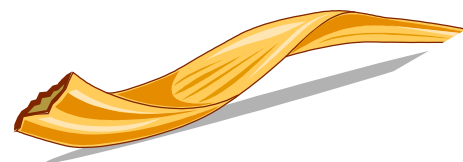


The Shofar



מרבח תורה • מרבח חיים
TEMPLE BETH HILLEL
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TEMPLE BETH HILLEL, RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

Volume 17, Issue 9, July 2011. Sivan-Tammuz 5771

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What about God?

If the synagogue were a business we would ask ourselves, "What is our product?" One answer would be community. Another would be a Jewish education for ourselves and our children. Another might be a place to contemplate the deep mysteries of life in a Jewish context. But I wonder if any of us would say our product is God? Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, titled his article in this summer's edition of *Reform Judaism* magazine, "The Search for God." He begins by saying, "For

many of us, the hunt for God never stops. We may deny God, curse God, and demand proof of God's existence that we will never get... but the search continues..."

I am not sure I believe Rabbi Yoffie. I have had a number of conversations about God and my experience is that for many the hunt for God never begins or, if it does, it usually ends during the teen years. To complicate things further, I am not sure where the search for God ends and belief in God begins. Can a person search for God if they are not ready, willing, or able to believe in a God? We live in a materialistic age. The Enlightenment and the Scientific Revolution have radically transformed the way many, in the Western world at least, think about our universe, how it functions, and how we understand it. This is a good thing; human knowledge has advanced. Religion was repudiated as an out of date and crude way to explain natural phenomenon early humans could not understand, or as a superstition that kept most people enslaved to a hierarchical and exploitive social order.

One product of the Enlightenment is skepticism. We will only accept things that can be proven. In many aspects of our lives and in our society this is a good thing. But God is an

Rabbi: continued on Page 2

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Rabbi: continued from Page 1

entity, or a force, or a reality whose existence, by definition, cannot be proven. To believe in God is an act of faith. Faith means accepting the existence of something in the absence of proof. Belief in God, or even the search for God is an act of faith and faith does not come easy to well-educated and intellectually sophisticated people living in the early 21st Century. We have all witnessed or know the worst in human behavior, whether at its most terrible in the Holocaust or at the smaller and more tawdry level in the ongoing corrupt and self-serving behavior of many of our political, religious, and business leaders. We have lost faith in the shared values and myths of society, and lost respect for our institutions, our traditions, and our leaders. Religion as an institution has suffered greatly for its moral failings.

Many long for God, despite their lack of faith. On the men's weekend in late June one man told me that while he wasn't sure if he believed in God, when he was immersed in nature he experienced the sacred. A number of us had a good conversation Shabbat afternoon about the desire to believe in God. For a one this longing was intellectual, for another it was visceral desire, and another was certain that God did not exist. For me, as a rabbi, this was a thrilling conversation. I wish we had more of them. But perhaps they happen more easily away from the demands of daily life, when people have spent time together, are relaxed, and have built up enough trust to open themselves to another.

But that whole conversation and Rabbi Yoffie's article beg the deepest question, the one we often don't ask. What is God, or perhaps, better still, what do we mean by God?

I do not have an easy answer. I have my only struggles, which I would be happy to share, as well as the suggestions of others, from our early sages to the ancient Greeks to modern philosophers and psychologists. The purpose of this article is not to provide an answer, but rather to ask the question in order to spark an examination of our own personal beliefs and theology. What do you believe in and why? Summer is a little slower than the rest of the year. It can be a time to grapple with the deeper questions of meaning and value. As we move toward the fall and the High Holy Days I hope we will all be able to devote a little time to the things that are of transcendent value.

Rabbi Dean Kertesz

Help the Hungry

Coming to TBH? Don't forget to bring cereal, peanut butter, or other non-perishable items. The Food Pantry also needs money to buy meat and poultry which we cannot donate because of health laws. If you would like to make a donation please leave it with Arlene in the Temple office. Make your checks payable to the Richmond Emergency Food Pantry.

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Laura Taub

from Our President

As we approach the end of our governing year we are reviewing the past year and planning for the next. Last summer we asked you to give us feedback about our community. Most of you said that the sense of community, belonging, welcome and openness, and the opportunity for Jewish identity were most important to you. Many also cited the clergy and the religious services. These are all valuable aspects of our congregation that we want to preserve.

Your areas of concern were a need for us to grow, particularly in terms of the Religious School; to be more visible in the community; and to have more members involved and feel included. Your specific suggestions focused on more social activities and adult education.

We have tried to address these concerns, recognizing that they are interrelated.

We organized a Marketing Committee to expand our publicity, increasing new attendance at such events as the Latke Party, Purim Carnival, and Passover Seder. Our list serve, Weekly Update, and web site have been reorganized and improved.

The Membership Committee revised the membership forms and welcome materials, and we have welcomed one new member. In addition to the Solano Stroll, we participated for the first time in the City of El Cerrito's Fourth of July Festival.

Along with these efforts we focused on social and educational activities and involving members, hoping that these would help both to attract new members and to meet the needs of our current members.

Our educational programs have included Rabbi Dean's series of classes on the prophets and weekly Torah Study. In addition, we hosted or co-sponsored a series of programs about Israel, featuring AIPAC, the Arava Institute, J Street, and our own members. Community-wide programs for which we were a co-sponsor included the Global Day of Jewish Learning, Voices of Israel, and the Tikkun Leyl Shavuot.

We expanded our social activities beyond the traditional Rosh Hashanah open house, Rabbi Dean's open Sukkah, and the barbeque and potluck picnic following the General Membership Meeting. In addition we have enjoyed a dinner dance, the "Strictly Sondheim" concert, movie

nights, and game nights. We have had excursions to a lecture by Erica Brown, the musicals "Rags" and "Parade", the East Bay International Film Festival, and the Oakland A's Jewish Heritage Night.

Our Latke Party was enhanced by a crafts fair and the Silent Auction returned to the Purim Carnival. Both attracted a number of new people.

In addition to our regular Shabbat services twice a month, High Holy Day, and other holiday services we have instituted Shabbat morning services with Kiddush lunches on the fifth Saturdays of the month. Our Yom Hashoah program was redesigned to involve the B'nai Mitzvah class.

A new B'nai Mitzvah teacher joined our Religious School, and we started a new Mazel Tots class for preschoolers. The Religious School conducted Rosh Hashanah and Tu B'Shevat Seders and an Israeli Independence Day program. We welcomed five new b'nai mitzvahs into our community, and our graduates joined us at two alumni services.

The Caring Community has helped with food, visits, funeral and shiva support, and other assistance to our members. Tel Shalom continues to offer cemetery spaces at both Rolling Hills and Gan Shalom.

We have continued our involvement with the local community. Our support for GRIP includes the Harmony Walk, monthly preparation and serving of lunch at the Souper Center, and the B'nai Mitzvah class project of cooking and serving monthly dinners for the Family Housing Program. We continue to collect food for the Richmond Emergency Food Pantry, and we have co-sponsored a Red Cross blood drive.

The Board presented the Richmond City Council with a resolution opposing their proposed resolution supporting Gaza and condemning Israel.

Our building and grounds have been enhanced by new signs, a new water heater and new playground fiber. The parking lot has been repaired and sealed. Lights for the entry sign and the walkway have arrived, and will be installed soon. We have worked with the City of Richmond to retain our zoning under the new Richmond General Plan.

President: continued on Page 4



President: continued from Page 3

The gift shop has new inventory of many beautiful and out-of-the-ordinary items.

We now participate in the S.H.A.R.E.S. Program which donates to us every time a purchase is made at Lucky, Save-Mart or Food Maxx stores.

However, we are still faced with challenges. Our membership has not grown and the Membership Committee is sorely in need of volunteers. This is particularly an issue in the Religious School. While we have some new families with younger children, we do not have as many students as we would like.

The best way for potential new members to find us is to hear from you what a wonderful place we are. The best way for them to stay is for us to welcome them warmly. Over the summer I would like to have a group of people think through ways to go about increasing our membership. We also need some new inspiration and effort on behalf of

Social Action and Adult Education. If you are interested in any of these, please talk to me.

Another challenge we face is providing opportunities for our members to become involved with our community. As I look back over the past year it is amazing what we have been able to do. But it is not easy and having a small number of people doing a large part of the work leaves them demoralized. It is also demoralizing to put a lot of work into planning an event and end up with a small audience.

We have tried to come up with a variety of programs and opportunities this year so that some of them fit what you are looking for. If you have not participated, give it a try. If you have other ideas, please let me know.

Thanks to all of you who have contributed your time and effort to our community in the past year. We value and appreciate all you have done. We are looking forward to making the community even stronger in the coming year.

NOTES FROM THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

June 5, 2011

Upcoming Events

- **Afternoon Service**, Saturday, July 2 at 2:00 p.m. **at the home of Evelyn Hooker**. Contact Alan Marks if you can attend.
- We will be participating in the **El Cerrito Fourth of July festival**. Contact Larry Fox if you can help.

Budget and Finances – Josh Genser

- As a result of restraint in spending, we expect a **surplus of about \$10,000 for the year 2010-2011**. We have significant assets.
- The proposed **budget** for 2011-2012 is a deficit budget of about \$7,500 and includes a dues increase of \$40. The income is as accurate an estimate as we have. The expenses reflect permission to spend funds in the face of uncertainties such as the size of the Religious School and the need to spend on recruiting. The budget was approved.

Special Recognitions

- **Volunteer of the Year:** Larry Fox, in recognition of his extensive service as Chair of the Religious School, Membership, and Nominating Committees and his significant contributions to Buildings and Grounds, signage, publicity, and everything else that needs to be done.
- **Lifetime Volunteer Award:** Evelyn Hooker, a mainstay of the Temple for decades:
 - Chairing the Religious School Committee and the Carnival Bake Sale,
 - Serving major roles on the Board, the Membership Committee, the chavurot, and the Chevrah Kadisha,
 - Participating in recruiting carnival volunteers, the adult b'nai mitzvah class, the Seder, the latke party, the GRIP dinners, and the Harmony Walk,
 - Always being there to help and being a model of generosity, compassion, honesty, dignity and a positive attitude.
- Howard Cohen for his service as Administrator of the Beit Midrash Religious School.
- Norman Goldwyn for his service on the Board, and Daniel Goldwyn for his service as a youth representative to the Board.
- Neoma Kenwood for her service on the Executive Committee.

Annual Meeting: *continued on Page 5*

Election of Officers and Board Members:

The proposed slate was elected:

- Jane Durango was elected as Second Vice President to fill the term of Neoma Kenwood for 2011-2012.
- Gordon Raskin and Neoma Kenwood were elected to two-year Board terms for 2011-2013.

Thanks

To Tel Shalom for a special distribution of \$40,000, which will most likely cover distributions for a number of years in the future.

- ▲ To Sinai Memorial for a grant for the Religious School.
- ▲ To Saralynn and Helen Nusbaum who created and funded the Joe and Anne Nusbaum B'nai Mitzvah Fund, in memory of their parents, to provide financial assistance for b'nai mitzvah training.
- ▲ To the Van Hoy family for donating and providing for the installation of a new professional sound system.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND PROGRAMS

Buildings and Grounds – David Brown

- **The Water heater** was replaced, **Parking lot slurry seal/repair** project is underway, and with the help of Larry Fox and Josh Genser, **new signs** have been added all around the buildings and grounds. **Lighting** will be installed in the near future
- David Brown asks everyone to be responsible for the **security** of the facility. If you see someone or something that causes you concern, leave the premises and call him or the Richmond Police.

Caring Community – Marilyn Hertzberg

- Thanks to committee members and other congregants who **support our members needs** with food, visits, and shiva support.
- We are a co-sponsor of a Red Cross **blood drive** with Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley.
- At this point the **Chevrah Kadisha** does not have enough volunteers to perform Tahara, and Michele Waxman recommends members work with Sinai Chapel where we can give and receive support from other congregations. Alan Marks schedules volunteers for sh'mirah, and we continue to provide a meal of condolence and other support for families.

Community Activities

- Josh Genser worked with the Richmond Planning Commission on **zoning issues**

And a **Resolution was presented to the Richmond City Council** opposing their proposed resolution supporting a flotilla to Gaza and condemning Israel.

Gift Shop – Betty Bleicher

- Items have been bought on consignment, which helps us financially, but is more labor intensive. Items are beautiful and more expensive, which is attractive, but may discourage purchases.
- Gift shop was on display at Chanukah and Purim events, and display is changed regularly.
- Inventory is being moved to a more secure place.

Marketing Committee – Betty Bleicher and Wendy Roth

- Formed this year; created procedures and forms to **promote events to the outside community**.
- Event co-ordinator determines marketing activities, which can include **developing a flyer or ad** and **circulating information to external and internal media**.

Annual Meeting: continued o Page 6



- Marketed Latke Party; Purim Carnival; Passover Seder; Yom Ha-Shoah. Working on Beit Midrash Hillel and the High Holidays.
- Event chairs need to plan programs ahead of time and **provide information to the committee three months in advance.**

Membership Committee– Larry Fox

- We have welcomed one **new member**, honored our newest members at two **New Member Shabbat Services**, and participated in the **City of El Cerrito's Fourth of July Festival** as well as the **Solano Stroll**.
- **Membership forms and materials and postcards** describing Temple Beth Hillel and listing special events were updated.

Programs and Operations

- Howard Cohen volunteered to lead the **choir** which enriched our High Holy Day services,
- Audrey Berger continues to be our invaluable contact with the **local media**.
- Barbara Weidenfeld is our endlessly patient **Shofar editor**.
- Wendy Roth has moved our list serve to a new server and is about to start updating the **weekly update and web site**.
- Sheri Tattenham makes sure we have **onegs** at every Friday service. Thanks to her and to all the people who provided them.
- Jay Weidenfeld is working on organizing a **congregational trip to Israel**.
- Considered and approved some **changes to bylaws**.

Religious School – Larry Fox

- Named Religious School **Beit Midrash Hillel**.
- Hired Malka Helfman as **B'nai Mitzvah class teacher** and Howard Cohen as **Administrator**.
- Malka organized a **Rosh Hashanah Seder** and an **Israel Independence Day program** for the congregation.
- New **Mazel Tots program** for students 2 1/2 through 4 years old.
- Organized and supported **student and family events**, including Tu B'Shevat Seder, Lag B'Omer celebration, and art projects.
- Two **alumni services**.

Ritual Committee – Jane Durango

- Thanks to committee members who planned and executed **Shabbat morning services** with kiddush luncheons and to those who participated
- Planned and organized **High Holy Day services**, and with the help of the Marks and Linker families, Rosh Hashanah oneg, and Yom Kippur break-the-fast

Social Action

- We provide, prepare and serve lunch to about 200 people at the on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the **GRIP Souper Center**. We need more volunteers, especially for serving. Contact Jane Kaasa if you can help.
- Neoma Kenwood, and Selma Goldberg have worked with the B'nai Mitzvah class to cook a full dinners **for the GRIP Family Housing Program** once a month. Neoma delivered the food and with some students and families served the dinners.
- Next year, we will not have a B'nai Mitzvah class, but Neoma and Selma would like to organize individuals and families so we can continue cooking **dinners for GRIP**. Please contact Neoma if you are interested.
- Carl Nelson is on the GRIP Board, and organized our sponsorship of and participation in the **GRIP Harmony Walk**.

Annual Meeting: *continued on page 7*



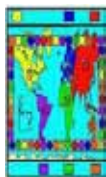


COME ONE, COME ALL

GAME NIGHT



SATURDAY, JULY 23, 7 P.M.



AT TEMPLE BETH HILLEL

BRING YOUR FAVORITE BOARD/TABLE GAMES



AND LEARN SOME NEW ONES

GAMES FOR ALL AGES



WITH



HOME-MADE PIZZA



DRINKS AND ADDITIONAL SNACKS ARE WELCOME

FREE

(DONATIONS FOR PIZZA APPRECIATED)

*PLEASE RSVP IF YOU CAN, SO WE KNOW HOW MUCH PIZZA TO MAKE
PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP WITH SET-UP OR CLEAN-UP
LAURA TAUB*

Annual Meeting: *continued from Page 6*

- We continue to collect food for the **Richmond Emergency Food Pantry.**

Tel Shalom – Fran Welstand

- There are 55 spaces left at Rolling Hills and 200 spaces available at Gan Shalom in Briones. The price is \$3500 for members of Jewish organizations and \$4000 for non-members.

Yom Ha-Shoah Program – Betty Bleicher

- ▲ Betty Bleicher, with Renee Powell designed a new Yom Ha-shoah program with the youth of the congregation in mind. The b'nai mitzvah class studied the Holocaust and then participated in the service along with member and outside speakers.

Other Programs and Events of the past year

- **Adult Education:** Class on prophets. Torah Study. Co-sponsor of Global Day of Jewish Learning and Tikkun Leyl Shavuot.
- **Programs on Israel:** Bagel brunches with AIPAC, JStreet, and congregants who have recently visited Israel. Co-sponsor of program with Arava Institute and Federation's Voices of Israel.
- **Gatherings:** Rosh Hashanah Open House. Rabbi Dean's Open Sukkah. End of year potluck and barbeque
- **Holiday celebrations:** Latke party with crafts fair. Purim carnival with silent auction. Seder.
- Five **B'nai Mitzvot.**
- **Social Activities:** Dinner dance. Strictly Sondheim concert. Movie Nights. Game Nights. Theater parties to "Rags", "Parade", East Bay International Film Festival. Oakland A's Jewish Heritage Night.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Are you looking for services? Housing? Employment? Or do you have these available? Do you have something to buy, sell, rent, exchange?

This is your space to contact members of our community. Please send your notices to Louise Snitz.



Anniversaries:

Josh & Elaina Genser	7/5
Dean Kertesz & Carla Cassler	7/8
Carol & Michael Katz	7/12
Alan & Margie Marks	7/21
Beverly Lesch & David L. Osburn	7/27
Howard & Mary Cohen	7/30

Birthdays:

Bea Freifeld	7/6	10th birthday
Sharon Mittleman	7/7	
Frida Hilsabeck	7/8	
Rachel Ozer-Bearson	7/9	17th birthday
Roberta Alexander	7/11	
Leah Klein	7/13	4th birthday
Irene Morgan	7/13	
Avi Kertesz	7/14	17th birthday
Wendy Roth	7/14	
Joel Rosenbaum	7/15	
Nathan Joseph Rosenbaum	7/17	8th birthday
Samuel Evan Rosenbaum	7/17	8th birthday
Tavi Kessler	7/25	18th birthday
Steve Welstand	7/28	
Sylvia Freifeld	7/29	14th birthday
Sophie Gabel-Scheinbaum	7/29	16th birthday

S.H.A.R.E. Cards

Help TBH When You Shop For Groceries

Help TBH every time you shop for groceries! Anyone who shops at Savemart, Food Maxx, Smart Foods or Lucky can have 3% of their purchases donated to the Temple by using a S.H.A.R.E. Card, available in the Temple Office. Just pick up a card, have it swiped before your order is finished being rung up. No papers to fill out, no name on card. Just swipe and DONATE 3% TO TEMPLE BETH HILLEL EACH TIME YOU SHOP. Don't forget to pick up extra cards for friends or other family members who also shop at these stores.



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NOTES FROM THE BOARD May 11, 2011 and June 1, 2011

Upcoming Events

- **El Cerrito July Fourth Celebration**, Monday, July 4. We will have a booth. Larry Fox is organizing and needs volunteers.

Programs and Events

- Organization of numerous **events in June** discussed.
- **Evaluation of year:** A variety of events were offered designed to appeal to different interests.
 - People particularly enjoyed the carnival with the auction, and the latke party with the crafts fair.
 - Some people generally like services, and some like Adult Education.
 - Attendance at some events was disappointing. Volunteers put a lot of work into an event and people do not attend. Are people not interested in these? Should we stop doing them? Or are they worth doing if a small number of people enjoy them?
- We are still working on growing Religious School enrollment.
- Renee Powell, with the assistance of Hallie Friedman, has submitted a grant proposal to Federation for Renee and Betty Bleicher to do **outreach to students in the community about the Holocaust**.

Outreach and Community Events

- **Resolution** approved to be presented to the **the Richmond City Council opposing their resolution which supports the flotilla to Gaza and condemns Israel**.
- **Letter received from GRIP** thanking us and particularly Neoma Kenwood, who with Selma Goldberg, organized and implemented the Religious School tzedakah project of providing **dinner to the GRIP Family Housing Program**.

Buildings and Grounds

- ⤴ **Parking lot slurry seal** to be done by the end of June.
- ⤴ David Brown will arrange to hire a crew to **clear weeds** for 150 feet around the building..
- ⤴ Poles and **lights for sign and sidewalk** will be delivered soon. Thanks to Scott Wexelberg for generously volunteering to oversee the job. David Brown will be arranging for additional volunteers.

Operations

- ⤴ **Nominations to the Board** were approved. Jane Durango nominated as Second Vice President, for 2011-2012, replacing Neoma Kenwood. Gordon Raskin and Neoma Kenwood nominated to Board for 2011-2013 terms.
- Proposed **budget** for 2011-12 was approved.
- **Membership Meeting organization** and structure was discussed. Doug Freifeld, Gordon Raskin, Josh Genser, Rabbi Dean Kertesz, Dana Meyer and Roberta Alexander will be purchasing, cooking, setting up and cleaning up food. Numerous members have volunteered to act as resource people.
- Draft **calendar** for 2011-2012 circulated.



Yahrzeits

May Their Memories Be A blessing

Jerome Blumenfeld, Husband of Leila Blumenfeld	7/1
Rena Dallow, Sister of Helene Wichner	7/3
Rena Marks, Mother of Alan Marks	7/4
Jacob Scolnick, Father of Deborah Koenig	7/4
Robert Bearson, Father of Dann Ozer-Bearson	7/6
Al Loptman, A beloved member of the congregation	7/7
Anne Herrod, A beloved member of the congregation	7/9
Jacob Lesch, Father of Beverly Lesch	7/9
Ben Cohen, Grandfather of Howard Cohen	7/11
Dora Jaffe, Mother of Arlene Lisby	7/11
Allan D. Morgan, Husband of Irene Morgan	7/11
Samuel Snitz, beloved Father of Frank Snitz	7/11
David Refkin, Father-in-Law of Deanna Brown Refkin	7/12
Gary Goldstein, Brother in Law of Allan Sagle	7/14
Nell Kest, Mother of Michele Waxman	7/14
Sophia F. Weiner, Mother of June Maberry	7/14
Luciano Breda, Father of Bo Breda	7/15
lisa Feiger, Sister of Eva Linker	7/15
Lucille Scheinbaum, Mother of Amy Scheinbaum	7/17
Albert Greenberg, A beloved member of the congregation	7/19
Max Sagle, Step Father of Allan Sagle	7/19
Eugene Baker, Cousin of David Brown	7/22
Blaise Hardy, Brother of Sherbie Aberle	7/22
Israel Michael Schneiweiss, Son of Rose Fox	7/22
Jacob Sondheimer, Father of Miriam Gerber	7/23
Seymour Aberle, A beloved member of the congregation	7/26
Howard Gordon, Father of Renee Van Hoy	7/26
Joseph Kaplan, A beloved member of the congregation	7/26
Jack Goldberg, Father of Clara-Rae Genser, Grandfather of Josh Genser	7/27
Helen Houska, A beloved member of the congregation	7/27
Gussie Hyman, Grandmother of Helene Class	7/27
Lily Magaril, Mother of Rose Fox	7/29
Samuel Blumenson, A beloved member of the congregation	7/31
Bessie Polikoff, Mother in Law of Barbara Polikoff	7/31



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Contact Arlene Lisby, Office Manager ☎ (510) 223-2560 or tbh@aol.com

New classes begin August 2011 - June 2012

Looking for a Synagogue? Temple Beth Hillel--the only synagogue located in West Contra Costa--is a diverse, welcoming congregation where the entire family can worship together, celebrate the Sabbath and the Holidays, as well as participate in Talmudic studies and Adult Education Classes.



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TEMPLE BETH HILLEL
TORAH • LIFE • COMMUNITY



Tzedakah

*"If I am not for myself, who will be for me?
And if only for myself, what am I?
And if not now, when?"*

General Contributions

Sherbie Aberle, in memory of Ruth Hardy
Ruth Fremes & Zak Sabry, in memory of Frank Goldberg
Henry & Eva Linker, in memory of Frederick Straus
Elisabeth Miller, in memory of Briget Berryman
Janet Neiderbach, in memory of Evelyn Rosenwach
Renee Powell & Sam Chen, in memory of Gerald Powell
Linda Rose & Jim Montgomery, in memory of Gertrude Rose
Mary Frankel, in honor of Sam Genirberg's Birthday

Religious School Enrichment

Rabbi Bernie & Yetta Robinson, in memory of Max F. Robinson
Sharon Mittleman, in Honor of Stefan Moskowitz's Bar Mitzvah
Carl & Suzanne Nelson, in memory of Eileen Altnolz
Ellen & Michael Stephens, in memory of Meyer Zuckerman

Dues Relief

Sanford & Helene Wichner, in memory of Donna M. Samuels & Bertha Wichner
Sanford & Helene Wichner, in memory of Leo Wichner
Beverly Zell, in memory of Sarah Laskow

Maintenance

Bobbi Nadler, in memory of Jaime Nadler

Prayer Books

Jay & Barbara Weidenfeld, in memory of Amnon Weidenfeld

Tzedakah-Tikkun Olam

Bobbi Nadler, Jack Henner
Geri Stern & Alan Blavins, in memory of Sara Stern
Sanford & Helene Wichner, in memory of Rachel Danielle Ellis

Adult Education

Natalie Sue Elkind, in memory of Sam Elkind
Steve & Fran Welstand, in memory of Mae Welstand

Kitchen

Lynda & Ben Cohen-Curtis, in memory of David Cohen
Hallie Friedman & Kim Mack, in memory of Sarah Friedman
Frida Hilsabeck, in memory of Aron Svidovsky

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Rose Fox, in memory of Bill Fox & Israel Schwartz
Rose Fox, in memory of Ken Fox

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Hallie Friedman & Kim Mack
Zelda Holland, in memory of Alexander Schlocker
Allen & Nancy Sommer, in memory of Julius Freed

Nusbaum Scholarship

Natalie Sue Elkind, in memory of Betty Elkind

Special Thanks To

Josh Genser, and **Carl Nelson**, who helped with purchases for the Congregational Seder;

Barbara Ball who helped set up; and **Zack Mack**, kitchen helper and server;

Tara Chen, **Sam Genirberg**, and the **B'nai Mitzvah class**

for participating in the inspiring Yom Ha-Shoah program.

Rabbi Dean Kertesz and **Cantor Howard Cohen** for donating,

Rabbi Dean for organizing, and **Dana Meyer and June Kamerling** for hosting

the Simply Sondheim event

Malka Helfman for organizing the program, and **Heather Fox** for organizing crafts

for the Israel Independence Day Celebration.

Larry Fox for bonfire duty for the Lag B'Omer celebration.

Doug Freifeld for organizing the Bagel Brunch with congregants

who have recently traveled to Israel, and all who participated including

Alan Kline, **Neoma Kenwood**, **Carl and Suzanne Nelson**, **Zack Mack**, **Renee Powell**,

Aviv Delgadillo, **Aiden Meyer**, **Louise and Frank Snitz**

Marc Teitelbaum for notifying the alumni of the alumni service.

For the Membership Meeting and Barbecue

Jane Durango, **Larry Fox**, **Doug Freifeld**, **Josh Genser**, **Marilyn Hertzberg**,

Rabbi Dean Kertesz, **Dana Meyer**, **Carl Nelson**, **Gordon Raskin**, **Wendy Roth**, **Jay Weidenfeld**,

and **Fran Welstand** for serving as resource people

and

Doug Freifeld, **Gordon Raskin**, **Josh Genser**, **Rabbi Dean Kertesz**, **Roberta Alexander**, and **Dana Meyer** for purchasing, cooking, setting up and cleaning up food.

Marilyn Hertzberg for organizing our participation in the Red Cross Blood Drive

Gordon Raskin for organizing the Bagel Brunch with **Gordon Gladstone** from J Street.

Josh Genser for organizing and hosting the Men's Weekend.

Neoma Kenwood and **Selma Goldberg** for their work with the B'nai Mitzvah class this year to prepare

and serve dinners for the GRIP Family Housing Program.

Jim Freeman, **Marilyn Hertzberg**, **Rabbi Dean Kertesz**, **Gordon Raskin**, **Jeff Romm**, and **Steve Seskin** for speaking at the Richmond City Council meeting, and all those who sent letters and e-mails opposing the resolution condemning Israel.

David Brown for arranging for the parking lot repair and slurry seal.

Renee Powell, with the assistance of **Hallie Friedman**, for submitting a grant request to Federation for a Holocaust education program in the community.

If you know of someone to thank, please contact Laura Taub.

Shoah Memories Part 11 by Sam Genirberg

I was gloating from my experiences going out on the town, having dinner at this fancy restaurant in Hagen. The following morning my boss "Netzel" reminded me of my precarious situation by trying to trick me through continuous subtle questioning, goading and teasing with the pretense of carrying on casual conversations hoping to trap me into some kind of unwitting admission of being Jewish. I realized how fragile my life was.

The next incident was even more frightening. We didn't have bathing facilities at the residential camp. One day, on a Sunday, we were asked to go to a public bath house facility in Hagen for a bath and clothes disinfection. The Germans didn't appreciate Russian lice. We would also have a medical inspection for venereal diseases. While I was standing in the nude waiting for my turn to face the German physician, I heard Netzel shout to the Doctor in charge of the inspections: "please check this one thoroughly to make sure he is not a Jew." It happened so fast that all I could think were the consequences if the doctor should determine that I was Jewish. A bullet in my head at the Gestapo's cellar, or a trip to a concentration camp.

"Was is deine name, junge?" What is your name, boy? I heard the doctor ask me. "Andreas", I responded loud and clear. The physician turned toward Netzel. "Nonsense, Andreas is a Christian boy". To this day, I can't explain the doctor's response. The fact that in Europe only Jewish boys were being circumcised, not like in the United States, so circumcision at that time was irrefutable evidence of being Jewish.

As a result of this experience, I was shaken up and upset. I felt a deep sense of loneliness and isolation. Once again, I realized the precariousness of my life. That evening, I didn't want to see anyone including Tamara. The following day I cheered up when I observed some underhanded thievery going on in the camp. I was certain that both Hencke and Netzel were pilfering food supplies from the storage room, thus giving less to the camp inhabitants. In a very subtle way, I hinted to Hencke that I knew what was going on, implying I had it on good authority, being careful not to mention names about pilfering food. I brought the same information to Netzel. From then on both Hencke and Netzel were friendlier to me.

The people in the camp were allowed to air grievances once a week. One evening while I was interpreting for Mr. Hans Hencke, I heard a strange complaint from a young Russian man. He was telling Mr. Hencke that his roommates constantly torment him, saying that both his wife and I were Jewish. Obviously, I couldn't tell Mr. Hencke the truth of his complaint. Luckily, my boss didn't understand Russian, and the Russian man didn't know German, so I was able to change the man's complaint as well as Mr. Hencke's response... I turned a potentially explosive situation into a harmless interchange. I had actually saved both the man and his wife

a great deal of trouble, and perhaps even saved his wife's life. I thought that the man was very foolish to bring up this subject.

I was reminded how important it was that I remain in control and mentally alert at all times. I also became conscious again of the fragility of my survival.

A few evenings later, while Tamara and I had dinner together, she told me of strange rumors going around the camp that "You are not really Ukrainian, but a Jew." I know it's not true." Tamara said. "I couldn't love you like this if it were true. These people are just jealous of you." Still, I had the strange feeling following this incident.

That spring, I along with fifty Ostarbeiter, were transferred to another branch of the factory located in a village near the city of Bonn for work at a lead foundry. Mr. Hans Hencke told me before departure how he enjoyed working with me, despite the one argument, and he wished me good luck in the new location. It was a rainy, cold day. People from the camp waived with outstretched arms until the truck was far on the road. After a two hour ride, passing through numerous German towns and villages we arrived at our new home. The camp set up was much like the one in Hagen, but much smaller.

The argument that Mr. Hans Hencke brought up was the time he slapped my face in public in view of my roommates, because we didn't emerge quickly enough from the room, when he blew the whistle. While doing some work at the main factory which was very large, I located the Herr Director of the enterprise. During a long interchange of ideas with him, I protested this kind of treatment. The Herr Director was sympathetic to my complaint, and in turn I got an apology from my boss Mr. Hencke.

To be continued.

Anna
חנה

PLEASE SHARE OUR JOY
WHEN OUR DAUGHTER
ANNA
IS CALLED TO THE TORAH
AS A BAT MITZVAH
SATURDAY, THE TWENTY-SEVENTH OF AUGUST
TWO THOUSAND AND ELEVEN
AT TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING
TEMPLE BETH HILLEL
801 PARK CENTRAL
RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA
DEBRA LURIE AND GEORGE TINGLEY

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW

Mash Notes By Roberta Alexander

Most people don't know this about me, but I am kind of an expert on the old TV show, M*A*S*H.

It wasn't anything I set out to do; it developed as a byproduct of something else altogether.

During my youngest child's adolescence, she decided that I was bossy, annoying, irritating and pretty much the most awful person to have to live with. The transformation of my sweet, loving, cuddly child into this surly lip-curling teenager who could barely stand to be in the same room with me was more than a little depressing.

I tried to be patient, remembering that I had been self-absorbed and downright rude at that age and was now seeing some pretty ugly chickens come home to roost. Still, it was hard.

Then I discovered that she enjoyed watching M*A*S*H reruns in the evening. What's more, she appeared to check her hostility at the door and, if I was in the room, would talk to me quite civilly.

Naturally, I made watching that nightly rerun one of my priorities. For 30 minutes each day, we could laugh and joke. That time made the other 23 ½ hours a little easier to bear and gave me hope that she would outgrow this stage.

Hell, I'd have watched programs a lot stupider than M*A*S*H if it gave me my daughter back for a while.

We watched many many episodes, most of them more than once. As a result, we became very familiar with them and could quote lines to each other. By the time we stopped watching we were bona fide experts.

Indeed, over the years, it became the basis of a game we played. By that time she had turned into a perfectly nice young woman so the therapeutic aspect was no longer an issue. On occasion, one of us would catch a rerun and call the other: "Who said such-and-such a line and in what episode?" "Name five inconsistencies about characters' families." Or, one of my favorites, "Name six episodes using Yiddish words." (That stumped her, by the way.)

So I was surprised, and more than a little discombobulated, to discover that the reruns are being shown again, but this time including material previously edited out.

At first I was shocked when a scene from the cutting room floor showed up, shaking up my memories.

(I've also wondered at why the station is doing this. Is this some contractual thing? Or perhaps the station has not attracted enough commercials and so is filling up the time in this unusual way.)

After a few episodes I moved past the shock. Now I find myself evaluating the new material and second-guessing the decisions: Does it advance the plot? Is it funnier than the scene that made it into the final version? Does it make clear something that previously was not explained?

It has also occurred to me that this whole business is a colossal waste of my time. I mean, these are ancient reruns and surely I have better things to do with my time.

Well, yes. Still, everybody needs a hobby, and how thrilled was I to discover that my new one had educational benefits!

Turns out that watching these episodes has, in effect, turned into a crash course on editing. My own expertise is with print. I know a good deal about how to write as well as how to cut a written piece down to a specified size, how to eliminate stuff that's repetitious and how to rearrange parts to create a more harmonious whole.

I supposed that editing a TV show involved pretty much the same process but I had never thought specifically about how scene-cutting works for a half-hour show. (Actually, I understand it's a 22-minute show.)

Now I can see where the writer was going with a certain story thread. He or she wrote more scenes than strictly necessary, probably because there was no way to know in advance exactly how they'd play.

That makes sense to me. Sometimes I write more than is needed, often because it takes me several paragraphs to get to exactly what I wanted to say. Then I go back and kill the warm-up material.

Occasionally I wonder why a particular scene was cut. In one early episode, a frustrated general stomps around the camp at night, finding everyone engaged in unmilitary behavior; there's a big poker game in one tent, the colonel is digging for worms before a fishing trip and an African American couple is playing strip poker in yet another tent. But that last scene was cut. Was it necessary to show shenanigans? Probably not. Was it dropped because it might have been controversial? Who knows?

So now, in addition to the pleasure of speculation, I've begun wondering about something else. What else that I have taken for granted has hidden treasures?

July 2011

Monthly Planner

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August 2011

Monthly Planner

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28 <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">First Day of Religious School</div>	29 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">Office Closed</div>	30 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">Midrasha Orientation</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">Office Closed</div>	31	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <table border="1" style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse;"> <caption>Jul 2011</caption> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse;"> <caption>Sep 2011</caption> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
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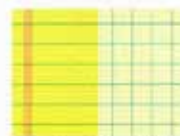


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Sivan-Tammuz 5771

HELP WANTED

Help with the **July 30 Shabbat morning service** – *Contact Jane Durango*

Help **prepare GRIP dinners** – *Contact Neoma Kenwood*

Help **install outdoor lighting** – *Contact David Brown*

Help with **data entry for the silent auction** – *Contact Linda Rose or Laura Taub*

Help **reshelve the library books** – *Contact Laura Taub*

Help our members: the Caring Community needs cooks, drivers and visitors – *Contact Marilyn Hertzberg*

Shelve and/or process books for the Children's Library so we can have new books on display - *Contact Laura Taub*

Help with the gift shop – *Contact Laura Taub*

Help feed the hungry at the Souper Center – *Contact Jane Kaasa*

Sponsor an oneg to celebrate Shabbat – *Contact Sheri Tattenham*

Lead a class on Jewish food (URJ has lesson plans) – *Contact Laura Taub*

Help organize an educational or social program – *Contact Laura Taub*

Beautify our Temple by rehangng the holiday needlepoints – *Contact Louise Snitz*