



Blintz Blitz and Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Tuesday, June 7
7:00 pm

SERVICE AND STUDY WITH RABBIS
BONNIE KOPPELL AND EVON YAKAR

Yizkor Service

Thursday, June 9
10:00 am

In This Issue:

- Wisdom in Life - Page 2 • A Message from the President - Page 3 • Adult Programming/Learning - Page 4 •
- Reader's Choice (New Feature) - Page 5 • Director's Notes - Page 6 • Shalom Center Happenings - Page 7 •
- Youth & Education - Pages 8 - 10 • Donations - Pages 15 - 16 • and much, much more!!!



Rabbi Bonnie Koppell

Wisdom in Life

***“Wash what is dirty
Water what is dry
Heal what is wounded
Warm what is cold
Guide what goes off the road***

And love people who are the least loveable, because they need it the most.”

I recently encountered this wisdom in life from a woman who did not enjoy the benefits of formal education but had clearly learned much about what is of ultimate value. A few thoughts on what she teaches:

Wash what is dirty - Seems obvious, right? Why would we wash what is clean? Perhaps because it is so much easier. Washing what is dirty implies paying attention to some unpleasant truths. There is a natural temptation to focus on our own strengths and ignore the challenge of humbly acknowledging and focusing on improving our character. In order to restore our souls to their original purity we need to be willing to wrestle with their impurities.

Water what is dry - The prophet Amos (8:11) speaks of a day characterized by hunger and thirst, but not a hunger for bread nor a thirst for water, rather, to hear the words of God. That day is now - our world is thirsting for us to embody the word of God in all our ways, for us to be that force that waters what is dry.

Heal what is wounded - To know a person, it has been said, is to know what causes them pain. If we open our hearts to listen, we will quickly learn of the burdens we each carry. As a community, we strive to be a comforting presence to each other in a world which contains many opportunities for joy along with many moments of struggle.

Warm what is cold - Individuals who have been lost in the wilderness have often survived only by huddling together and sustaining each other with their physical warmth. What we cannot endure alone, we can endure through the blessing of our caring congregation.

Guide what goes off the road - One of the most difficult challenges we face is offering gentle feedback when we see friends and loved ones stray. It is a sign of deep commitment to our relationships and trust in the maturity of others that we tell them not only that they are the best but also that they can be better, that we guide them back onto the road with kindness and compassion.

And love people who are the least loveable, because they need it the most - The UJA at one time had a slogan, “We are one.” The unity of God is reflected in the unity of Temple Chai: we can and must embrace every Jew, at all times, even when we evidence our much vaunted quality of being “a stiff-necked people.” By the way, this also means loving and forgiving ourselves when we are least loveable as well.

B’shalom,

Rabbi Bonnie Koppell

June Services

Friday, June 3 (1 Sivan)

5:00 pm Tot Shabbat
6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
Candle Lighting Time - 7:16 pm

Saturday, June 4 (2 Sivan)

8:45 am Shacharit Service
8:45 am Bat Mitzvah

Natalie Stockwell

10:30 am B’nai Mitzvah

Jamie German

Matthew Rosenthal

Naso

Shavuot

Tuesday, June 7 (5 Sivan)

7:00 pm Service and Study

Thursday, June 9 (7 Sivan)

10:00 am Yizkor

Friday, June 10 (8 Sivan)

6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
Candle Lighting Time - 7:19 pm

Saturday, June 11 (9 Sivan)

8:45 am Shacharit Service

10:30 am B’nai Mitzvah

Cori Cantin

Matthew Ginsberg

B’haalot’cho

Friday, June 17 (15 Sivan)

6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
Candle Lighting Time - 7:22 pm

Saturday, June 18 (16 Sivan)

8:45 am Shacharit Service

Shelach

Friday, June 24 (22 Sivan)

6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat
Candle Lighting Time - 7:24 pm

Saturday, June 25 (23 Sivan)

8:45 am Shacharit Service

Korach

July Services

Tot Shabbat

Friday, July 1

5:00 pm

Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday’s, July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

6:15 pm

Shacharit Service

Saturday’s July 2, 9, 16, 23

& 30

8:45 am



Ginny Keller

From the President

Dear Fellow Congregants,

I think the warm weather has finally arrived, and with it, our kids are out of school, and summer camps and vacations are beginning to appear on our horizons. The Board will take a break as well, with July having no meeting times scheduled on the calendar. However, I'd like to keep you updated on some things that will go on over the summer while life is a little slower around our synagogue.

First, thanks to our Campaign to Secure Our Future, and a generous family's lead gift, we will be renovating our Sanctuary bathrooms during the month of July. As I have mentioned on numerous occasions, these bathrooms have been high up on the priority list of needing attention for quite a while. The renovations will not only make the bathrooms functional again, but they will be beautiful as well. You are probably aware that this aspect of our facility is crucial to attract people who want to have celebrations and simchas here at Temple Chai. Not only will this provide much needed repairs for us, but will be a draw for those interested in renting our Social Hall space as well. Many thanks to congregant Debbie Berkowitz, who was willing to help with the planning, organizing, and legwork on this project. Equal gratitude goes out to congregant Debbie Hernandez for adding her design expertise and bringing in her preferred contractors to complete the picture.

Second, the "construction" of our new web site has been underway, and the finished product will be rolled out this month. With tremendous gratitude to our congregant Martha Mann, we will have a beautiful and user-friendly resource center for our own information as well as for visitors and prospective new members. I have had the fun of watching this site progress in its construction, and the new "structure" is lovely. I do liken it to the construction of a new house – while the building will be complete and functional, some of the "rooms" will take a little while to furnish completely. We will continue to work on the content of the website until it is complete.

Third, the extremely successful Valley Beit Midrash will open its second season here at Temple Chai in September. Rabbi Darren Kleinberg has been busy setting up programs, classes and guest lecturers for another blockbuster season of energetic, stimulating and provocative pluralistic learning. Please save the date of Wednesday, September 7 for the free, community kickoff event featuring Rabbi Leon Morris. Also mark your calendars for a very special VBM event on Wednesday, November 2 when Rabbi Dr. Irving "Yitz" Greenberg comes to Temple Chai. Rabbi Greenberg is one of the most influential Jewish thinkers and teachers in the last half-century, and we are honored to have him as our Valley Beit Midrash special guest lecturer that evening.

These represent a sampling of the exciting and positive happenings in the works here at Temple Chai. I thank all of you for being members of this wonderful congregation, and wish a peaceful and safe summer to you all.

With My Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ginny". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Adult Programming



Bat Chai

Women's Programming

For information about Bat Chai programming, or to be part of the planning committee, contact Joan Neer at 602-971-1234 or jneer@templechai.com



Dor L'Dor

"Generation to Generation"

Programming for our 55+ Community

Dor L' Dor will begin it's 11th year in November, 2011!

If you have any questions regarding the programming for Dor L'Dor, please contact Sheana Abrams at 602-971-1234 or sabrams@templechai.com



Chai Men's Club

Chai Men's Club is open to all male congregants of Temple Chai.

Watch for
New Programming
in August!

For more information about Chai Men's Club, contact Sheana Abrams at 602-971-1234 or sabrams@templechai.com



20s & 30s Community

The Merge

Join us on Facebook
Search "The Merge"

For more information on upcoming events:
emailinfo@themergeaz.com



Adult Learning

Weekly Classes at Temple Chai

Parashat HaShavua - The Jewish experience is framed through the lens of the weekly Torah portion. We begin in the fall with the story of Creation, read of Noah, the patriarchs and matriarchs, journey to Egypt and stand at Sinai. As we travel through the wilderness, the *Mishkan* is constructed and the foundation of a just and caring society is established. We conclude the year poised to enter the Promised Land. Join us on Wednesdays, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. There is no charge and you are invited to "drop in" anytime and bring your own lunch.

Torah Study - Sundays when Religious School is in session, 9:30 - 10:30 am. This is an on-going class - drop-ins are always welcome.

Save the Date!

VBM Kick-Off Event

Join us for an evening with Rabbi Leon Morris as we celebrate the launch of the 2nd year of Valley Beit Midrash

**Wednesday, September 7
7:00 pm, Temple Chai
refreshments will be served**

For more information, please contact Joan Neer at 602-971-1234 or jneer@templechai.com

MINDERFUL CENTER, LLC

*THOUGHTFUL CLASSES FOR
INTELLIGENT LIFELONG LEARNERS*

June/July Classes offered at Temple Chai

Tuesdays and Wednesdays

10% discount for Temple Chai members

For class details, dates and times, information and to register, contact John Thaxton: www.mindful.com or email john@mindful.com

Reader's Choice

For your Summer Reading Pleasure...
Great Jewish books reviewed and summarized by our Board of Directors

***Hillel: If Not Now, When?* by Joseph Telushkin**

When asked to review Joseph Telushkin's newest book, "***Hillel: If Not Now, When?***" I anticipated being subjected to a guilty ride through all of those many deeds of personal and social actions that I, that we, simply do not complete. Good news, that is not what this book is about.

To know who we are, why we are, and where we should be headed as practicing Reform Jews in modernity, I believe it critical to have some idea of the root of our philosophy. Prior to this read, though fortunate enough to have been exposed to some great teachers at Temple Chai, it never really occurred to me that the roots of today's two distinct ways of understanding and practicing our religion actually stem all the way back to the schools of Hillel and Shammai (10 B.C.E. to 30 C.E.). Citing Talmudic lessons, Rabbi Telushkin clearly walks us down the path of knowing Hillel and in so doing, connects us to him in a very deep way, giving us the encouragement we so badly need to know that our movement has historic origins, authenticity, and great purpose.

"What is hateful unto you, do not do unto your neighbor. That is the whole Torah, all the rest is commentary. Now go and study." - - *Hillel*

Philosophically, the golden rule may not in and of itself answer all of the problems of our time. Perhaps combined with the practice of self sacrifice, charity, and compassion, characteristics that should stem from study and self awareness, we can actually strive for the good, which I now believe to have been Hillel's mission.

On the Five Star of David Scale, " Five Stars." A great, easy, insightful, read.

Allan Isaacson, Board of Director

Cantor's Corner

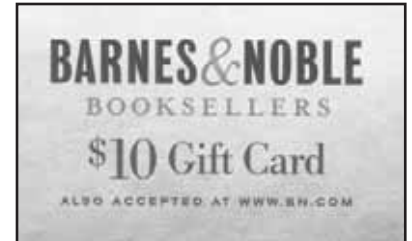
Have you ever thought of joining the choir? Come on...be honest! This is your chance. We will be starting up a new season on Sunday, August 21 with a fun and tasty choir "retreat" at Temple Chai. Our first rehearsal will be Tuesday, August 23. You do not need to read music. The music is gorgeous and I know you will find it a great experience. Our choir, our conductor, Dan Kurek, and I will welcome you with open arms. If you decide that it is not right for you, just don't come back! Regular rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me anytime.

Musically yours!
Cantor Peter



Joe Miller

From the Executive Director Temple Chai Scrip Program



Dear Friends,

The Temple's Scrip Program will contribute \$20,000 to our 2010-2011 budget. A little over a year ago, that number was zero. We've come a long way in building this program to support the temple. **And it didn't cost anyone a penny!** Thank you!

We've worked hard to make this program easy for everyone.

- Any time the temple is open, you can purchase Scrip gift cards.
- On Sunday mornings during Religious School, a volunteer is stationed in the courtyard selling cards.
- You can order your cards by fax, phone or e-mail.
- We have volunteers that will deliver your card order right to your door.
- Over 900 merchants participate in this program. We have access to gift cards from almost any store you can think of.
- Many of our temple members use re-loadable gifts cards to do their shopping at Fry's and Bashas'. These cards can be re-loaded right at the stores when you shop. (Over half of the income from this program is coming from Fry's alone!)

THANK YOU to all who continue to be a part of this program. Your dedication to your temple community is noted and appreciated.

Warm regards,





Sharona Silverman

Shalom Center Happenings



"It is by our deeds that we express our faith and make it real in the lives of others and the world." - Sir Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of Great Britain and the Commonwealth

The Shalom Center has provided Temple Chai and our community with some wonderful events and activities this year that have been supported by an amazing group of volunteers, giving their time, love, and passion to make them happen.

Volunteers are of utmost importance to the life of a synagogue. As Jews, we feel a responsibility to others, to society, and to humanity. Our spirituality is based on the communal values of loving kindness and altruism. How blessed we are at Temple Chai to be part of a community where caring and tikkun olam are a way of life!

Our recent conference on "A Jewish Approach to Conscious Living and Conscious Dying" involved many volunteers who were facilitators of workshops and organizers of the conference itself. I thank you deeply for your commitment and your accomplishments.

Throughout the year, we have had numerous facilitators and teachers who have shared their talents and passions to lead support groups or provide lectures to our community. You rock!

We are also blessed to have congregants who create healing artwork and crafts. We feel the love and compassion in both the time they put into creating as well as in the final product. These gifts provide comfort and healing through the sharing of the life-affirming creative process.

The volunteer spirit can be felt strongly at Temple Chai through the good deeds of our Caring Community. The members of this community offer comfort, encouragement, and a caring presence to the sick, bereaved, and lonely.

Research studies are showing that regular volunteer work can keep you physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually healthy. Volunteering helps you expand your social circle by finding kindred spirits that share common interests. Furthermore, there is a great emotional boost that comes from doing something that has an impact on others. We believe we provide these types of connections through our Caring Community. Trainings to become part of this committee occur throughout the year, and you just need to let us know at the Shalom Center if you are interested and we will make it happen.

Finally, I want to thank all of the volunteers that made the Shalom Center "Celebration of Joy" such a success. This includes the wonderful team lead by Janie Kuznitsky and Debbie Berkowitz. The committee for the event included Toni Dusik, Sharona Feller, Lori Fischler, Sandi Goldstein, Nora Perlmutter, Paula Ross, and Cindy Weiser. When you get the chance, please come visit our incredible art piece created by Sue Goldsand. WEAVING SHALOM was created as homage to those from points far and wide who have gathered at the Western Wall to pray and to place a prayer in one of the cracks of the ancient wall. This fused glass piece was designed with spaces to accommodate written prayers that will be taken to Israel by members of Temple Chai's extended family. As Sue stated, "The fused glass of WEAVING SHALOM, in its many colors and striations, symbolizes the commingling of life, diverse community, and spirit. The hamsas hold the interlacing strands of glass, representing comfort, happiness, and well-being."

For all of you that bring comfort, happiness, and well-being to Temple Chai, I thank you.

L'Shalom,

Sharona Silverman

June Programs

Caring for our Loved Ones: A Jewish Support and Resource Group for Families and Caregivers

Monday, June 13
7:00 – 8:30 pm

Healing Handiwork

Sunday, June 12
1:00 – 4:00 pm
at a private home. Contact Deborah at 602-421-6596 for more information on the group.

JACS: Support Group Meeting for Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons and Significant Others

Wednesday, June 1 and 15
7:30 pm

Knitting with Kavannah

There will no meetings in June, July, and August. The group will resume in September.

Living Through Loss

Monday, June 6 and 20
4:30 – 6:00 pm

Now Childless

Bereavement group for parents who have lost their only child or all of their children. There will be no meetings in June, July, and August. The group will resume in September.

Southwest Job Network -

Offering support, information, and education
Tuesday, June 7 and 21
8:30 – 11:45 am

Shacharit Meditation Service

There will be no meetings in June or July. Please join us when we resume on Saturday, August 20
11:00 am – 12:00 Noon



Debbie Popiel, Director of Early Childhood Education

Early Childhood Center

I am constantly reminded about the passing of time. As educators we have a built-in clock that ages on a yearly basis. Ok, I know we all age but my body and mind have been programmed on a school calendar since the playground at Kramer Lane Elementary and then solidified when I perpetually stayed in school as a student, teacher and administrator. But, just as the calendar sounds the fog horn that the end of the year is coming to a close so too does it remind me that not only is time passing but children are once again growing older.

I attended the Confirmation ceremony recently and was again reminded that not only do children grow larger and taller, they grow wiser and more introspective. I sat amazed at the stories, anecdotes and original quotes these young Jews expounded. My own 9 year old daughter asked before the ceremony, "What is confirmation?" I explained somewhat about a Brit of fate and a Brit of faith, that you may be born into Judaism or expected by your family to observe rituals, but when you make the choice to be confirmed you, all on your own, are making the choice to live Jewishly and serve your community. She nodded intently but it was not until after the service that she looked at me and said, "So it's like when we talk about going to Israel but when I live there I'll have a confirmation?" Without waiting for an answer she nodded and said, "Yeah I'm gonna do that."

Beyond the realization that my daughter "got it" upon seeing this magnificent service, this class has special meaning for me as an educator. As the slide show of the young adults played on the large screen, I welled up with tears, realizing that many of the teens standing before me were part of the very first after-care class I taught when I myself was a young mother and still an education student. These little darlings were MY little darlings all those years ago. Here they were, committing to their own personal Judaism, and I had been there close to the beginning of their journeys.

I have the honor to be involved on this journey every day from the beginning. I met many of our children in the ECC when they were still inside the bellies of their mother's or met their parents while they were starting the adoption process. I cherish these relationships and am more than fortunate to have them. Our "Moving Up" class from the ECC this year has 6 children who began in our baby room. I look at each of them now preparing for kindergarten and I am still amazed that they have grown and changed so much. You'd think by now I'd be used to the passing of time and the metamorphosis that occurs, but each year continues to amaze me. I cannot imagine the amount of tears in my eyes when they too stand before me in Confirmation class!

This brings me to the lesson that many of us with older children are reminded of every day, regardless of a school calendar or not. Time passes quickly. That little chubby cheeked toddler will be taller than you one day, with a deeper voice and asking to borrow the car keys. It happens before you know it, so don't blink because you may miss it. Spend the time now and be fully present. Enjoy it. Your child does not care that your floors are clean, only that you sat on the floor with them. They will not mind the dishes in the sink, only remembering that you shared meals with them. The beds being made are not as important as laying down beside them to tell them a bedtime story. These chores to be done will still be there to complete when they are sleeping but one day you'll turn around and think, "Wasn't that just yesterday?" I came across a lovely quote from Diane Loomans, that epitomizes this perfectly. "If I had my child to raise all over again, I'd finger paint more and point the finger less. I'd do less correcting and more connecting. I'd take my eyes off my watch & watch with my eyes. I would care to know less & know to care more. I'd take more hikes and fly more kites. I'd stop playing serious and seriously play. I'd run through more fields and gaze at more stars. I'd do more hugging and less tugging."

Congratulations to our Moving Up four year-olds as they continue their journey and to our Confirmands, who I am so proud of and honored to have taught.

Have a wonderful summer,



Erin Purvin

3rd Grade Mock Seder, Armdt Ambulance Visit,
Family School, Mitzvah Mall, 5th and 6th Grade Retreat



We welcome Jake Singer-Beilin as our new Religious School Director



School Dates to Remember:

Register Your Child before the School Registration Deadline of July 15th and Save Money!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR IMPORTANT DATES OF THE 2011-12 SCHOOL YEAR

AUGUST 2011

- August 28** - 4:30 pm - Optional Meet your Teacher/Mandatory New Family Orientation
5:00 pm - Religious School Fundraiser at Sweet Tomatoes (Desert Ridge immediately following the meet your teacher & new family evening)
- August 30** - 6:00pm - PK-6th Grade Mandatory Parent Meeting (Option one)
7:30pm - 7th Grade Information Night for Students & Parents
- August 31** - 5:30 pm - PK-6th Grade Mandatory Parent Meeting (Option two)

SEPTEMBER 2011

- Wednesday, September 7** - First day of Religious School/4th-6th First day of Religious School Pk-3rd
- Sunday, September 11** - First day of Religious School Pk-3rd
- Tuesday, September 13** - First day of Temple Chai Junior High (TCJH)



Welcome the New TCTY Leadership



Executive Board 2011-2012

(Left to Right)

Julie Kline – President

Rachel Goldberg – Programming Vice President

Spencer Winson – Social Action Vice President

Cody Rosen – Religious & Culture Vice President

Jonah Weiss – Membership Vice President

Noah Shinbaum – Communications Vice President



General Board 2011-2012

(Left to Right)

Alix Polson – Historian

Roberta Harmon – Assistant Historian

Kenny Levy – College Connection Chair

Hannah Prager – Caring Committee

Molly Schultz – Caring Committee

Sari Stein – 8th Grade Liaison

Scott Rubenstein – 8th Grade Liaison

To RSVP or for more information about Katanty or Bonim, contact the Religious School office at 602-971-4832 or school@templechai.com

To RSVP or for more information about Club 78 or TCTY, contact Erin Wynn at 602-971-4832 or ewynn@templechai.com



B'nai Mitzvah

June



Natalie Miller Stockwell will become a bat mitzvah on June 4, 2011 at 8:45 am. Celebrating with Natalie are her parents Tracey and Phillip Stockwell of Scottsdale. Her grandparents are Dr. Herbert and Susan Miller of Scottsdale and Phil and Shirley Stockwell of Anthem. For Natalie's mitzvah project, she volunteered her time to help The Friendship Circle, Camp Swift and Special Olympics.



Jamie Dana German will become a bat mitzvah on June 4, 2011 at 10:30 am. Celebrating with Jamie are her parents Susan and Steven German of Scottsdale. Her grandparents are Margo and Ralph Roth and Elaine German, all of Scottsdale. For Jamie's mitzvah project, she volunteered at Up on the Rock Nursing Home and taught dance to students at the Camp Swift after school program.



Matthew Jacob Rosenthal will become a bar mitzvah on June 4, 2011 at 10:30 am. Celebrating with Matthew are his parents Elaine Rosenthal of Scottsdale and Stephen Rosenthal of Paradise Valley. His grandparents are Ann Rosenthal of Akron, OH and Jeanne and Don Glass of Sun City. For Matthew's mitzvah project, he volunteered at Goodwill.



Cori Nicole Cantin will become a bat mitzvah on June 11, 2011 at 10:30 am. Celebrating with Cori are her parents Candice and Todd Cantin of Scottsdale. Her grandparents are Bonnie and Richard Cantin of Scottsdale and Lynn and Bill Ferstein of Deerfield, IL. For Cori's mitzvah project, she volunteered with the Four Peaks Animal Shelter collecting and donating food, toys and bedding for rescued dogs and cats.



Mathew Alex Ginsberg will become a bar mitzvah on June 11, 2011 at 10:30 am. Celebrating with Mathew are his parents Cheryl and Marc Ginsberg of Phoenix. His grandparents are Lois and Jay Berman of Scottsdale and Phyllis and Richard Matoff of Seattle, WA and his great-grandmother is Selma Bodell of Scottsdale. For Mathew's mitzvah project, he volunteered donating food to PAWS and food, toys and blankets to the Humane Society.

Do You Need a Place to Celebrate Your Simcha?

We have beautiful ballrooms and a courtyard at Temple Chai which can accommodate up to 350 guests with or without a dance floor.



To reserve space for a Kiddush Brunch/ Luncheon or Party, contact Sheana Abrams at 602-971-1234 or sabrams@templechai.com.



Has your Child Turned 11?

Contact Joan Neer at 602-971-1234 or jneer@templechai.com for a bar/bat mitzvah date.



Barness Center for Tzedakah & Social Justice

The Barness Center for Tzedakah and Social Justice is committed to initiating efforts to promote social justice and assisting those in need, both in our community and globally. Through education, advocacy, direct activities and collaboration with other community organizations we seek to engage members of the larger Temple Chai community in actions to positively impact society. Our activities are informed and guided by our Jewish texts and traditions.

The Consultation on Conscience

Active commitment to social justice is a hallmark of Reform Judaism. From May 1-3, 2011, I had the privilege of attending the Religious Action Center's "Consultation on Conscience" in Washington, DC. The Religious Action Center pursues social justice and religious liberty by mobilizing the Reform Jewish community and serving as its advocate in Washington. Every two years, the RAC, through the "Consultation," offers an opportunity for advocates of social justice to examine current domestic and international issues. I am proud to say that my daughter, Jessica Weiser, as the Assistant Program Director at the RAC, was instrumental in coordinating the impressive array of presenters at this year's event. I admit that my daughter's leadership role was what brought me to the conference initially, but through the experience, I have returned to Phoenix with a renewed commitment to advocacy, energized with new ideas for organizing and building coalitions.

There were almost 500 participants at this event from all across the US and yet, I was the only representative from Arizona. Our state has led the way in the past two years in introducing and passing legislation that infringes upon civil rights and, recent budget cuts reflect a general disregard for the downtrodden, marginalized and under-represented members of society. Our Jewish community has a responsibility to challenge these injustices and promote universal equality in accessing freedoms in our community and our nation. As House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi reflected in her remarks at the Consultation, we don't do this work because *they're* Jewish, we do this because *we're* Jewish.

The lessons were many. In his keynote address, Al Gore spoke of our generation's responsibility to curb its contribution to climate change. Ben Jealous, head of the NAACP, reminded us that it is hardest to "stick up for our principles when we are afraid" and challenged us to continue to find the courage to raise our voices in opposition to laws and policies that single out one group of individuals. Jack Lew, head of the Office of Management and Budget, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Rep. Jan Schakowsky, and Cecile Richards, Head of Planned Parenthood, all referred to the budget as a moral document, punctuating that the cuts currently being considered pose a real threat to women, the elderly and the poorest of our nation. Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*, and a proponent of the abolition of capital punishment, reminded us to be conscious when we "legalize hatred". And John Prendergast, co-founder of the ENOUGH PROJECT, encouraged us to do our due diligence in researching the use of "conflict minerals" in the electronics we purchase and use daily (including our cell phones).



In addition, workshops during the conference were intended to give us ideas, strategies and skills to enhance our roles as social action and social justice advocates. And, the Irving J. Fain Social Action awards, presented during the three-day event, offered glimpses of outstanding synagogue social action programs that could easily be replicated in other congregations throughout North America.

I hope that at the next "Consultation," there will be a stronger delegation from Arizona and that Temple Chai members will be able to report on successful programming aimed at social activism and civic engagement. Perhaps an Irving J. Fain Social Action Award is in our future?

If you are interested in becoming more involved in the Barness Center for Tzedakah and Social Justice, please come to our next meeting on June 22 at 6:30 p.m. For more information about the RAC, go to www.rac.org.

Cindy Weiser

Next Meeting - Wednesday, June 22 at 6:30 pm - all are welcome to join us.



Library News

Thank you to the Tynan family and to anonymous donors who have given gently used books to the library in recent weeks.

The library will be accessible all summer, whenever the Temple office is open. Please remember to write your name and phone number on the checkout card of each book you borrow, and leave it in the file box. Below are some of our newer fiction:

Gathering Sparks, by Schwartz (J). A gorgeously illustrated book that explains the concept of tikkun olam to very young children through a story about a child and his grandfather who gaze up at the night sky. When the child asks where all the stars come from, grandfather describes the sparks that emanated from the broken vessel that God sent into the world and how it is the job of humanity to gather those sparks of light and return them to their proper place. Winner of the Sydney Taylor Book Award for Younger Readers. Ages 4-7.

Beautiful Yetta: The Yiddish Chicken, by Pinkwater (J). Yetta escapes from the kosher butcher shop and is lost in Brooklyn. Rude rats and blustering buses daunt her but when she chases a cat that is stalking a parakeet, she is befriended by the entire flock of Brooklyn's Spanish-speaking parakeets and is never lonely again. Ages 4-8.

Baxter: The Pig Who Wanted to Be Kosher, by Snyder (J). In this comical picture book, Baxter learns the difference between being dinner and being a guest for dinner. His attempts to become kosher are ridiculously unsuccessful but when he meets a kind rabbi who invites him to her Sabbath dinner as a guest, he learns that everyone is welcome on Shabbat. Ages 4-8.

Stealing Home, by Schwartz (J). Nine-year-old Joey Sexton, living in the Bronx in 1947, is orphaned after the death of his mother. When his aunt welcomes him into her home, the rest of the family and their neighbors aren't as accepting of Joey's bi-racial heritage. Inspired by Jackie Robinson, Joey learns how to shake off the taunts of the neighborhood bullies, gains an appreciation for his Jewish heritage, and builds a loving and respectful relationship with his grandfather. Ages 8-11.

Strawberry Hill, by Hoberman (J). When her family moves from New Haven to Stamford, Allie Sherman has to adjust to making new friends, juggle alliances, and handle the disappointment that her new street, Strawberry Hill, is not the bucolic, strawberry-laden lane she had envisioned. Ages 8-11.

Vive La Paris, by Codell (J). Fifth-grader Paris McCray reveals what she has discovered about life in the process of taking piano lessons from Mrs. Rosen, a Holocaust survivor with a sense of humor. Ages 9-13.

To the End of the Land, by Grossman (AF). Award-winning Israeli author has written an epic novel that makes a powerful statement about war. It is about a mother, her sons, and the two most important men in her life. Ora, eagerly awaiting the return of her son, Ofer, from military service, is devastated when he decides to re-enlist. She decides to take a hike along the Israel trail in the Galilee, leaving her cell phone at home so she cannot receive bad news. Recently separated from her husband, Ilan, she asks Avram, an old friend and former lover, to accompany her. Adult.

Great House, by Krauss (AF). This novel's four stories all touch on themes of loss and recovery, and are anchored to a massive writing desk that resurfaces among numerous households, much to the bewilderment and existential tension of those in its orbit, among them a lonely American novelist clinging to the memory of a poet who has mysteriously vanished in Chile, an old man in Israel facing the imminent death of his wife of 51 years, and an esteemed antiques dealer tracking down the things stolen from his father by the Nazis. Adult.

Wherever You Go, by Leegant (AF). Yona Stern has come from New York to Jerusalem to make amends with her sister, a stoic West Bank ideologue. Mark Greenglass, a gifted Talmud teacher and former drug dealer saved by religion, has lost his passion and wonders if he's done with God. Enter Aaron Blinder, an unstable college dropout with a history of failure who finds a home on the radical fringe of Israeli society. Adult.

The Frozen Rabbi, by Stern (AF). 15-year-old Bernie Karp of Memphis, TN, finds a rabbi in his parents' freezer. During a power outage, the rabbi defrosts and so begins a hilarious, satiric, and moving tragic-comedy that roams in time from the 18th century to the present, in diverse settings, and with interesting characters. Appearances may not be what they seem in this witty, yet poignant story. Adult.

Happy summer reading,
Carol Janoff, Librarian
602-993-1725

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The mission of Temple Chai is to inspire the development of spiritual growth through study and communal worship and to support individuals and families to help ensure the continuity of the Jewish people and the healing of the world.

Chai Lights is published monthly, except for July, by Temple Chai.

For information or with questions, call 602-971-1234.

Temple Chai is affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism

Mitzvot

The Tree of Life

Trees are important to our tradition. Leaves for this tree may be purchased for \$180 to honor a person or a family, to celebrate an anniversary, friendship, birth, wedding, a bar/bat mitzvah, or in memory of a loved one.

Memorial Plaques

A memorial plaque is a wonderful way to honor the memory of a loved one. The cost for a Memorial Plaque is \$360 for Temple Chai members and \$500 for non-members.

To purchase a **Leaf or Memorial Plaque**, contact Sheana Abrams at 602-971-1234 or sabrams@templechai.com.



Tzedakah Box

Thank you all for contributing via our Tzedakah Box. This year's donations have been used by the Barness Center for Tzedakah and Social Justice to help with the Thanksgiving food drive, the Lost Boys Center and to help congregants in need of emergency assistance with grocery gift cards. Please consider adding to the Tzedakah box.

Contact Cindy Weiser at 480-483-1380 if you have any questions or suggestions for the donated funds.

Ask me. I'll tell you...

By Sandy Rife, Mt. Sinai Cemetery

How long is the period of mourning?

Following the burial, all mourners observe 'shiva' for up to a week. After shiva, the mourners continue to observe the period of Shloshim (thirty). These are the 30 days including shiva after burial. After Shloshim, only one who has lost a parent is still considered a mourner. The final period of mourning, observed for a parent, lasts for eleven months after Shloshim (a total of a year). During the mourning period, the mourner recites Kaddish daily in a minyan (quorum of ten).

For information, call me at 480-363-3854



Temple Chai Funds

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Jayson and Irma Brodie
Thelma Davidson
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Cindy Brauner's Bat Mitzvah
Judith Dobbs
Laurie Checkoway's Bat Mitzvah
Judith Dobbs
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Mindy Hollander's Bat Mitzvah
Jamie Sirota & Family
Randi Kipnis' Bat Mitzvah
Judith Dobbs
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Roz Isaacson
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Rabbi Yakar
David and Laurie Kline &
Family

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Joseph and Sarah Levine

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Seymour and Sandy Rife

In Honor of

Cindy Brauner's Bat Mitzvah
Arnie and Laural Sigel

In Memory of

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Frank Mintzer
Phyllis Shostack

Executive Director Joe Miller

In Memory of

Polina Elgart
Jacob and Sophia Chemirs

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In Honor of

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Schwimmer Schenkein Fund for the Arts in honor of Cantor Sharona Feller

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A Speedy Recovery to

Frank Mintzer
Morrie and Thelma Feller
Phyllis Pierson
Morrie and Thelma Feller

Temple Chai Judaica Shop

The Temple Chai Judaica Shop is the place for One-Stop-Shopping!

Stop by to see our assortment of baby, b'nai mitzvah and wedding gifts, jewelry, all of your Shabbat needs, tallitot and so much more

We are also looking for volunteers to help in the shop Sundays during religious school, beginning in September.

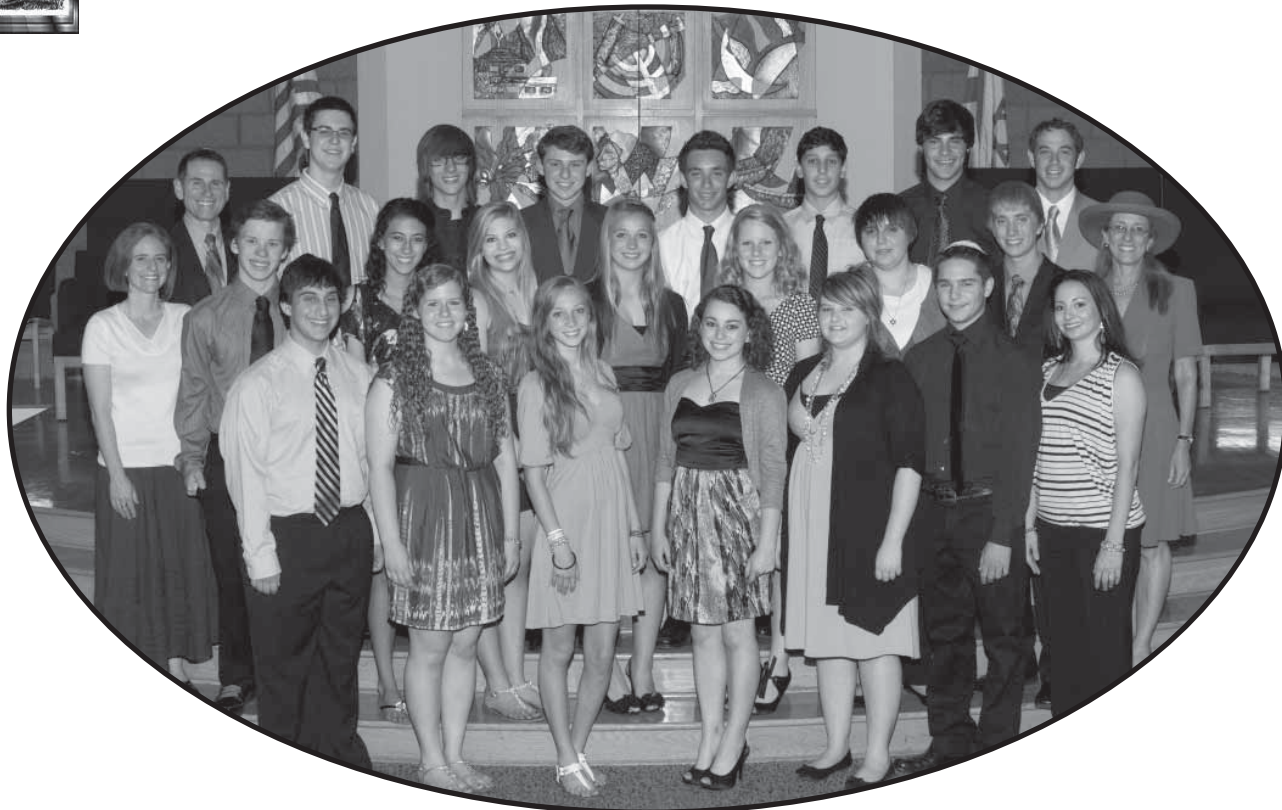
Judaica Shop hours:
Monday - Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
or evenings by appointment

Contact Joan 602-971-1234 or jneer@templechai.com for information, or for ordering invitations or kippot.





Confirmation 5771



My Jewish Identity

As an incoming senior in high school, I find myself immersed in a semi-new community. While I was born Jewish and had a bris, my mother did not raise me with any religious foundation. I did however occasionally go to my grandparents' house for the big holidays. But for the most part, Judaism was non-existent in my life. This all changed when I moved from Cleveland to Phoenix at the age of 13. I found myself in a new environment, surrounded by complete strangers, knowing only my aunt and uncle. This time in my life was extremely chaotic. I had a new house, new school, new rules, and the biggest challenge, I had no friends. I now found myself searching for some familiarity, somewhere to fit in, some friendly looking faces. I found all of these things in my Temple Chai community, and its youth group, TCTY. Joining youth group was the beginning of my search for my own Jewish identity.

I soon became an active member in TCTY, attending more events and even going to regional NFTY events. I soon decided I wanted to be on my youth group's board, so I became the Religious and Cultural Vice President and helped lead Temple Chai's youth in High Holy Day services. Because of NFTY, and the amazing experiences I've had, I decided I wanted to become a Bar Mitzvah. At age 15, I started studying Hebrew and learning my Torah portion. Six months later, I stood on Temple Chai's bimah and gave my Dvar Torah. This, I feel, has been my greatest accomplishment to date, because becoming a Bar Mitzvah was more than just learning Hebrew and having a party. For me, it was about becoming part of a community, and feeling connected with people who share the same values as me.

Today's Jewish youth often stop their Jewish education after becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, or being confirmed. However, Judaism remains significant in my life. I therefore intend to continue my education, and learn as much as possible about Judaism. I feel that the next step in my Jewish education starts with attending Kutz Camp. Here, I will learn to be a better song leader, studying the connections between Judaism and music. While at Kutz, I will hopefully learn more about myself and what it means to be a Jewish teen. With this newfound knowledge, I hope to become the head song leader of my NFTY region so that I may share my love for music and Judaism with everyone in my community!

Shamir Ambrose

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Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class - 5771



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