is August 15

Submission should be on a computer disk, preferably in a Microsoft Word (.doc) format or a text (.txt). Please use no left or right justification, no hard returns, underlines, etc. Also please attach a separate hard copy of instructions as to where you wish centering, bolding etc. to appear. Email submissions will be gladly accepted, send to:

execdir@templeshalom.net.

A HARD COPY MUST BE SUBMITTED ALONG WITH ALL SUBMISSIONS.

Look for your High Holiday packet in the mail later this month!



Temple Shalom

w w w . t e m p l e s h a l o m . n e t

**Come visit Temple Shalom's Website:
<http://www.templeshalom.net>**

To see our most up-to-date information on religious services, activities and programs, please visit our newly designed website (<http://www.templeshalom.net>).

Your feedback and suggestions are welcome:
contact Ben Bederson at bederson@cs.umd.edu.

**B o o k m a r k o u r w e b p a g e a t
w w w . t e m p l e s h a l o m . n e t**