

a word from *Rabbi Brown*

Thanks for the memories

Twenty-one years ago next month, I began my tenure as Senior Rabbi of Temple Ahavat Shalom. Actually, Senior Rabbi didn't mean much back then – I was the only “active duty” rabbi of Ahavat Shalom. My predecessor Rabbi Solomon F. Kleinman had literally laid the foundation of this synagogue, leading a congregation with meager financial resources in the construction of the main sanctuary building, the place where we continue to gather for prayer and celebration today. Rabbi Kleinman and the dedicated lay-leaders of that generation established Ahavat Shalom as a significant Jewish presence in the North Valley. As he entered retirement as Rabbi Emeritus and I arrived as his successor, Ahavat Shalom stood poised to begin writing a new chapter of growth in its history.

And what a chapter it turned out to be. Barry Lutz, who had arrived in 1984, went from part-time to full-time Educator almost immediately upon my arrival. Patti Linsky began her tenure as Cantor at same time, and the three of us bonded instantly into a cohesive, mutually supportive team. I was brimming with all sorts of ideas for new programs and approaches for my new congregation, and Barry and Patti brought their enthusiastic support, and their own talents and new ideas as well. Within two years, the congregation had doubled in size. Dedicated lay leaders like Dick Seligman, Fred Rothenberg, Fred Kimmel, Irv Lucks, Karen Silverstein and a host of others devoted their talents, time and energies to meeting the enormous challenges of integrating so many new members, finding space to educate literally hundreds of new students in our schools, and implementing the many new programs that we of the senior staff were developing.

Within three years, a new school building and the Activity Center were built. Programs like the Mitzvah Network enabled congregants to make a real difference in the lives of member-families in times of need. A revitalized Social Action Committee, under the energetic leadership of one of those many newcomers to TAS, Fran Rosenfield, enabled our congregation to make a real difference for good in the life of the larger community. A renewed (OK, relentless) emphasis on the importance of Confirmation as the ultimate goal of formal Jewish education for our children virtually eliminated the notorious post-bar/bat mitzvah drop-out rate that continues to plague so many synagogues, and TAS's growing Confirmation classes became the envy of congregations many times our size. A dramatically expanded program of adult education made our newly-coined congregational motto a living reality: “Lifelong Learning for Jewish Living.” And, of course, it wasn't long before “Sgt.

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Bringing TASTY back!

Recapturing the magic

“We're bringing TASTY back...Yeah!” You may recognize this phrase from the TASTY T-shirts being worn proudly by our youth group members this year. But what exactly are we bringing back? At the beginning of this year, we set out to bring back the enthusiasm, spirit and fun that has always been synonymous with Temple Ahavat Shalom's Temple Youth. Now, after a year of watching the growth, leadership and accomplishments that have taken place within TASTY, that statement has a whole new meaning.

As much as we refer to “Bringing TASTY back,” it is not as though TASTY was gone, but rather, that we wanted to further bring out what TASTY stands for and has always stood for...greatness. We started with a new committed TASTY advisor and 15 newly elected TASTY board members to take the high expectations that TASTY already had and build upon them. After TASTY board elections and installations, we went to work

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PULPIT CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JUNE 1

8 p.m. Erev Shabbat Services with Rabbi Lutz and Cantor Linsky; Torah Portion: Beha'alotcha (Num. 8:1-12:16)

SATURDAY, JUNE 2

9:30 a.m. Tot Shabbat (Rothenberg Chapel)

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

8 p.m. Erev Shabbat Services with Rabbi Brown; Torah Portion: Shelach (Num. 13:1-15:41)

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

5 p.m.

AMANDA HIRSCH, Bat Mitzvah
Daughter of Mary and Arthur Hirsch

FRIDAY, JUNE 15

7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Services with Rabbi Brown; Torah Portion: Korach (Num. 16:1-18:32)

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

10:30 a.m.

ZACHARY GOLDBERG, Bar Mitzvah
Son of Judy Goldberg and Gary Goldberg

10:30 a.m. Chapel Minyan with Rabbi Alan Henkin (Rothenberg Chapel)

FRIDAY, JUNE 22

8 p.m. Erev Shabbat Services honoring Rabbi Brown, with Rabbi Lutz and Cantor Linsky; Torah Portion: Chukat (Num. 19:1-22:1)

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

10:30 a.m.

DANIEL DIXON, Bar Mitzvah
Son of Lea Dixon and Sean Dixon

FRIDAY, JUNE 29

8 p.m. Erev Shabbat Services honoring Rabbi Brown on becoming a Scholar-In-Resence; Torah Portion: Balak (Num. 22:2-25:9)

SATURDAY, JUNE 30

10:30 a.m.

KATIE CULLEN, Bat Mitzvah
Daughter of Jill and Peter Cullen

5 p.m.

TYLER ROSS, Bar Mitzvah
Son of Colleen and Danny Ross

FRIDAY, JULY 6

8 p.m. Erev Shabbat Services with Rabbi Lutz and Cantor Linsky; Torah Portion: Pinchas (Num. 25:10-30:1)

SATURDAY, JULY 7

5 p.m.

JACOB SPEER, Bar Mitzvah
Son of Lisa and David Speer

Board Meeting Highlights

Rabbi Lutz opened the April meeting introducing the Board to the book, "The Spirituality of Welcoming," an inspirational tome about transforming a congregation into a sacred community. Throughout the coming months, the Board will work to implement its teachings.

The Nominating Committee presented its slate of proposed Trustees and Officers who will be on the ballot at the upcoming Congregational Meeting. The Board needs to fill five positions, and the Executive Committee will be filling the position of Treasurer and a Vice President. Other positions, including Temple President, will be slated for renewal. The Board passed a motion to accept the ballot of Officers and Trustees as presented by the Nominating Committee.

The Board also passed a motion to present at the Congregational Meeting, an amendment to our Temple Bylaws. The proposed amendment would provide that of the 14 Board members elected by the Congregation, one shall be the chair of the Religious School and one shall be the chair of the ECEC. As the Board discussed, these important areas of the Temple should have ongoing and permanent representation on the Board.

Reports also were heard from the Security and Personnel Committees.

Robin Gilmour reported on the leadership conference in Washington, D.C., that she attended with Robin Gore. The Men's Club reported on the June Golf Tournament and other upcoming events. Jerry Hilecher reported on the Gala and advances made by the IT Committee to improve the Temple e-mail service. The Board also discussed the upcoming June 22 Shabbat honoring Rabbi Brown.

Temple Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month and are open to every member of the congregation. We welcome and encourage you to attend.

Debby Lieber, Recording Secretary

Internet made easy

Accessing Menorah online

Eureka! Say good-bye to right-clicking. Thanks to Max Lupul's suggestion and webmaestro Rick Lupert's skillful reprogramming, by opening the TAS website and left-clicking Menorah, it will now open in a new window. Left-click the month and year of the version you wish to access and the Menorah in PDF will fill the screen in living color.

In order to read documents in PDF - PDF stands for portable document format - you will need to download the free Acrobat Adobe Reader, the icon appears when you open the Menorah link. And don't forget to bookmark Temple Ahavat Shalom: <http://www.tasnorthridge.org/>

The greatest gift of all

Students reflect on their epic life journey

Do you remember your journey through middle school and high school? I remember mine. It is an interesting time, to say the least; filled with roadblocks, diversions, mistaken paths and sometimes dangerous detours. It is an epic journey that we all must make if we are to reach adulthood successfully. And, having made the journey, we hopefully find ourselves wiser and more mature for having survived.

Just a few weeks ago we celebrated the Confirmation of another spectacular group of young adults who have reached the end of their journey. This service recognizes the end of formal religious education here at TAS, but, more importantly, it **signifies** the transition into full adulthood. As such, we give these young adults their first opportunity to stand as adults in front of this community and share their reflections on...well, just about everything.

In so many ways, this diverse group spoke of the critical nature of our high school program. Their words and reflections clearly speak to the necessity to keep your children involved as they are traversing adolescence. This is a time of questioning and experimentation as teens try on the varying vestments of their adult identity. Where else would you want them but here, where loving and compassionate adults can offer the guidance and direction you want them to have. It is here that they are provided, through TASHigh, our 11th grade trip to Washington, D.C., TASTY, and so many other programs, the opportunity to form a connection to the Jewish community, and, more importantly, an adult Jewish identity.

Here is how two of our students described their journey:

“Now, I do not follow Judaism blindly, I question the heck out of it. ... and if there is no answer, I get the response of “That’s a great question ... I would love to know what you find out” Which ... may seem cliché ..., but it ... forces me to THINK! This, my friends is the beauty of Judaism, ...it is whatever you make of it. I choose to make a whole lot out of it.”

“As ridiculous as this may sound to you, I’ve always felt slightly... well, cultureless It has always seemed to me that people of nearly every other ethnicity have a community and a cultural connection, which I’ll admit I have always envied and longed for. ... This year, I was given the opportunity to attend a religious program in Washington, D.C., with members of my Confirmation class. Of course, I absolutely dreaded going.... On Saturday night, we all trudged over to the Jefferson Memorial to celebrate sihavdalah. As I sat there surrounded by over 250 of my Jewish peers, each of us wielding a lit candle and swaying back and forth, singing tunes I’ve known since I was in diapers, I thought to myself about how we must look to passersby. I suddenly realized how lucky and absolutely blessed I was to be born into this deeply intertwined community and intensely rich culture. ... Tears came to my eyes as I realized that I had Judaism in my life all along and had been trying to reject it. ... Today, as I stand in this Temple that has become a second home to



Walking behind another

Confirmand and her parent as we were entering our annual pre-Confirmation dinner, I watched one young woman turn to her mother and say: “Thank you for making me stay.”

from *Rabbi Lutz*

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Culture CLUB

TASHigh hosts Evening of the Arts with special guests, Dan Nichols and Cantor Patti Linsky.



It's spring time! The frost is over and many of us are outside tending our yards. We're looking forward to enjoying our summer days of flowers and green lawns. Our Temple's Library is just like your garden. It needs tender loving care in order to bloom. The Rothenberg Family Chapel and Library, located next to the Sanctuary, houses a collection of Judaic books for all ages from preschool to seniors. We have some great titles, but the library is underutilized and needs updating.

Andrea Josephson and Lori Garelik have been spending time cultivating this important Temple resource. We may have dusty hands instead of green thumbs, but we are very excited about improvements we will be making. In two weeks we are expecting the delivery of a book cart thanks to a grant from the Men's Club.

How does your garden grow?

We will be using the cart to bring books to Friday night services and into the classrooms. Thanks to the Library Fund we will be receiving additional supplies and eventually more books. Donating to this fund is a wonderful way to honor someone special for an occasion such as a birthday or graduation.

You can help play an important role in this process of creating a better library that offers congregants books for enjoyment or important information from a Jewish perspective. Please help plant the seeds by donating to the Library Fund, giving new books or volunteering your time. Just remember the Rothenberg Library; you don't need a green thumb to make it better. Just a little TLC will make it bloom.

Contact Andrea Josephson, at 818-883-7745, andij4@aol.com, or Lori Garelik, at 818-886-3241.

Chapter 2

Congratulations as you begin the next chapter in your life.

To our college students graduating this month: We congratulate you on this huge milestone. Enjoy the celebration and best wishes as you move on to the next chapter of your life. To the parents of graduating college students, we also congratulate you! Please keep us updated about what comes next for you along with your new addresses, phone numbers and e-mails. We would like you to remain in the program up to your 25th birthday, to take advantage of networking with those alumni who are older than you and provide advice and assistance to those younger than you.

We also want to congratulate our high school graduates who now become the newest members of our program. We welcome you all and look forward to hearing from you with your school or work plans, birthdays, addresses, phone numbers, e-mails, etc. Look for an Alumni Outreach Information Sheet in the July mid-month mailer, call me or e-mail me with your new information.

Our program will be growing in significant numbers next year, which means the budget will be too. When you are making donations to honor or memorialize your loved ones, please consider the Alumni Outreach Program. We are grateful to the families who have made donations to our Alumni program, and by doing so, have allowed us to keep our young adults connected to each other, their Temple and their community.

Have a safe and fun summer!

*Debbie Weiss and Mindy Free
TAS Sisterhood Alumni Chairs
360-3576/366-7729*

Phonemom56@aol.com/ Hockeymom39@socall.rr.com



We welcome you all and look forward to hearing from you with your school or work plans, birthdays, addresses, phone numbers, e-mails, etc.



Please donate blood!

TAS is having another blood drive on Sunday, June 3, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Our numbers are low, so if you can, please donate.

One pint of blood can save up to three lives. Think of the great mitzvah you'll be performing!

Please call to schedule your appointment today with Sue Issler, 818-882-9608

BAR/BAT MITZVAH ✦ WEDDINGS ✦ BIRTHS ✦

ANNIVERSARIES ✦ PARTIES

Sisterhood

can help you with your personalized announcements and invitations.

For more details, call Judith Gottlieb at 363-6924



Night Moves: Cantor Ron and Bronwen Li-Paz dazzle the audience during the 7th Annual Sylvia Alster Memorial Event in April. Top right, Sam Alster enjoys festivities

What is 'Radical Islam' and what does it have to do with Jews in America?



Author/speaker Nonie Darwish chats with TAS member at screening.

Sisterhood President Robin Gilmour, Isaac Brynjegaard-Bialik, Arnold Alban, Sue Issler, Chuck Mondrus, Laraine Miller, Julian Mayer, Rhonda Mayer, Sharon Janis, and of course, Rabbi Lutz, who also gave a thoughtful introduction to the film.

A very limited number of copies of the DVD are available for sale in the Sisterhood Gift Shop. The Temple's screening copy can be checked out through Rabbi Lutz's office.

More than 200 Temple members and their guests learned the uncomfortable truth at the screening of a disconcerting, but eye-opening documentary "Obsession: Radical Islam's War Against the West," on April 26. The hour-long film, shown in the TAS sanctuary with multiple screens and DVD projectors, was a thorough and often shocking lesson on world terrorism and its many connections to extremists who have twisted their interpretation of Islam to horrifying proportions.

The screening was followed by a question and answer session with special guest Nonie Darwish, who grew up in Egypt but now speaks to audiences around the world challenging "moderate" Muslims, Christians and Jews to counter the hatred and repression of Islamic radicals. Ms. Darwish, who appears in the film and also lives in Northridge, was most impressed with questions asked by a concerned and thoughtful TAS audience. She stayed for a reception sponsored by the TAS Sisterhood to sign copies of her book, *Now They Call Me Infidel: Why I Renounced Jihad for America, Israel and the War on Terror*.

This very unique program was underwritten by Chuck Mondrus and Stephanie and Rodger Howard. An impassioned group of volunteers from many areas of Temple life came together to make the event a resounding success. They included TAS Vice President Jerry Hilecher, Men's Club President Brian Hatkoff,

*Stephanie Seldin Howard
SSHoward@aol.com*

Autism:

looking at it through my eyes

One day you're playing with your laughing, happy grandchild, and the next this bundle of love, so much a part of your world, has moved into his own world. And a word that you never spoke before becomes one that you grow very familiar with. That word is AUTISM.

Autism is a neurodevelopmental disability which means that it impacts the normal development of the brain in many areas, most often in social interaction and communication skills. Children with autism typically have difficulty in verbal and non-verbal communications, social interactions and imaginative play activities. It is difficult for them to communicate with others and relate to the outside world.

According to the Centers For Disease Control, one in every 150 children born each day will be diagnosed with autism, making it more common than pediatric cancer, diabetes and AIDS combined. It is four times more likely to strike boys than girls.

So, why am I writing this today? My grandson is 8 years old and has autism. Experiencing first hand the struggles my grandson and his parents go through each day led me to become involved in the autism community; I have been published in a book titled *Voices From The Spectrum* and in autism magazines, and now here in our own *Menorah*. With one in every 150 children affected, I have to wonder how many in our community of 700 families have been, or will be, touched by autism. I want to make you aware. I want you to know what it is, and I want you to know that I am here for you, as are so many others. Thanks to celebrities like Oprah and Larry King and others, autism is not the mystery to everyone that it was before, and that is great. But I thought if you heard from me, a friend who has an autistic grandson, it would be more personal. And I want to tell you how you can not only help fight against this unfair disorder, but help the children and their harried families right now and very easily. First of all, be kind! If you see a parent with a child screaming or kicking, especially if that child is not a toddler, before you make judgments, stop and think. That child may be having a meltdown, which is how an autistic person's brain sometimes reacts to an overload of input to the senses. The child cannot process all the input properly and reacts in a manner similar to a tantrum. So, no loud remarks about spoiled kids and parents who can't handle them. You know what? Even if this is not an autistic child, all parents deserve a break. They are doing the best they know how to do. If you are up to it, a gentle, "Can I help," will mean so much.

Next, no one can understand a day in the life of an autistic child's parent. For an accurate look at that life I urge you to go to www.autismspeaks.org and click on "Autism Everyday" video. It doesn't take long, and if you really care you will be glad you did. After viewing the film, stay on that site and see what you can do. Donations are always needed.

You can also keep up with legislation that needs to be brought to your elected officials' attention. If you e-mail me at franandlenn@verizon.net I promise to keep you informed.

Now it is important for me to tell you that life with an autistic child does not just mean difficult times; there is also great joy. Autism doesn't define Daniel to me. He is a bright, loving, wonderful child who is autistic. I love him with all my being. There is a special place in my heart marked Daniel.

Please help to make tomorrow better for all the Daniels. Be aware, understanding and involved.

Fran Rosenfield

Now it is important for me to tell you that life with an autistic child does not just mean difficult times; there is also great joy. Autism doesn't define Daniel to me. He is a bright, loving, wonderful child who is autistic. I love him with all my being. There is a special place in my heart marked Daniel.

Our Orthodox heritage

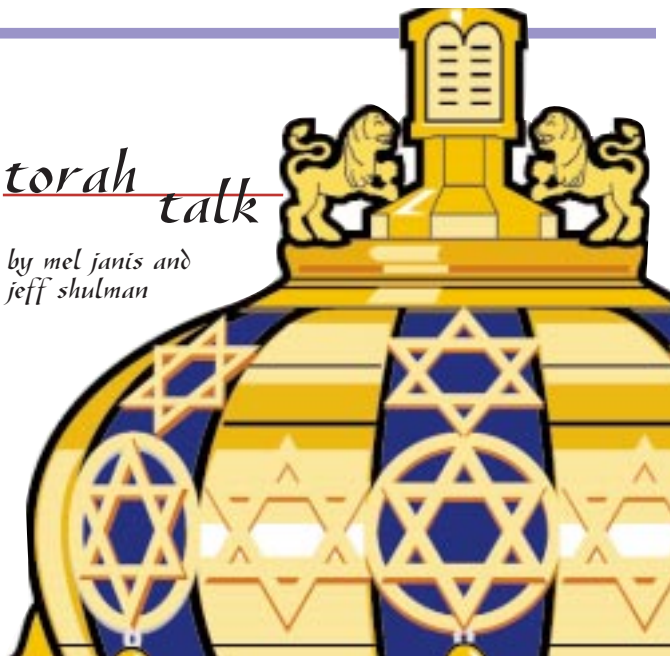
As Reform Jews we do not perform many of the historic rituals that have been part of our faith for centuries. Many of these rituals are still practiced by the Orthodox. Even though we don't feel required to accept these practices as our own, we can learn much about our tradition by studying them and by learning about their possible origins.

The destruction of the Temple in 70 C.E. radically changed Judaism. The destruction of the Temple also meant the end of the priestly hierarchy, and more importantly, the sacrificial tradition which had defined Judaism. Judaism survived, and many of the traditional rituals were given new meaning and are still in use today. An example would be our Torahs. We decorate them with breast plates and bells, which is reminiscent of the garments worn by the high priest in the time of the Temple. Many Jews will say a blessing and wash their hands before each meal, which also was done by the priests before they would sacrifice animals on the altar. Just as the priest sprinkled the grain sacrifices with salt, Orthodox Jews put salt on the challah used at each Shabbat dinner.

There is a commandment in both Exodus and Deuteronomy that Shabbat must be a day of rest. There is a tremendous amount of discussion about what we are allowed and not allowed to do on Shabbat. For centuries a Jewish man has worn a tallit that is fringed with strings totaling 613 knots. Orthodox Jewish men wear an undergarment that contains knotted strings that are called tsitzit. There is an early Midrash that explains why this garment is worn every day. According to the story, an Israelite goes out on the Shabbat to gather wood or manna. According to the Torah, God provided

torah talk

*by mel janis and
jeff shulman*



manna for all and a double portion on Friday so that the family would have something to eat on Shabbat. The Israelite is caught doing work on the day of rest and with God's authority, is executed by Moses. The Midrash concludes that the reason that all Jewish men must wear an undergarment with the tsitzit is to remind them always of the 613 commandments.

An Orthodox tradition tries to explain the reason that the Torah does not allow us to mix linen and wool in our clothing. It claims that in the story of Cain and Abel, God accepts Abel's sacrifice of a lamb but refuses Cain's offering of a linen plant. Thus the commandment against mixing linen and wool in garments is a reminder of the conflict that resulted from this story in Genesis. Even though we may think that some of the Orthodox rituals are unnecessary, the reasons behind them can provide us with a window into which we can view our rich and ancient religion.

Justice in Buffalo: Adult Mitzvah Corps

Jewish tradition teaches that, "The world stands upon three things: learning, prayer and righteous deeds." Join dedicated Reform Jews from across North America as they nail, glue and paint to combine all three aspects of Jewish life – learning, prayer and action – this summer in Buffalo, N.Y. Space is extremely limited for this year's Tzevet Mitzvot: Adult Mitzvah Corps, so please register as soon as possible. The \$240 registration fee includes most meals, building supplies and an evening trip to Niagara Falls. Hotel accommodations and transportation costs are the responsibility of the participant. For more information contact Alyssa Agard at the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism at 212-650-4160, csarj@urj.org, or online at www.urj.org/csa/mitzvahcorps/.



Men's Club Update



Wonderful World:

Kim Krowne gave a presentation to the Men's Club about her work experiences at a clinic and orphanage in Tanzania. Kim plans to return this fall for further work, then on to medical school. At left is Brian Hatkoff, Men's Club president.

All in the family

Please help us welcome these new members to our TAS family:

Eric and Laura Braverman
(Madison 10, Jonathan & Morgan 9)

Donald and Yvette David
(Jessica 11, Allison 9, Jeremy 7)

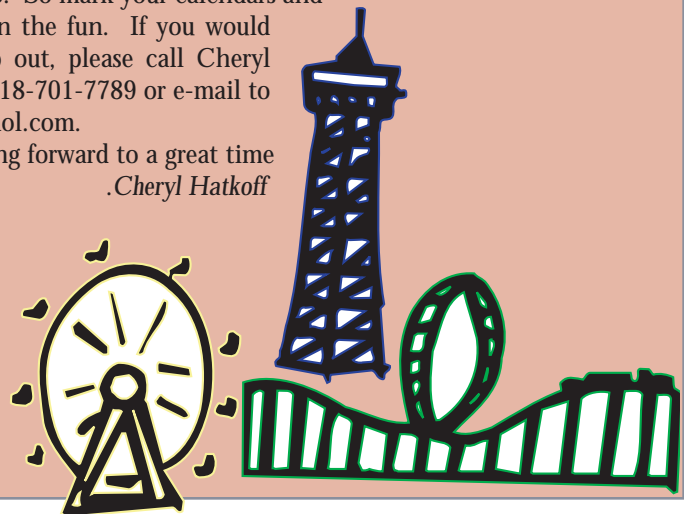
Rick & Dee Perez
(Zachary & Daniel 2)

NEW MEMBERS

Street Faire on June 10

Don't miss out on the Street Faire scheduled for Sunday, June 10 (the last day of Religious School) in our own Temple parking lot from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come join us for food, fun, vendors, activities for all ages, arts and crafts, community spirit, health fair, face painting, candle making, etc. Cindy Paley, nationally renowned folk artist, will entertain at 11 a.m. The Junior Choir will be singing, and we will have entertainment from a karate studio and dance studio. So mark your calendars and come join in the fun. If you would like to help out, please call Cheryl Hatkoff at 818-701-7789 or e-mail to chatkoff1@aol.com.

Looking forward to a great time
Cheryl Hatkoff



RABBI BROWN

Continued from page 1

Schlepper's Purim Shpieller's Band" made its infamous Purim debut.

We are now poised at the beginning of new era of growth at Ahavat Shalom. For 21 years I have watched Barry Lutz grow as a Jewish professional leader, first as Educator and then as Rabbi. I have striven to share whatever knowledge and insight I have gleaned over the years with him, and I have learned much from him in return. It has always been my hope that, one day, Barry would succeed me as Senior Rabbi of Temple Ahavat Shalom. Now

As for me, in the words of Mark Twain, "The reports of my demise have been greatly exaggerated". No, I am not retiring. Rather, I am assuming a new role at Ahavat Shalom, that of Scholar-In-Residence.

that hope has become a reality. I hand the mantle of leadership of the congregation over to Rabbi Lutz, confident in his ability to lead us to even greater heights as a community. I am looking forward to supporting Barry, not least by stepping back during the first part of the year to afford him the opportunity he needs and deserves to establish his own presence and agenda as our new Senior Rabbi.

As for me, in the words of Mark Twain, "The reports of my demise have been greatly exaggerated." No, I am not retiring. Rather, I am assuming a new role at Ahavat Shalom, that of Scholar-In-

Residence. In that capacity I will continue to teach both our young people and adults, to lead the congregation in prayer, to officiate at lifecycle celebrations and observances, and to be available to consult with those who call upon me.

I thank you all for the wonderful support you have given me in my long tenure as Senior Rabbi of Temple Ahavat Shalom. Together we have accomplished very much, indeed. I know you will join me in giving your enthusiastic support to Rabbi Lutz, as he assumes the role of Senior Rabbi. And I look forward to seeing and working with you all, and to continuing to make my own contribution to the life of our community for many years to come.

*L'shalom,
Rabbi Jerry Brown*

SAVE THE DATE!

TEMPLE AHAVAT SHALOM

Israeli Festival of the Arts

October 2007

Featuring original oil paintings, watercolors, lithographs and etchings. This exhibition and sale will include 2,000 works of art by 100 Israeli artists.

For further information or to become part of this exciting committee, please contact Carol Stern at gusstern47@msn.com or Judy Alban at Jeaco@aol.com.

You're Invited: **Biennial
2007**

DESTINATION: SAN DIEGO

Join thousands of Reform Jews this December in sunny San Diego for the 2007 Union for Reform Judaism General Assembly and Biennial Convention. Mark December 12-16, 2007, on your calendar, and see for yourself what the excitement is all about! Learn and pray with leaders of congregations from across North America as you grow as a Reform Jew. Do not miss this exciting opportunity. For more details visit www.urj.org/biennial.



TASTY

Continued from page 1

on defining what TASTY was and what the students wanted it to be. With this new vision and group of leaders, a piece of TASTY was brought back.

The year began with a board meeting to set the tone for the upcoming year. We brainstormed ideas, defined the individual board members' responsibilities, and thought of ways to get our Temple Youth involved and excited about TASTY again. The result of these efforts was a full calendar, including all Jr./Sr. TASTY events, NFTY So-Cal events, and TASHigh events from September to June. This calendar represented a new attitude about TASTY: one built on trust, consistency and creativity. Through our first annual board retreat, our young leaders truly embraced the responsibility of what it meant to be a TASTY Board member, and through their commitment, another piece of TASTY was brought back.

This year we have had the privilege of watching TASTY grow and wanted to share a few of these "memorable moments" with you. These moments include celebrating birthdays together, staying up all night laughing in the Youth Lounge before our ski trip, singing "We're bring TASTY Back" as loud as we could at NFTY So-Cal's Fall Kallah, traveling to Philadelphia for NFTY Convention, linking arms together as our Religious and Cultural Vice President led us in Havdallah for the first time, being part of the Lox Box assembly line, as well as transforming the Social Hall into a beautiful Black & White Affair.

One moment that will forever stand out for us was at our TASTY board retreat when one of our board members had a tragedy in her family. We heard the news during an activity, and the response from the kids was deeply moving. They all immediately stopped what they were doing and walked over and simultaneously surrounded her with a big group hug, without saying one word. That's what "Bringing TASTY back" has been for us. Moments like this that make you realize a youth group is so much more than planning events and having meetings, it's a second family.

However, not all of the effects of this year are visible to the eye; the things you can't see are the effects these moments have had on who we all are as people. We have worked as a team and have learned so much about each other, a closeness we couldn't force, and yet now can't imagine our lives without. The memories, the fear, the hope, the excitement, the tears, they all have their place and they each have brought a piece of TASTY back.

Our goal this year was to put the youth group in the student's hands, and with that comes an incredible amount of potential and opportunity. The potential for new ideas, a fresh perspective, leadership development, success, as well as failure. However, it is the growth that took place during these experiences that made this year so successful. Since the t-shirts slogan so cleverly came from a Justin Timberlake song, our philosophy for the year can be defined by a song as well. The song is "Hands," by Jewel. The lyrics send an important message, "My hands are small I know, but they're not yours, they are my own, but they're not yours they are my own and I am never broken." Our students' hands may be small, but they are their own and as long as TASTY is in those hands and we have faith in them and their capabilities...TASTY could never be broken.

So is TASTY back you may ask? Only one response comes to mind...YEAH!

Teens: Make your mark this summer

This summer teens can choose from among four ways to put words into action through the NFTY Mitzvah Corps, where they will directly impact communities that need the energy, dedication and love that youth provide. Each program combines volunteer work with educational programming based on Jewish social and ethical issues, yet each has a slightly different focus. To learn about the specifics of the programs in the San Francisco Bay area, on the campus of Rutgers University, along the Gulf Coast or in Warwick, N.Y., visit www.nftymitzvahcorps.org or contact Rachel Van Thyn at rvanthyn@urj.org, or 212-650-4071.

RABBI LUTZ

Continued from page 3

me since my days of exploring it as a curious preschooler, side by side with this amazing group of teenagers, standing with the clergy that has become like a second family to me, and smiling at the faces of my wonderfully supportive sister, parents and friends, I feel excited and proud beyond belief to be confirmed as a member of the Jewish community."

I can guarantee you that at some point our students won't want to be here. And that is exactly why you must insist that they do! One of our Confirmands humorously and lovingly reflected upon his own parents insistence:

"I was so thrilled to be finished with my Bar Mitzvah. Then I realized my parents expected me to spend four more years in Confirmation. After attending classes for six months, I asked my mother if I had to go for four more years. Then she said, 'No,' I was excited until she said, 'You only have to go for another 3 1/2 years.'"

Walking behind another Confirmand and her parent as we were entering our annual pre-Confirmation dinner, I watched one young woman turn to her mother and say: "Thank you for making me stay."

There may be protests along the way, struggles ... even an argument or two, but, as the Confirmation Class of 2007 confirmed once again, this is the greatest gift you can give to your son or daughter.

Alumni Outreach Fund

Eric and Elizabeth Greenwald, in honor of Robert.
 Steve and Marcy Mintz.
 Renee Applebaum.
 Wendy Gelzer.
 Betty Gobst, in honor of Zachary Gobst.
 Wendy Goldman.
 Alan and Melissa Kassan.
 Sheldon and Lila Snow.
 Paul and Ava Silver.

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Cindy and David Shender, in honor of Cory's Bar Mitzvah. Thank you Cantor Linsky, your voice added beauty to this special day.

Early Childhood Fund

Richard and Simona Wildman, in honor of Jordan Kesner.
 Debi Kligman Roysner & family, to Dell Varon, in memory of Joseph Varon.
 Phyllis and Hal Bass, to Susan Cohen, in memory of David J. Cohen.

Education Director's Discretionary Fund

Dr. Samuel A. Kunin, in honor of the birth and Brit milah of Aaron Xiao-Yu Rodgers, son of Jenny and Adam Rodgers.
 Cindy and David Shender, in honor of Cory's Bar Mitzvah. Thank you, Rabbi Lutz, for your support and guidance – Cory's day was truly special.

General Fund

Cecille Kornswiet and family, to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Stone and family. Our sincere thanks for including our family at your meaningful first Seder.
 Enza Cohn, in honor of Rabbi Lutz and Cantor Linsky. Thank you for making my conversion service so special.
 Enza and Robert Cohn, in memory of Paul Issler's father.
 Andy and Barry Mann, to Susan Cohen, in memory of David Cohen, your beloved husband.
 Andy and Barry Mann, to Judy and Steve Wolff, in memory of your daughter-in-law, Dina.

Library Fund

Jerry and Cathleen Meyers, in memory of David Cohen.

Mitzvah Network Fund

Sharon and Mel Janis and Michael and Kimberly Brooks, to Zev and Betty Gobst, in memory of Shashana Gobst.
 Shelly, Phil and Jon Trop, to Zev and Betty Gobst, in memory of Shashana Gobst.
 Phyllis and Hal Bass, wishing Dr. Allan Katcher, a speedy recovery.

Rabbis' Discretionary Fund

Sherry and Ira Kaplan, in memory of Tom Poston, cousin of Ira.

Religious & Hebrew School Fund

Robert, Sara and Elana Cohn, in honor of Enza's Conversion.
 The Lertzman Family, in honor of Enza Cohn's Conversion. Your membership in the tribe is now official. Welcome Home, Enza!
 Kevin, Rachel, Abby and Daniel Segal, in honor of Enza Cohn's Conversion.
 Mark and Lori Garren, in honor of Shelby Garren's Bat Mitzvah.

Ronna & Lew Edgers Memorial Israel Programs

Judy and Arnold Alban, to Sharon and Mel Janis, in honor of your special anniversary.
 Arnold, Judy, Liora and Eliana Alban, to Andy Chesler and family, in memory of your cousin.
 The Alban Family, in honor of the Entire 2007 Confirmation Class. Mazel Tov!

Social Action Fund

Fran and Lenn Rosenfield, to Enza Cohen, in honor of your conversion. You have always had a beautiful Jewish soul.

Fran and Lenn Rosenfield, to Sue Cohen, in memory of your much loved husband David. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Fran and Lenn Rosenfield, to Paul Issler, in memory of your dear father.
 Fran and Lenn Rosenfield, in honor of Mel Birken. It's not just what you do, it's the way that you do it.

Sylvia Alster Memorial Fund

Than and Guy Wyenn, to Sam Alster. Dear memories of our good friend, Sylvia Alster. She is a loss to her family, her friends and the community.
 Frank Fulgham, in honor of the 7th Annual Sylvia Alster Event.
 Samuel Alster and Florence Adler, to Susan Cohen, in memory of David Cohen.

Vi & David Lieber Memorial Music Fund

Fran and Monte Krimston, to Rona and Leon Cole. Mazel Tov to both of you on reaching the age of wisdom.
 Fran and Monte Krimston, to Ed Stein. Happy 70th!
 Fran and Monte Krimston, to Susan Cohen, in memory of your dear David. May his memory always be a blessing.

Yahrzeits

Gale H. Lawson, in memory of Claire Adler.
 David and Susan Cohen, in memory of Charles Arrico.
 Myra and Ian Paige, in memory of Myla Berg.
 Sally Blitz-Weisz, Naomi Weisz and Paula Blitz, in memory of Isaac Blitz.
 Sally Blitz-Weisz, Naomi Weisz and Paula Blitz, in memory of Louis Blitz.
 Debbie Vego, in memory of my aunt, Lillian Bold.

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Please leave a copy of your article in the MENORAH box in the Temple office, or fax it to (818) 832-0076 or e-mail fkrimston@hillside Memorial.org

GENEROUS GIFTS

Ruth Silverstein, in memory of Joseph Borsuck.
 Ruth Silverstein, in memory of Sarah Borsuck.
 The Cohler Family, in memory of Dr. Bernard Cohler.
 Donald Doner, in memory of Bernice Coleman.
 The Shearer Family, in loving memory of Harry Direnfeld, loving grandfather and great-grandfather.
 Linda and Joe Sculler, in memory of Pauline Eisenman.
 Adele and Allen Gottfried, in memory of Clara Eskeles.
 Adele and Allen Gottfried, in memory of Lorraine Eskeles.
 Sandy and Grace Ettinger, in memory of Norman I. Ettinger.
 Sandy and Carol Stern, in memory of Irvan Finkelstein.
 Scott and Gail Fogel & family, in memory of Barry Ira Fogel.
 Jerry and Cathleen Meyers, in memory of John A. Francis.
 Al and Sharon Glickman, in memory of Sarah Glickman.
 Harriet and Neal Pepper, in memory of Dorothy Goldstein.
 Adele and Allen Gottfried, in memory of Aaron Gottfried.
 Fran and Lenn Rosenfield, in memory of Rose Hochman.
 Ricki and Gary Martin, in memory of Mollie Ingber.
 Bob and Janice Ingrum, in memory of Jack Ingrum.
 Debbie Vego, in memory of my mother, Anne Karas.
 Sandy and Carol Stern, in memory of Phyllis Kempner.

Rhea Kimmel, in memory of Thomas Kimmel.
 Anita Hoch, in memory of Leo Kleinbrodt.
 Paul and Ava Silver, in memory of Thelma Lascoe.
 Jeff and Rivi Shulman & family, in memory of Gerald Lichter.
 Max and Ruth Lupul, in memory of Dr. Wilhelm Lupul.
 Howard, Laraine, Gena and Lara Miller, in memory of Gordon Miller.
 Sandra and Richard Erkus, in memory of Rose Miller.
 Sandy and Grace Ettinger, in memory of Shirley Mussoff.
 Roger and Ellen Pollack & family, in memory of Hans Pollack.
 Roger and Ellen Pollack & family, in memory of Hilde Pollack.
 Al Lapidés, in memory of Mildred Rosenberg Lapidés.
 Fran and Ed Handler, in memory of Joan Sanzone.
 Gale Lawson, in memory of Jean Schulsinger.
 Fred and Phyllis Cohen, in memory of Alfred Semmel.
 Cary and Beverly Shore, in memory of Jack Shore.
 Nancy and Noah Saxe, in memory of Ruth Solomon.
 Nancy and Noah Saxe, in memory of Seaman J. Solomon.
 Steven Steinman, in memory of Ann Steinman.
 The Stepakoff Family, in memory of Thelma Stepakoff.
 Sandy and Carol Stern, in memory of Florence Stern.
 Roger and Ellen Pollack & family, in memory of Hulda Telando.
 Len and Barb Vosen, in memory of Harriet Vosen.

Sandy and Grace Ettinger, in memory of Edward Weber.
 Sandy and Grace Ettinger, in memory of Isidore Weber.
 Sandy and Grace Ettinger, in memory of Philip Weber.
 Sandy and Grace Ettinger, in memory of Vera Weber.
 Herbert and Esther Weissman, in memory of Morris Weissman.
 Max and Ruth Lupul, in memory of Anna Werner.
 Max and Ruth Lupul, in memory of Maurice J. Werner.
 Steven and Anita Hoch, in memory of Yola Yoss.
 Sandy Tilsen, in memory of Mildred Zimmerman.
 Fred and Phyllis Cohen, in memory of Solomon Cohen.
 Arlene and Neal Hoffer, in memory of Mary Rosen.

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REMEMBER TAS IN YOUR WILL.

CONDOLENCES

The Rabbis, Cantor and congregation wish to express their heartfelt condolences to:

Paul Issler and family on the death of his father, Alfred Issler.

Robert Lowenstein and family on the death of his sister, Ellen Patricia Adlen Kight.

Susan Cohen and family on the death of her husband, David Cohen.

Eugene Saltzman and family on the death of his mother, Emma Saltzman.

Steve and Judy Wolff and family on the death of their daughter-in-law, Dina Pigato.

Ira Kaplan and family on the death of his cousin, Tom Poston.

The Menorah is printed on recycled paper



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JUNE 2007					1 8 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service 8 p.m. Last Jr. TASTY Shabbat House of year	2 9:30 a.m. Tot Shabbat and Picnic – ‘Families are Special’ Jr. and Sr. TASTY – Battle of the Bands
3 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Blood Drive 11 a.m. AdEd: Conversational Hebrew 11 a.m. AdEd: Hebrew 2	4 7 p.m. AdEd: Intro to Judaism	5 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Group	6 10:30 a.m. Seniors Meeting	7	8 8 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service	9 5 p.m. Bat Mitzvah of Amanda Hirsch
10 Street Faire and last day of Religious School 8:30 a.m. Men's Club 11 a.m. AdEd: Conversational Hebrew 11 a.m. AdEd: Hebrew 2	11 Men's Club Golf Tournament 7 p.m. AdEd: Intro to Judaism	12 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Group	13 10:30 a.m. Seniors Meeting	14 7 p.m. Book Club	15 7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Early Service	16 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Zachary Goldberg 10:30 a.m. Chapel Minyan 7 p.m. Gala (Universal Studios)
17 Father's Day	18 7 p.m. AdEd: Intro to Judaism	19 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Group	20 10:30 a.m. Seniors Meeting	21 5:30 p.m. ECEC Graduation	22 8 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service	23 10:30 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Dixon
24 Sisterhood Donor Luncheon	25 7 p.m. AdEd: Intro to Judaism	26 9:30 a.m. Bible Study Group	27 10:30 a.m. Seniors Meeting	28	29 8 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service	30 10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of Katie Cullen 5 p.m. Bar Mitzvah of Tyler Ross

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