



SHEVAT-ADAR 5772

ISSUE 51 - FEBRUARY 2012

Happy Valentines Day - February 14th



Movie Night - Jan 28
"Driving Miss Daisy"



**TOWN HALL
MEETING**
THURS. - FEB. 9, 7 PM



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515 Temple Avenue
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TempleNerAmi.org

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“Teach Us to Count Our Days, Then Shall We Acquire a Heart of Wisdom”

(Psalms 90:12)

One of the great non-biblical quotes of wisdom of all time: Rabbi Joseph Telushkin quotes his mother as saying “The only people I know that are perfectly happy ----- are people I don’t know very well!” And it’s true; once you get to know someone on more than a superficial level, you discover that they, just like you, have some very serious problems in their life.

I was recently asked to explain the recent increase in spirituality and spiritual studies. My response is that that great demographic bulge in the US population, the baby boomers, are well into their 50s and finding out that we are not immortal. Many of us have lost one or both parents. We hear of deaths and strange diseases not only in people of our parents’ generation, but in ours. We have aches and pains and take pills that we never dreamed would be part of our lives. We, who remember when our watchword was “never trust anyone over 30,” now have children in their 30s (and 40s and ???)! We recall accounts of Steve Jobs, Princess Diana and

George Harrison and a crew of brave astronauts all taken from us before their time. To these we add the stories of loved ones of our own families and friends.

What does our tradition say to us? The 90th psalm in its 12th verse teaches “Teach us to count our days, then we shall acquire a heart of wisdom.” We do not have all the time in the world on this earth. There is urgency to the work that we have to do. Life is precious because it is finite. You know the brother, sister, cousin, or friend with whom you fought so long ago? You know the one! You think that someday you’ll call him or you’ll wait for her to call you first. Today is the day to call. Think of all those people you love. You tell yourself “they know I love them, I don’t have to keep saying it!” Someday, it will be too late to say it! How you will long for one more chance to touch, to hug, to kiss, to say what you feel! Today is that day! Don’t let it go by!

B’ Shalom ---- Michael Lotker



Trees, Love, and Chocolate

by Lisa Bock



As you glanced at the pages of the Megillah this month, did you notice the theme?

Love and Hearts. Yes, this is the February issue, during which we have two holidays: Valentine's Day, and *Tu B'Shevat*.

The first holiday is *Tu B'Shevat* - February 8th. Judaism has several different "new years." Similarly to the calendar year, the school year, the fiscal year and so forth, Judaism has different "new years" as well, and *Tu B'Shevat* is one of them. *Tu B'Shevat*, the 15th day of the Jewish month of Shevat, is the *New Year for Trees*. (The word "Tu" is the number 15 in Hebrew.) This holiday is not from the Torah, but was derived from the following Torah verse, and then discussed in the Mishnah:

When you come to the land and you plant any tree, you shall treat its fruit as forbidden; for three years it will be forbidden and not eaten. In the fourth year, all of its fruit shall be sanctified to praise the Lord. In the fifth year, you may eat its fruit. -Leviticus 19:23-25

There are four new years... the first of Shevat is the new year for trees according to the ruling of Beit Shammai; Beit Hillel, however, places it on the fifteenth of that month. -Mishnah Rosh Hashanah 1:1

Tu B'Shevat is the new year for the purpose of calculating the age of trees for tithing. The Torah says that fruit from trees may not be eaten during the first three years; the fourth year's fruit is for God. We have to know how old they are to eat from them, and we really don't know when a tree is "born", so the Rabbis figured out this way to determine just how old trees are by giving them a sort of birthday!

How do we celebrate Tu B'Shevat?

- One custom is to eat a new fruit on this day, or to eat from the Seven Species described in the Bible as being abundant in the land of Israel. The Seven Species are: wheat, barley, grapes (vines), figs, pomegranates, olives and dates (honey) (Deut. 8:8).
- Some people plant trees or send money to plant trees in Israel.
- Some people have a *Tu B'Shevat* seder. The 16th century kabbalists developed a seder that is similar to the Passover seder, discussing the spiritual significance of

fruits and of the Seven Species, and this type of seder has become more and more common today.

Valentine's Day is, of course, not a Jewish holiday. *Can we look at Valentine's Day through a Jewish lens?*

Yes, we can. We have to ask ourselves, is this clearly a Christian or pagan holiday? Or secular?

There has been a great deal of research done on this (check out Wikipedia!). There are stories and legends, both lovely and tragic, but nothing definitive. In 1969, Pope Paul VI even took Valentine's Day off the General Roman Calendar of saints! Jewish scholars take a similar view, and note that the historical and religious roots of this holiday have been lost. Today we see Valentine's Day as a secular holiday.

So can what we do on Valentine's Day be seen as not Jewish?

No, I don't think so. What we do on Valentine's Day is to typically send cards or chocolate, or both, and express our love and fondness. I think we can see these as Jewish things we can do, and, do them anytime.

Ahava, or love, is quite Jewish. When we truly love another, we reach beyond our self, and connect with another at the level of the soul. The first mention of love referring to a couple in the Torah is, *"And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her."* (Genesis 24:67)

On Valentine's Day, we give chocolate. We can do this anytime, too! Those in the Jewish Foods class had a whole session on the Jewish connection and role in the development of *sugar, vanilla, and cacao*, all the necessary elements of chocolate! And did I say that giving chocolate is nice all year 'round?!

Finally, to connect with another with expressions of love and fondness can be appropriate, on any day of the year.

Whether we are celebrating the New Year of the Trees, Valentine's Day, or both, may we acknowledge the sustenance that trees provide for our bodies, and may we acknowledge the sustenance that the love we both give and receive provides our souls.





Cheder Chappenings at Temple Ner Ami

by Julia Newman

Shalom Haverim,

Remember recess? It was the best part of your school day. At Torah School we call it “*hafsakah*,” and, in fact, it is a very important part of our day. We only have 2 hours a session with our kids—so why would we take a precious 15 minutes to play and eat a little snack? The obvious answer is that kids need to move, to run, to play, to have a cookie and some juice and to just relax. Especially in the late afternoon, after a long day of public school, it can be difficult to concentrate and to sit in a classroom. No matter how fun and engaging the lesson—still it requires focus and work to study Hebrew; to discuss Torah, history, ethics; to learn about Jewish traditions; and to participate in *T’filah*-prayer.

The not so obvious answer is what we value most about *hafsakah*—and that is the opportunity for kids to socialize:

to talk; to play basketball, soccer, jump rope; chase each other around; or just “hang out” and “chill out” with some friends. The common denominator is that these are Jewish kids. Torah School and Teen Connection are really the only place that on a weekly basis, our kids can be with other Jewish children and teens. In a community such as ours, this is of paramount importance.

So, if it’s good enough for the kids—it’s great for the adults. In our beautiful new home (we’re nearly celebrating our 2nd anniversary!) we have plenty of room for parents and grandparents to gather. To schmooze. To laugh, to cry, to share stories. The coffee is on and I guarantee some goodies to eat. **Parent (and Grandparent) Connection** is open for business in the Fellowship Hall. So, stop on by. Talk to your old friends and who knows, you might make new ones.

That’s what I always tell the kids.....

Calendar of Torah School Sessions, Services & Events Torah School is Monday & Wednesday, 4:15-6:15

FEBRUARY

Wed	1	Regular session
Sun	5	JOLT – Zimmer Museum (L.A.)
Mon	6	Regular session + Camp Kadimah Tu B'Shvat
Wed	8	Regular session + Camp Kadimah Tu B'Shvat
Fri	10	Teen Shabbat
Mon	13	Regular session
Wed	15	Regular session
Mon	20	NO TORAH SCHOOL – President’s Day
Wed	22	Regular session
Fri	24	Tot Shabbat Dinner & Family Program (5:45 – 7:15)
Sat	25	B’nai Mitzvah Family Education (9:30 -12:30)
Mon	27	Regular session Junior Youth Group 6:15 -7:30
Wed	29	Regular session

MARCH

Sun	4	PURIM CARNIVAL
Mon	5	Regular session - Camp Kadimah Purim
Wed	7	Regular session - Camp Kadimah Purim
Fri	9	Purim Shabbat Family Shabbat Service led by the 2nd/3rd Grade
Mon	12	Regular session
Wed	14	Regular session
Sun	18	Museum of Tolerance (7th Grade)
Mon	19	Regular session
Wed	21	Regular session
Fri	23	Tot Shabbat Dinner & Family Program (5:45-7:15)
Sun	25	JOLT – Matzah Factory (L.A.)
Mon	26	Regular session + Camp Kadimah - Passover Junior Youth Group 6:15 – 7:30
Wed	28	Regular session + Camp Kadimah - Passover



Photos courtesy of Allyson Williams and a bunch of great kids and teachers!

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Zimmer Children's Museum Trip Sunday, Feb. 5th

- ▲ Depart school @ 11 am to arrive @ 1 pm as a group
- ▲ Please call your school office for carpool info!
- ▲ RSVP to Julia Newman at educator@templenerami.org

Zimmer Children's Museum - 6505 Wilshire Blvd. #100, LA, CA 90048 - Phone (323) 761-8984

Admission fee is covered by a grant from the



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At the **MANN THEATER**, you're the star of the show! Take on roles, travel to new places, act out and invent your own stories! Our theatre is complete with scenery pieces, dressing rooms and of course, plenty of costumes, the stage is yours! Plus, your show is always on Zimmer TV!

Tikkun Olam:

תְּקוּן הָעוֹלָם

Have you been watching the tv show: Harry's Law? An episode in January had to do with a court case trying to declare a great ape a person so that he could get a guardian and have rights. He was the only gorilla at a small zoo. This great ape could sign, use an ipod, and communicate emotionally. Even the hard-hearted attorneys were driven to tears after looking into the eyes of this intelligent being. The point of this episode was that European countries have granted great apes personhood, so why not the United States? Let's share the love this month and try to get our laws changed.....also.....go vegetarian.

In the spirit of sharing the love: the donations for this month to our Somis food pantry are: pasta and sauce....you could throw in some chocolate too!

Don't forget: Fifth Saturday in March we will serve food in Oxnard at the Rescue Mission.

Thanks for all you do,
Harriet Lit 484-9119



A Diversity of Acquisitions

by Phyllis Mandel, Librarian

Here are four very interesting books now available in our library:

"YIDDISHKEIT"

By Harvey Pekar, Paul Buhle and Hershl Hartman

Jewish Vernacular and the New Land. Yiddish literature, Yiddish theater, Jews in motion pictures, social life and customs in the United States told as comic book strips.



National Jewish Book awards, taking the prize in the Biography, Autobiography, and Memoir category. The judges describe it *"as brilliant and paradigm-shattering as...Maus... a work of genius."*

"METAMAUS"

By Art Spiegelman

Includes the complete "MAUS", with a DVD of "MAUS". An in-depth archive of audio interviews with his father, photos, notebooks, drawings, essays and more. The original Maus I & II won Pulitzer prizes in 1992, for using cartoons to describe the Holocaust using mice as the Jews and cats to represent the Nazis. This new book from Mr. Spiegelman was just named a winner in the 2011

"THE HISTORICAL ATLAS OF JUDAISM" - By Jan Barnes

From the beginning of Genesis through the books of the Bible, the history of the Jews through the establishment of Israel, the demography of the Jews in the world today told in text and maps.

"ABOVE THE HOLY LAND" - By Baron Wolman
Israel as seen from the air. Told in photography and text by the author.



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MOVIE NIGHT - Jan. 28th "Driving Miss Daisy"

"Driving Miss Daisy" won Best Picture in its portrayal of the 20 year friendship between an old Jewish woman (Jessica Tandy) and her African-American chauffeur (Morgan Freeman). The movie received a total of nine academy award nominations.

Anti-Black and anti-Semitic racism and prejudice are the background for this period in American society, particularly in the South (from 1948 to 1973). When her synagogue is bombed, Miss Daisy realizes that she is subject to many of the same prejudices as her Black chauffeur.



The movie shows us that, because she is Jewish and he is Black, both are outsiders. Miss Daisy and her chauffeur are outsiders not only for their religion and race, but also for their age and sensibility. Their relationship slowly becomes a sweet friendship of equals.

The evening will also include introductory comments by Shlomo Kreitzer and a discussion afterwards: "Are the discriminatory and prejudicial actions portrayed in the film ancient history?" "Do we see any of this prejudice now?"

Movie Starts - 6:30 PM
Run time: 99 minutes

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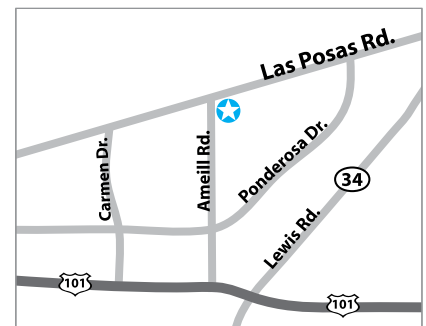
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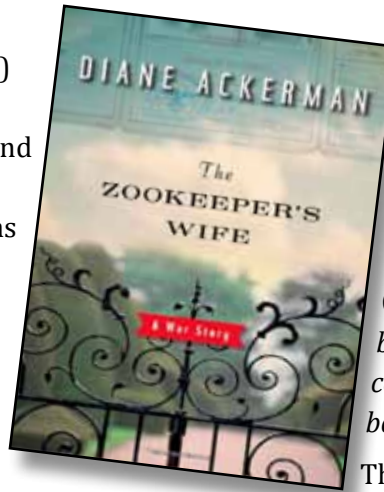
EAGER READERS BOOK CLUB

Join us on Tuesday, February 14th, at 10:30 AM in the Library!

January Selection: "The Zookeeper's Wife" by Diane Ackerman

Ackerman (A Natural History of the Senses) tells the remarkable WWII story of Jan Zabinski, the director of the Warsaw Zoo, and his wife, Antonina, who, with courage and coolheaded ingenuity, sheltered 300 Jews as well as Polish resisters in their villa and in animal cages and sheds. Using Antonina's diaries, other contemporary sources and her own research in Poland, Ackerman takes us into the Warsaw ghetto and the 1943 Jewish uprising and also describes the Poles' revolt against the Nazi occupiers in 1944.

She introduces us to such varied figures as Lutz Heck, the duplicitous head of the Berlin zoo; Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman Shapira, spiritual head of the ghetto; and the leaders of Żegota, the Polish organization that rescued



Jews. Ackerman reveals other rescuers, like Dr. Mada Walter, who helped many Jews pass, giving lessons on how to appear Aryan and not attract notice. Ackerman's writing is viscerally evocative, as in her description of the effects of the German bombing of the zoo area: *...the sky broke open and whistling fire hurtled down, cages exploded, moats rained upward, iron bars squealed as they wrenched apart.*

This suspenseful beautifully crafted story deserves a wide readership.

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(Review from Publishers Weekly)

Mark Your Calendars for Teen Shabbat!



The teens are adding special touches to the **February 10th Teen Shabbat Service**. You won't want to miss it!

Daniel Veselak, the Ner Ami teens, Cantor Karen and Student Rabbi Lisa Bock are planning a memorable Shabbat, with guitars, music, fun and *ruach* - spirit!



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TODAH RABBAH - Means Thank You!

Message from Naomi Brill, Oneg Chair



In honor of Valentine's Day, in this issue of the Megillah, I shall call the January sponsors of the Onegs "sweethearts"!

Thank you, SWEETHEART for your generosity and efforts to make our Onegs attractive, delicious and fun. You know who you are, but all our members don't, so here are the names:

To start the New Year off right, **MARLENE** and **JACK VOTION** were sweethearts indeed as they remembered **MARLENE's** mother, Bernice Persky, on January 6. Then on January 13, **SHARON GREEN** became a sweetheart when she remembered her beloved mother, Florence Koenig. **BOBBE** and **DALE JACOBS** (already sweethearts) became sweethearts of TNA when they remembered Bobbe's

father, Seymour Cohen, by sponsoring the Oneg. And lastly, on January 27 **IRVING** and **ARLENE BERGMAN** became sweethearts as they remembered their beloved son, Gary Bergman. We, the members of Temple Ner Ami, thank all of you delightful sweethearts for volunteering to serve at our Onegs.

You, too, can become a sweetheart by calling me and telling me on which Friday night you would like to sponsor an Oneg. To do this, you only have to bring some pastries or fruit to the Oneg or write a check to the Temple. Either method is welcome and appreciated. Please call me to make arrangements for the Friday night you would like to help YOUR Temple by being a SWEETHEART!

Naomi Brill, Oneg Chair, 388-8511



TOWN HALL MEETING

THURSDAY - FEB. 9, 7 PM

- Update from the Rabbi Exploration Committee
- General updates since the last Town Hall Meeting
- Activities for this year
- Havurah sign ups



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Members & Children

Rita D. Cooperman	Thursday	February 2, 2012
Dr. James Kadin	Friday	February 3, 2012
Jordan Hartman	Sunday	February 5, 2012
Ari Spitzer	Sunday	February 5, 2012
Heather Burstein	Monday	February 6, 2012
Elizabeth Rosenthal	Monday	February 6, 2012
Richard Erlich	Tuesday	February 7, 2012
Allen Zatkin	Tuesday	February 7, 2012
Naomi Brill	Thursday	February 9, 2012
Arla Crane	Thursday	February 9, 2012
Larry Sassower	Thursday	February 9, 2012
Shoshana Graff	Friday	February 10, 2012
Richard Levine	Friday	February 10, 2012
Sophie Lucille Elliott	Saturday	February 11, 2012
Michael Posner	Monday	February 13, 2012
Cathye Clark	Tuesday	February 14, 2012
Luke A. Wise	Tuesday	February 14, 2012
Samuel C. Wise	Tuesday	February 14, 2012
Mrs. Joyce Benson	Friday	February 17, 2012
Seymour Greenberg	Saturday	February 18, 2012
Harriette Heiss	Saturday	February 18, 2012
Ruth B. Nathan	Monday	February 20, 2012
Fred Mesirov	Tuesday	February 21, 2012
Cara Lyn Weinstock	Tuesday	February 21, 2012
Jennifer Brown	Wednesday	February 22, 2012
Shani Levi	Wednesday	February 22, 2012
Dr. Jack Milner	Thursday	February 23, 2012
Teri Milner	Thursday	February 23, 2012
Seth Brandes	Friday	February 24, 2012
Becky Kamola	Friday	February 24, 2012
Sandra King	Sunday	February 26, 2012
Ariel Rachael Saleh	Sunday	February 26, 2012
Dr. Paul Treitman	Monday	February 27, 2012
Suzie Franklin Defazio	Tuesday	February 28, 2012

** This table is based on Temple records. If your information is missing or in error, please contact the Temple office.*



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Name	Day	Date	Year
Marc & Alison Grossmann	Thursday	February 2	15th
Robert & Patricia Improta	Wednesday	February 8	35th
Howard & Shari Brody	Friday	February 10	21st
Mark & Kathleen Malloy	Sunday	February 12	35th

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Sisterhood Plans Upcoming Events!

The Sisterhood Board had its first meeting of the new year and we have a variety of fun things

planned for you to enjoy! Here are a few:

In **February**, we will sponsor a **Ladies' Evening Out** featuring dinner and a movie at the Temple. The main course will be provided. Our members and guests will be asked to bring either a salad or a dessert.

DATE: Thursday, February 23rd, dinner at 5:30 pm, followed by a movie whose title will be announced in the Friday E-News. Rides will be available for this event.

Please RSVP by eMail to Sisterhood@templenerami.org, or call me at 805-492-2129 to say whether you will bring salad or dessert.



In **March**, we will be celebrating Purim by baking *hamantashen* which you can taste at the Temple Purim Carnival which is being held on Sunday March 4th at the Temple. We plan to have a baking party on Friday, March 2 at the Temple, and you are invited to join us.

Recipes & suggestions are welcome!

The following Temple members and guests enjoyed our recent Sunday afternoon Israeli dancing led by Janie Bernard: Julia Newman, Jo & Max Freifield, Phyllis Slade, Michelle Malkin, Judy Siegel, Barbara Hoff, Ann Burke, Verna Merrin, Elvira Cabelli, Sonia Lotker, Arlene Cohen, Irene Olson, Joe Aaronson, Arla Crane, Shari Brody, Sharon Green, Karin Greenberg & family.

See you at the Temple!

Sonia Lotker, Shari Brody, Ann Burke, Naomi Brill, Elvira Cabelli, Annelies Regen, Kaila Kaden, and Arla Crane.

Youth Group Attends NFTY's "West Coast Party"

During the MLK holiday weekend, many of the Youth Group teens went to NFTY's "West Coast Party". This event is a collaboration of many of the NFTY regions such as NFTY Southwest, Northwest, and Central West, and of course, Southern California. We learned how to be leaders, partied to Jewish rock star, Dan Nichols, participated in programs that intellectually and religiously opened our eyes, and got to understand how



other regions work. We want to thank the temple for the \$50 scholarships that came out of our profits from the "Lox in a Box" fundraiser to allow many NAUTY teens to go on this journey all the way up to Santa Rosa, CA!

Nica Bard

(Sarah Charton, our Membership VP, is on the right with teens from Ventura, and other NFTY regions!)

Purim

TEMPLE
NER AMI



המגילת אסתר Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 4th 2012, 1-4 PM

**Game Booths - Prizes - Yummy Food
Conejo Photo Booth - Purim Cake Walk
Jolly Jump & Much More!**

*This is our Torah School's biggest fund-raiser!
Volunteers are needed to work the event and
to donate cakes. Please call the office for details.*

Temple Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who took the time to provide feedback to the Rabbi Exploration Committee. The information provided in the survey will be tremendously helpful as the Committee and board look to the future. We had 64 surveys returned, which is wonderful. The respondents tended to be congregants who are active in the temple, based on their responses.

We know that Temple Ner Ami is a special place, and the survey confirmed this. Congregants reported joining the temple for its spiritual leaders, warmth, friends, location, and to support the Jewish community.

Here are the survey results of traits respondents would like to see in TNA's rabbi:

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Rabbi is personable, warm and friendly	47	14	3	0	1
Readily available to congregants	32	29	3	1	0
Teaches Torah Study & other classes	15	28	15	6	1
Dynamic speaker	27	29	5	4	0
Gets involved in the local community	16	33	12	4	0
Holds regular office hours (at Temple 30+ hrs./week)	11	21	17	13	2
Regularly spends time visiting local hospitals	13	24	14	11	4
Works to increase and retain membership	28	22	8	5	2
Helps with fundraising activities	16	26	12	8	3
Regularly participates in Torah School classes	11	27	18	6	2

It is our desire to have a full-time rabbi, but if we could only afford a part-time rabbi who conducted High Holiday Services and then provided a few other services each month through the rest of the year, would that be acceptable to you? **YES: 40 NO: 11 UNSURE: 11**

Is it important to you to have a Rabbi you know conduct your life events (Bar & Bat Mitzvahs, weddings, funerals, etc...)? **YES: 57 NO: 1**

If Temple Ner Ami increased dues solely to cover the cost of a full-time Rabbi, how much extra (above your current dues) would you willingly pay monthly?

\$0: 11 Less than \$10: 9 \$10-\$20: 7 \$20-\$50: 13 Whatever is needed: 3 Unsure: 20

Would you be willing to pay separately to have the Rabbi perform services for your life events? (Bar/Bat Mitzvah, weddings, etc.) **YES: 48 NO: 8 UNSURE/NO RESPONSE: 7**

How long have you been a temple member?

1-5 years: 24 6-10 years: 15 11+ years: 16 Not currently a member: 5

What could Ner Ami offer that you think would interest you and others in attending more Shabbat Services?

Dinner before services: 11 Shorter services: 5 Longer services: 1 More family services: 16 Include a program or guest speaker at services: 33

Do you have children in the Torah School? **YES: 10 NO: 39 NO, but did in the past: 11**

What Makes "Pay It Forward" A Movie for a Jewish Audience?

"Our February movie is almost a biblical story in modern dress," suggests Shlomo Kreitzer, who will introduce this wonderful movie at **6:30 PM on February 25th**, and lead a discussion afterwards.

The movie deals with such issues as kindness to strangers, giving without the expectation of return, the importance of every person, and the sometimes hidden goodness in people.

With many morals and lessons 'hidden' in this movie, it challenges us to look at such issues as: what do we owe other people, especially strangers? Can one person's simple act of giving have effects on many others? Do we have much importance in others' lives?

Come see and discuss this provocative movie and the lessons it may have for each of us.

Young Trevor McKinney (Haley Joel Osment), troubled by his mother (Helen Hunt)'s alcoholism and fears of



his abusive but absent father, is caught up by an intriguing assignment from his new social studies teacher, Mr. Simonet (Kevin Spacey). The assignment: to think of something to change the world and put the plan into action. Trevor conjures the notion of paying a favor not back, but forward--repaying good deeds not with payback, but with new good deeds done to three new people. Trevor's efforts to make good on his idea bring a revolution not only in the lives of himself, his mother and his physically and emotionally scarred teacher, but in those of an ever-widening circle of people completely unknown to him.

"A movie from the heart that connects with the heart."

REMINDER:

No Temple Ner Ami movie in March. We will be attending the Jewish Film Festival at Temple Beth Torah in Ventura.

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**TEMPLE
NER AMI
BROTHERHOOD**

The Brotherhood is Back!

On Thursday, Jan. 12th the Brotherhood had their kickoff meeting at the Temple. That's Steve Moore with his hands folded patiently waiting for chow time to begin, and Andrew Greenberg on his phone either trading stocks or playing solitaire! You can tell by the table cloths, and centerpieces, that Arla Crane was there earlier in the day to set up. Thanks again Arla!

Nineteen men enjoyed a delicious chicken dinner and played a few hands of cards after the meal. A great time was had by all.

Next Brotherhood Meeting, Feb. 16, 7 PM



Temple Beth Torah's Ventura County

JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

NINTH ANNUAL FESTIVAL

March 24, 25, 25, 27, 29, 31, April 1, 2012

We Invite you to Support the Jewish Film Festival by Becoming a Sponsor at one of these five levels:

Executive Producer - \$2500 & Above: Prior to each film showing, your name will be announced as a Festival Sponsor and will be listed as such on all publicity and in the program. You will receive 6 tickets to opening night, 2 tickets to all other screenings, and an invitation to a Special Reception. *

Director - \$1000-\$2499 - You choose the film you want to sponsor. Your name will be listed in the program as Sponsor for that film. You will receive 4 tickets to opening night, 2 tickets to all other screenings, and an Invitation to a Special Reception. *

Screenwriter - Your name is listed in the program. You will receive 4 tickets to opening night, 2 tickets to all other screenings, and an invitation to a Special Reception. *

Casting Director - our name is listed in the program. You will receive 2 tickets to all screenings, and an invitation to a Special Reception. *

Actor - Your name is listed in the program and you receive 2 tickets to all screenings.

* Sponsors at the \$250 level and above will be invited to a gala dinner reception, plus a select movie screening.

Please make check payable to: Temple Beth Torah. Write "Jewish Film Festival" on your check and mail to: Jewish Film Festival, Temple Beth Torah, 7620 Foothill Road, Ventura, CA 93004. For credit card payment call (805) 647-4181.

The Temple Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Contributions

Honorariums/Memorials

Diane Honick, in loving memory of her beloved father, Jack Gorelick

Gilbert & Rita Cooperman, in loving memory of Gilbert's father, Samuel Cooperman

Frank & Marily Seiden in loving memory Frank's sister, Doris Hershberg

David Kaplan in loving memory of his mother, Lorraine Kaplan

Max & Josephine Freifield in loving memory of Josephie's mother, Louise Perantoni

Irving & Arlene Bergman, Oneg sponsorship in loving memory of their son, Gary Bergman

Seymour & Myrna Zimmerman in loving memory of Myrna's father, Max Lauer

Naomi Brill sending get well wishes to Annelies Regen

Phyllis Slade, a *Mazel Tov* to the Brodys on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter

Phyllis Slade, a *Mazel Tov* to the Brodys on the wedding of their daughter

Israel Feingold, a *Mazel Tov* to the Brodys on the wedding of their daughter

Israel Feingold, a *Mazel Tov* to the Brodys on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter

Norman & Rose Marie Schroeder

Alex, Alyse, and Danny Borla in honor of Arla & Jay Crane for all they do for the Temple and have done since day one!

Alex, Alyse, and Danny Borla in loving memory of Sylvia Hurschorn

Sharon Green, Oneg sponsorship in loving memory of her mother, Florence Koenig

Raja Desenberg in loving memory of Elizabeth Holzer

Kirby & Beth Yale in loving memory of Sy Blau

Jack & Marlene Votion, Oneg sponsorship in loving memory of Marlene's mother, Bernice Persky
Joel Zneimer & Betty Fink in loving memory of Betty's late husband, Hyman W. Fink

Della Carmona in thanks to Arla Crane & Mark Malloy for the great new member directory

Della Carmona with loving get well wishes for Annelies Regen

Verna Merrin in loving memory of her mother Anne Borovoy

Howard & Janice Wise in loving memory of Howard's father David

Jules & Leatrice Posner in loving memory of Jules' father, Jacob Posner

Jay & Arla Crane

Robert & Carol Goodkin in honor of the magnificent Harriet Lit and all she does for the Temple

Stephanie Goldie in loving memory of her husband, Scott Goldie

Howard & Shari Brody in honor of the the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter Taylor Zimmerman, and the marriage of their daughter Leah to Dr. Martin Benson

Muriel Rosenkranz in loving memory of her husband, Calman Rosenkranz

Seymour & Myrna Zimmerman in loving memory of Myrna's parents, Max and Doris Lauer

Kaila Kaden, a thank you to Annelies Regen for all she does at the Temple

General Donations

Mark & Kimberly Lewis
Annelies Regen

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Allen & Marcia Zatkan

Robert & Ruth Nathan in loving memory of Joyce Nathan, late wife of Robert

Robert & Ruth Nathan in loving memory of Henry Brott, late husband of Ruth

Newman Scholarship Fund

Israel Feingold & Phyllis Slade in loving memory of Sy Blau

Paul & Tobie Treitman in honor of grandson Matthew

Howard & Shari Brody in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Elijah Crane, grandson of Arla & Jay Crane

Jaffe Library Fund

Phyllis Mandel in honor of her father, David Schechtman

Annual Giving Campaign

Saul Lessler & Julia Newman

From Deckers Corporation, for Rachel Cahn

High Holy Day Pledges

Marsha, Hatton & Willam Richardson

Michael and Cassandra Posner

Jim & Allyson Williams

(Donations shown are those received from December 19th thru January 21st)

TEMPLE NER AMI

Yahrzeits - February 2012

Friday, February 3, 2012 (5-11 Shevat)

Shelly Richter.....mother of Marla Lindsay
Melville H. Weiss.....brother of Julian L. Weiss
Samuel Zimmerman.....father of Rita Cooperman
Max Fingold.....husband of Florence Fingold
Lou Fratkin.....uncle of Arlene Cohen
Gertrude Weiss.....mother of Julian Weiss
Abe Siegel.....father of Ellie Felder
John Griffith Mauger.....father of Charlotte Kreitzer
Philip Bachelis.....husband of Sheila Bachelis
Sonny Gompers.....mother of Frieda Davenport
Bella Isaacs.....mother of David Isaacs
Al Simons.....father of Marty Simons
Ethel Weinberg..... mother-in-law of Doris Weinberg

Friday, February 10, 2012 (12-18 Shevat)

Reda Necowitz.....mother of Sidney Necowitz
Arline Strull.....grandmother of Vicky Eneberg
Stanley Weinstein.....father of Vicky Eneberg
Max Katler.....father of Richard Katler
Dorothy Wolfman.....grandmother of Steve Pomerantz
Dorothy Redman.....grandmother of Sarah Scheerger
Frances Sterin.....aunt of Arlene Cohen
Irving Bogen.....father of Michael Bogen
Ruth Faircloth.....sister of Helen Gardner
Abraham Weinberg..... father-in-law of Doris Weinberg
Gertrude Selbert.....mother of Norman Selbert
Grace Cohen.....mother of Arlene Cohen
Solie Cohen.....uncle of Dr. Robert Improta
Sarah Copeland..... grandmother of Sandra Goodwin
Harriet Bookbinder.....mother of Helene Scherer
Arthur Heller.....brother of Max Heller
Joseph Jacobson.....grandfather of Shari Brody
Charles Marcus.....father of Naomi Brill
Pesia Shligersky.....mother of Sara Shye
Murray Biddelman.....father of Phyllis Slade

Friday, February 17, 2012 (19-25 Shevat)

Anna Nadler.....mother of Clarice Shapiro
Ruth Perr.....mother of Jack Perr
Clarice Feingold.....wife of Israel Feingold
Lena Saul.....mother of Florence Fingold
Susan Oberstar.....granddaughter of Lorraine Weingardt
Seweryn Piasecki.....brother of Charles Pierce
Stuart Leventhal.....son of Sylvia Leventhal
Robert Silverman.....son of Frances Yasney

Friday, February 24, 2012 (Tevet 26-Adar 2)

Frieda Feinberg.....mother of Joan Taubman
Irv Merrin.....husband of Verna Merrin
Grace Barr-Nigrelli.....sister of Howard Barr
Morris Behar.....father of Regina Brutzkus
Doris Lauer.....mother of Myrna Zimmerman
Helen Traxler.....mother of Gary Traxler
David Brejensky.....father of Sol Brejensky
Rose Margolin..... aunt of Dalya Dektor
Salome Felsenthal.....grandmother of Sandi Banks
Bernard Zittell.....husband of Sylvia Fleishman
Samuel Keys.....father of Paul Keys
Paul Wolfsohn.....father of Marc Wolfsohn
Leo Blonder.....father of Sandi Banks
Sam Joshua Crane.....father of Jay Crane
Anna Weisz.....mother of Stefania Spiegel

March 2, 2012 (Adar 3-9)

Miriam Kouffman...mother of Judy Hersh & Tony Kouffman
Louis Miller.....father of Isabelle Blau
Bessie Kadish.....grandmother of Barbara Michaels
Harry L. Klein.....father of Elva Levine
Michael Heller**father of Max Heller
Yale Lewine**husband of Ella Lewine, z"l
Rami Yoffe.....cousin of Judy Krieger
Emil Goldstein.....father of William Goldstein
Tim Lucas son-in-law of Elva Levine
Irving Kaplan.....brother of Arnold Kaplan
Isadore Weingardt.....father-in-law of Lorraine Weingardt
Terrie Schwartz.....wife of Albert Schwartz
Elias Shapiro.....father of Mike Shapiro

** Name on the Yolanda Cramer Memorial *Yahrzeit* Board

The Temple's *Yahrzeit* Board has spaces available for remembering loved ones who have passed away. The requested donation for memorial plaques on the *Yahrzeit* Board is \$350.00 per plaque.

CHOICES

The 8th Grade program
meets on Mondays from 6:30-8:30

FEBRUARY

Mon	6	Youth Group
Fri	10	Teen Shabbat
Mon	13	Bamidbar
Mon	20	NO SESSION – President’s Day
Mon	27	Elective - Israeli Dancing

MARCH

Sun	4	PURIM CARNIVAL
Mon	5	Youth Group
Mon	12	Bamidbar
Mon	19	Girl Talk & Man Cave
Mon	26	Elective

TEEN CONNECTION

(Grades 9-12)
meets on Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30

FEBRUARY

Wed	1	NAUTY
Wed	8	The New Confirmation
Fri	10	Teen Shabbat
Wed	15	NAUTY
Sat	18	Broom Ball & DJ’s (VCTRY)
Wed	22	Teen Talk
Wed	29	NAUTY – Israeli Dancing

MARCH

Fri-Sun	2-4	NFTY SoCal Social Justice Kallah
Sun	4	PURIM CARNIVAL
Wed	7	NAUTY
Wed	14	The New Confirmation
Wed	21	NAUTY
Wed	28	Teen Talk

FEBRUARY Outside Organization Meetings



CITY OF HOPE

Regular Meeting, Monday February 13th, 12:30 PM
Board Meeting - Monday February 27, 2012 - 9:30 AM
Donald Seidler - 805-987-0917 - President

ORT MEETINGS

Board - Thursday, February 2, 2012 - 10am
Regular Mtg. Thursday, February 23, 2012 - Noon
Annelies Regen - 805-445-9722
Sharron Parker - 805-443-1998

GIRL SCOUT/BROWNIE TROOP 60817

Meets alternate Thursdays: 2/2, 2/16, & 3/1, 5:30 pm
for info contact: troop60817@templenerami.org
(Mark Malloy has info on ordering Girl Scout Cookies!)

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

Tues Mixed Meeting 7-8:15 pm,
Wed. Mixed Mtg. 7-8:15 pm
Wed. Ladies Mtg. 7-8:15 pm
Sat. Mixed 6:30-7:30 pm,
Sunday (Men only) 7-8 am

HADASSAH

Regular Meeting. Tues., February 6th, Noon
This meeting will feature a guitar &
singing performance by Joey Aaron
Board Meeting, Monday, February 20th, 10 AM
Judy Meisels - Co-President 805-482-9222



TEMPLE NER AMI - February 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
	4:15pm - Torah School 6:30pm - Choices 8th Grade		Rabbi Office Day 12pm - Torah - Women's 4:15pm - Mommy, Daddy & 4:15pm - Torah School 6:30pm - Teen Connection	10am - ORT Board Meeting 6pm - Girl Scout Troop	7:30pm - Shabbat Service	9:30am - Torah Study Class
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12pm - Hadassah Regular 4:15pm - Torah School 6:30pm - Choices 8th Grade		Tu B'Shvat 12pm - Torah - Women's 4:15pm - Mommy, Daddy & 4:15pm - Torah School 6:30pm - Teen Connection 7pm - Board of Directors	7pm - Town Hall Meeting @	7:30pm - Teen Shabbat	9:30am - Torah Study Class
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	12:30pm - City of Hope 4:15pm - Torah School 6:30pm - Choices 8th Grade	10:30am - Eager Readers	Rabbi Office Day 12pm - Torah - Women's 4:15pm - Mommy, Daddy & 4:15pm - Torah School 6:30pm - Teen Connection	6pm - Girl Scout Troop 7pm - Brotherhood Meeting	7:30pm - Shabbat Service	9:30am - Torah Study Class
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	10am - Hadassah Board 4:15pm - Torah School- 6:30pm - Choices 8th		Rabbi Office Day 12pm - Torah - Women's 4:15pm - Mommy, Daddy & 4:15pm - Torah School 6:30pm - Teen Connection	12pm - ORT General 5pm - Sisterhood Movie &	5:45pm - Tot Shabbat 7:30pm - Shabbat Service	9:30am - B'nai Mitzvah 9:30am - Torah Study Class 6:30pm - MOVIE NIGHT @
26	27	28	29	1	2	3
	9:30am - City of Hope 4:15pm - Torah School 6:15pm - Junior Youth 6:30pm - Choices 8th Grade		Rabbi Office Day 12pm - Torah - Women's 4:15pm - Mommy, Daddy & 4:15pm - Torah School 6:30pm - Teen Connection	10am - ORT Board Meeting 6pm - Girl Scout Troop	7:30pm - Shabbat Service	9:30am - Torah Study Class

Go to www.TempleNerAmi.org for the latest Calendar Information!



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TEMPLE NER AMI Appreciates Your Continued Support!

If you would like to make a contribution, the following funds are available. Donations are graciously accepted. The Temple's appreciation of your donation of \$36 or more will be published in the following month's **MEGILLAH**:

- Temple General Fund
- Temple Building Fund
- Newman Scholarship Fund
- Irv Dubin Teen Scholarship Fund
- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- Temple Music Fund
- Art Fund
- Sigmund Jaffe Memorial Library Fund
- Temple Prayer Book Fund

The **MEGILLAH** is published monthly for members of TEMPLE NER AMI. Complimentary copies are available by contacting the Temple Office.

Suggested donation for non-members is \$36.00 per year. Make your check payable to Temple Ner Ami.

For information Call 805-388-3824, or eMail your request to:

admin@templenerami.org

Submission date for all material:

12th of each month

In honor of: _____

In loving memory of: _____

From: _____