



Rabbi's Message



Photo Credit: Justine Cooper

Here I Am

In December I attended the Union for Reform Judaism's Biennial convention. Over 6,000 Reform Jews gathered near Washington, D.C. to exchange ideas, schmooze, learn, and celebrate Shabbat together. The URJ launched its Campaign for Youth Engagement, urging congregations to turn their attention to keeping more religious school students involved in synagogue life after bar or bat mitzvah. The Biennial included an Education Summit, in which I participated, focusing on making the most of our religious schools. There were moving tributes to singer/songwriter Debbie Friedman, who died during the past year, and whose music changed American Jewish practice, as well as performances by newer stars of Jewish music, including Josh Nelson and Michelle Citrin. On Shabbat evening, I joined in the largest Shabbat dinner in the world.

I was also privileged to see the speech to the Biennial by President Barack Obama. Regardless of political position, it was exciting to be in the same room with the president of the United States. He gave a good speech, too, including a bar mitzvah-worthy d'var Torah. He focused on one word from that week's Torah portion: *hineini*. Though one word in Hebrew, in English it's a phrase: "Here I am." In the Torah, *hineini* is what Abraham says when God speaks to him to tell him to sacrifice Isaac. It's what Joseph says to his father, Jacob, when Jacob calls him to tell him to go find his brothers (that was the Torah portion President Obama was discussing). And Moses says, "*Hineini*," when God calls his name from the burning bush.

Hineini means more than it seems. It means, "Here I am, ready to do what you ask." This is a state of readiness, attention, eagerness to participate in whatever is coming next, even if you aren't sure what it is. Thus the phrase is also indicative of loyalty and great trust. Each one of us should feel honored by every person in our lives who is willing to say *hineini* when we call, and we should feel fortunate for every relationship we have in which we are able to trust someone else enough to say *hineini* when they call us.

(Rabbi's Message continued p. 2)

Shabbat Services



January 6th & 7th

Friday Evening 8:30 PM
Oneg Following Services
Sponsored by Meridith Messinger and Lawrence Wolf
In Honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Aaron

Saturday Morning 10:00 AM
Celebrating the Bar Mitzvah of
Aaron Wolf

January 13th & 14th

Friday Evening 8:30 PM
Oneg Following Services

Saturday Morning 11:15 AM
January 21st & 22nd

Friday Evening 8:30 PM
Oneg Following Services

Saturday Morning 11:15 AM
January 27th & 28th

Friday Evening 8:30 PM
Oneg Following Services

Saturday Morning 11:15 AM

*Installation of Rabbi Heidi Hoover
and Havdalah Service*

Saturday Evening 7:30 PM

February 3rd & 4th

Friday Evening 8:30 PM
Oneg Following Services

Saturday Morning 10:00 AM
Tu B'Shevat Seder

Rabbi's Message (Continued)

We are now beginning a new (secular) year. You will be hearing in months to come about various opportunities for you to say *hineini* within our congregation. Are you ready to say, "Here I am, ready to contribute more to our community"? Many of you have been saying this for years, and have given a great deal to the congregation by giving your time, your money, your commitment. Some of you were involved in the past but aren't so much anymore, and some of you are fairly new, or very new, to temple and have perhaps not yet found your way to get involved.

My promise to you as the new year begins is to work with our board of trustees and do all I can to help this community continue to be one that is worthy of your loyalty and trust, one that is worthy of your *hineini*. Whether your way of saying, "Here I am, ready to answer the call," is to join a committee that interests you, or to send in a donation, or to take on a project that is important to you, or all of the above, your contribution is valuable and important. You are not a customer, and the temple is not a vendor. The temple is a community, and you are a part of it. If there is anything I can do to help you feel ready to say *hineini* to this community, please get in touch with me.

This is a great time to get involved. We have a lot happening at temple, and there is much to be done. You are needed, and you are valued. Happy new year, and I look forward to seeing you at temple.

Rabbi Heidi Hoover

Shalom & Tot Shabbats

Friday Mornings, 10:00 AM
 January 6th, 13th, 20 & 28th
 Led by Rabbi Heidi Hoover

Saturday Mornings, 10:00 AM
 January 14th, 21st & 28th
 Led by Lizz Goldstein, Holder of the Jacqueline Smith Memorial Rabbinic Internship

For Children under 5 and their Caregivers

December Sisterhood



On Saturday morning, at the December 17th Sisterhood Lecture Series, Temple members were treated to an insider's look at the workings of a District Attorney's Office. Temple member Jeffrey Levinson, who is an Assistant DA for New York County, walked us through the steps of the criminal justice system from arrest and arraignment to trial and conviction or acquittal. Jeffrey explained the functions of the Criminal and Supreme Courts as well as the role of the Grand Jury. He held everyone's attention as he recounted the research associated with a recently closed case. He led us through the detailed fact-finding and research used for the trial, which drew upon video surveillance cameras, cell phone records and credit card transactions. It was far more enthralling than any television portrayal of the work of DA's.

Torah Study

Saturday Morning, January 7th
 at 10:00 AM

Friday Evenings, January 6th & 13th and
 February 3rd at 7:30 PM

With Rabbi Heidi Hoover

Member of the Month

Bob Pandolfo



Bob Pandolfo is probably the most visible person at the High Holy Days – and for good reason. As our Head Usher, he makes sure that we are all in our right places and that all of our pledges have been received.

Raised as a Catholic, Bob was born in Washington Heights in Manhattan. He attended Stepinac High School in White Plains during his freshman year before finishing his high school career at Tuckahoe H.S. in Eastchester. He then went on to earn a BA in History at Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY (home of the United States Soccer Hall of Fame).

After college, he joined the Air Force and saw the world – Okinawa, England, Germany, Italy and The Netherlands.

Bob met his wife, Lori, while they both worked in the Information Technology department at Royal Globe Insurance in Manhattan. They were married in 1977 and have traveled to San Francisco, Montreal, Toronto, Calgary and Paris.

The Pandolfo's are early members of Temple Beth Emeth. They joined in the late '70's and Bob was converted to Judaism in 1983. At the conversion ceremony after a Friday night service, Cantor Walter Davidson gave him the name "Reuven".

Aside from his ushering duties, Bob has participated in building the sukkah and has helped organize and run the games portion of our annual Purim Carnival. This past year, he assisted Gordon Berlin in preparing a New York State grant application for repair of our roof. Both he and Lori serve on the Board of Trustees.

At this point in time, he is looking for a position as a programmer, data analyst, and/or database administrator.

Bob and Lori are the parents of Mara (she's 28 and an attorney) and Katie (she's 24 and presently attending Albany Medical School).

Bob feels that the Temple is truly a friendly temple. He has always felt welcomed into its community and its new direction and outreach activities are exciting.

Alan Zarrow

MAMA DONI

On Saturday morning, December 10th, children and adults alike were treated to arousing entertainment performed by Mama Doni. No one could stay in their seats once the music and singing begun. It was an exciting way to start the holiday season.



Israeli and Folk Dancing



Back By Popular Demand

Mondays, January 9th, 16th & 23rd
at 7:30 PM

\$12 per class for Temple members, \$15
for non-members

Light Refreshments served

Adult Shiur

Friday Evening, January 27th

at 7:30 PM

Topic: Getting to know Jeremiah

Congratulations

Danny Landberg who, as head coach of the Erasmus Hall High School football team, led The Dutchmen to the 2011 Public Schools Athletic League football championship game at Yankee Stadium on December 6th.

Alan Zarrow for being selected as the "referee" (crew chief) for the 2011 PSAL "Reilly Classic" Brooklyn Senior All-Star football game on December 10th.

Bruce Morel for correctly answering the question in last month's Member of the Month feature: "What was the original name of Edward R. Murrow High School?" It was North Central High School. According to a rumor, the original Board of Education construction plaque is still hanging in the lobby with the old name on it.

Dr. Steven and Dr. Ann Garner on the birth of their new grandson, Samuel Hudson Stephens. Samuel was born to Hope and Daniel on December 10th.

L'dor V'dor Centennial Celebration



Cantor Nonie Schuster Donato performing with daughter Emily Donato

On the cold Sunday evening of December 18th, the Temple Sanctuary was warmly filled to capacity to hear the music of *Shir Chadash*, The Brooklyn Jewish Community Chorus with Nonie Schuster Donato and Cantor Sam Levine. Under the direction of Rachel Brook, the choir filled the chambers with a joyful blend of religious and holiday music. Choir membership boasted several Temple members including Alvin Berk, Ruth Bilé, Barbara Katz, Rita Landberg and Hazel Tishcoff.

Installation of Rabbi Heidi Hoover & Havdalah Service

Saturday Evening January 28th
7:30 PM

Reception to follow with light refreshments

Ditmas Acoustic @ The Sanctuary

Wednesday Evening, January 18th
at 7 PM, Tickets \$10

SISTERHOOD NEWS



Saturday, January 21st

Brunch 10:00 AM/Lecture 10:30 AM

Guest Speaker: To be announced

\$5 (members), \$10 (non-members)

Temple Banquet Room

Parent Workshop

Saturday Morning, January 14th
at 10:00 AM

Topic: The Power of Jewish Ritual



MEMORIAL FUND

Donor

Werner & Natalie Friedlander
 Mildred Morel & Family
 Alice & Len Margolis
 Dr. Bruce & Alese Garner
 Dorothy Dicker
 Lawrence and Nancy Frost

In Memory of

Siegmar Friedlander
 Paula King
 Paula King
 Sybil Garner
 Philip Dicker
 Ruth Frost

CELEBRATION FUND

Donor

Mildred Morel

Celebrating

Birth of Drs. Steven and Anne Garner's
 grandson Samuel Hudson Stephens

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

**RECOVERY FUND
 MORTON MEYER FUND**

Donor

Linda Korman

In Honor of

Miriam Meyer's 93rd Birthday

- RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**
- LIBRARY FUND**
- IRMA WOLVEK SISTERHOOD LECTURE FUND**
- RABBI SOSKIN FUNDSHIP**
- JACQUELINE SMITH MEMORIAL RABBINIC INTERNSHIP**
- BLUESTONE PRAYERBOOK AND PULPIT FUND**



Candlelighting



Friday, January 6	4:25 PM
Friday, January 13	4:32 PM
Friday, January 20	4:40 PM
Friday, January 27	4:48 PM
Friday, February 3	4:57 PM

**Celebrate Shabbat at Our
 Monthly Potluck Dinner**



Friday, January 20th at 6:30 PM

Pizza provided, Bring vegetarian dish

Services follow at 8:00 PM

TRUSTEES MEETING



Wednesday Evening

January 11th

7:30 PM

Temple Banquet Room

Book Plates



Bookplates are available for placement in prayerbooks - either Shabbat or High Holy Days. Donation for each plate is \$18. Bookplates could be for either "in memory of", "in celebration of", or "in honor of".

Contact the Temple Office for donating.

YAHARZEIT KADDISH LIST

The names listed below are taken from the *Bronze Tablets* and the *Book of Life*. Names are read at the Sabbath service following the date of passing. For information about *Memorial Plaques* and perpetual Kaddish, please call the Temple Office.

January 6th & 7th

Samuel Appel
Julie Baumeister
Dr. Henry Cohen
Leon De Silva
Jacob Deutsch
May Fraade
Regina Friedman
Maurice Goldberg
Morse H. Gaines
Sarah Glass
Esther Goodman
Sarah Gottschalk
Harry Grass
Ellen Herbsman
Frank G. Kamin
Anna Lauffer
Kiva Moncheck
Julia Nathan
Pauline Neger
Frances Opolinsky
Edith B.L. Peiper
Anna Peters
Benjamin Phillips
Max. L. Pincus
Annie Rosenbaum
Abraham Ravicovitz
Joseph Selig Scheier
John Shatz
Kate Sabbath
Morton Schick
Benjamin Seitelman
Sophie Septoff
Minnie Solomon
Esther Stein
Lillian Trager
Abraham Vakshall
Sophie Viertel
Meyer Weyner
Simon Sinkel
Morris Wagner
Celia Weiss
Naomi Wofse

January 13th & 14th

Eva D. Abrahams
Julie E. Adelson
Rose Davidsberg Appel
David Aronson
Benjamin Chassman
Rose Rosenthal Cohen
Simon Davis
Max Dreyfuss
Irwin Falk
Charles Fenster
Marcus M. Friedlander
Michael Gall
Moris Goldberg

Sigmund Goldschmidt
Charles Greenwald
Fannie Hecht
Joseph J. Jacobson
Grace Elish Kirsten
Rebecca Kornfeld
Anna Kosakofsky
Morris Kramer
Charles S. Kurzweil
Irving L. Michael
Rachel C. Mifflin
Rose. Milman
Osnas Natelson
Moses Ostfeld
Julius Peyser
Regina Rhein
Ida Rice
Edward Samuels
Mona Schatz
Daisy Schlansky
Evelyn Scholer
Etta Schuhmann
Philip Sedlitz
Rose Seidner
Jacob Seley
Joseph Spielberg
Edward Sweedler
Pincus Tishcler
Benno Tobias
Caroline Wolff
Samuel Weishoff
Adolph Weiss
Ephraim Wolff
Samuel Wolk

January 20th & 21st

Millie Bayer
Alan Bergmann
Mamie Berman
Rose Choban
Alton Costuma
Ada Dilloff
Buron Eckstein
Daisy Eichel
Harry Erlanger
Jacob Feinson
Barnet Finkelbrand
Emanuel Forman
Eugene Fribourg
Jacob Goldstein
Annie Mary Gotliffe
Theodore Haiken
Bertrand L. Hoffman
Abraham Jacobson
Ida Kaufman
Louis Baer Kroll
David Levin
Kate Levison
Sigmund Levy

Rabbi Samuel E.
Manchester
Benny Miller
Ira Moldow
George Newman
Lena Oppis
Matilda Petersdorf
Leo Roth
Morris Sadock
Max Schlesinger
Samuel Shuff
Hannah Sichel
Henrietta Sonnenshine
Hilda Steig
Isasc Superior
Sylvia Tanner
Theresa Tepper
Lillian Wolfe

January 27th & 28th

Jacob Aronson
Fannie Arvins
Rose Beattenfein
Nahum T. Binderman
Sarah Blumenthal
Jefferson G. Breitbart
Blanche Augusta Burger
Sari Gluck Christy
Hannah Esther Cohen
Dora Roinick Feldman
Harvey Garner
Grayce Geist
Sadie Gelfer
Morris Goldberg
Jeanne Goldberger
Israel Morris Goldfarb
Birdie Hellman
Dora Hoffman
Eric Von Jones
Mina Kiss
Florence Chaison Knopp
Rose Korn
Ida Beth Kurland
Annie Levin
Bernard Levin
Ruth E. Levin
Jacob Lewis
Saretta P. Martin
Malcolm May
Ruth Mendelsohn
Emma Meyer
Max Multer
Francis Perry
Abraham Phillips
Cyril Prisyon
Fannie Remsfelder
Gussie Berlin Rice
Isaac Rothman
Samuel Saftlas

Anna Silverman
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Rabbi Samuel D. Soskin
Jacob Strahl
Ada L. Sweedler
Henry Theobald
David Umlas
Bernard A. Van Gelder
Morris Waxman
Samuel Weiss

February 3rd & 4th

Harry Aarons
Beatrice Bergmann
Bella Bergoffen
Samuel P. Bermas
Joseph A. Bernstein
Jess Blank
Nathan Brody
Maurice Cantor
Simon Delinsky
Samuel Feldman
Anna Ritter Finkel
Caroline Friedenberg
Anna Fuerst
Paul Gottschalk
Mollie Greenberg
Morton Halpern
Charlotte F. Kahne
Barend Keit
Simon Keit
Anna Leivand
Harry Levine
Fannie Lipshitz
Hannah S. Maas
Mary Malawista
Jacob Malter
Samuel Marks
Aaron P. Nevins
Mary Newman
Augustus Phillips
Ann Ritter
Rebecca Rosenthal
Lila Bunsis Ross
Annie Rotto
Ruth Samburg
Jeanne Schneiderman
Oscar Shank
Ruth Shipman
John Smith
Rose Spielberg
Anne Walker
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