GOD’S STRONG HAND AND OUTSTRETCHED ARM AND OUR DUTY

BY RABBI DAVID SPINRAD

I am not much of a philosopher, but I remember and lean on these words of Immanuel Kant:

“Man’s duty is to improve himself; to cultivate his mind; and, when he finds himself going astray, to bring the moral law to bear upon himself.”

It is simple, really. Whether we attune ourselves to mitzvot as tools of spiritual refinement, find resonance with Kant’s moral imperative or some combination of both, we have the lifetime homework assignment of pursuing personal growth that impacts our concentric circles of personal and communal responsibility.

In this way, The Temple is in the third year of our Anti-sex Trafficking Initiative, gathering momentum toward tangible, measurable impacts on the scourge of sex trafficking and Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) in Atlanta. According to a current, federally-funded study by the Urban Institute, the estimated annual U.S. revenue for sex trafficking is $290 million, surpassing even the illicit profits earned from drug sales and the Georgia Bureau of Investigations notes that approximately 300 children are sexually exploited monthly in our state by over 7,000 perpetrators.

What had been hidden in society’s dark corners less than a decade ago has been thrust into the light of awareness, education and action. Thanks to State Senator Rene Unterman’s leadership on House Bill 220, no longer are trafficked minors prosecuted as criminals, but rather they are understood to be victims of heinous criminal acts and as such, all branches of law enforcement now have the power to collaborate and act against the true criminals, the pimps and those guilty of the solicitation of children. While Atlanta has taken many good steps toward change and has been upgraded from an “F” to a “B” by Shared Hope International’s Annual State Report Card, there is still much work to be done.

Responding to both Kant’s moral imperative and our Jewish tradition, which reminds that once we were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, over the past year The Temple provided several opportunities to take action against slavery. These included volunteer tutoring opportunities through our partner organization WellSpring Living and participating in DMST Lobby Day, The Temple/Interfaith Children’s Movement Anti-trafficking Passover Seder, and the Blessing Bags Project, where we prepared 2,500 bags of non-perishable food items for at-risk teens with the understanding that one key way to reduce modern-day slavery is by going after root causes like food insecurity and poverty.

In 2015, we are poised to move forward with a set of inspired actions. We invite you to take a step forward in the personal cultivation of becoming your highest self in the New Year by reaching out with our voices and efforts in the broader community. Below are several ways to participate in our Anti-sex Trafficking Initiative and make Atlanta freedom’s home:

• Visit our partner organization Street Grace http://www.streetgrace.org/face/ and take the Father’s Against Child Exploitation (FACE) pledge to Walk in Integrity by not purchasing sex; Exhibit Courage by raising awareness, speaking out against DMST and reversing today’s distorted perception of sex; and Leave a Legacy by mentoring the next generation to walk in integrity to eradicate DMST entirely.

• Volunteer at Wellspring Living to help young women rescued from sex slavery earn their online GEDs. Other Wellspring volunteer opportunities include cooking meals, teaching life skills, or volunteering at

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 2**
Shabbat Worship Service.................6:00 PM

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 3**
B’nei Mitzvah of Beaumont Young & Noa Grace Pollinger.......................10:30 AM

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 9**
Shabbat Worship Service.................6:00 PM
First Friday Service........................8:30 PM

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 10**
Mini Shabbat Morning........................9:30 AM
Bar Mitzvah of David J. Perchik.......10:30 AM

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 16**
MLK JR. Shabbat Service with Guest Speaker Rev. Raphael Warnock......................8:00 PM*

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 17**
B’not Mitzvah of Alisa E. Steel & Madeline Carter.........................10:30 AM

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 23**
Shabbat Worship Service.................6:00 PM
YoFi Service........................................6:00 PM

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 24**
B’not Mitzvah of Alexandra Spivack & Lucy Adelman.........................10:30 AM
Mincha Bar Mitzvah of Cole Levy ....5:30 PM

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 30**
Shabbat Worship Service.................6:00 PM
Temple on the Road at Breman Jewish Home.........................6:00 PM

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 31**
Bat Mitzvah of Deborah Kitzler...............10:30 AM

*NOTE: Service Time

For a full listing of services & other programs: WWW.THE-TEMPLE.ORG

(Continued on page 7)
LIFECYCLES & SPECIAL OCCASIONS

B’NEI MITZVAH

REAGAN ALEXIS FREEMAN
Daughter of Kevin & Faryl Freeman

NOA GRACE POLLINGER
Daughter of Dana & Harrison Pollinger

BEAUMONT ROEMER YOUNG
Son of C.J. & Lisa Young

DAVID PERCHIK
Son of Sherry & Jerry Perchik

ALISA STEEL
Daughter of Colette & Brian Steel

ALEXANDRA BETH SPIVACK
Daughter of Lisa & Gregg Spivack

LUCY ADELMAN
Daughter of Amy & Mark Adelman

COLE LEVY
Son of Ami & Jeff Levy

DEBORAH RUTH KITZLER
Daughter of Kim & Jeffrey Kitzler

REAGAN ALEXIS FREEMAN

DECEMBER 22

NOA GRACE POLLINGER

JANUARY 3

BEAUMONT ROEMER YOUNG

JANUARY 3

DAVID PERCHIK

JANUARY 10

ALISA STEEL

JANUARY 17

ALEXANDRA BETH SPIVACK

JANUARY 24

LUCY ADELMAN

JANUARY 24

COLE LEVY

JANUARY 24

DEBORAH RUTH KITZLER

JANUARY 31

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

Our Heartfelt Sympathy to the Families of:

- Lawrence Wilkov (father of Jane Wilkov)
- Ursula Draker
- Richard Guthman (husband of Margaret)
- Kerry Klein Butman
- Helen Alexander (mother of Art Harris, Alex Harris, Jill Harris Brown and Sophie Joel)
- Louise Freedman
- Dorothy Lichtenstein (mother of Marjorie Greenspan)
- Dr. Jerome J. Rubin (father of Jeff Rubin)
- Sylvan Berlin (husband of Judy)
- Joyce Jacobson (sister of Elaine L. Levin, mother of Jay Cohen, aunt of Jan Kelmachter, Dr. Jay Levin, and Lauren Levin)

MAZAL TOV TO...

- Rabbis Dan & Lydia Medwin on the birth of their daughter, Jasmine Matan and to big sister Zimra and brother Gavi
- Jackie and Tim Burt on the birth of their daughter Genevieve (Genna) Marie Burt and to big brother Jacob
- Laurie Botstein, Gary Botstein & Stephanie Sansom on the birth of their grandson, Jude Simon, born to Jonathan & Kendra Botstein
- Jennifer Varon and Michael Coplin on their marriage and to Jennifer’s parents Marty & Sue Varon
- Faryl and Kevin Freeman on their daughter Reagan Alexis Freeman’s recent Bat Mitzvah in December 2014

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

- Andrea & Pete Fischbach (Josh, Jordan, Molly)
- Wendy & Mark Pollack (Shawn, Asher & Bennett)
TAMID: A Lifetime of Jewish Learning

TAMID dates for the month of January include 5, 12, and 26. Classes that continue into the month include: Adult B’nei Mitzvah, Hebrew 101, Judaism 101, Melton Year 2, Melton CE*: Introduction to Kabbalah, Melton CE*: A Survey of the Major Prophets.

To register for classes please visit www.the-temple.org/tamid or contact Stephanie at sfields@the-temple.org.

New classes beginning in January include:

AN EVOLVING GOD FOR OUR EVOLVING LIVES
Mondays, January 5, 12, and 26 • 7:00 PM–7:55 PM • Rabbi David Spinrad
Fee: Free and Open to the Community

The concept of an omnipresent, omnipotent, and omnibenevolent God tends to be dissonant from our actual life experiences. While this God is prevalent in both prayer and classical Rabbinic theology, along our path of spiritual development we may outgrow this belief and fail in our attempts to be in a meaningful relationship with God. This elective will address this void through Process Theology, an authentically Jewish path to God that sees us in an evolving partnership with the Divine.

LUNCH AND LEARNS YEAR OF JUDAISM IN THE ARTS:
MORE MODERN HEBREW POETRY
Wednesdays, January 21 and 28 • Noon – 1:00 PM • Rabbi Steven Rau
Fee: Free and Open to the Community. Bring your lunch and appetite for learning.

From Amichai to Zelda, modern poets have brought beauty to our Land and our tradition through the work of their pens. Join us as we explore a sampling of modern Hebrew poetry and its meaning to our people.

Parents all over town are talking about how amazing The WELC is. Come see why!

Join us for one of our Open Houses and learn about our exceptional early childhood programs for children through 5 years of age. We offer both half-day and full-day program options.

Tuesday, January 20 • 10 AM

Friday, February 13 • 11 AM then all are invited to join us for Kabbalat Shabbat at 12:30

Kindly RSVP to the WELC office at 404-872-8668 or welc@the-temple.org.

The Priority Application Period:

• January 26 - February 4, 2015 for Temple Members (child’s parent or guardian is a Temple Member)
• February 6-13, 2015 for Addition Priority Applicants*
• February 18, 2015 the Open Application Period begins.

*Addition Priority Applicants include: Associate Members of The Temple, Families who are part of The Temple’s Provision Membership Initiative; Siblings of returning WELC students who are not Temple Members; Siblings or previous WELC students who are not Temple Members; and Grandchildren of Temple Members.

YoFI Shabbat

YoFI services are a worship experience for young readers. Services are led by a rabbi and song leader and are followed by a dinner. January’s YoFI is led by the TBRS 1st Graders.

Members: Ages 10 and up: $12 • 2-9 years: $10 • Under 2: Free
Guests: Ages 10 and up: $15 • 2-9 years: $12 • Under 2: Free

To register for dinner, please visit the-temple.org by January 20.

Questions? Contact Stephanie Fields: sfields@the-temple.org.
Young Professionals’ First Friday Shabbat
Friday, January 9, 2015
8:00 PM Socializing • 8:30 PM Services/Music
Join Rabbi David Spinrad and our First Friday musicians for our soulful, monthly Shabbat gathering for young professionals. First Fridays at The Temple are both intentionally planned and organically-evolving, creating an inspiring musical, prayerful, and social experience for Atlanta’s post-college/pre-family in-town community. This First Friday we will have a Rabbi’s Tisch following services. The Rabbi’s Tisch (literally “table” in Yiddish) is our modern take on the Shabbat tradition of gathering at the synagogue or at the rabbi’s home during the holiest moments of the week for informal learning, singing, eating and drinking. Feel free to invite friends! TO RSVP, email Rabbi Spinrad: dspinrad@the-temple.org.

Follow us on Twitter: @FirstFridaysATL

Mini Shabbat Mornings
Saturday, January 10 • 9:30 AM
Looking for something to do with your little one on a cold January morning? Infants through preschoolers and their families are invited to join us on the second Saturday of every month at 9:30 AM in the Covenant Chapel for singing and a story with our puppets, followed by a bagel snack and then playground time. We’ll play outside on Sonia’s playground (or if it is cold or rainy, on the WELC indoor playgrounds). Please come dressed casually.

There is no fee or RSVP required. Questions? Please contact either Rabbi Loren Filson Lapidus at llapidus@the-temple.org or Edye Summerfield at esummerfield@the-temple.org

92nd Street Y Broadcasts
Our 92nd St Y broadcasts will be shown on Sundays at 2:00 PM. Each broadcast will be followed by a discussion relevant to the topic

AMERICA AND ISRAEL: THE WAY FORWARD
Sunday, January 25 • 2:00 PM
Featuring Dalia Rabin and Dennis Ross with Ethan Bronner. Discussion led by Dov Wilker, Regional Director of the AJC.
Join Dalia Rabin, the former Israeli Deputy Minister of Defense and current chairperson of the Yitzhak Rabin Center, and Ambassador Dennis Ross, who played a leading role in shaping US involvement in the Middle East peace process, for an enlightening discussion on the future of Israel.
Many thanks to Lisa & Chuck Taylor and Marc Weinberg for making this program possible.

Listening Campaign: A Party with a Purpose
The Temple wants to hear from you! Our Listening Campaign kicks off this month, a chance for you to gather at a party with friends and engage in a conversation that will guide the work of the Temple in the years to come. Our goal is to hear from every single member of our community, which means that we need you. Your friends and social networks will be reaching out to you in the coming months, between November and February, and inviting you to join the party – say yes! If you want to get your name on a list to make sure that you get included in a conversation in the next few months, let us know by sending an email to Sharon Graetz at sgraetz@the-temple.org. Together, we will party with purpose!

Temple Space Revisioned: What’s going on with the Gift Shop?
Many of you have noticed that something is changing with The Temple’s Judaica shop. As we work on our interpersonal engagement, we are also taking the time to address the common physical space of our Temple and how we might make it more welcoming. The gift shop space is the first to change; call it a makeover, but to get started, we’ve had to reduce inventory and do some housecleaning in order to open up the floor space in the room. Not to worry though, because The Temple will always have a gift shop so you can pick up the Judaica that you need. You’ll see it restocked with many items, including some with The Temple logo, and we’ll make sure everyone knows the hours of operation.

Soon, you will see the gift shop space transformed into a new welcoming place to gather. Going forward, we will continue to look at making our Temple building a place you would like to meet friends, introspectively relax, and as always, feel safe and comfortable. Stay tuned, more changes are coming soon!

Reliving the 70’s…
Forty Years of Friendship. Friends for Life.
Temple Youth Group Alumni Class of 1974-1978 Get-Together
TYG (Temple Youth Group) and SEFTY (Southeast Federation of Temple Youth) friends get together after 40 years.

Zaban Couples Center

Social is the word of the month at the Zaban Couples Center. Social action and social media are alive and well at the Center. And, to top it off, we have a new member of our staff. For the first time ever, we have a licensed social worker who is working with the residents to prepare them for a successful transition to independent living.

On the social action front, last month members of MAFTY, the Temple’s youth group, collected new household and personal items which they used to create their own retail store. The group provided credits to each of the Zaban residents to use to “shop” for holiday gifts for their partners. What a wonderful way for our Temple’s active, young members to perform mitzvot and help make the Christmas season a bit more festive for those in need.

And, from a social media perspective, you can see pictures from this event as well as many others by visiting the revitalized Zaban Couples Center page on Facebook. Please like and share this page with others in the community who you think would be interested in following the success stories that the ZCC enables. www.facebook.com/pages/Zaban-Couples-Center. For more information about opportunities to volunteer at the Center, email info@zabancouplescenter.org.

DMST Lobby Day Training
Thursday, January 22, 2015 • 12:00 PM
In advance of our participation in the 2015 Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Lobby Day at the State Capitol, on Thursday, January 22 at 12:00 PM The Temple will host a one-hour training to prepare us to address our elected officials. A key piece of Safe Harbor legislation will be up for vote; come learn how to make the most of this opportunity and then join us for DMST Lobby Day, beginning at 8:00 AM on Thursday, February 12 at the Historic Freight Depot at 65 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE and continuing at the State Capitol.

Temple on the Road—Bringing Shabbat to You!
Friday, January 30, 2015 • 5:30 -7:00 PM
The Breman Jewish Home
The Temple is going to The Breman Jewish Home. There will be music led by Cantor Deborah Hartman for our residents and families. We also invite you to join us as we eat, schmooze, and engage the residents. Contact Zachary Hoffman at zhoffman@the-temple.org for more information.

HIGH HOLIDAY 2015
Mishkan HaNefesh

Yes, it’s just January but let the High Holiday 2015 season begin! Start with the mitzvah of donating a set of our new High Holiday prayer books, Mishkan HaNefesh, in honor or in memory of someone special or to highlight a special event in your life. The cost is $54.00 for the two-volume set and as a donor, you and your honoree will be recognized with a personalized nameplate in each of the two volumes. The Temple needs 1,300 sets of books for our High Holiday worship services—please help us achieve this goal!

This new prayer book is designed for you—the members of this Temple and this ever-changing and diverse Reform movement who gather in community at the beginning of each year to experience awe and forgiveness and hope.

ABOUT MISHKAN HANEFESH:
Rich commentary drawing from Jewish tradition
New translations that capture the beauty of the Hebrew
Includes essays by the leading Reform Movement thinkers
Contemporary poetry and alternative readings
Provides an accessible guide through the journey of t’shuvah (repentance) and cheshbon hanefesh (self-reflection)
Inspires a multifaceted experience of Yamim HaNoraim—from feelings of awe to moments of solace, from the solitude of contemplation to the solidarity of song and worship
Original woodblock art by acclaimed artist Joel Shapiro
Embraces the rich liturgical voices of the Jewish past and the aspirations of our people today

ORDER YOURS TODAY:
Ordering instructions are on the bottom of the Support page of The Temple website: the-temple.org/Support.aspx
Caring at the Temple
Our Caring at The Temple program reaches out to fellow congregants during times of hardship or pastoral need, providing homemade chicken soup and challah to members who are bereaved, ill, recently discharged from the hospital, or are celebrating the arrival of a new child. We recently celebrated our 500th soup delivery, and nearly every step of the program – from soup preparation, to delivery (within your zip code), to letting us know about fellow congregants in need – is led by members of our congregation.

Thanks to our Caring at The Temple volunteers who delivered soup this month: Jon Amsler, Lara Church Geller, Civia Gerber, Judy Maziar, Sharyn Mulqueen, Jill Spasser, Shayna Steinfeld, and Edye Summerfield.

For more information, to volunteer to be a part of this program and to fulfill the mitzvah of bikkur cholim (visiting the sick), or to let us know who needs soup, please contact Rabbi David Spinrad at dspinrad@the-temple.org

Parent–Child Music Classes —
A Few Spaces Left for the Spring Semester!
January 11, February 22, March 29, April 26, 2015
10:00-11:00 AM in the WELC
Professional music teacher Adina Rudisch teaches parents and children music and movement incorporating themes from Judaism and upcoming holidays. Space is limited and advance registration and payment are required. Members: $36/semester; Guests: $60/semester. Please contact Cherie Winsett at cwinsett@the-temple.org to register.

Focus on Divorce: Our Communal Responsibility
The Jewish Women’s Fund of Atlanta invites Jewish women of all backgrounds to gather together with us as we turn our focus toward divorce and the rarely-discussed ways in which it can affect a woman’s life. Our guests speakers, Family Law Attorney Rebecca Hoelting and The Temple’s Rabbi Loren Lapidus, will help us dive into the financial, legal, spiritual, and communal implications of divorce and lead us in a conversation about how we as advocates can elevate divorced women and their families. Congregation B’nai Torah, 700 Mt. Vernon Highway, Sandy Springs on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM. For more information or to register, contact JWFA Director Rachel Wasserman Register by January 9, 2015 by contacting rwasserman@jewishatlanta.org or calling 678-222-3716. There is no cost to attend.

Temple Library News
This month, our library is featuring our Biography section.
We have stories about famous and not so famous people. The books are arranged alphabetically by last name. For example, Leonard Bernstein is found with a B BER on the book spine. And there are two biographies of heroine Hannah Senesh—B SEN.

Some others who are less well-known:
- B GOL—Namesake by Michael Goldberg is a man that tracked down his father’s Nazi murderer, was at Entebbe, Israel, Bolivia, and Spain. Wiesel said the book “is suspenseful, introspective, incisive…”
- B JOF—Weaned on Carrot Juice by Gerardo Joffe is the founder of Haverhills, a successful direct-marketing firm in the U.S. Before that he was chief engineer of a large tin mine in Bolivia, worked in the oil fields Arkansas, and the lead-silver mines in Idaho.
- B SYR—Marie Syrkin, Values Beyond the Self by Carole Kessner tells about Marie, who was a poet, journalist, and a Zionist activist. She was friends with David Ben-Gurion, Irving Howe, Golda Meir, and other writers and leaders in Israel.
- B SOL—Charlotte, A Diary in Pictures by Charlotte Salomon is about her experiences girl growing up in Germany and France during the Nazi era. It is filled with her paintings and comments about that time.

We have biographies of musicians, writers, politicians, artists, entertainers, and others who have lead interesting lives. Come in, take out a book, and get acquainted.

Temple Book Club
Tuesday, January 13 • 7:30 PM
Temple Media Center
We are reading On Heaven and Earth: Pope Francis on Faith, Family, and the Church in the Twenty-First Century. The program is being led by Tom Keating and Jerry Krieg who is a life-long Catholic and also was a broadcast journalist for CNN for many years. This book brings together a series of conversations between Pope Francis and Rabbi Abraham Skorka who were good friends and tenacious promoters of interreligious dialogues on faith and reason.
GOD’S STRONG HAND AND OUTSTRETCHED ARM AND OUR DUTY

(Continued from page 1)

one of their retail stores. To participate or for more information, contact Bryncia Milam: bmilam@wellspringliving.org.

• Engage your power as a voter and constituent to participate in the 2015 Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Lobby Day scheduled for February 12th at 8AM starting at The Historic Freight Depot located 65 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE. This year SB 200, a key piece of legislation regarding Safe Harbor will be up for a vote, and on January 22nd at noon The Temple will host a one-hour training to prepare us for this key opportunity to address our elected officials.

• Participate in our Blessing Boxes Project on March 15th at 1PM. This year, our event will take place at Action Ministries’ Feed the Hungry warehouse at 2160 Hills Avenue, Suite F in Atlanta. To sign up, email Clergy Assistant Cherie Winsett: cwinsett@the-temple.org.

We have an obligation to make our corner of this world better than it is today. Please join us in freedom’s cause as we strive to be God’s “strong arm and outstretched hand” (Psalm 136:12).

Written in collaboration with Temple member and Core Team Leader Mary Anne Fry
When you volunteer to do “drudge work” at an Israel Defense Force installation, it likely will not resemble your last Temple tour to Israel. But what is important, particularly on the trip that my friend, Ben Shapiro and I made was that I could not see how Israelis could handle the stress and requirements of the defense of their country without the selfless volunteers from the United States and other allied nations. The trip we made between last Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur was as part of “Volunteers for Israel.” Like so many, I give financial support to the work of Friends of the IDF. But Volunteers for Israel is another worthwhile way to make a commitment to Israel’s defense.

I agreed to this new adventure after Ben showed me a small magazine ad for VFI. It solicited volunteers to work on military installations in Israel. You must pay your own way (which can get expensive), but once you are there, you are in the capable hands of VFI mentors and the Madrichot (who I affectionately referred to as our “camp counselors”). I am a 37 year Active Army and Army Reserve veteran. I have lived in plenty of “spartan” conditions from Vietnam to military field training sites in the US, Europe, Asia, and Central America. So I knew not to have high expectations and I was right. Israel is not the United States. Israel invests in personnel and equipment, not in luxury accommodations. After all, protecting Israel’s citizens against the threats to the country trumps comfortable barracks and mess halls akin to your local S&S Cafeteria.

We arrived in Tel Aviv the afternoon before our start date. We spent the night in a nice, small hotel across the street from the beach. We had time to take a brief walk and dinner at a nice restaurant before attempting to get a good night’s sleep (adjusting to a 7 hour time difference isn’t easy). We were to meet at the main train station at 8:00 AM the next morning. We had no idea who we would meet or if we would know anyone when we got there. But, once at the train station it was easy to identify our group. There were 25 of us from the US, England, Canada, and local Israeli residents who had made Aliyah. We were the only ones from Atlanta. Our leaders and madrichot (2 very attractive young female IDF soldiers, Sarah from France and Vivian from Columbia) were waiting for us, checked us off and briefed us on our trip. We loaded on a bus and travelled to an IDF Medical Depot near Tel Aviv. The depot was like many other military depots with both outside storage as well as warehouses. The facilities were basic but were quite functional. Our accommodations were 4 person small “barracks” with bunk beds. This was a co-ed group, but with separate accommodations. The women had the same sort of sleeping quarters as the men. There were separate multi-purpose “latrines” with 3 showers, toilet facilities, and a long “trough” for washing, shaving, and teeth brushing. We were told to bring everything including a pillow, bed linen, and maybe even a showerhead (apparently they are in short supply at some bases).

Our workday began with breakfast at 7:00 AM followed by flag raising at 8:00 AM and then off to work. We were divided into teams performing various functions that you would find in a military supply activity. I worked in a warehouse with 2 other volunteers – Susan from Florida and David from California. The warehouse leader was a lady named Peggy. Peggy is an American from Hawaii who came to Israel in the late 1990’s as a volunteer and ultimately made Aliyah. Peggy was a joy to work with – a thorough professional but with a great sense of humor. She had served in the US Army so she was happy when I presented her with a brand new US Army baseball cap to replace the old, worn out one that she wore. Under Peggy’s highly capable leadership, what our team did was repair, replace, and replenish field surgical packs used by Israeli doctors while on operations in the field. Some of the packs were recently back from Gaza. These packs included everything a doctor/surgeon would need to provide triage and front line medical care to the injured and wounded. It was at this point that I realized the importance of what we were doing. It fit exactly with Hillel’s quote: “If not us, who? If not now, when?” Israel needs us. To be honest, I don’t know how they can accomplish everything they need to accomplish militarily without the VFI volunteers. I kept reminding myself who was going to be on the other end of these field surgical packs and who would be receiving the care: Israelis AND Palestinians injured during combat operations.

Our workday ended at 4:30 PM with dinner at 6:00 PM. After dinner we had briefings from various folks as well as a “show and tell” where we learned about each other. A number of the volunteers had multiple visits. Some lived in Israel either having made Aliyah or on extended visits. There was a small lounge with a television. The television did not work so the remainder of evenings was spent in small group discussions or reading or just getting to know individual volunteers.

Our US Army installations around the world have huge mess halls, post exchanges with your favorite fast food joints, and just about anything your heart desires. But it isn’t necessarily so in the IDF mess hall. All food is Kosher and there is a large selection of vegetables and occasional fish and chicken. And there is, of course, unending quantities of hummus. I came to the conclusion that all of the light brown buildings that I thought were made of Israeli limestone were actually made of petrified hummus. But nobody went away hungry. And I actually like hummus.

As the end of our week wound up, Ben and I were fortunate to be able to spend an afternoon and evening with a Canadian couple from our group who had moved to Israel to be with their son who had a serious medical condition (he has since recovered). They lived in a Tel Aviv suburb of Rehovot next to the famous Weizman Institute. After a pleasant dinner at a restaurant on the campus of the Institute, our host drove us to Ben Gurion airport for our return trip. I hope we see them again on a future trip.

If you have an interest in volunteering, check out their website: www.vfi-usa.org

This site will tell you everything you need to know about the program. Each state and some foreign countries have VFI volunteers who handle all of the details of your application. I learned that Atlanta has a contingent that goes as a group each year. I believe they may be getting together for their next trip sometime in the Spring.

Would I do it again? I certainly hope so. It won’t be for the opportunity to sight-see and enjoy everything that Israel has to offer like I did on my 2 previous visits. It will be to continue to give Israel and the IDF my best efforts to support their courageous efforts to defend their country.
CONTRIBUTIONS OF SUPPORT

RABBIS’ DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

In Memory of:
Helen Alexander
Barbara & Alan Smith

Herbert Boaz
Barbara & George Greenblatt

Dr. Morton Crow
Marilyn & Bob Crow

Ethe1 Grossman
Barbara & George Greenblatt

Richard Guthman, Jr.
Barbara & Alan Smith

Phyllis Herman
Rabbi Alvin M. & Barbara Sugarman

Gilbert Katz
Marice Katz

Lena Katz
Marice Katz

Richard I. Orloff
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Mendel Romm
Robert Arogetti & Rommi family

Roberta Gail Salkin
Marice Katz

Helene Sugarman
Rabbi Alvin M. & Barbara Sugarman

Larry Wender
Gail Roness

In Honor of:
Marriage of our children Rachel Berry & Jon Sloane
Sally & John Berry

Bar Mitzvah of our son Max
Alisa & David Bittner

Bat Mitzvah of our daughter Maya
Brad & Ellen Kaplan

Our 10th Wedding Anniversary
Alyssa Freeman & Gunnar Hillert

Rabbi Alvin M. Sugarman
Barbara & Alan Smith

Donation:
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In Memory of:
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Jeanne Dreyfuss
Ruth Gunzenhauser
Irene Berson
Richard A. Guthman, Jr.
Herbert Cohen
Helen Alexander
Herbert Cohen

In Honor of:
Bat Mitzvah of our daughter, Maya
Ellen & Brad Kaplan

Temple Endowment Fund

In Memory of:
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Loretta & Hyman Shapiro
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January 16, 2015

SHABBAT

KING, JR.

LUTHER

MARTIN

January 2015 Bulletin

MARTIN
LUTHER
KING, JR.

SHABBAT

January 16, 2015

RSVP

by January 9

Dinner: 6:30pm |
Service: 8:00pm

$25 for Dinner

non-members: $32 |
children (under 10): $10

GUEST SPEAKER: Rev. Raphael Warnock
Senior Pastor, Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church

Feature the Temple Singers and The Ebenezer Baptist Church Choir

Members of Ebenezer Baptist Church will be our guests for Shabbat Dinner. Space is limited. Reservations are first come first served no later than January 9.

RSVP by January 9.

Call Joya with your credit card information 404.873.1731, mail in your check, or online at the-temple.org

Please consider adding 2-3% to your payment to help cover the processing costs. ALL payments are non-refundable.