

Temple Beth Sholom
228 New Hempstead Rd
New City, NY 10956
(845) 638-0770
FAX: (845) 638-1696
[Directions to Temple](#)
[Map](#) or [Text](#)



If you do not have Java enabled, use the alternate menu at the bottom of the page.

June 2003

The following excerpts from the **Lamp** are available for your review:

[Rabbi's Desk](#)

[Cantor's Notes](#)

[Back to top](#)

From the Desk of Rabbi David E. Fass *Where Do I Belong?*

Over and over again, study after study produces the same results. Ask people what they need most in their lives and the answer is some form of "I want a place to belong." We Jews have a head start on many other groups. We belong to a tradition that is four thousand years old, the oldest, longest-running program for human decency the world has ever known. We belong to a tradition that has given our entire planet the Torah, the prime ethical and moral groundwork of the Western world. We belong to a faith whose magnificent creativity has given birth to two daughter religions: Christianity and Islam. We belong to a people whose insights into the possibility of change gave rise to the entire scientific enterprise that gives us a greater and greater ability to ameliorate human suffering and enjoy the fruits of being fully human. As a Jew, we belong!

These are generalizations. They are places to start. What about on a scale less global, a scale more personal? Where do we Jews belong?

- We belong at worship services, with our families, at least once a month, hopefully more.
- We belong in the synagogue on the anniversary of the death of our loved ones, the Yahrzeit, to recite Kaddish, the prayer that affirms the goodness of life even in the face of death.
- We belong to those who promote Jewish education for our children, seeing to it that they continue even after Bar/Bat Mitzvah.
- We belong to those who promote such education by example, through attendance at adult education and other Jewish educational experiences.
- We belong to those who light candles on Friday night, make Kiddush, recite the motzi, and develop a meaningful home observance in which the entire family

participates.

- We belong to those who celebrate the Jewish holidays with family and friends, who use the rhythms of the Jewish calendar to counter-balance the increasingly intense pressures of our consumer-oriented world.
- We belong to those who combat fanaticism, ours and everyone else's.
- We belong to those who support our homeland, Israel, by both thought and deed.
- We belong to those who affiliate with and support the synagogue throughout our lifetime, understanding that without such support it may not be here for the next generation of Jews as it was here for us.
- We belong to those who care, who work, who pray for a better world for everyone.

We Jews already have what so many people say they want: a place to belong. How foolish of us when we don't take advantage and participate in that belonging. How wonderful when we do!

[Back to top](#)

Cantor's Notes

I don't know how you feel, but to me it feels that just yesterday I was preparing the choir and myself for the High Holidays. We've already been through apples and honey of Rosh Hashana, latkes of Hanukkah, hamentashen of Purim, matzah balls and charoset of Pesach, and with a blink of an eye, we are at blintzes and cheesecakes of Shavout. Mazel Tov!

It is hard to believe, but the whole year passed like one day. Now it is time to gather the harvest. Shavout, the Feast of the Weeks, is the celebration of the harvest season in Israel. It also commemorates the anniversary of the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses and the Israelites at Mount Sinai. Yes, it is a time to gather the harvest of our deeds, to summarize and evaluate everything we've accomplished this year. However, our "season" does not end with Shavout. June begins with this Holiday and brings us many more wonderful events.

The first Friday night of June we will celebrate Shavout by reading the Megilat of Ruth and reciting Yizkor.

The second Friday service will be Officers Installation. This service will be embellished by the participation of our Adult Choir.

On Sat, June 14, 8:00 pm, as I have already written about in a previous issue of the Lamp, we will hold our Annual Cantorial Concert. Participating this year are three wonderful guest Cantors: Cantor Martha Novick from Temple Emanu-El, Westfield, CT, Cantor Regina Lambert-Hayut from B'Nei Jeshurun Barnert Temple of Franklin Lakes, NJ and Cantor David Perper from Fair Lawn, NJ. It promises to be a memorable event. All our guests are superior singers and the program, entitled "The Musical Journey from the Synagogue to the Stage," includes liturgical and Yiddish pieces, as well as music from the theater and the opera.

And finally, on June 20 we will have a Family Service, followed by a concert of "Young Talents." After a shortened service, we will have the opportunity to hear our children, members of our own Congregation, playing different musical instruments. Some of them already have had the opportunity to perform on local stages. It will be a wonderful and very sweet event. I hope to see many of you at these events.

I would like to use this opportunity to wish all of you a pleasant and relaxing summer.

Cantor Sergei Schwartz

Home	Contacts	Newsletter	Calendar	Rabbi	President	Brotherhood
School	Nursery	Lamp Archives	Simply Simchas	Cantor	Jewish Links	Sisterhood
Youth College	Judaica	Bereavement Beautification	Recovery Tzedakah	Sponsors	ChaiSociety	Membership

Send mail to [Steve Weinberg, Webmaster](#) with questions or comments about this web site.
Copyright © 2006 Temple Beth Sholom New City