

# Connections

Temple Emanu-El, San Jose CA

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**Fri., Feb. 4 (5:18 PM)**

6:00 PM Congregational  
Potluck

7:15 PM Erev Shabbat  
Family Service

**Sat., Feb. 5**

9:00 AM Shabbat  
Morning Minyan

10:30 AM Bar Mitzvah  
of Matthew Blumstein

**Fri., Feb. 11 (5: 26 PM)**

**Open House Shabbat**  
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9:00 AM Shabbat  
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**Sat., Feb. 19**

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6:30 Kabbalat Shabbat  
Service  
7:30 PM Congregational  
Dinner

**Sat., Feb. 26**

9:00 AM Shabbat  
Morning Minyan

## Remembering Debbie Friedman



February 23, 1951 – January 9, 2011

Singer/Songwriter/Visionary

### Congregational Shabbat Dinner -February 25, 2010

Let's enjoy a Shabbat dinner together.!



Join your congregational family, Rabbi Magat, and Cantor Simerly for a special Shabbat dinner following services on February 25th. This four-course dinner is fully catered so that everyone will be able to enjoy each others company.

\$20 per adult; \$10 per child under 6

To RSVP contact the Temple Office by February 17.

See inside for more details!



## Words from the Rabbi

Deborah Lynn Friedman was a legendary performer, composer and gift to our people. I was blessed in the mid eighties to work with Debbie. She had a style and spirit that was embracing and at times magical. She took

elements of our tradition and made them accessible to so many. From her influence at Jewish Camps to the impact her music has had in our synagogue. She has helped to transform Jewish music for our entire movement and has even crossed denominational lines.

Here at Temple we will be singing her Misheiberach at every service this year, Cantor will be featuring her music next month and our next rock Shabbat will also feature Debbie's music. We will honor Debbie throughout the year just as her music has helped to shape Jewish music today.

As Debbie reminded us that music and singing bring us closer to God, may her soul be for a blessing as she continues to "Sing unto God."

### Debbie Friedman-Biography

Deborah Lynn Friedman was born on Feb. 23, 1951, in Utica, N.Y., to parents who belonged variously to Conservative and Reform synagogues. When she was 5, the family moved to St. Paul, Minn. She first picked up a guitar at the age of 16, inspired by Barbara Gutkin, one of her fellow counselors at Herzl Camp in Wisconsin. At home, she continued to teach herself how to play, mostly by listening to "Peter, Paul and Mary" records. Between 1971 and 2011 she recorded more than 19 albums.

In 1968, she began song-leading for her synagogue's youth group, which led to her attending a song-leader workshop at the UAHC Kutz Camp Institute in Warwick, N.Y. Three years later, she wrote her first song, a setting of the *V'ahavta*.

In 1988, she signed a recording contract with *Sounds Write Productions*, headed by Randee Friedman (no relation), whose husband Dick had attended Hebrew school with Debbie. Her music drew from many sources, ranging from Judy Collins to the late Qwaali singer Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. Anything her ear processed could turn into a melodic idea for a song. "What I do is respond to text," she said. "A rabbi friend of mine calls my music musical *midrash*."

Most of her songs are created for specific people and occasions. Her frequently performed "*Mi Sheberach*," for example, was composed for a *Simchat Chochma* (celebration of wisdom) ceremony honoring a woman friend on her 60th birthday. "My friend was having a very difficult time in her life, and a number of her friends were also struggling," Debbie explained. "Yet she had arrived at this age and she was determined to embrace it. '*Mi Sheberach*' spoke to that." Introduced to the Reform Movement at the UAHC San Francisco Biennial in 1993, Debbie's "*Mi Sheberach*" has since become the fastest adopted liturgical melody in the Reform and Conservative Movements.

**Continued on page 11...**

## President's Message



Dear Temple Emanu-El Family,  
When you read this, it will be 14 years since I first walked into the Sanctuary on a Friday night, knowing nobody, newly widowed. Fast-forward to a few weeks ago, when I began Shabbat by walking into the Temple House to hang out with the Tot Shabbat families prior to the adult service, then went into the Sanctuary and barely made it down the aisle to my seat in time for the service, even with 15 minutes to spare, because there were so many people to say hello to. Fourteen years ago I made myself stay at the oneg long enough to drink an entire cup of coffee and talk to one person before fleeing to the sanctuary of my car. These days Gordon and I are often among the last people to leave, and even then we don't always get a chance to talk to everyone we wanted to. What on earth happened? Well, Emanu-El people happened. I'm not kidding – it took a forced effort for me to stick around at the oneg in those early, painful days, but I knew it was necessary if I wanted to have a life beyond the unit of two that I'd been for nearly 29 years, and I wanted a Jewish connection that I hadn't realize I'd needed.

Naming names is something I try to avoid because I know I'll always leave out someone, but I have to mention Deborah Zimmer. I don't know how we got to talking at one of those first onegs, but the next thing I knew she was bringing me Debbie Friedman information and cassettes to listen to, telling me about all kinds of events, and *encouraging* me *extremely* enthusiastically (as well as schlepping me) to attend a URJ Kallah/adult study "camp" at UC Santa Cruz, and introducing me to lots of people. She and so many other friendly Emanu-El folks helped me to feel at home.

As a child, going to services with my parents meant what felt like endless hours of standing around afterwards, until they had spoken to what seemed to me an infinite number of people, all of whom would take a moment or two to remark at how "I'd grown". Now, I'm amazed to find that I'm doing the same thing, including shamelessly telling my former 7<sup>th</sup> graders (now some college graduates) that they are no longer 13 and short, because it's amazing to me. But how did I get there? Embracing the congregational life that I ran from when I was younger, child of the 60s wanting to "find myself" and live my life, not that of my parents?

Dare I say it again? Emanu-El people happened. It started with one person saying hello, it started with my showing up and putting myself out there and saying hello, signing up for a Havurah that led me to Sisterhood Catering, stopping by the kitchen to help set up oneg trays, taking the 7<sup>th</sup> grade religious school job after not having taught 12 year olds for 30 years, sharing joys and sorrows with people who have enriched my life in ways I would never have imagined.

**Continued on page 11...**

## Temple Happenings



**February 18 at 6:00 PM**

These brief services are led by Rabbi Magat and Cantor Meeka Simerly and feature upbeat songs, a short story, and a talk with the Rabbi on the bimah and are perfect for families with young children. For more information contact Samantha Miester at [smeister500@yahoo.com](mailto:smeister500@yahoo.com).



**Roses are red,  
Violets are blue,  
Shop & eat with eScrip,  
Temple earns \$\$ from you.**



Safeway, credit and debit cards ... when you use your registered cards at eScrip merchants and restaurants Temple earns a percentage of your purchases at no cost to you. There are also 1,000s of stores at the Online Mall including Nordstrom, Old Navy, Pottery Barn, Land's End, J. Crew, Eddie Bauer and Amazon.

Now that all the holiday shopping and partying is over, relax with a night out. Some eScrip restaurants are nearby: Antonella's, a few blocks from Temple; Capers in Campbell; Time Delicatessen, Stevens Creek and Bascom; Morocco's, downtown San Jose; and Blowfish Sushi, Santana Row.

eScrip's home page, [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com), allows you to click on the Online Mall and eScrip Dining. Thanks to all our supporters who shop and dine. Please become a supporter of Temple's eScrip program. Our ID# is 136985180. You can sign up on the home page or call me and I'll do it for you.

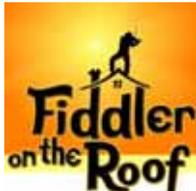
**Lorie Kaplan**, eScrip coordinator  
408.267.4563



### **Join us for Temple's Night Out at Fiddler on the Roof!**

Opening Night Tuesday, March 15

4 Ticket Options from \$20-\$118



Each ticket purchased through the Temple Office or website for March 15 includes a donation to the Temple.

All tickets must be prepaid by March 4, 2011.

For more information, call the Temple at (408) 292.0939 or go to [www.templeсанjose.org](http://www.templeсанjose.org) to order.

## Congregational Shabbat Dinner

**Friday, February 25**

**following the 6:30 PM Service**



Join us for a festive Shabbat meal as a congregational family! Each table will be served family-style with generous portions for all! Feel free to bring a bottle of wine or two to share!

### **Here's what's on the Menu!**

Humus & Babaganooj to go with Challah

Egyptian Potato-Lemon Soup

Panzenella Salad- *Marinated garlic-sour dough croutons with green olives, peppers, parsley over baby greens*

**Main Entrees:** Chicken in Apricot Sauce or

Honey-Ginger Eggplant & Tofu

**Side Items:** Persian Spinach Rice, Roasted Winter Vegetables, and Mushrooms in White Wine

**Dessert:** Banana Chocolate Chip Cake

**\$20 per adult**

**\$10 per child (under the age of 6)**

**Corkage Fee \$0**

To RSVP -contact the Temple Office by February 17. Please make checks payable to Temple Emanu-El. Your check confirms your reservation.

## B'nai Mitzvah



Matt Blumstein, son of Kristi and Ron Blumstein, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, February 5, 2011. Matt and his family invite the congregation to join them for this simcha, as he reads from the book of

Exodus. Matt is a seventh grade honor student at Dartmouth Middle School in San Jose. He plays trumpet for both the school concert and symphonic bands and also is a member of the track and field team. He is a First Class Boy Scout and also enjoys swimming, cycling, reading and being with his friends.

Matt's Bar Mitzvah project involved collecting children's and family DVD movies for the Pediatric Ward at Good Samaritan Hospital. Matt, his sister Alicia, his brother Justin, and his parents look forward to sharing this joyous occasion with his family and friends.

Alexandra Healey, daughter of Michele and Chris Eaton, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on February 26, 2011. Alex is a freshman at Presentation High School where she plays both field hockey and basketball. Alex has three sisters, Erin (12), Madison (15) and Cara (11). She enjoys spending time with her friends and family, seeing movies and being outdoors, and she recently completed her Girl Scout Silver Award.

Alex is active in raising money for Type 1 diabetes research, and she participates in the annual Tour de Cure bicycle race to raise money for the American Diabetes Association.

For her Bat Mitzvah project, Alex plans to make and donate blankets to Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley to bring warmth to families during the winter months.

Alex has enjoyed preparing for her Bat Mitzvah and working with Rabbi Magat and Cantor Meeka. She looks forward to celebrating this special milestone with loved ones.



### Sisterhood Catering

Sisterhood Catering provides trays for oneg Shabbat as well as full buffet menus starting at \$7.50 per person.

Contact Anita for more information at (408) 773-1410.

## We Remember...

### Those we have lost recently:

#### Debbie L. Friedman

Gwen Decker, mother-in-law of **Janis Decker**

Harold Levy, father of **Lois Matusow**

**Oda Livchitz**, mother of Abraham Livchitz

Lowell Noble, father of **Melenie Noble Pearson**

Adele Delores Panikoff, mother of **Linda Mowry**

Stephen Rosenberg, nephew of **Joseph & Edith Rosenberg**

Norman Saul, brother of **Evelyn Berman**

**Susanne Tucker-Oken**, mother of Carol Tucker-Martin

Elaine Zwern, sister-in-law of **Sandra Rosenberg**

### And those we have lost in years past:

**February 4:** Edward Jacob Abelson, Mike Arronson, Leonard Baker, George H. Barnett, Lettie Bergstrom, Harry Berman, Louis D. Berman, Bernice Blaustein, Samuel Blaustein, Ellen Bonnema, Leah Cahn Lapidus, Phineas Clayton, Wolfgang Danziger, Ida Dishotsky, Claire Duke, Max Eisenstadt, Alice Emrich, Louis Friedman, Sarah Friedman, Morey Gross, Pauline Gunar, Flora Kass, George Koster, Leo Lee, Michael David Lotman, Dr. Benno Lowy, Benjamin Marcus, Maurice A. Martin, Beatrice May, Lucille Medeiros, Frances Etta Meyerson, Rachel Muslin, Burgos Pangilinan, Dr. Alexander Rogozen, Elaine Rubenstein, Ed Rubin, Leon E. Sedler, Murray Segal, Gladys Shulman, Evelyn Singer, Charlotte Stein, Bernie Stern, Beverley Strong, Nanette Osiel Weintraub, Ann Wiener, Al Winter, Frances Wolfson, Jacob Zarchin.

**February 11:** Belle Aronowitz, Charles Atlas, Clara Cohen, Daniel Cunningham, Jon Gassman, Ralph Lawrence Gibson, Jack Green, Mark Hammer, Moses Katz, Hi-chan Katzman, Yetta Konits, Sylvia Lane, Marsha Lax, Julia Levin, Shirley Levine, Jerrold Levitt, Jeanette Lewon, Lawrence Lieberman, Julia Lukes, Joseph Lutvak, Anna Macdonald, Thomas Mahoney, Hugo Matzner, James Mehr, Claire Messinger, Isaac Oppenheimer, Dr. Sanford Pelz, Mella S. Rauer, Cora Ravizza, Herman Rodoff, Alfred Sabinsky, David Saxon, Frank Schwartz, Belle Segal-Katz, Ann Sibby, Harold Siegel, Julius Stein, Stanley Turnbull, Gloria Wall, Henry I. Weinstein, Margaret Weiss, Mayer Zeidenweber, Cameron Zwern.

**February 18:** Lillian R. Ackerman, Lillian Avrech, Frederick Bass, Joseph Harry Berg, Mollye Blumstein, Mae Brash, Yetta Broder, Betty Burton, Sydney B. Davis, Alexander Faverman, Philip Freiberg, Joseph Garshon, Irving Gendzel, Sadye Gizang, Sylvia Goldberg, Joseph Gordon, Helene Graff, Leon Grant, Shirley Asch Handloff, Irma Hartfield, Lillian Hayfer, Paul Hayfer, Anna Hirsh, Robert Krandel, Violet Landers, Sadie Lavin, Theodore Lavin, Louis Levitas, Mary Samuels Levy, Gail Lutvak, Jeanette Lutvak, Albert Miller, Sam Mintzer, Sol Omel, Charles Polansky, Miriam Rohan Resnick, Isadore Rosenthal, Shirley Rosner, Pauline Katz Senders, Daviene Shklar, Mollie Shragge, Lee Robert Silverman, Ann Sogolow, Allan Weinstein, John Wilbur, Sofia Yampolsky.

**February 25:** George Samuel Abelson, Harold Leroy Barnes, Irene Bernard, Cissi Carl, Ida Dvosken, Florence Carol Gambord-Avrech, Fannie O. Goldberg, Dorothy Goldfarb, Gerald Gambson, Henry Guen, Mary Ann Kaisel, Abraham Katz, Irving Kotlier, Flossie Krandel, Harry Miller, Sarah Herd Miller, Marcia Morris, Walter J. Morris, Jacob Myers, David Nathan, Sarah Prymak, Betty Rinsler, Hilda Rosenberg, Sarah Golden Roy, Morris Saslaw, Elsie Saul, Stanley Schneider, Marty Schwartz, Mae Siegel, Sid Silverman, Sidney Silverman, Mollie Thailer, Rose Zacker.

## Brotherhood News

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year. For those who traveled over the holidays, I hope all went well with your plans. For the Hansen family, traveling to New Jersey & Massachusetts, it was exciting to have 24 inches of snow in one storm. However, a little creepy was getting the car stuck in a snow bank in the middle of Beth David Cemetery after sundown, with 50 mph winds drifting snow, and the staff had left and locked the gates. Needless to say we got out with our own ingenuity and lived to tell the story.

But I am all refreshed and excited about the events the Brotherhood has planned for 2011: On January 22, the paid-up membership dinner with speaker Bryna Barsky – Sex Therapist; Blood Drive; Father/Son camping trip; Brotherhood-Sisterhood Jazz Brunch; Brotherhood-Sisterhood Summer Picnic, poker nights, etc.

As always, if you are not a member of Brotherhood, please give me a call at 408-476-7568 or email me at: [hanseninvestments@comcast.net](mailto:hanseninvestments@comcast.net) to discuss. New members of the Temple do get a complimentary one-year membership in our group.

Again, Happy New Year!

**Bob Hansen**

Brotherhood President

## Diaspora Dinner XX The Jews of Mesopotamia February 26, 2011 Starting at 6 PM



The cost is \$49 per person

(\$40 for Emanu-El Brotherhood members)

Optional paired wine tasting for each course  
for \$18 per person

(\$14 for Brotherhood members)

Please email

[brotherhood@templesan jose.org](mailto:brotherhood@templesan jose.org) to secure  
your reservation, as this event always sells  
out early!

## Sisterhood Moments

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Feb 4-6: WRJ Leadership Conference in San Francisco**

**Feb 11: Passport to Judaism Shabbat**

**Feb 20 1 PM: Sisterhood Meeting (off-site)**



### A SHINING LIGHT IN THE COMMUNITY

Two years ago, I happily landed a job at a wonderful school as their reading teacher and educational therapist. There was a friendly faculty, great kids, beautiful setting. The only thing was, it was a Catholic school where religion is taught and practiced every day. How would that feel to me? Would I fit in? Would I be odd man out when they all went to Mass or celebrated Christmas?

Well, it turned out to be a huge blessing! We (the teachers, kids and I) have stayed open and have learned so much about each other's religion and practices. After all, we read/study the same very old book! So far, I have helped the 6th grade put on a model seder this past spring, told the Hanukkah story and lit the menorah candles for the kindergartners while they made latkes, and then at Christmas was given my very own Advent candles decorated with pine cones, made by 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. In addition, the school's commitment to service in the community is akin to our Tikkun Olam.

So how else do we let others know how many blessings come with being Jewish?

By just being an enthusiastic, positive person, good friend, neighbor and co-worker, you speak volumes about "Jewish people"! Let them know a little at a time about your holidays, rituals and joy. Invite them to your home for Shabbat. My Indian neighbors and I shared both Hanukkah and their holiday Diwali together. We found more similarities than differences.

And by the way, the perfect event is coming up at the temple. Invite them to the Passport to Judaism Shabbat on Friday, February 11, 2011. Bring your non-Jewish and Jewish friends and colleagues. It is a fun way to spend the evening and learn as well.

"And you shall be a light unto the nations..."

ENJOY BEING JEWISH AND LET THE LIGHT SHINE  
THROUGH YOU!

**PLEASE EMAIL US WITH QUESTIONS OR IDEAS!**

Judith Stubbs, President, [spiritualjudith@yahoo.com](mailto:spiritualjudith@yahoo.com)  
Judy Levy, Executive VP, [judykraftlevy@yahoo.com](mailto:judykraftlevy@yahoo.com)

# The Chai Society-Young Adults Group

## February 18 at 6 PM: First Shabbatluck

Join other Chai Society members for our first ever Shabbatluck (Shabbat Potluck). The fun will start at 6:00 PM in the Benefactor's Room at Temple Emanu-El.

Please bring food based on the following break down by **Last Name:**

**A-E:** Appetizers    **F-K:** Drinks    **L-O:** Salad/Side Dishes  
**P-S:** Main Dish    **T-Z:** Desserts

Thank you for remembering not to include meat and dairy in the same dish and for not bringing pork or shellfish.

You should plan to bring enough for 4-8 servings.

After dinner join the rest of Temple Emanu-El for a festive Erev Shabbat Service at 7:30 PM with an oneg to follow.

**RSVP to [chaisociety@templesanjose.org](mailto:chaisociety@templesanjose.org).**

*Temple Emanu-El's Chai Society welcomes young adults, ages 21-39, both singles and couples, to our community. We provide meaningful opportunities to explore Jewish tradition and enrich our Jewish experience by connecting young adults to an engaging, diverse, Reform Jewish community with inspiring social, educational, spiritual, and social justice programming.*



**Survival Sack Drive**

Chai Society has teamed up SVYAD to collect items for the Young Couples Mitzvah project in March. Our goal is to make 30-40 survival sacks for Sacred Heart Community Service here in San Jose. A survival sack is a backpack containing a 3-month supply of essentials for the homeless.

**We are in need of the following items:**  
Backpacks, Small-Roll Blankets, Full-Sized Toiletry Items, Washcloths, Rain Ponchos, and Small First Aid Kits

Items can be dropped off at Temple Emanu-El until March 13th. Please contact Lisa ([lisas@templesanjose.org](mailto:lisas@templesanjose.org)) for more information.

**svyad young couples potluck**

**ACADEMY AWARDS EVENING**

**Sunday, February 27 at 4:30 p.m.**  
819 Myrtle in San Jose  
Free: Please bring a vegetarian food item

**Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley** Young Adult Division

# EESY Thoughts

Greetings from Temple Emanu-El Senior Youth Group (EESY)! We hope you all had a wonderful secular year! On December 18th EESY held a Chanukkah sleepover, with fun games, socialization, movies, and much more fun!

If that sounds interesting, we would love to have your children (9th to 12th graders) join us at our future events! We are starting the new year off with some fantastic events! First, we will have a laser tag war at **Laser Quest in Mountain View on February 26th from 3-5 PM!** The event is \$13 for non-EESY members and \$10 for EESY members.

Mark your calendars for **March 5th!** We will be holding our biggest event: a dance and game night with EESY and BBYO! If your child would like to go to any of these events and we have not contacted you, PLEASE contact our president, Elyssa Hurwitz, at [girl.surfer94@gmail.com](mailto:girl.surfer94@gmail.com).

## Your EESY Board



Emanu-El Senior Youth (EESY) offers Jewish 9th-12th grade students opportunities to come together for social, ritual, and community service activities. With a full slate of activities organized by an active youth-led board, teens stay connected and make friends while gaining leadership skills.

*Register your teen today for EESY! Membership only costs \$36 and guarantees the discounted member prices for all events!*

# Kadima & Noar Connection

## Junior Youth Group

**March 16th:** Game Night plus Hamantaschen making.

## Kadima

**February 13th 12:30-3:00 PM:** Guitar Hero, Video Games and lunch.

**The 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month Kadima will have Dinner and Game Night following Hebrew classes.**

## Noar

**February 12th 5:00-8:00 PM:** Sky High

For more information contact Maya Kostyanovsky, Youth Group Advisor at [youthgroupadvisor@templesanjose.org](mailto:youthgroupadvisor@templesanjose.org).

## Preschool Moments

The holidays are over, the weather is chilly and spring is just around the corner; I really do love this time of year!! Of course the calm that comes with January is not necessarily a calm spent inside the preschool. This time of year the kids love to be bundled up and running around on the playground. Listening to them giggle as they see their breath and watching the excitement as they find a puddle remind me to appreciate the simple things in life. January is also a very busy time administratively in the preschool. This is the time of year when I began working on enrollment for the fall. Our Open House will take place on February 1<sup>st</sup> and we are expecting a great turn out of new families for the fall. I encourage anyone who is interested in the preschool to please come by and visit on February 1<sup>st</sup> from 5-7 p.m.

In December we held our annual Chanukah Potluck Dinner, Silent Auction and Raffle. As I prepare to start planning for the new school year I would like to thank the following companies and people for their generous donation of goods/services to the preschool. The money raised will be used to continue developing our outdoor space and art program. Thank you to: Temple Emanu-El Sisterhood Gift Shop, Happy Hollow Park & Zoo, Tech Museum of Innovation, City Lights Theater Co., Classic Car Wash, Central Valley YMCA, CA State Railroad Museum, Children's Discovery Museum, Hiller Aviation Museum, Fairytales Town, SF Giants, iFly Indoor Skydiving, Children's Musical Theater, Children's Fairyland, Amici's East Coast Pizzeria, Bay Area Discovery Museum, Boulder Creek Golf and Country Club, Cal Skate Milpitas, Legoland, Laser Quest, Lullaby Lane, Oakland A's, Ripley's Believe it or Not, CA Kids Sports Center, Wooden Horse, Spyropoulos Family, Rose Family, Tse Family, Altomare Family, Keurig, Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad, Pizza My Heart, American Swim Academy, Great Jump, Giggle, In -n-Out Burger, Mabel's Labels, Cinelux Theaters, Rabbi Magat, Barkley Family, Brody-Brown Family, Meltzer Family, Jamba Juice, Starbucks, European Wax, The Usuals, Weinstein Family, Dederling Family, Meister Family, Black Family, Strellis Family, Sweet Tomatoes, Pasta Pomodoro, Campisi Family, Solpon Family, Jimenez Family, Jackman Family, Willow Glen Coffee Roasting, Toys R Us, Olive Garden, Disneyland.

Sincerely,

**Barbara Smead**

Kadin, Dylan and their dad making latkes during the preschool latke experience.



## Purim Carnival Planning

The Purim Carnival is on **Sunday, March 20** and we are in full preparation mode for another great one. This will be my 5<sup>th</sup> and final year as chairman and I am grateful to have Maria Mazo as my co-chair. Many of our other committee leaders (prizes, food, tickets, decorations, volunteers, crafts) are also nearing the end of their time organizing the carnival, so now is a great time to join the planning team and have someone show you the ropes. Please contact me or Maria and we would be happy to find a slot for you.



If not, here are a few other ways to help.

**Silent Auction** – The silent auction at the Purim carnival is the largest fundraiser for religious school activities. YOU can help by simply asking local merchants that you frequent if they would donate goods or services to the auction. We have a simple letter that has all the information they need. In general, we are looking for donation of items that families can do together (restaurants, movies, events, games, toys). We are also always looking to expand our target list so if you know new businesses that we might not know about, please email us.

**Food** – This year we are considering making more of the food we serve rather than buying it. If you would be interested in helping out on the Saturday before the carnival making hummus and baba ganoush please contact us.



**Books** - Every year we have a book walk instead of a cake walk. To make that successful, we need you to donate your child's books they have grown out of. Please drop off children's books in good condition to the religious school office and we will make sure they end up in another child's hands on Purim.

**ATTEND** – I would love to see many more of our congregants attend the carnival. You can watch a fun little spiel, pre-order a nice lunch, sit out on the patio and listen to the Brotherhood Band, watch the kids enjoying themselves, and maybe even find something at the silent auction that interests you.



I hope many, many of you will take this opportunity to spend a few hours on a Sunday in March (the 20<sup>th</sup> from 11:15 AM-1:15 PM) to join in a celebration for the benefit and enjoyment of our youngest congregants.

**Greg Turketsky**  
Purim Carnival Chair  
turetzkyg@yahoo.com

## Adult Education

### New Year, New Opportunities

I want to wish everyone a very happy New Year! I am hoping that with all the celebrating, you had the time to think about the opportunities in the coming year. The opportunity I'm talking about is learning. You owe it to yourself to learn as much as you can. To do that you will need to find a subject to learn about.

In Adult Education we have many classes for you to choose from. I am encouraging all of you to enroll in our Adult Ed classes to take advantage of the golden opportunity you have in front of you. There are classes in cooking, Israeli dancing, Hebrew conversation, and ethics in Judaism. That is just to name a few. If you like, you can help create your own class by contacting me.

In order for us to learn, we first need participation from our congregation. Without that participation, we have no learning and no people to sign up for class. To me it would be very sad that we would have no learning at a time in our country when we so desperately need it. We must be able to provide the mentoring and leadership to others so that we all can have a future. Our future depends on each of us.

Help me with keeping our future together by signing up for a class or by becoming part of our Adult Ed committee. It really is very easy, and by being on the Adult Ed committee you get to participate in not only learning for yourself but also our future. I am hoping to get enough of you to be part of our great heritage here at Temple Emanu-El by taking advantage of the opportunity of learning and feeling connected. That sense of connection is what our Rabbi keeps so passionately talking about. Give yourself that unique opportunity to learn and feel connected. Wouldn't you like to feel more connected at Temple? You have the opportunity and it's waiting for you.

L' Shalom

**Gordon Robinson**

Adult Ed Chairperson

## Membership

*A Special Evening for our Newest Members*

*March 5, 2011 at 6 PM*



On Saturday, March 5, we will have a special dinner and havdalah service honoring all of our new members who joined the Temple Emanu-El family in the past 2 years. Please save the date. You will be receiving your invitation in the mail soon for this wonderful event which is hosted by the Temple Board, Sisterhood, Brotherhood, and the Membership Committee.

## A Taste of Torah

This year, 5771, is a leap year so we have an extra month (instead of a day) called Adar 1! During leap years in the Hebrew calendar, Purim is celebrated in the second month of Adar instead of the first. The 14th of the first Adar is then called Purim Katan ("Little Purim" in Hebrew) and the 15th is Shushan Purim Katan, for which there are no set observances but which has a minor holiday aspect to it. The Mishnah states, "There is no difference between the first Adar and the second Adar, but the reading of the Megillah and the distribution of gifts to the poor." (Megillah 6b).

Just one more fun Purim fact: According to tradition, while Queen Esther lived in the palace of King Ahasuerus, she followed a vegetarian diet consisting largely of beans and peas so that she would not break the laws of kashrut. For this reason it is customary to eat vegetarian meals with beans and peas on Purim.

### Vegetarian Purim Katan Stew



#### Ingredients:

2 tablespoons and 2 teaspoons olive oil  
1-1/4 onion, chopped  
2-3/4 cloves garlic, minced  
2-2/3 cups peeled and chopped sweet potatoes  
4 cups vegetable broth  
1-1/4 bay leaf  
1-1/4 teaspoons dried basil  
3/4 teaspoon dried thyme  
1/4 teaspoon paprika  
1-1/4 tomato, chopped  
1-1/4 (10 ounce) packages frozen mixed vegetables  
1-1/4 (15 ounce) cans garbanzo beans, drained  
salt to taste  
ground black pepper to taste

#### Directions:

1. In a saucepan, warm oil over moderate heat. Add onion, garlic, and sweet potatoes; sauté 5 minutes.
2. Stir in broth, bay leaf, basil, thyme, and paprika. Salt and pepper to taste. Bring to a boil, and then reduce heat to medium low. Cover. Simmer until vegetables are tender but not mushy, about 15 minutes.
3. Stir in tomato, green beans, and chickpeas. Simmer uncovered until tender, about 10 minutes more. Serve hot.

## Ritual Committee

In the "Drew's Corner" column (Connections, Oct. 2010), Drew Barkley questioned how we can be "engaging our youth in a way that is relevant to them." This got my brain working: do our youth really know the great value of what they have as Reform Jews? They may be surprised in the uniqueness of Reform Judaism; what they will find will be purposefully consistent with "do not do to someone else what you would not want them to do to you." This is a very big deal. So, let's shine a light on what our youth have and try to illustrate how important our youth is to humanity.

The gem our youth have is exposed when Reform Judaism is contrasted to other beliefs in terms of differences, not commonalities:

Christianity, ultra-Orthodox Jews, and Islam on one side and Reform Judaism on the other. Keep in mind, however, that other people and religions may be more like Reform Jews; non-Jews can be thinking similar to how we think.



Christianity claims that the belief in Jesus is the only way to salvation. One Muslim asserted that "Mohammed is God's only prophet." The Israeli ultra-Orthodox claim that being a Jew is determined exclusively by one's lineage. The operative word in these statements is "only" and "exclusively". These words establish a presumed exclusive relationship with God; that is, non-members are, by God's decree, disconnected from God. Being "unplugged" is pretty severe and likewise its implications. Unplugged also reflects upon the people who hold these beliefs, for they have placed themselves as sole intermediaries between God and other people invoking God's name as their authority to pass judgment on the stranger and thereby denigrate him or her. This reflects the human need to feel elevated and better than others. This kind of thinking is a strong force that promotes division and intolerance in the world.

It should be clear, at least to us Jews and possibly to others, that there is an inconsistency between "do not do to someone else what you would not want them to do to you" and the "ours is the only way" mantra. In stark contrast, Reform Judaism has tenets that are flipped from the "ours is the only way". We believe that non-Jews can achieve salvation: they are not "unplugged". We have freedom to think and have a personal relationship with God, Rabbis who teach and guide rather than dictate, study and open discussions where varying opinion is encouraged, God can be held in awe without fear, tolerance (no tools to denigrate others), emphasis on ethics and justice for *every* human being, and much more. This is a quest for things holy in this lifetime, continuous self-improvement, and maybe to serve God with the same selflessness as Moses did.

The bright light in this whole thing is the youth of Reform Judaism. Reform Judaism should not be taken as just another religion; it is, in part, a force necessary to keep the "onlys" from justifying intolerance in the name of God and

**Continued on page 11...**

## Tikkun Olam Committee

The Tikkun Olam Committee is currently conducting a Listening Campaign, which is the first step in developing our next efforts to improve our community through direct action to convince our elected officials to make changes for the betterment of our local citizens. This campaign is also designed to get acquainted with our Temple members and connect them with the Temple's activities. We got a great start listening to our congregation during the High Holy Days at our Yom Kippur study session and we are currently working on setting up "listening meetings" with the various Temple auxiliaries and havurah, as well as one-on-one meetings with our congregants. We have already been successful in doing this with our first Listening Campaign last year that led to a political action to improve the environment by recommending the use of responsible recyclers to the City of San Jose and the County of Santa Clara.

We want to give people an opportunity to express the issues that are affecting them and their family and loved ones. Your stories, experiences and opinions matter. The committee is following up with the congregation on what Tikkun Olam has done to make changes in our community and we want to invite people to be part of our next campaign, including choosing our new issue.

The next several months offer a unique opportunity for our members to participate in an exciting and valuable project. Together we can develop a vision of our collective power as



a congregation and imagine with people real ways we can work together to find solutions to the issues we share. If our volunteers have not yet contacted you, please call the office through their telephone or notify the Committee through our email, and let us know you are interested. You don't

have to be a member of the Committee, although we are always happy to have new members, but you do need to be interested in Social Justice as a way to improve the lives of the people living in our community and the outlook for a more prosperous society in our country.

The Tikkun Olam Committee is also active in the areas of Social Action as well as our projects for Social Justice. Social Action offers opportunities to identify and help members of our community who are in immediate need of support. While Social Justice is a longer-term effort to change the root causes of these needs, we want to continue our efforts to meet the shorter term requirements of those who may be hard hit by the current state of the economy and the political environment.

Rabbi Magat has spoken often about the need for Tikkun Olam, "repairing the world," but this will only happen when you get involved. This major tenet of our faith is everyone's responsibility. Please choose to act now. The Committee's commitment is to serve our Congregation, but we can't do it without you.

**Rich Albert**  
to@templesanjose.org

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**Continued on page 11...**

**Words from the Rabbi  
continued from pg. 2...**

In 1992, Debbie and other Reform Jewish song leaders and cantors established Hava Nashira Song leading and Music Workshop to gather people with a common interest in song leading, teaching and leading Jewish music on the grounds of Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute Camp in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. In 1995, Debbie achieved a career watershed, selling out Carnegie Hall in celebration of her 25th year as a performer and releasing a two-record set of the event. In 1998, she recorded a pop album titled "It's You," produced for Sounds Write Productions by the music director of The Manhattan Transfer. In 1999, Hallmark released a line of greeting cards, the "Tree of Life" collection, based on her lyrics, with five cards for Rosh Hashanah, five for Hanukkah, and two for Passover. And her 20th album, "The Water in the Well," was released December 2001. In 2004, A Journey of Spirit, a documentary film about Friedman, was produced by Ann Coppel. In 2007, she joined the faculty of the School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, where she taught Reform rabbinical and cantorial students; she later taught at Hebrew Union College's Los Angeles campus. Her appointment was striking for two reasons: first, because she was a largely self-taught musician who did not know how to read music; and second, because her work — inclusive, progressive and strongly feminist — was perceived as a threat to established cantorial tradition when she began her career in the early 1970s. Since 1988, Debbie struggled with a neurological condition that necessitated occasional periods of inactivity. She approached her illness with positive resolve. "Every one of us has to confront challenges," she said. "If we don't, we're missing out on a whole dimension of our lives. If we choose to numb out and not experience what's around us, well, that would be a pretty horrid way to live."

**President's Message  
continued from pg 2...**

So if we haven't yet met, please email me and say hello! Or if we haven't seen each other in a while, same goes for you. And your equally warm and welcoming Board of Trustees (at least one at every Friday

night service!) want to get to know you. Fourteen years ago on a Friday night, I went home and wrote in my journal, "The service and choir were lovely, and the nicest people talked with me at the oneg — people I'd met at the Membership Bagel Brunch. I think Emanu-El will be home for me." Please write to me and tell me your story of your first Emanu-El connections.

**Laura Danoff-Robinson**  
President@templesanjose.org

**Ritual Committee  
Continued from pg 9...**

a strong force against division and intolerance in our nation and in the world. But more importantly, L'dor V'dor is necessary to keep this light alive and bright. Judaism must and will survive because of our children. They can show their values and publicly demonstrate their Judaism by helping others and exhibiting moral behavior while being aware not to get into harm's way. It does not need to be big things; everyday behaviors that follow "do not do to someone else what you would not want them to do to you" are necessary but may not be sufficient. Teach our youth to continue learning, growing and applying Jewish values. Teach them that they are our hope and the light for Tikkun Olam and themselves. Remind them often.

"This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine."

**John J. Nemece**

**Your Generous Donations  
Continued from pg 10...**

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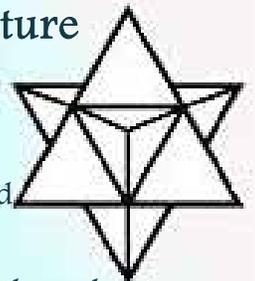
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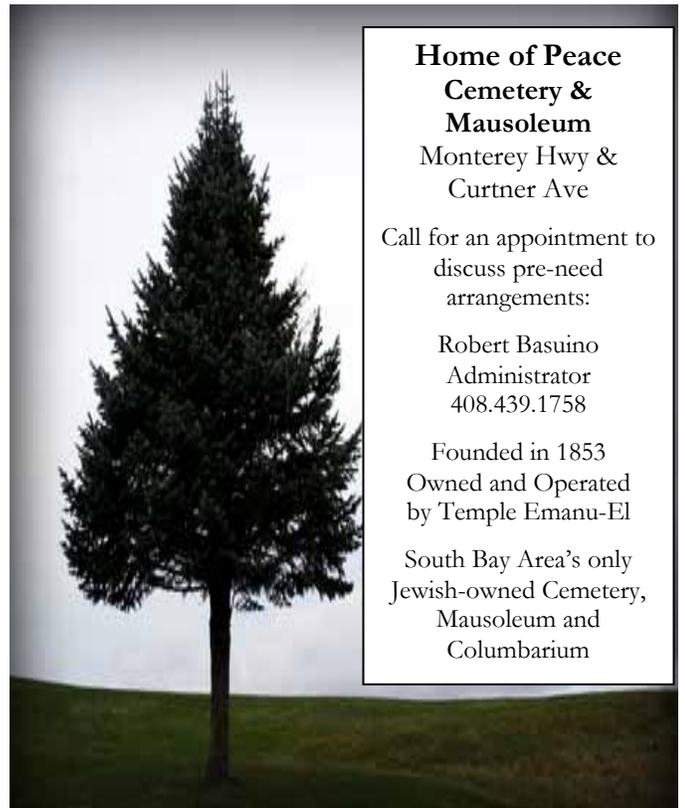
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 7 PM Board of Trustees Mtg	<b>2</b> 4 PM Hebrew Classes  5PM B'nai Mitzvah Prep Class  6:15 PM TJS	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:15 Pm Cong. Potluck Dinner  7:15 PM Erev Shabbat Family Service	<b>5</b> 9 AM Shabbat Morning Minyan  10:30 AM Bar Mitzvah of Matthew Blumstein
<b>6</b> 9 AM Confirmation/ Hebrew Classes  10:15 AM Judaic Studies/ Adult Ed	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 5:30 PM PJ Library Pillows & Pancakes  7 PM Tikkun Olam Mtg	<b>9</b> 12 PM Lunch & Learn  4 PM Hebrew Classes  5PM B'nai Mitzvah Prep Class  6 PM Kadima Game Night  6:15 PM TJS	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7:30 PM Passport to Judaism Shabbat Service and Oneg	<b>12</b> 9 AM Shabbat Morning Minyan
<b>13</b> 9 AM Siddur Ceremony/ Confirmation/ Hebrew Classes/ Brotherhood Mtg/ Adult Israeli Dance  10:15 AM Judaic Studies/ Mishpacha Sheli/ Adult Ed	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 4 PM Hebrew Classes  5PM B'nai Mitzvah Prep Class  6:15 PM TJS	<b>17</b> 7 PM Brotherhood Cards in the Cottage	<b>18</b> 6 PM Chai Society Shabbatluck  6PM Tot Shabbat Service and Potluck  7:30 PM Erev Shabbat Service	<b>19</b> 9 AM Shabbat Morning Minyan
<b>20</b> <b>No Sunday Classes</b>  1 PM Sisterhood Meeting	<b>21</b> <b>President's Day</b>  <b>Temple Offices Closed</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>No Wednesday Classes</b>  12 PM Lunch & Learn Torah Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service  7:30 PM Congregational Dinner	<b>26</b> 9 AM Shabbat Morning Minyan  10:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Alexandra Healey  6 PM Diaspora Dinner XX
<b>27</b> <b>No Sunday Classes</b>  3 PM Young Couples Academy Awards Party	<b>28</b>					

## Todah Rabah to...

**Deborah Zimmer**, for all your years of service and dedication to Temple Emanu-El and the Jewish Community. You have made a profound impact on all of us and on the Temple. Your presence in the office will be missed, but we look forward to seeing you at all our events in the future.



## Membership Memo

Help us say “Hi” to new members with an \$18 donation to support welcoming “Chai Bags.”

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**January 14:** The friends and family of Mia Burke, in honor of her Bat Mitzvah .

**January 21:** Lori Rush; Lois & Steve Matusow, in memory of Alan Matusow; Jack & Rose Smith; The Tobins-Amanda, Suzanne, Doug, Barbara & Cora; and Gabie Berliner. in memory of Hildegard Berliner & Stanley Tobin.

**January 28:** The friends and family of Carolyn Abrams, in honor of her Bat Mitzvah; and friends of Deborah Zimmer, in honor of her retirement.

If you have a special date on which you would like to celebrate a simcha or remember a loved one, please contact Anita Medeiros at [anitajmed@yahoo.com](mailto:anitajmed@yahoo.com) or 773-1410, OR fill out our oneg survey by going to <http://www.tiny.cc/153lk>.

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**Community Funds:**

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- JoAnne Salman-Tehrani Homeless Fund

**Other Tribute Opportunities:**

- \$36 - Prayerbook Tribute
- \$218/\$500/\$750 - Tree of Life Leaf/small/large rock
- \$500 - Sanctuary Chair Plaque
- \$750 - Memorial Plaque (in sanctuary foyer)

**Opportunities in Levin Learning Center:**

- \$5,000 - Stair Plaque
- \$10,000 - Library Column Dedication
- \$25,000 - Room Dedication

**Contact the office for additional opportunities.**

Making a contribution to one of Temple Emanu-El's many funds is a wonderful way to honor your friends and family. You may make contributions in honor of a birth, birthday, brit milah, baby naming, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Confirmation, graduation, engagement, wedding, anniversary, promotion, new home, special occasion or just because. You may also make contributions for get-well wishes, condolence, remembrance and yarzeits.