GET CONNECTED

By Rabbi Lydia Medwin

In tractate Sukkah in the Talmud, we are taught that R. Judah said: He who has never seen [the synagogue in] Alexandria, Egypt, with the double colonnade has never seen the glory of Israel. It was said to be huge, so big that it could hold 120,000 people! And it was grand, with seventy-one thrones of pure gold, to symbolize the seventy-one elders of the Sanhedrin. And it was full of rowdy, vivacious Jews, so full and noisy that the prayer leader had to wave a scarf to let people know when it was time to say "Amen." But its most interesting trait, I believe, was how it was organized.

"...Moreover, they were not seated haphazardly. Goldsmiths sat separately, silversmiths sat separately, blacksmiths separately, master weavers separately, and apprentice weavers separately, so that when a stranger or a poor man entered the synagogue, he was able to identify the members of his craft. He would then join them, and through them earn a livelihood for himself and the members of his family."

This incredible description gives us a window back into our history and the ways synagogues have worked at their best. What wisdom it took to organize this large community into micro-communities, so that each person knew he had a place, and a group of people, to call his own! What a powerful lesson: a great synagogue creates smaller groups, so that even in a large community we can find our people, and therefore find not only our livelihoods, but perhaps also a sense of place, a sense of home. Being a new member of the community, or someone who is seeking to reconnect, would be so much more filled with joy and ease, if we only created a community where you could quickly find your place. We take this teaching very seriously at The Temple – it is a central part of the sacred work we do.

Although we have fewer colonnades than the ancient community in Alexandria, we have just as much passion for helping each other find their "home base," their people that will make our large community smaller and more personal. But every passion needs some structure if it hopes to take root, and so we have created the Engagement Tree. Fed by Jewish tradition, The Temple's proud history, and an undeterred hopefulness for the future, we grow into deeper engagement in three main ways. They are based on the organic ways we already gather and connect: through demography, or the relationships we have with people in the same age and stage of life; through geography, or the relationships we build with people that live in our neighborhoods and go to our gyms and schools and grocery stores; and through interests, or the relationships we foster when we gather to express our personal passions or deep-seated needs. In the coming years, these micro-communities will be cultivated and nourished by three corresponding initiatives: Age and Stage, Temple in the Neighborhood, and Temple Connect.

How They Work:
• **Age and Stage**: Led by fellow congregants, these Roshim ("Heads") are in partnership with The Temple clergy and Engagement team. The Roshim have two main jobs: 1) help to plan opportunities for others in their age and stage in life to connect with one another and 2) walk hand-in-hand with our new members until they feel they've found their place here in our large congregation. Through grouping the community in this way, we hope to better personalize The Temple communications, bring even more people to see themselves as central to the community, and make sure that no one falls through the cracks. Events might be for twenty people, two hundred people,

(continued on page 2)
**B’nei Mitzvah**

**Phil Witten**
**Schuck & Helen E. Sowersby on their marriage**

**Jose Luis Salazar & Rachel Lauren Geller on their marriage**

**Jared Adam Dennis & Ria Both Poffick on their marriage**

**Melissa and Benjamin Ahern on the birth of their son, Jacob Paul**

**Jenna & Corey Shulman on the birth of their son, Brett Sidney and to big brother, Micah Adam and Preston Kepler on the birth of their daughter, Olivia Skyler and to big brother Zachary and sister, Mokas and to grandmother Lisa Kepler and great grandmother, Anta Romin**

**May Their Memory Be For A Blessing**

Our Heartly Sympathy to the Families of:

- Robin Berger (wife of Marty Berger, daughter of Helene Fauch, mother of Lurt Bryan)
- Samuel Harvey Josipin (father of Walter Josipin)
- Irwin “Buck” Friedman (husband of Pat Friedman and father of Charles Friedman)
- Rebecca Bolstan (mother of Laura Bolstan)
- Rachel Jacobs (cousin of Michael Hersorn)
- Jane Himm (mother of William “Bank” Himm)
- Jay Pulte (uncle of Erin Schwartz)
- Joyce Green (grand mother of Leah Davis)
- Joe Weinstein (brother of Betty Haig)
- Melanie J. Ludwig (brother of Seymour Ludwig)
- Charles Whitten King (father of Jane Mallen)
- Millburn “Barney” Remmel (uncle of Lisa Hoolde)
- Kate Wolf

**Engage @ The Temple**

**Mini Shabbat Morning with a SPLASH!**

Saturday, July 11 • 9:30 AM

Looking for something to do with your little one on a Saturday morning? Infants through preschoolers and their families are invited to join us 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 on our beautiful outdoor Sinai's playground and splash pad, or if it rains, on the WELC's two indoor playgrounds.

Please come dressed casually for swimming and towels for children who plan to splash. There is no fee or RSVP required. Questions? Please contact other Rabbi Loven Filsan Lalipad at laplipsa@the-temple.org or Rabbi Lydia Medwin at lmediwin@the-temple.org.

**Camp Minimak is Offering 1-week Sessions this Summer**

Join us from June 1 – August 7 as we enjoy:

**STRETCHING STORIES**

Storytelling Stories starts with the introduction of a wonderful children's book. We will stretch that story into the week's activities including special-in-house field trips, art, music, drama, cooking, character awareness and more.

Register for 8 weeks and get 2 FREE!

Children who will be 18 months – 3 years old on June 1, 2015 may register for one or more Camp Minimak Sessions.

**Summer Shabbat Socializing**

Join us every Friday at 5:00 PM, before Shabbat Worship Services start, for a nosh and the chance to catch up with your friends and make new ones.

No RSVP required. Just come, have some yummy snacks and meet your friends before Shabbat!
Men's Slow-Pitch Softball League

The Temple has two teams that play in the Synagogue Softball League, a men's slow-pitch league. The league has about 25 teams from over 20 synagogues and plays from early June through late August. If you or other Temple members who you know are interested in playing, please contact Steve Tapper at tapper.steven@gmail.com or 404-444-0143. Both teams' rosters are fairly full, but we have a few spots open every season; plus, we also need reserves for games where we are short on players, which is fairly common due to summer vacations and other conflicts.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ABOUT THE LEAGUE:

• players generally must be at least 18 years old (players are from a wide range in ages)
• games are only on Sundays (times vary between 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM)
• one or two practices before the season starts (no practices once games start)
• regular season is 10 games, followed by double-elimination playoffs.

Library News

With the Fourth of July, we think of independence. American history tells of the participation of Jews in U.S. independence, and in our library are books that trace our time from the beginnings of our country. Some examples are:

• The Jews of the United States 1790 – 1840 (973 BLA Volumes 1, 2, and 3)
• American Jewish Archives (973 AME)
• Jews among Americans (973 LER)
• The American Jewish Album 1624 to the Present (973 SCH)

There are many more books about our time in the U.S. see our Biography section and the 973 section. Always remember to check the Fiction shelves, too.

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 have delivered more than 500 soups, 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 volunteer who delivered soup this month: Lara Church Geller, Suzanne Krauss-Koll, Robbie Levin, Donny Marcus, Belinda Morris, Shayna Steinfield, and Esther Zells.

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 Spinnrad at dspinrad@the-temple.org or 404-873-1731.

Historic Collaboration with AA Synagogue for Community Tisha B’Av Service

TISHA B’AV COMMEMORATES THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM AND BRINGS HOPE TO THE JEWS OF ATLANTA.

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2015 • STARTING AT 7:30 PM

Being held at Ahavath Achim Synagogue • 600 Peachtree Battle Ave NW, Atlanta, GA 30327

Looking closely at Jewish philosophy, it states that modern Temples are replacements for the ancient Temple, also known as the Bet HaMikdash. On the 9th and 10th of the month of Av in the year 70, the Roman legions in Jerusalem smashed through the fortress tower of Antonia into the Holy Temple and set it ablaze. To many, the feeling and thought was that Judaism was finished. However, many persevered and it ablaze. To many, the feeling and thought was that Judaism was finished. However, many persevered and the majority of the Jews refused to back down. The Jews harnessed that despair and turned it into a force for action, making an all-out effort to restore the Temple. They felt that rebuilding a sanctuary could reduce the terrible angst and restore life to normal. To this day, we still attend Temple and remember the destruction of the ancient Temple of our ancestors. Join us on Saturday, July 29 for this historic collaboration at AA Synagogue as we commemorate Tisha B’Av.

THE CURRENT SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS (subject to change)

7:30 PM Mincha (Afternoon service) at Ahavath Achim Synagogue
8:00 PM Serdu Sofrutah (Third Shabbat Meal) with Learning by Rabbi Berg, Sandler and Rosenthal
8:45 PM Ma’ariv (Evening Service/Consecration of Shabbat)
9:09 PM Havdala (In Memorial Garden at Ahavath Achim Synagogue)
9:15PM T’filah B’Teshuva Service (In Memorial Garden)
10:00 PM Conclusion

FRESH OFF THE PRESS:

Yes, it’s just July, but before we even blink, it’ll be High Holiday season once again — Rosh Hashana begins on September 13 and we’re excited to introduce Mishkan HaNefesh, our new prayerbook. We’re already busy planning NINE new High Holiday services using Mishkan HaNefesh, while we will continue to honor the key prayers and music of our heritage.

A tribute donation of a set of Mishkan HaNefesh is a wonderful way to honor someone or something special in your life and a tribute nameplate will appear in each of the two High Holiday volumes. It’ll also show your support and excitement for a more meaningful High Holiday experience this year!

For donation information, please visit The Temple’s website: the-temple.org/support

Join Rabbi Berg on a Trip to Spain!

Roots of Sepharad: Exploring Amazing SPAIN

Led by Rabbi Peter Berg
March 27 - April 7, 2016

This amazing tour includes...

• 3 nights at Catalonia Atocha, Madrid
• 1 night at Gran Melia Colon, Seville
• 1 night at the Melia Granada, Granada
• 3 nights at Le Mercedes, Barcelona
• Breakfast daily
• Welcome dinner with a local community guest
• Shabbat dinner in Seville
• Farewell dinner in Barcelona
• AVE Train to Cordoba
• Professional tour escort throughout
• Local licensed city guides in each location
• Arrival/Departure transfers with main group
• Entrance fees & portage per itinerary
• Touring in a deluxe air-conditioned vehicle

IN JERUSALEM AND BRINGS HOPE TO THE JEWS OF ATLANTA.
In Honor of: Adult Bar Mitzvah of Arielle Alpern & Michael Louis Irene Rothstein Leon Rothstein Mark Rothstein Dallay Rothstein Donna Rothstein Mr. & Mrs. Alan Beter & children
In Memory of: Marcia Rothschild Michael & Linda Lowenstein Arthur & Helen Madariaga Bertha & Victor Weiss Ronni van Gelder Robert Birnbaum Gunzenhauer Irene Berson In Honor of: Adult Bar Mitzvah of Arielle Alpern & Michael Louis Irene Rothstein Leon Rothstein Mark Rothstein Dallay Rothstein Donna Rothstein Mr. & Mrs. Alan Beter & children
In Memory of: Marcia Rothschild Debra & Chris Patterson Janet Selig Temple Memorial Fund In Memory of: Marcia Rothschild Sura Hene In Honor of: Adult Bar Mitzvah of Tom Keating Loretta & Hyman Shapiro Jackie & David Keating Adult Bat Mitzvah of Keith Shure
Community Services Fund Donation: Temple Hampton
In Memory of: Rose Leter Tarfield Jack Tafel Mozaffar Mossanesh Shanae Nahabi The Temple Board of Trustees Fred R. Burel Tota Borneil Foundation
In Memory of: Birth of Elena Sobel & Philip Schuck Joanne Glaser Weinberg Early Learning Center Fund In Memory of: Rose. S. Redell Phyllis & Sidney Rodblel Debbie Finestone Memorial Fund Beautification Fund In Memory of: Robert & Laura Schuhman Alan Smith Spring's Bar Mitzvah of Sara Franco, April 2023 The Temple Board of Trustees Matthew J. Sargent Sherry D. Lipset
In Memory of: Marcia Rothschild "Bubbe" of Barbara & Rabbi Alvin Sugarman Rabbi & Mrs. Max Alpert Sherry & Howard Schuck
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In Honor of: 50th Birthday of Sally Cerno Loretta & Hyman Shapiro 80th Birthday of Gary Silver Carol & Bob Robin
In Memory of: Spring's Bar Mitzvah of Sara Franco, April 2023 The Temple Board of Trustees Matthew J. Sargent Sherry D. Lipset
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