



@wise

STEPHEN S. WISE TEMPLE
SEPTEMBER 2004 – ELUL 5764/TISHREI 5765
VOLUME XL, NO. 2

5765

THE LIVING FOUNTAIN



There was a time when some claimed that what we had learned from the discoveries of science called into serious question the truth of religion; indeed, that religion may altogether have lost its relevance because it could not stand up to the truths of science. Challenging that notion, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, perhaps the greatest Jewish thinker and religious activist of the last century, wrote: "It would be more honest to blame religion for its own defeats. Religion declined not because it was refuted, but because it became irrelevant, dull, oppressive, insipid."

It took incredible courage for Heschel, then professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary (of the Conservative movement), to look inward, deeply critical of his own community, and to declare that if there was a decline in Jewish life, the reasons were to be found within Jewish life itself. The truth and challenge of Heschel's words resound as powerfully today as when he wrote them some fifty years ago. Heschel continued with an assertion that "religion is an answer to man's ultimate questions." If religion, specifically Judaism, was anything less than that, it would indeed end up dull and irrelevant.

Heschel's prophetic words give us pause as we enter the New Year. And more.

His words confront us, appropriately, as we enter the Days of Awe. They confront all those

who lead Stephen S. Wise Temple, as well as you, our community, with an incredible challenge to the very reasons for our being. Our Temple exists for nothing less than to be a community that interprets Judaism dynamically, that teaches it in response to the "ultimate questions" that confront us every day as human beings, a Judaism that engages our lives in ever more compelling ways. More than ever, we are striving to create worship services that uplift our spirits; learning that enlivens our souls, as it helps us discover the right questions about our lives and their meaning; a community that has the potential of bringing a deeper sense of goodness and wellbeing to its members, as well as challenging us to respond to the ills of a world in desperate need of repair; and relationships—to our history, to our people, to our State of Israel—that are deep and abiding and filled with purpose and hope.

We want to teach and live a Judaism that makes an ultimate difference. Because nothing less than that is enough.

Heschel wrote, "when faith becomes an heirloom rather than a living fountain...its message becomes meaningless." As we enter the New Year together, we will strive—together—to be that living fountain.

Shana Tova u-m'vo-ra-chat. May such be the blessing and the goodness of this New Year.

RABBI ELI HERSCHER

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"MAKING MISTAKES IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION"

The story of the Golden Calf is one of the worst moments described in the narrative of our people. Having just been rescued by God from Egyptian slavery, having just stood at the foot of Mount Sinai and heard God's voice, having just received the Ten Commandments, the people build a golden animal and exclaim: "This is your god, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt!" (Exodus 32:4). We read this now and wonder: What were they thinking? How could they have made such an egregious mistake?

And yet we know that, though the drama of the moment may be very different, we too make mistakes that, come the High Holy Day season, we cannot believe we have made. We said something incredibly hurtful to someone we love dearly, we spread gossip that we know harmed someone else, we were saddened by the news about poverty in our cities and then gave much less than we were able to give to tzedakah. We all have these moments as part of our stories. It is one of the reasons why this season of repentance is so important. These holidays challenge us to return to our vision of our best selves and dedicate ourselves once again to the fulfillment of that vision.

But we must wonder: do our sins, our mistakes, influence that vision? Does our sense of ourselves change on account of our wrongdoings? Do we lower our expectations of ourselves once we recognize just how human we are? The Torah posits its own answer: yes, our mistakes change us, but they need not change us for the worse. We can "make mistakes in the right direction," which can make us even better than we were before.

Just after the incident with the Golden Calf, the

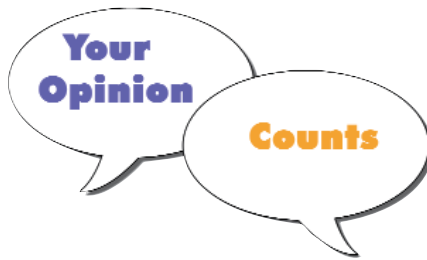


Israelites are instructed to build the mishkan, a sanctuary for God so that God might dwell among them. They take gold, the same building material, and use it to build a holy place. The midrash reads, "Let the gold of the mishkan come and atone for the gold of the Golden Calf." (Tanhuma, Teruma 8). Their opportunity for atonement brought them even closer to God than they were before their grave error. This, of course, does not mean that sin is ever a good pathway to God. It means, more importantly, that when we do make mistakes — which we all will — we should look for ways, not only to be forgiven, but to grow closer in our relationships with those whom we have hurt.

The dynamics of this sort of repentance, of the opportunity to reach greater heights than were we to have been perfect in the first place, is reflected in a wonderful story about a King who had a very precious diamond. One day, the King dropped the diamond and a large scratch appeared across its face. Many experts came to try and repair the scratch, but every one of them looked at it and told the King that nothing could be done. Until one day a poor Jewish man shows up at the palace and tells the King that if the King were to give him the diamond for one year, he would be able to fix it. The King agrees and the man goes away. A year later, he returns and presents the diamond to the King. What had once been a scratch was now the stem of a beautiful flower etched into the diamond. The diamond was even more beautiful now than it had been before he dropped it.

May we use this time of year to turn all of our scratches into flowers. May our mistakes of the past year enable us to bring even more beauty and goodness into the world in the coming year — 5765.

RABBI MIRIAM BURG



At Stephen S. Wise Temple, we are committed to providing you with thoughtful and educational articles, current events and programs, all via monthly editions of the **@wise**. Just as important as it is for **us** to provide **you** with this information, it is equally important for **us** to get information from **you**. More specifically, we want to know what you think about the **@wise**, because "your opinion counts!"

Log on to our website www.sswt.org and click on the "Your Opinion Counts" box on the mainpage, or go to the **@wise** section of the site. Please fill out our online questionnaire and let us know what you think about the **@wise**.

Your feedback and comments are invaluable to the success of our Temple newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.



Our community seeks to respond to the lifecycle events in your life!

If you or someone you know has experienced a life celebration or difficulty, please send an e-mail to MN@sswt.org or call Ann Terrick at 310.889.2213. In case of an emergency, please call the Temple directly.

Do you have one to two hours each month to give back to our community?

From time to time members of Stephen S. Wise Temple are unable to leave the house and would benefit from caring, nurturing, and friendly people to brighten their day. Please call Rabbi Ron Stern at 310.889.2269 if you are interested in giving back.

We are pleased to announce the creation of The *Wisdom Chair*

of Jewish Studies at Stephen S. Wise Temple

The Chair will be held by Rabbi Mordechai (Marc) Gafni, who over the last two years has become a beloved part of our Stephen S. Wise Temple community.

Rabbi Gafni is the Dean of the Bayit Chadash Community and Think Tank in Israel, an Oxford Scholar, an important new voice of spirit in the international community, as well as the author of a growing library of both New Jewish Thought and best selling volumes on Modern Jewish Spirituality.



Rabbi Gafni will be in residence at Stephen S. Wise Temple for three months between September 2004 and July 2005.

- **Visit One: September 11—22, 2004**
The Dance of Laughter and Tears; Towards a Vision of New Jewish Spirituality
- **Visit Two: October 31—November 12, 2004**
The Mystery of Love
- **Visit Three: February 23—March 8, 2005**
The Mystery of Love—The Next Level
- **Visit Four: May 1—June 14, 2005**
The Psychology of Judaism Through the Prism of the Book of Genesis
For more information, please contact Randi Goetz in the Clergy office at 310.889.2264.

WE LIVE OUR VALUES

Have you noticed the flags that line the driveway as you enter the Temple campus? Each flag of a different color announces that Stephen S. Wise Temple's Elementary School students live by a set of values. If you were to come down to Faber Field, you would notice that twenty-four more colorful flags announce the same thing: "We Live Our Values". Each of the flags identifies a different value from "Perseverance" to "Pursue Justice".

As you enter any classroom in the school, you will see a prominently placed poster with the heading, "We Live Our Values". Whether in the science lab, the computer lab, the library, the art studio, the music room, or a general classroom, the posters are uniform and constant reminders that there is a standard of behavior intended to give our students the tools to navigate the course of their days with dignity and compassion.

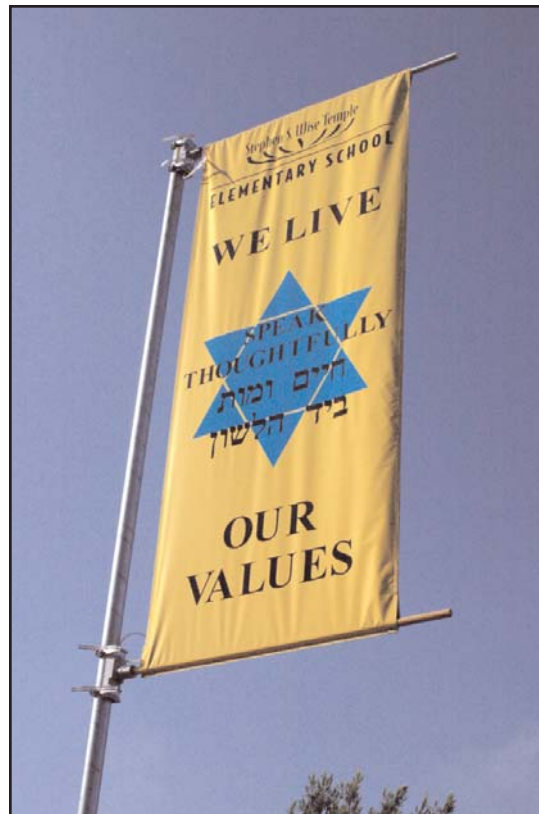
Our Values Program, at the end of its fifth year, has had a tremendous influence on the school's collective conscience. Announcing values each year, having children read about them, write about them, and speak about them is only a starting place. Children look for the relevance of values in their daily actions and in the actions and reactions of others.

It is inevitable that children sometimes break a rule on the playground, borrow something without permission, or speak unkindly to another person. Instead of telling a child what he has done wrong, we frequently ask him to identify what value he has not upheld and how he can better exemplify that value in the future. The children, very familiar with the lexicon of values that we have adopted throughout the years, are amazingly able to identify how and when their actions complement or are in conflict with the values that are discovered through Bible study, and the history and traditions of the Jewish people.

Our school-wide Values Program is designed to develop social and emotional behavioral skills that are appropriate for young children, and to create awareness of their source connections to our Torah tradition. Our Values Program incorporates the essential elements of:

- Developing skills to recognize and manage emotions
- Developing caring and concern for others
- Making responsible decisions
- Establishing responsible relationships
- Handling challenging situations effectively

In September, we will reintroduce our Values Program for the sixth consecutive year. While we will take a different approach this year, as we have done each year in the past, the emphasis on living a values-based life will remain constant. The ultimate goal of the Values Program is to create an understanding that our values carry the same imperatives beyond the school setting as they do on the school campus. The adults who play a role in the lives of our students are the most significant models to validate the lessons about values that they learn at school. A vital partnership between home, Temple, and school is essential to transforming the ideal of living our values into reality.



ROCHELLE GINSBURG
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Rabbinic Intern



Brett Krichiver grew up in Kansas City, and lived in Denver, Colorado before beginning Rabbinic School. He received the prestigious Wexner Graduate Fellowship to attend HUC-JIR. Brett was the Director of Hillel at the University of Denver and CU in Boulder, and has taught and served as Cantorial Soloist for several Denver congregations as well. Brett is especially interested in exploring the connection between Jewish education and the arts, and has written and produced several plays exploring this area. He is extremely excit-

ed to be joining the SSWT community as a rabbinic intern this year! He is married to Tami, who shares the same interest in music and is a cantorial soloist.

Cantorial Intern



Tannoz Bahremmand was born in Iran and moved to Los Angeles with her family when she was two and a half years old. Tannoz grew up in Beverly Hills, and attended Beverly Hills High School. Later she went to USC and majored in Education with an emphasis in Music. She decided that she wanted to be a Cantor after college, but at the time there was no Cantorial school on the west coast. So she began studying with the Cantor at her temple, Meir Finkelstein. The school that she is currently

attending, The Academy for Jewish Religion, opened up and shortly after, she applied. She is now beginning her fourth year and is very excited to be starting an internship at Stephen S. Wise Temple. Her job includes mentoring Bar/Bat Mitzvah students, conducting Shabbat and Bar/Bat Mitzvah services, conducting High Holy Day services, and doing Shiva Minyanim. Previously, Tannoz was the Cantorial intern at Sinai Temple, where she participated in High Holy Day and Shabbat morning services, called Torah in the Round. She also worked as a youth advisor in their Youth Department. In addition, Tannoz taught Hebrew school to 1st and 7th graders at the Sephardic Temple for over five years. She is also very proud of her first CD called the "Feast of Lights," which is a tribute to Hanukkah. Two years ago, she played the part of a Cantor in the awarding winning HBO television series, "Six Feet Under." She is married to David Foruzanfar and lives in the area. She is thrilled to be working at this wonderful Synagogue and hopes to meet you soon.



Terrie Baumann, the director of the Temple Gift Shop, epitomizes the commitment to community service that Stephen S. Wise Temple strives to impart to its congregants. Terrie has always given a great deal of her time and energy to Temple programs. She has consistently sought out volunteer opportunities at the Temple. Her generosity with volunteering comes from her desire to contribute to the Temple. As she says, "The Temple is a regular part of my life, and the life of my family. My daughters went to school here, became Bat Mitzvah, and were confirmed here. Now that they are grown, they still regularly participate in Temple programs. Volunteering here is just a natural way to give something back."

Terrie has served the congregation in numerous capacities: from classroom volunteer, to President of the Elementary School Parent Association and the Middle School Parent Association, to serving as a member of the Temple Board of Trustees. However, she is best known for her fifteen year stint at running the Stephen S. Wise Temple Gift Shop. Terrie attends trade shows, buys the inventory, does the bookkeeping, and tries to keep the Gift Shop staffed with volunteers. She acknowledges that working in the gift shop has been a rewarding experience which has afforded her the opportunity to meet more Temple members, and to get to know the Temple staff and clergy.

For Terrie, the hardest part of maintaining the Gift Shop is getting volunteers to dedicate some time to help in the store. She does have several members that regularly give their time to staff the shop, but she does need more help. She hopes that people will expand their connection beyond the Schools and become involved in the Gift Shop.

As a dedicated volunteer to the Schools and the Temple, and as a Temple member for 25 years, we want to thank Terrie Baumann for her dedication and service, and for continuing her connection, both spiritually and physically, to our Temple community.

Terrie and her husband Richard, have been married for 32 years and have been active members of the congregation for more than a quarter of a century. They have two daughters, Michelle, 28 and Alison, 25.

GIFT SHOP

The Temple Gift Shop is fully stocked with all of your High Holy Day needs. We have a complete selection of shofars, New Year cards, honey jars, and honey. This is the perfect time to buy new tallits and kippot for your family.

The Gift Shop is always looking for volunteers to help out a few hours a week. Your assistance benefits our Schools and Temple.

Please call Terrie Baumann at 818.705.5790 for further information.

Leslie Zola Science Scholarship Recipient 2004



Neta Batscha is an 8th grade student from Milken Community High School of Stephen Wise Temple. Neta states that the space program is one of our greatest challenges and that it will provide many new opportunities for humankind. She looks forward to these challenges and making a difference and feels that space camp will be a great adventure for her.

Congratulations Neta!
Wishing you an exciting space flight adventure as you explore the wonders of space!



NEWLY WISE

WE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS TO OUR TEMPLE FAMILY:

- Stephen and Paige Beck
- Kevin and Michelle Berkowitz
- Shahab and Azadeh Binafard
- R Bonchek
- Shahin and Doris Dardashty
- Dina Eliasi
- Gregory and Stephanie Federbush
- Scott and Kim Fisher
- Hercel and Nai Haghani
- Ray Hashman and Heidi Hame
- Afshin and Stella Kadabash
- Mark and Elise Lampert
- Igor and Natalia Manko
- Darryl and Deanna Marcovitch
- Bahman and Haleh Mashian
- Philip and Toby Midgen
- Steven and Bella Moshkovich
- Shahram and Arezoo Nemani
- Mehran and Fariba Nia
- Sam and Daphne Radfar
- Jacob and Valintin Rashtizadeh
- Raymond and Neda Sarraf
- Ron and Anat Schneider
- Abraham and Janet Tabaroki
- Gordon and Rebekah Wallack
- Alicia Wolin
- Kamran and Sabrina Younesi

Wise Travels



**Jewish Heritage Tour
of South America**

October 24 – November 5

Rabbi Eli Herscher and
Cantor Nathan Lam invite you
on a Jewish Heritage Tour
of South America with
Professor Stephen Berk.

For more information, call
Debbie Gordon at 310.889.2208



Family Camp

October 22-24
Camp Ramah, Ojai



Questions? Contact
Michelle November
310.889.2278 or
mnovember@sswt.org.

SOCIAL ACTION

As we begin the New Year —
Get Connected

SOVA Food Pantry, Reseda

Sunday, September 12
10:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

Help at the pantry or for Shabbat Services, please bring non-perishable food items for the SOVA bin.

Project Chicken Soup

Sunday, September 12 & 26

Hirsh Kosher Kitchen, Fairfax Area
Prepare meals for AIDS patients:
8:00 a.m. – 12 Noon
Help with delivery of meals:
11:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Build with Habitat for Humanity, Pacoima

Sunday, September 19
8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Join us as we hammer and saw, completing the next 17 homes at the Pierce Street Project (No experience necessary. Must be 14 years of age and accompanied by an adult).



Mitzvah Day Meeting

Monday, September 20
7:30 p.m.

Taub Annex A. Help make the world a better place... Join us for our Mitzvah Day meeting!
**SAVE THE DATE — MITZVAH DAY 2004
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

Bingo

Thursday, September 23
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

B-I-N-G-O at Jewish Home for the Aging, Reseda-Eisenberg Village; due to Rosh Hashanah, there will NOT be bingo at Grancell Village.

All projects qualify for community service credit for Milken Community High School and other local schools (grades 9–12). For information or to register for any of our Social Action activities, please call Diane Kabat: 310.889.2274, visit our website: www.sswt.org/sac, or e-mail: dkabat@sswt.org.

YOUNG CONGREGATION FOR PEOPLE IN THEIR 20S AND 30S

Desserts and Cocktails

Erev Rosh Hashanah
Wednesday, September 15

Brown-Freeman Parenting Center at the Temple. Come enjoy delicious apple desserts and cocktails (immediately following the Late Service in Westwood Sanctuary)! RSVP to Sarah Cohen at yc@sswt.org or 310.889.2242.



California Coastal Clean-up

Saturday, September 18
9 a.m. – 12 Noon

Topanga State Beach, Malibu
Then, come join us for lunch at The Reel Inn right across from the beach.
For more information, contact Sarah Cohen at yc@sswt.org or 310.889.2242.

L.A. YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Welcome to the Beginning Instrumental Program Night!

Monday, September 20
6:00 p.m.

Hershenson Hall. Join us for an informative evening to learn more about the Beginning Instrumental Program (BIP), with a performance by the Milken Community High School Chamber Ensemble. Get a chance to meet Director, Dr. Russell Steinberg, Program Supervisor, Louis Hoffman, and Instrumental coaches from the Stephen Wise Music Academy.

Instrument Rental and Registration for BIP will be available for anyone interested in joining this great program.
Please contact Louis Hoffman, Program Supervisor at 310.440.3500 ext. 3637.



PROGRAMS

HANNAH'S SISTERS

**Saturday, October 30
4:00 p.m.**

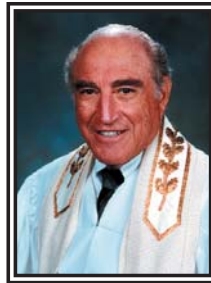
Hannah's Sisters returns! Women of all ages are welcome to participate in these inspirational programs held in member's homes. At each gathering, a female rabbi will facilitate an engaging discussion, followed by wine, cheese, and havdalah. Last year, Hannah's Sisters helped forge many new friendships, and attendees truly enjoyed the warmth of each home, not to mention the great company of women. This is our first Hannah's Sisters of the year. To RSVP, please contact Michelle November, 310.889.2234 or mnovember@sswt.org. Location and directions will be sent when we hear from you. SPACE IS LIMITED.



NEW SEASON BEGINS OCTOBER 15

WITH SPECIAL GUEST

Rabbi Zeldin continues his monthly Shabbat Service for the third consecutive year. Innovative prayers, followed by inspirational messages based on traditional texts, are utilized to gain insight on current issues. Join us on October 15 as we welcome Israel's premiere songstress, Hedva for the first Service of the year, with music direction by David Kates. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. (limited reservations), followed by Shabbat Services (open to everyone) at 8:30 p.m. Cost of dinner is \$15 per person, including wine. Please mail reservations to Ann Terrick at the Temple address. For more information, call Ann at 310.889.2213.



RABBI GAFNI RETURNS AS THE WISDOM CHAIR OF JEWISH STUDIES AT STEPHEN S. WISE TEMPLE

**Sunday, September 19, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, September 20, 7:30 p.m.**

Join us as Rabbi Gafni returns for the first of many visits throughout the year. He will be giving two lectures after the new year: "The Dance of Laughter and Tears: Two Steps Towards a Deeper Life" and "The Dance of Laughter and Tears: Two More Steps Towards a Deeper Life." For more information on Rabbi Gafni's lectures and visits, please refer to Page 3 or call the Clergy Office at 310.889.2264.



STEPHEN S. WISE TEMPLE

Golf Classic

Take a swing!

6th Annual Golf Classic

Wednesday, November 10 at Moorpark Country Club

For more information, call Dana Garfin,
Event Manager, at 310.889.2247 or e-mail dgarfin@sswt.org.

Clergy: Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin, Rabbi Eli Herscher, Rabbi David Woznica, Rabbi Leah Kroll, Rabbi Alan Rabishaw, Rabbi Ron Stern, Cantor Nathan Lam, Cantor Linda Kates; **Director of Education:** Metuka Benjamin; **Associate Executive Director:** Robert French; **Chief Financial Officer:** Joanne Klein, CPA; **Program Director:** Michelle November; **Director of Development:** Corey Slavin; **Membership Director:** Sarah Cohen; **Assistant Executive Director:** Joshua Stone, FTA; **Director, ECC:** Dafna Presnell; **Principal, Elementary School:** Rochelle Ginsburg; **Head of School, MCHS:** Dr. Rennie Wrubel; **Director of Religious School and Family Education:** Melissa Werbow; **President:** Eve Steinberg; **Vice Presidents:** Larry Gottlieb, Timothy Helfet, Dr. Stephen Marmer, Paul Nussbaum, Melvin Plutsky, Albert Praw, Jonathan Shapiro; **Executive Committee At-Large Representatives:** Lynn Bider, Ellen Michel; **Communications Coordinator:** Ariana West; **@wise Editorial Committee:** Robert French, Chair; Raz Husany; Alan Rabishaw; Michael Saul; Corey Slavin; Ariana West; **Layout:** Raz Husany; **Director of Media Production:** Michael Saul

**Stephen S. Wise Temple
Mission Statement**

We are a Beit Tefillah — a house of prayer and worship; a Beit Midrash — a house of education and study throughout the life cycle; and a Beit Knesset — a house of assembly and a community. We pursue these three interconnected identities in a caring and accessible way, encouraging a diverse membership to develop their spiritual lives, their connection to our people and their support of the State of Israel, within the traditions, perspectives and values of a progressive vision of Judaism.



SERVICES
SHABBAT

Please bring non-perishable food items for the SOVA bin when you come to Shabbat Services.

Every Friday

Early Shabbat Service
6:15 p.m.

(childcare available)

Every Saturday

Shabbat Morning Minyan
9:45 a.m.

In the Lainer Beit Midrash at Milken Community High School of Stephen Wise Temple (children's program available).

**B'NAI
MITZVAH**

September 4 — Ki Tavo

9:30 a.m. **Steven Szkolnik**, son of Fred and Lesley Szkolnik

11:30 a.m. **Ryan Abrams**, son of Ruben and Azita Abrams

3:45 p.m. **Roy Hadar-Schumert**, son of Etti Hadar and Raphael Schumert

September 11 — Nitzavim Vayeleych

9:30 a.m. **Oliver Berger**, son of Kerry Berger and Marc Berger

11:30 a.m. **Arya Sinai**, son of Alan and Roxanna Sinai

3:45 p.m. **Jared Hershler**, son of Eric and Lynette Hershler

September 18 — Haazinu Shuvah

9:30 a.m. **Melody Pakravan**, daughter of Fred and Mojgan Pakravan

11:30 a.m. **Adam Bloch**, son of Lion and Ora Bloch

3:45 p.m. **Benjamin and Daniel Toofer**, sons of Kamyab and Mojgan Toofer

5:30 p.m. **Jared Bernstein**, son of Jonathan and Janet Bernstein

HOLIDAYS

S'lihot

September 11
10:00 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah

Erev: September 15
First Day: September 16
Second Day: September 17

Yom Kippur

Erev: September 24
Day: September 25

For more information on our High Holy Day services, please call our hotline at 310.889.2383 or visit us on the web at www.sswt.org/highholidays



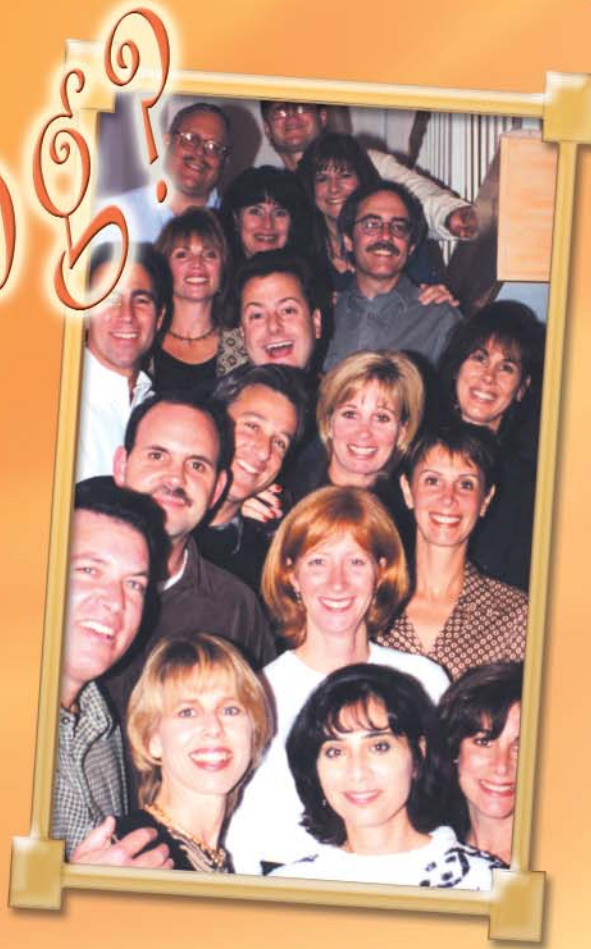
Sukkot Morning

September 30
10:00 a.m.

immediately followed by an Oneg.

Why are these people

Smiling?



They've all experienced

Havurah

Havurah is for singles and couples with or without children, Families, Empty Nesters and Singles.

Let us know you are interested.

Michelle November, Program Director,
310.889.2278 or mnovember@sswt.org.

Hav rah The only thing missing is "U"



ALANA SHLENKER
8TH GRADE MILKEN STUDENT

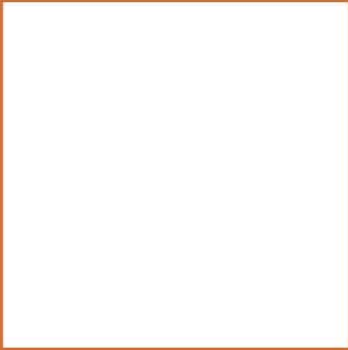


SCOTT MACKEY, ARCHITECT
FIELDS DEVEREAUX ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS



3 OF ONE

ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE ON OUR CAMPAIGN TO BUILD THE NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL.



“There is a natural imperative to build the Middle School and to complete our educational system. For students of middle school age, developing identity and connecting with peers is a key part of their educational experience. This is a critical time of their lives during which they build confidence, independence, and a sense of who they are as people and as Jews. The new Middle School

will give our students a campus of their own that will inspire them to learn, will evoke a sense of pride, and will provide them a sense of permanency that is so important as they grow into adulthood.”

- Dr. Rennie Wrubel, Head of School
Milken Community High School

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPAIGN, CONTACT COREY SLAVIN IN OUR DEVELOPMENT OFFICE AT 310.889.2276.

A VISION WITHIN A VISION

In their book *The Next Generation: Jewish Children and Adolescents*, Ariela Keysar, Barry Kosmin, and Jeffrey Scheckner, conclude that, "the growing size of the teenage population at the end of the 1990s suggests that the organized Jewish community would be wise to recognize the needs to develop more effective agents of socialization for adolescents beyond the family unit, because the family is of decreasing importance for this age group. At this age, teens are at a critical point when many choose to 'drop out' of organized Jewish life. The youth movement can give the adolescent a solid foundation through strong bonds to the Jewish community, while being sensitive to the adolescent's desire to make personal choices, exercise control, and discover a sense of self. Moral development and Jewish identity enhancement should be key elements in all Jewish youth groups and the diversity of these groups should reflect the variety of Jewish experiences that are possible."

Taking this into account, we have created a new program for SSWT's teenagers with a new direction, vision, and mission statement to help guide us.



VISION

Stephen S. Wise Temple values its teenage members and understands the important role that informal education plays in building and strengthening their Jewish identity — by providing opportunities to live and experience Judaism. *Teens@SSWT* will offer multiple programs as entry points for teens to explore and experience Judaism in the areas they find the most meaningful. Programs and opportunities will be offered in five core areas: Community (social), Spirituality, Living and Learning, Social Justice (community service), and Israel, each of which coincide with the larger SSWT organizational vision. *Teens@SSWT* will meet teens at this important stage in their life, by offering programs and experiences in which they have expressed interest through surveys and informal conversations. *Teens@SSWT's* ultimate goal is for Stephen S. Wise Temple to maintain meaning in its teens' lives and continue to be a place where they feel comfortable and know that their participation is valued and celebrated.

MISSION

Teens @ SSWT's mission is to meet the spiritual, educational, and social needs of our teenagers. This is done by offering multiple entry points to meaningful and compelling programs that help Jewish teens live SSWT's value that "being a Jew is lived not just taught."

Our teens have many options to choose from and so little time to do them. In the recent teen survey we conducted, we found that our teen population is highly programmed. Those that are involved in after-school programs (i.e. Sports, Drama, Music, etc.) have only about 12 ½ hours per week to do the things they want to do, compared to about 21 hours a week for those teens that don't; this includes Saturdays and Sundays. We want them to feel that *Teens@SSWT* is a meaningful and worthwhile option for them to spend their time.

We recognize that *Teens@SSWT* needs to not only be relevant, but also viewed as an essential part of being an SSWT teenager. As we continue to work towards offering the best programming available to our teens, I ask you, our teens' parents to enter into a partnership with this program. Strongly encourage your teens to participate. Together we can offer and provide our teens with something truly important—opportunities for Judaism to maintain meaning in their lives, while allowing them to feel anchored to Judaism and Stephen S. Wise Temple.

If you have suggestions or feedback for what you would like to see or what you think your teen would be interested in, please contact Jason Moss, Director of Teen Programming and Camps at 310.889.2345 or jmoss@sswt.org.

JASON MOSS
DIRECTOR OF TEEN PROGRAMMING AND CAMPS



Teens@SSWT,
San Francisco

Awaits...

November 12-15

More information
coming soon!

Contact Jason Moss at
310.889.2345 or
jmoss@sswt.org



MAZAL TOV

Joanne and Colin Leonard, on the marriage of her daughter Lindsay Newhouse to Michael Sarnoff

Rabbi Leah Kroll and Dr. Michael Zeldin on the marriage of their daughter Sivan Kroll-Zeldin to Igor Elkind

Rabbi Isaiah and Florence Zeldin on the marriage of their granddaughter Sivan Kroll-Zeldin to Igor Elkind

Joan Pall on the marriage of her daughter Traci to Hugh Meyer

Lisa (Auerbach) and Steve Perlman on their marriage

Lori Miller and Philip Lieberman on their marriage

Mariya (Favelyukis) and Victor Svilik on their marriage

Paula Ashton and David Levington on the marriage of her daughter Ariana to Kevin West

Ariana (Silberfeld) and Kevin West on their marriage

Lillian and Paul Mayman on the marriage of their granddaughter Ariana to Kevin West

Randi (Lake) and Steven Meyer on their marriage

Karl Meyer on the marriage of his son Steven to Randi Lake

Judy and Alan Lewinson on the birth of their granddaughter Kayla Rose Moss

Lori and Randy Moss on the birth of their daughter Kayla Rose

Sid and Joan Marantz on the engagement of their daughter Melissa to David Nealy

Louise and Michael Mandell's daughter Elisa receiving her PhD in Art History from UCLA

Louise and Michael Mandell on the birth of their grandson Zachary Ryder Mandell

Paul and Sandy Krentzman on the marriage of their son Greg to Sophie Cohen Solal and their son Chad Attie to Kim Van Nguyen

Ada and Ray Pivo on their son Jonathan's graduation from University of Maryland Dental School

Marci and Jeff Dulberg on the birth of their son Zachary Garrett, and to the proud big brother Jacob

Dan and Teri Berkoff on the birth of their grandson Zachary Garrett Dulberg

Dorothy and Stan Keys on the birth of their granddaughters Sarah Nicole Keys and Stella Ilana Bobrowsky

Joan Kroll on the marriage of her granddaughter Sivan Kroll-Zeldin to Igor Elkind

CONDOLENCES

Ruth Kayland, on the loss of her mother Celia Aguilar

Candace Konowitch, on the loss of her brother-in-law Michael Marsh

James Braufman, on the loss of his father Charles Braufman

Evaline Fishman, on the loss of her husband Etomer Fishman

Steven Fishman, on the loss of his father Etomer Fishman

Ruth Liebman, on the loss of her brother-in-law Hersh Klotzman

Susan Bogdanow, on the loss of her uncle Hersh Klotzman

Corie Gross on the loss of her father George Kleinberg

Susan Morris, on the loss of her mother Frieda Reichenthal

Dale Schatz, on the loss of his mother Irene Schatz

Alan Rubenstein, on the loss of his father Edward Rubenstein

Ramin Ravaei, on the loss of his father Jalal Ravaei

Mehran Ravaei, on the loss of his father Jalal Ravaei

Carole Haber, on the loss of her mother Ruth Schwartz

Susan Firestone, on the loss of her father Jack Wiseman

Lana Vosicher, on the loss of her mother-in-law Maria Vosicher

Linda Millman, on the loss of her mother Florence Daniels

JoAnna Hall, on the loss of her uncle Herbert Korngute

Carol Goldsmith, on the loss of her husband Jerry Goldsmith

LOSSES

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of our members

**Etomer Fishman
Jerry Goldsmith**

May God grant peace to all who mourn and comfort the bereaved families

RABBIS' DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

IN HONOR OF:

the baby naming of their son Zachary Ryan by Stacey and Mark Bronson

the b'nai mitzvah of their grandchildren Austin and Jillian Weyman by Marvin and Helen Levin

the b'nai mitzvah of their children Austin and Jillian by Donna and Gary Weyman

the bar mitzvah of their son Alex by Andrew and Cheryl Friedman

the bat mitzvah of their daughter Emily by Ronald and Amy Ossip

the marriage of their son Lance to Hilary Greenman by Mike and Lori Milken

the adult bat mitzvah of Judi Kaufman by Shirley and Mort Abramsky

their wedding by Randi and Steve Meyer

Aaron's bar mitzvah by Rick, Jodi and Aaron Kirkbride

Joey's bar mitzvah by Carin, Glenn, Joey, Lauren and Brian Freeman

David's bar mitzvah by Janine, Rick, Michelle and David Kolodny

the bat mitzvah of their daughter Hannah by Teri and Bruce Bialosky

the wedding of their daughter Laurie to Ben Haber by Karen and Harold Barnes

the marriage of their son Jordan to Dori Ross by Nancy and Richard Katz

the marriage of their son Richard to Tanya Vo by Gerry and Sylvia Crasnick

the baby naming of their daughter Chloe by Maya and David Fidler

the bat mitzvah of their daughter Rachel and the Confirmation of their daughter Stevie by AnnDee and Jeff Levy

Lynn and Les Bider by Rose and Warren Reid

the brit milah and naming of their son Ben by Alexis and Greg Martin

the brit milah of their grandson Isaac Benjamin Fishman by Gayle and Lee Rodgers

the bar mitzvah of their son Johnny by Kamran and Jila Hekmat

the bat mitzvah of their daughter Rebecca by Ginny and Larry Gotlieb

the 80th birthday of Karl Meyer by Anna Meyer and Mark and Anita Meyer

the marriage of their son Kevin to Michelle Leffler by Samuel and Nancy Berkowitz

the bat mitzvah of their granddaughter Julia Breslow by Warren and Elaine Breslow

the marriage of her daughter Jodi Blum to Aaron Cohen by Joan and Bill Feldman

the clergy participation at the Jewish Family Service dinner at which they were honorees by Debi and Marc Graboff

the confirmation of their granddaughter Stevie Levy and the bat mitzvah of their granddaughter Rachel Levy by Lolly and Ted Levy

the marriage of Deborah Linden and Ross Saly by Linda and Jeff Linden

extends its sincere appreciation for the following contributions:

the bar mitzvah of their son Mikey by Mark and Rhonda Wapnick

her Temple family with gratitude for all the get well wishes by Claire Rabishaw

the naming of her granddaughter Natalie Rose by Audrey Lucas

the bar mitzvah of her grandson Galen Stoller by Adele Stoller and Family

IN MEMORY OF:

David Ovitz by Michael and Judy Ovitz

Minnie Zagon by Bruce and Lynn Kaufman

Alex Billens by Havurah Harishonah

Bea Ruderman by the Cassel Family

Marvin Charles Berman by Jane, Alan and Matthew Lewis

Leonard Bender by David Bender

Lee Singer by Joyce Glantz

Joan Lippman by Bea Dubman

Jack Wiseman by Susan Firestone

Etomer Fishman by Steven and Jodie Fishman

Celia Kessler by Linda and Richard Adler

Alfred Levy by Fran and Maury Rice

CANTORS' DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

Michael and Lori Milken

IN HONOR OF:

Karl being called up to the Torah for an Aliyah by Karl, Steven and Randi Meyer

the marriage of their son Jordan to Dori Ross by Richard and Nancy Katz

the birth of their granddaughter Stella Ilana, daughter of Cantor Ilene Keys and David Bobrowsky, by Dorothy and Stan Keys and to the proud big brother Seth

the birth of their granddaughter Sarah Nicole, daughter of Steve and Pam Keys, by Dorothy and Stan Keys and to the proud big brother Andrew

Cantor Lam singing at the Jewish Family Service dinner in their honor by Marc and Debi Graboff

their marriage by Steve and Randi Meyer

the bar mitzvah of her grandson Galen Stoller by Adele Stoller and Family

IN MEMORY OF:

Edward Rubenstein by Alan and Helen Rubenstein

RABBI ISAIAH ZELDIN SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Rabbi Zeldin's birthday by Arnold and Caroline Cooperman

SSWT GENERAL FUND

Don Gursey

IN HONOR OF:

Norman Fogel's retirement by Teri and Bruce Bialosky

support of excellence in Lifelong Learning at SSWT by Vivian Feintech and Alan Greenfield

"for the joy of learning given by the Temple" by Ilse Tesari

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Seymour Owens by Sally Forster Jones

SHABBAT MORNING MINYAN FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Rabbi and Florence Zeldin's 61st wedding anniversary by Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Ettinger

IN MEMORY OF:

Ben Cohen by Ellen Shadur

AVI EFRAIM GESUNDHEIT FUND FOR MUSIC

IN HONOR OF:

Judi Kaufman's 60th birthday and her bat mitzvah by Ken and Wendy Ruby

Myna Herscher's 60th birthday by Ken and Wendy Ruby

SYLVIA HERSHENSON CAMPSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Sylvia Hershenson by Alan and Brenda Abramson and Family

LIFELONG LEARNING FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Barbara and Hank Wirtschafter's 50th wedding anniversary by Fred and Gail Heim

Les Bider's invocation into the Songwriter Hall of Fame by Sheilah and Donald Miller

MARILYN FORTNER MEMORIAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Marilyn Fortner by Steven Fortner and Family

Frances Fortner by Steven Fortner and Family

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Ellyn Foster by Steven and Gail Friedman

Seymour Brenner by Sussan and Michael Shore

Elaine Derk by the Jacobs Family

Bernice Alpert by Rochelle, Ron, Brooke and Shelby Fox

NAT STOLLER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Nat Stoller by Adele Stoller and Family

DIENER AND KADNER FAMILIES LIBRARY FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Jack Diener by Lila Kadner Shaps

LESLIE ZOLA SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Edna Flexer and Nan Bosworth by Sheila Burman

Edna Flexer by Maureen Johnson and Family

Annie Mary (Nan) Bosworth and Charles Henry Bosworth by Maureen Johnson, Steven and Debra Zeldin

JOE BARON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Joe Baron by Bea Baron and Family

Yahrzeit Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Rose Horn by Harold Tomin and Toby Horn

Sol and Sally Povar by Samuel Povar

Lenke Goldglants and Anna Dreicer by Marat and Helina Dreicer

Anne Marshall by Jill and Scott Spiwak

Louis Glick by Merle and Pearl Glick

Lenke Goldglants by Marilyn Bortnik

Louis Bersen and William Siegel by Renee and Bob Siragusa and Family

Rose Rothbarth by Dorothy and Stanley Hoffman

Barbara Rosen by the Rosen Family

Anne Honigberg by Gail and Allen Cohen

Allen Rabin by Ben and Elaine Winters

Gerald Dunitz by Maxine Dunitz

Bertha Freedman by William and Joan Feldman

Anna Luban by Ruby Luban

Evelyn Price by William and Joan Feldman

Hymie Singer by Ruth Singer and Family

PLEASE SEND DETAILS OF YOUR SIMCHAS TO:

ANN TERRICK (ATERRICK@SSWT.ORG)

AT THE TEMPLE TO BE INCLUDED IN OUR MAZAL TOV LIST.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR PIECE BY THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH, SIX WEEKS PRIOR TO THE PUBLICATION (EG: DUE SEPTEMBER 15 FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE).

TO SEND A TRIBUTE:

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Rabbi Eli Herscher places over 300 notes and prayers into the Western Wall as part of the Maxine Dunitz Western Wall Project in June 2004. As members of our clergy travel to Israel, they will continue to place our congregants' prayers in the Western Wall. Thank you for your participation in this special project!