You Could Be The Redeemer of The Jewish People

On the festival of Shavuot, we read from the scroll of Ruth, the destitute Moabite convert who approached Boaz, the leading Torah authority of his generation and a wealthy landowner, and asked him to marry her. And he said yes!

What did Boaz see in Ruth that he agreed to marry her? He saw that she was acting completely for God. As a result, our tradition teaches that this marriage produced King David, the ancestor to the Messiah. We learn an incredible amount from Ruth. If you wish to attain spiritual growth, if your intentions are pure and you stop at nothing, you will get what you want.

This idea can be developed even further from yet another concept in the scroll of Ruth. The opening verse of the story says, “A man went from Bethlehem in Judah to live in the fields of Moab.” The very next verse tells us that this man’s name was Elimelech. Why does the megillah go out of its way to say “a man went” when it could have just as easily and more expeditiously said in the first place that his name was Elimelech?

To answer this question, we must first look at the only other place in the Bible where it says “a man went,” without mentioning his name until later. This occurs at the beginning of Exodus where “a man went from the House of Levi and he took a daughter of Levi,” referring to Amram’s marriage to Yocheved, a union which led to the birth of Moses. The Baal HaTurim explains the link between these two verses in the following way: “Through this “going” came the first redeemer (Moses) and through this “going” in the scroll of Ruth will come the final redeemer who is the Messiah, the son of King David.

It is important to note that we see a degree of anonymity leading up to the redeemer’s birth, which teaches us that the redeemer of the Jewish people can be an entirely anonymous and unassuming person. In our tradition, the Messiah does not have to be a great scholar, a descendant of a great rabbinical dynasty, or have immense wealth; rather, anyone is capable of producing the redeemer of the Jewish people!

In this season, we learn how this can be done; we need a will to succeed, a yearning to become spiritually great, and a pure desire to bring about that redemption. If we have these, then there is absolutely nothing that can stop us – no matter who we are or where we come from!

RABBI BERG CAN BE REACHED AT: PBERG@THE-TEMPLE.ORG
**B’NEI MITZVAH**

**JUNE 4**

**BENNETT ELLIS DENKER**
Son of Karen & Steven Denker

**TORAH & HAFTAHH**

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**OUR NEWEST MEMBERS**

- Heather Benamy
- Margo Geller
- Rebecca Grayson & James Bacon
  - Micah Bacon
- Barbara & Ron Lipp
- Jennifer & Michael Wilder

**MAY THEIR MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING**

Our Heartfelt Sympathy to the Families of:

- Susan Cohen Emmons (daughter of Herbert Cohen and sister of Mary Ann Kaplan)
- Ross Shapiro (nephew of Hyman Shapiro)
- Kenneth Cohen (father of Jeffery Cohen)
- Marvin Cohen (husband of Lois Cohen)
- Arlene Poretsky (sister of Sylvia Poretsky)
- Charles Simon (husband of Jerilyn Simon)
- Robert Shulman

**MAZAL TOV!**

- Rabbi Peter S. Berg for receiving the Servant Leadership Award from Faith in Public Life for his work in ending discrimination in gun violence in Georgia
- Sander Gilman, an Emory Professor of psychiatry and author or editor of more than 90 books has recently been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- Doreen and Eric Kushins on the birth of their son, Ellis.
- Liza and Max Marks on the birth of their daughter Ruth and to big brother, Elijah
- Seth and Abby Bernstein on the birth of their son, William Joel “Ace” Bernstein II
- Ruth Shacter, Great Grandmother, Sherilyn and Mitchell Lippman, Grandparents and to mother, Esther Lippman on the adoption of her daughter, Soni Grace
- Spring and Tom Asher on receiving the 30th Annual Selig Distinguished Service Award by the American Jewish Committee
- Reid Edelstein on being presented The Cameron Addison Street Citizenship Award for Perseverance and Character at the Lovett School Honor’s Assembly
- Dianne Ratowsky, Grandmother, and Randi and Andrew Drake, parents, on the Bat Mitzvah of Abby Drake at Temple Sinai, Oakland, CA
- Robert Steven Wenger and Susan Lillian Carney on their marriage
- Carolyn Capelouto on receiving the Hadassah Chessed Award

**LEADERSHIP & CONTACTS**

**POSTAL MAIL:**
The Temple
1589 Peachtree Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30309
**TELEPHONE:** 404.873.1731
**FAX:** 404.873.5529
**EMAIL:** office@the-temple.org
**WEB:** the-temple.org

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- Annetta Kornblum
  - Weinberg Early Learning Center Interim Director

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  - Communications and Marketing Coordinator
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- Pete Clark
  - Maintenance Team
- Jackie Curilton
  - WELC Office Manager

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- Rabbi Loren Filson Lapidus
- Rabbi David Spinrad
- Cantor Deborah L. Hartman
- Rabbi Steven H. Rau, RJE
  - Director of Lifelong Learning
- Rabbi Lydia Medwin
  - Director of Congregational Engagement and Outreach
- Rabbi Alvin M. Sugarman, Ph.D.
  - Emeritus

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For more information on the endowment campaign, please visit the-temple.org/dream or contact Mark Jacobson, Executive Director at 404-873-1731.

“Thanks to you, this Endowment Campaign will help establish financial stability for future generations. Creating a strong endowment is the most important thing we can be doing for the future of our beloved Temple.”

– Rabbi Peter S. Berg

Campaign Update: Your Endowment Fund Gifts in Action

Beginning on Monday June 6, our Temple will be undergoing a Building Refresh Project in Schwartz-Goldstein Hall and surrounding areas of the Davis Building. The funding source is an allocation from The Temple’s Endowment Fund. One of the signature goals of our Endowment Fund Campaign was to provide funding for the proper maintenance of our facility and keep it up to date in service to our members and the community. Thanks to the many generous members who have and continue to contribute to the Dream for Tomorrow Endowment Campaign.

The areas to be refreshed and redecorated will span from the double doors next to the Chapel Lobby leading though Schwartz Goldstein Hall and the Motor Lobby. The Temple Building and Grounds Committee, along with Endowment Fund Board members and Executive Committee members, have been working with the architect directing the program, Stanley Daniels. Daniels was the lead architect of the 2002-2004 building addition and restoration campaign.

The project will last approximately two months. The Temple will remain open for summer activities including worship and Weinberg Early Learning Center Camp Minimac. We appreciate everyone’s cooperation as there may be restricted access to some areas from time to time. When the project is complete in August, we can expect to see walls with new paint, floors with new carpet, and reupholstered and additional furniture. The furniture design will be to enhance the opportunities for Temple members to interact with each other in light of our engagement/relationship initiatives.

We look forward to seeing everyone over the summer to view the progress and especially this coming fall when our building will be in condition for us to enjoy for another decade. For information on how to participate in the Dream for Tomorrow Endowment Fund Campaign, please contact Mark Jacobson, Executive Director, 404-873-1731, or mjacobson@the-temple.org.

SUMMER SERMON SERIES

This summer (June 10-August 12) our Friday evening sermons will share the theme of “Voices and Visions” from the PJ Library series that combines quotes from major Jewish thinkers and leaders with artwork. The clergy have selected several ancient and modern Jewish ideas which we can, through the weekly sermons and corresponding poster displays, consider how they remain relevant and inspiring for us today.

June 10
“All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware.”
(Martin Buber)

June 17
“I found a fruitful world, because my ancestors planted it for me. Likewise, I am planting for my children.” (Talmud)

June 24
“Love is stronger than death”
(Song of Songs)

July 1
“There is nothing more whole than a broken heart.”
(Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Kotzks)

July 8
“It is not your responsibility to finish the work of perfecting the world, but you are not free to desist from it either.”
(Pirkei Avot)

July 15
“The heroic hours of life do not announce their presence by drum and trumpet.”
(Benjamin Cardozo)

July 22
“A miracle cannot prove what is impossible; it only confirms what is possible.”
(Maimonides)

July 29 - No Services at the Temple

Please join the community for our annual Reform Movement Shabbat, this year at Temple Beth Tikvah in Roswell.

August 5
“Most of the things worth doing in the world were declared impossible before they were done.”
(Louis Brandeis)

August 12
Silence remains inescapably, a form of speech.”
(Susan Sontag)
**Bremen Religious School Registration is Open!**

New to TBRS? No problem. We would love to speak with you about our school. TBRS strives to promote positive Jewish identity is a fun and interactive learning environment. Contact Rabbi Rau, Elizabeth or Kara in the religious school office at 404-873-1734 to learn more about our exciting programming. We hope you will join us!

Returning Families: Please contact Marjorie Vaughn at 404-873-1734 or mvaughn@the-temple.org if you have not received a registration packet in the mail. All forms are due by June 17th to avoid registration and late fees.

Can’t wait to see you on the first day of school on August 21st!

**Graduating Class of WELC**

The Weinberg Early Learning Center wishes a warm mazal tov to our 12th graduating class.

- **Helen (Libby) Abramson** – daughter of Adam and Allison Abramson
- **Mars Aron** – son of Chad and Stephanie Aron
- **Eleanor Gold** – daughter of Chad and Rachel Gold
- **Catherine Katz** – daughter of Edward and Lisa Katz
- **Olivia Krumper** – daughter of Jared and Beth Krumper
- **Hadara Lapidus** – daughter of Rabbi Loren and Rabbi Micah Lapidus
- **Seren Lubow** – daughter of Alicia Starkman and Mark Lubow
- **Ella Perkins** – daughter of Jeffrey and Paige Perkins
- **Ella Rogers** – daughter of David and Kelly Rogers
- **Lucas Rosenbloom** – son of Samuel and Marissa Rosenbloom
- **Charlotte Ross** – daughter of Adam and Gwen Ross
- **Avery Sand** – daughter of Dr. Matthew and Jennifer Sand
- **Alexis Schultman** – daughter of David and Faith Schultman
- **Logan Schwartz** – son of Dr. Amy and Richard Schwartz
- **Eva-Francesca Skalla** – daughter of Marc and Lauren Skalla
- **Chason Solomon** – son of Andy and Cristy Solomon
- **Moses Starobin** – son of Michael (Misha) Starobin
- **Victoria Stein** – daughter of Dr. Lance and Dr. Tanya Stein
- **Reese Tetrick** – daughter of David and Jennifer Tetrick

**Young Professionals Programs**

**THE WELL**

**Friday, June 3 @ 8:00 PM**

We will see you on Friday, June 3, at The Well, our monthly, late Shabbat service for young professionals. Inspired by the power of the well in the Jewish tradition as a nexus for community and for physical, spiritual, and emotional nourishment, Shabbat services at The Well at The Temple aspire to be the same. Join Rabbi David Spinrad, singer/songwriter Sammy Rosenbaum, and other musicians for an evening of soulful spirituality, fun socializing, and services that feel inclusive for people of all levels of familiarity and comfort with Judaism. To RSVP, email Cherie Winsett at cwinsett@the-temple.org. For questions or for more information email Rabbi Spinrad: dspinrad@the-temple.org.

**STORYWELL: EVERYONE’S GOT A STORY, WHAT’S YOURS?**

**Thursday, July 21 from 6:30-9 PM at Edgewood Speakeasy 327 Edgewood Ave SE, Atlanta, GA 30312—inside Bone Lick BBQ (formerly Pizzeria Vesuvius).**

The next StoryWell event is approaching, and the time to sign up to be a storyteller is NOW. Last March, our storytellers told riveting, candid stories around the theme of “Permanence.” We are excited for the second StoryWell cohort, whose July stories will revolve around the idea of “Hope.” If you are a young professional or young at heart and would like to participate, email Rabbi Spinrad for details: dspinrad@the-temple.org. To become a storyteller, you must participate in a one-evening StoryWell boot camp with Mary Williams, partner with another member of your cohort to craft your story, and meet once with either Rabbis Spinrad or Medwin for a final opportunity to practice.

Storytellers need audiences, too! If you are not interested in telling a story at this time but would like to come and listen, we invite you to be a part of the audience, listen to the stories, and find common ground with new and old friends alike.

**Daytime Discussion Group**

The Group will be on hiatus while the library and surrounding territory are under renovation this summer. We’ll resume in the fall. See you in September!

**Shop at Kroger & Support The Temple**

Enroll your Kroger Plus card in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Enrollment is easy and does not impact your savings. Visit www.kroger.com and enroll using our NPO number: 75313.

You must go through the online enrollment process. Have your Kroger Plus card handy. Once you have created an account, scroll down to the bottom of the page to the Community Rewards section. Put your information in and the search for the NPO number. The name you will see will be listed as “The Hebrew Benevolent Congregation”.

Every time you shop for groceries and swipe your card, The Temple automatically starts earning a rebate. You must swipe your registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to the registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count.

To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see The Temple’s name on the right side of your information page when applying the NPO number. Enrollment takes up to 7 days to start earning money towards The Temple community rewards.
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.

Thank you to our Caring At The Temple volunteers who delivered soup this month: Betsy Flesig, Lara Geller Church, Duane & Sandy Cox, Debbie Shelton, Valerie Needle, and Mia Spolan.

To be a part of this program and to fulfill the mitzvah of bikkor cholim (visiting the sick) or to let us know who needs soup, please contact Rabbi Lydia Medwin at lmedwin@the-temple.org or 404-873-1731.

Infant-Toddler Programs at The Temple

MINI SHABBAT MORNING WITH A SPLASH
Saturday, June 11 @ 9:30 AM

Join us this month for a trip to Menschland, a beautiful imaginative theme park with rollercoasters, carousels, and splash pads, AND lots of ways to practice being a mensch while singing our Shabbat morning blessings! We’ll then have a bagel snack and time on the WELC’s amazing and refreshing real SPLASH PAD (or the indoor playgrounds if the weather doesn’t cooperate). Please come dressed casually and (for the kids) in your bathing suit—don’t forget towels and sunscreen—and also plan to join us again on July 9th!

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 music and a story with our puppets. There is no fee or RSVP required. Questions? Please contact either Rabbi Loren Filson Lapidus at lapidus@the-temple.org or Rabbi Lydia Medwin at lmedwin@the-temple.org.

Zaban Couples Center

A NEW ERA FOR THE COUPLES CENTER

We are excited to announce the start of a new era for the Zaban Couples Center, including a new name: The Zaban Paradies Center for Homeless Couples.

Over the past 32 years, the Center has helped homeless couples improve their lives, while enriching the many volunteers who participated in that effort. Founded as a night shelter that provided two hot meals and a private room for the sick or to let us know who needs soup, please contact Rabbi Lydia Medwin at lmedwin@the-temple.org or 404-873-1731.

MACoM

Know anyone getting married? Want to celebrate a special occasion—a number of years being cancer free, a milestone birthday, a birth of a child? Mikvah might be an option for you.

In recent years Mikvah has been used for creative expressions that acknowledge personal milestones and journeys. MACoM (Metro Atlanta Community Mikvah) takes a unique view of the time held traditions we observe year after year. Our interdenominational Mikvah is a one of kind facility in Georgia; all are welcome. Since our doors opened in November, we’ve had more than 120 immersion guests.

Located at 700 A Mount Vernon Road in Atlanta, the look and feel are modern and inviting. Immersion guests, clergy, volunteers, donors and staff: each bring something unique to this holy place.

MACOM meets the highest aesthetic and ritual standards, and is located in a central setting for Atlanta Jews from across the spectrum of observance seeking spirituality and education.

“We honor tradition, but invite innovation,” states Executive Director Barbara LeNoble. “Please visit our newly constructed Mikvah facility and organization dedicated to providing a safe, welcoming and inclusive space for all members of the Jewish Community to find spiritual meaning, healing and renewal.”

If you’re interested in learning more about our community outreach and education programs, or just want to schedule a tour for yourself, students, or other interested groups please contact: blenoble@atlantamikvah.org.

Library News

If you have a library book that you’re reading, you know that you won’t be done by June 1 (when the library will close for renovations), then keep that book and return it after September 1. From your library volunteers, here’s wishing you a summer filled with good reading!

ArtWORKS at Java Nagila

You may have noticed that Java Nagila got a facelift in May. We are now home to some of the beautiful pieces made by ArtWORKS, a JF&CS program for Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities Services. Purchasing a unique, hand-crafted ArtWORKS piece recognizes the artists and supports the team as we continue to empower their clients by maximizing their talents and promoting their independence and community inclusion. Learn more at www.artworksatl.com!

Coming Home Shabbat

Friday, June 3rd @ 6 pm

Join us to celebrate some of the lay leaders who’ve made engagement so successful this year—Temple in the Neighborhood Liaisons, Age and Stage Roshim, and Temple Connect Group Leaders, and everyone involved in these initiatives. We’ll hear special music created by one of our Temple Connect groups to share with our community and incredible stories of impact and love. Please come and show your support for these engagement pioneers and hear about their experiences this year...and find a group to call home!

“Ask the Rabbi” Out-of-Office Office Hours

Most Thursdays between 12-2PM Rabbi David Spinrad can be found at the Ansley Mall Starbucks, where the coffee is on him and the conversation is up to you. If you would like to meet in an informal setting, share a cup of coffee, talk, and often times meet new people, follow Rabbi Spinrad on Twitter: @DavidSpinrad and check on Thursday mornings to confirm that “out-of-office” houres are on.
RABBIS’ DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

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Sandi & Julie Nessel
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Larry Pike

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Jennie Danziger Nirken & Edgar Nirken
Annette & Jack Rau
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Gail and Allan Ripans
Marriage of Susan Carney & Robert Wenger
Catherine Herman
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Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Searles
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Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Cope
Barbara & Melvin Seligman

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Harriet & Allan Kushins
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Harriet & Allan Kushins
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Weinberg Early Learning Center Fund
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Janet Lefkowitz
Janet Selig & her leadership on the WELC Committee
WELC Committee

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Brother of Staci & Maury Shapiro
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Ross Shapiro
Marjorie Holland
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Betty Lipshutz
Happy Passover holiday to Jody & Marty Kogon
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Jeffrey Rubin
Rachel Strohm

We appreciate all donations & suggest a minimum of $10.00 per acknowledgement. Donations can be earmarked to one of our various donations funds. For more information on the various funds and their purpose in funding The Temple’s legacy and operations, please contact Rita Zadoff at 404-873-1731. You can make donations in person, over the phone, or via our website at THE-TEMPLE.ORG
DREAM FOR TOMORROW

CAMPAIGN UPDATE:
Your Endowment Fund Gifts in Action

Building Refresh Project begins Monday, June 6.

See page 3 for details.