



Temple Beth Sholom Lamp

June, 2009 & 5769
Volume 37, Issue V

Junior Choir Makes Outstanding Performance

On May 3, the Junior Choir represented Temple Beth Sholom at a choral festival in Teaneck, New Jersey. We are very proud of our children, under the wonderful leadership of Cantor Schwartz. Our thanks to the Children--Anabel Katsnelson, Emily Mathios, Sabrina Koss, Rachel Weinfeld, Anna Herman, Ben Eisenberg, Jordan Kenney and Julia Stern-- as well as to Cantor for his leadership efforts and to the Parents for all of their help.

And a special thanks to Cantor Schwartz for his leadership efforts and also his success in selecting lively and meaningful choral music that encouraged the audience to participate. The children gave an outstanding presentation and their performance received outstanding applause from the audience.



Major Events in June 2009

Mon 1	7:00pm	Executive Board Meeting	Sat 13	10:30am	Bar Mitzvah of <i>Dylan Pins</i>
Tues 2	7:00pm	Defensive Driving	Mon 15	10:30am	Nursery School Stepping Up
Wed 3	7:00pm	Defensive Driving	Fri 19	7:30pm	Shabbat Service
Fri 5	6:00pm	Tot Shabbat	Sat 20	10:30am	Bat Mitzvah of <i>Jake Yelin</i>
	7:30pm	Shabbat Service/Officer Installation	Fri 26	7:30pm	Shabbat Service
Sat 6	10:30am	Bat Mitzvah of <i>Jill Weisman</i>	Sat 27	10:30am	Bar Mitzvah of <i>Jordan Kenney</i>
Wed 10	7:00pm	Brotherhood End of the Year Dinner	Sun 28	7:00pm	Neil Berg Broadway Concert
Fri 12	7:30pm	Hebrew High School Graduation	Mon 29	7:30pm	Board of Trustees Meeting

From the Desk of..... Rabbi David E. Fass

My Space

I do not mean to insult anyone, but I do not belong to My Space, or Face Book, or any of the other sites that suck up time as if into a black hole. But I recently had a stunning example of a Jewish version of My Space.

With a fairly small crowd at services one Friday night, I decided that when we read the Torah I would have everyone come up to the pulpit to see the actual reading, something most of the folks there had never seen close up. I assumed that they would seek to get as close to the *amud*, the reading table, as they could to get a better look.

But that's not what happened. Most of the people hung back. Several times I motioned them to get closer, but *gurnisht helfin*, it did about as much good as trying to get people sitting in the back of the sanctuary to move to the front.

Later on I mentioned this to someone and he gave me a most insightful response: "Rabbi, that's your space."

No, no, and again no! The Torah is not my space. The pulpit is not my space. Nor the prayerbook, the prayers, the red Bibles in the pews, Hebrew, Israel, etc., etc. It isn't mine. It's ours. Judaism belongs to all of us. The people who help lead the service are considered members of the congregation. We're asked to go up there because of our knowledge, not because Judaism is ours and not yours.

So please, please, even if you're already on the internet version of My Space, get on the Jewish version. Be able to say that your Judaism is my space, my Judaism. It belongs to all of us.

Have a warm and restful summer.

Mazel Tov to the Temple Beth Sholom 2009 Confirmation Students



Rebecca Calvo-Cruz
Jordan Dutiger
Joshua Paz
Sophie Silverman
Andrew Solomon



JUNE BAR/BAT MITZVAH

June 6

Jill Weisman, daughter of Neil & Susan Weisman

June 13

Dylan Pins, son of Paul & Elise Pins

June 20

Jake Yelin, son of Darren & Rachel Yelin

27

Jordan Kenney, son of John & Nancy Kenney

JUNE ONEGS

June 5

Neil & Susan Weisman

June 12

Paul & Elise Pins

June 19

Darren & Rachel Yelin

June 26

John & Nancy Kenney

50 Years of Excellence

There must be something about Gold that turns our Temple on. We did it once again for our Golden Anniversary Birthday Celebration. A near sell out crowd for the Friday Night Shabbat Dinner and an overwhelming sell out crowd for Saturday Night's Cocktail Party.

The Friday Night Service was very meaningful with the Rabbi, Cantor, Rabbi Freelander and the Chorus leading us as we honored all of our 25 year plus members. All the choirs were fantastic. Cantor Elena Schwartz's Choir brought an extra dimension to the service as both choirs combined sounded like one of the best choral groups you ever heard. How lucky we were to enjoy their spirituality with music and song. One of the evening's highlights was seeing our Guest Rabbi, Daniel Freelander and Cantor Schwartz sing together along with Rabbi Freelander singing Shalom Rav.

Saturday night's Cocktail party was not to be believed. The decorations, food, the TBS Players, Kit Flaum's Yiddish Song and the music and dancing made it the best ever party at TBS.

Family Fun day followed both of the evening events on Sunday. The kids enjoyed their complimentary back packs. Even better, were the games, rides and slides. Even better than that was all the food which was prepared and donated by Mitch Schimko and the Brotherhood/Men's Club crew along with Jen Blotner and Anna Eisenberg's helping hands. Thanks to all and to Sisterhood who sponsored the DJ Jared and all the games and rides for the kids.

There are so many thank you's to go around. A major event like this only happens with the hard and dedicated work of so many.

Thanks to Brenda Rutstein, Nancy Goldberg, Barbara Barkley and Elaine Kaplan for setting up the room, preparing the invitations, and taking care of all the details that made Saturday night's event run so smoothly.

Thanks to Jon Bernstein and his crew for all the Gourmet food that they prepared so well. It gave the Saturday night Event a special touch of class that was appreciated by all.

Thanks to Melissa Bernstein/Meredith Spiegel/Debra Rubin for doing the decorations for the Social Hall, getting us a DJ who was second to none, and for all their great ideas that made the weekend so unique.

Thanks to Elaine Getz/Ned and Sarah Harris for our wonderful slide show that highlighted so many of our memories during the past 50 years.

Thanks to John and Nancy Kenney for taking so many beautiful pictures during the entire weekend. More memories to be cherished thanks to their hard work.

Thanks to Gene Freyer for all the Publicity, Banners and Posters that were so beautifully done.

Thanks to Bob Stone, who made sure that our bar was more than adequate to serve the enormous crowd. The drinks were plentiful and enjoyed time and time again. In some cases, maybe too many times.

Thanks to Adam Mathios who helped schlep all of the food from the Manhattan Deli on Friday Evening and Deborah Rosenberg, Melinda Levin, and Leslie Leventhal who helped with the set ups, etc. I'm sure Adam's truck still has that special scent from all the goodies.

Thanks to Risa Stern who coordinated all of the home-made desserts for the Oneg on Friday night. And thanks to all those who baked all of those delicious cakes.

Thanks to Stu Abramson, Carol Pitkin, Risa Stern, Kit Flaum, Len Sklerov, Marian Fass, Eva Simons, Cantor and Elena Schwartz and all those TBS Players who brought back so many memories with their singing and music. Thank you to Marilyn Altman and Marty Rutstein who were unbelievable. It definitely made a positive difference.

My final Thank You is to our Congregants, both young and not so young. You are the ones who make our Temple Great. You are our history. Your service, dedication and caring have always made us stand tall in the community. We are so lucky to have you. It was an honor for me to have been a part of the best birthday celebration our Temple has ever had.

Sincerely,
Jerry Korn

SUSTAINING MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS – JUNE 2009

Edward & Marilyn Blocker
Allan & Susan Gerber
Milton & Nancy Goldberg

Jerry & Carole Korn
Peter & Joan Lifson
Ellen Washburn & Walter Kurtzman
Sally Winter

SIMPLY SIMCHAS JUNE 2009

Congratulations to:

Elaine & Gerry Garfin on the birth of their granddaughter Mia Riley Garfin
Carole & Steve Rothman on the birth of their grandson Hudson Isaac Adika
Carol & Larry Wolf on the marriage of their son Marc to Lynn Schneider
Leah & Len Moldovan on the birth of their grandson Matthew Brise Salit

BEREAVEMENTS

Arthur P. Krandell, father of Jaymi Profenna
Mitchell Bernstein, son of Richard Bernstein
Jeffrey Jacobson
Ruth Dier, mother of Sharon Zuckerman

TBS in the News!

The following article about the West Point Jewish Chapel Cadet Choir's visit to Temple Beth Sholom was printed in the May issue of the Rockland Jewish Reporter.

REPRINTED FROM MAY 2009 LAMP

TBS Hosts West Point Jewish Chapel Cadet Choir

Almost every seat was taken on Friday night, March 27, when the West Point Jewish Chapel Cadet Choir performed at Temple Beth Sholom. The troop of thirteen cadets representing all four years at the Academy sang unaccompanied and interacted with congregants, who received them enthusiastically. Six songs were presented, *Eli Eli*, *The Army Song*, *Oseh Shalom*, the *West Point Alma Mater*, *Jerusalem of Gold*, and *Stand by Me*, each featuring a different vocal soloist.

The evening was not limited to singing, however. It began with a catered Shabbat dinner, during which the cadets joined the diners at their tables for food and conversation. Temple President, Martin S. Rutstein, remarked that it was possibly the best-attended Shabbat dinner ever held at Temple Beth Sholom. After dinner there was some time for one-on-one chatting with the honored guests before heading into the sanctuary for Friday services. The cadets sat with the congregation during the service, but immediately following worship they exited so they could march down the aisle and assume their positions on the bimah stairs.

After the concert there was a lively question-and-answer session during which the audience learned about the typical day of a plebe, as military academy freshmen are called, and other facts of life at West Point. One plebe even had to say his part while doing pushups! The cadets all spoke about what branch of the army they hoped to join, with many of them mentioning a desire to become involved with the Armored Combat Branch, where they would serve on a tank. Mr. Rutstein concluded this portion of the event by thanking the cadets and their faculty advisor, Professor Susan Schwartz, for their performance and especially for their service to the country. An additional opportunity for mingling and eating followed, as everyone moved on to the oneg in the temple social hall.

The West Point Jewish Chapel Cadet Choir, also known as Kol Masoret, the Voice of Tradition, is an arm of the of the U.S. Military

Academy's Jewish Chapel and Hillel. It has been in existence for over 50 years. (Coincidentally, Temple Beth Sholom celebrates its 50th anniversary this May.) These cadets take the time from their busy schedules of classes, homework, sports, lectures, labs, and other cadet duty obligations to practice once or twice each week.

Jews have been members of the West Point Corps of Cadets for as long as the academy has been in existence. The first graduating class of 1802 consisted of only two graduates, one of which was Simon Megruder Levy. In 1980, Danna Maller was a Jewish member of the first female class to graduate from West Point. Today there are approximately 60 Jewish cadets out of 4,400 total cadets.



President's Column

These days, we hear a lot about "cycles", no, not motorcycles or bicycles, but those kinds of events that have a beginning, a middle and an end; and then repeat again and again and again.

Currently, we are in an "economic cycle" -- exactly where we are in this cycle I leave it to the television pundits and academic economists. Many believe that the current downturn will end "eventually" and we will once again have some degree of greater prosperity. I hope that will come sooner rather than later.

Now, let us turn to TBS history and future. Institutions also have cycles.

TBS started out in the 1970's with a relatively small group of newcomers to Rockland who wanted to establish a small and dedicated religious institution for Reform Jews. They worked to plan and raise funds and then, often with their own hands, built the structure we now have come to know so well- Temple Beth Shalom.

In the late 1970's and throughout much of the 1980's, Rockland and TBS experienced a period of major population expansion. Many of our congregational families have roots that link back to this period when New York City Jewish families went on a great "exodus" leaving New York City in droves. A substantial number joined TBS, which, I note, was purposely constructed to be a small building serving a small congregation.

The expansion strained the logistical capacities of TBS, but money from dues and fees flowed like milk and honey. Those days of "wine and roses" seemed to many to be endless, just as the housing boom of just a few years ago seemed to be an endless source of wealth.

Institutions change slowly and when the eventual downturn (part of a cycle?) came in the late 1990's and into the 21st century, TBS was really not well-prepared to deal with it. Many had tried, but we were not successful. Thus, membership numbers began a downward spiral from TBS having more than 750 families at our peak to our now having approximately 340 families.

We were locked in to a business model that does not work any longer — too few members to pay for the built-in infrastructure costs that had been developed in the 1980's and grew with inflation to the present.

During the time of great expansion, our Congregation was comprised mainly of younger families with children — some will certainly remember the Shabbats with two, three and even four B'nei Mitzvahs. Now, however, we appear to have two sizeable demographic groups -- a large proportion of our Congregation is made up of

"younger members" and we still have a sizeable number of longer-term members such as those who are very active in the Chai Society.

So, during this period of population decline, a strange and unexpected thing happened. While we certainly now have fewer members, those that we do have are so much more active and committed such that TBS is now an incredibly vibrant congregation. The enthusiastic core members worked with Clergy to produce for this new mix of ages religious programs that are relevant to the spiritual needs of our Congregants.

Events from the Nursery and Religious Schools and the auxiliaries of Brotherhood, Sisterhood and Chai are happening at such a fast pace. Special Shabbat services are routine - Tot Shabbat, Shabbat Rinah, guests such as The West Point Jewish Choir, etc.... all add to the spiritual excitement. Shabbat services are better attended; and Rabbi and Cantor are thrilled and even more inspired with the mounting congregational participation.

Now, in 2009, as we celebrate the past, we also look to the future. Our members have the opportunity to act as our founders did more than fifty years ago. We can look to the future and now plan which leg of a cycle we can begin -- we can do nothing and just continue along or we can do something that we believe will lead us to become better and even more of a religious asset to our members. So, let us come together and seize upon this unique opportunity to build for the future and establish new pathways to contribute to the viability of Rockland Reform Jewry.

I wish you all a pleasant and comfortable Summer -- and I look forward to seeing you at our coming congregational "Town Hall-style" meetings where we can work to establish where we should go as an institution and how we should travel the path to get there.

Change means doing something differently! Typically, most people have become adjusted to their immediate environment, but since change brings forth new conditions, we then have to adapt. And while it is often not very easy to face new challenges and move into new social and cultural territories, I believe that as we choose our pathway for TBS, we will overcome any period of discomfort and adjustment. We have the individual strength, the institutional character and the collective will to face the new realities of our local religious world. With these strengths, we will be able to build an institution that will have decades of future viability.

Marty Rutstein
President

A MESSAGE FROM OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Once again, our Religious School year draws to an end. It has been an exciting year at our TBS Religious School filled with many new innovative programs. We have experienced the religious growth and development of our students. Our interactive and departmental programs have made a difference in the way our students learn. Religious School family education programs have also played a role in our families' Jewish learning. I thank all our teachers, staff and teen aides for their love, devotion, educational contribution and creativity. All of you, as a team, contributed to a successful year. TOGETHER, we will continue to build on this success in the upcoming years. We have worked hard together this year to instill the deep, rich Jewish values in our children.

This year, the time has come to say goodbye to our teen aides, Maxi Silverman and Andrea Seidenberg. They will be heading off to college in the fall. Their commitment to TBS cannot be put into words. They both have worked as aides in our Religious School for many years and will truly be missed. We wish you health, happiness, love and success on the road that you will travel.

Take the summer to relax and have fun, but more importantly, take time to reinforce the lessons your children have learned during school.

Have a wonderful summer....

L'hitraot & Shalom

Marilyn Fellows

Educational Director, TBS Religious School

June 2009 Religious School Events

Friday, June 12	HS Graduation & Service
Sunday, Sept 13	Religious School Begins 2009-10

SISTERHOOD HAPPENINGS

It seems like only yesterday that I assumed the position of Sisterhood President. However, twelve years have gone by quickly and now it is time for me to hand the reins over to someone else. Before I do, I would like to share some thoughts about Sisterhood and my position as president of this organization.

During this time I consider myself to have been blessed to get to know and work with a wonderful group of women - the Sisterhood Board. They have attended monthly meetings, called me with concerns and problems, and have been there to help me whenever I needed them. My job would have indeed been a very difficult one without these dedicated, hard-working women. I would like to thank each and every one of you for giving me the privilege of getting to know you and work with you. And now at the end of my presidency, I am proud to be able to call you my friends not just coworkers.

I would not be honest if I told you that every moment of the past twelve years was rewarding and fulfilling. There were fundraisers that never got off the ground, and Sisterhood happenings that met with very limited attendance. At times like these I admit that it was easy to become discouraged and frustrated. However, even with these disappointments, I believe that Sisterhood serves a vital role in our Temple. One of the accomplishments achieved by Sisterhood that illustrates this point is the wheelchair lift in the lobby of the Temple. I feel that this was one of Sisterhood's finest achievements. This could never have been accomplished without the help of every woman who pays her sisterhood dues each year. Surely, we hope that everyone becomes active in Sisterhood, and attends Sisterhood functions. However, if you cannot do that, understand that your dues help to fund these and other special projects.

Sisterhood involvement in Temple life includes the decorating of the Temple bimah for Sukkot, Simchat Torah, and Consecration celebrations. Along with Brotherhood, we co-sponsor Congregational Shabbat dinners and other programs. Our members have a great time creating Shalach Manot baskets for Purim, making chocolate candy for Chanukah, and making chocolate candy for Mother's Day in support of breast cancer research. Sisterhood operates the Judaica shop, and donates funds to help support the Nursery School, and the Religious School, and the Youth Group. We provide scholarships for children in our congregation to attend summer camp, and for Jewish Education scholarships, as well as the special needs of the Temple. It was Sisterhood that provided all of the funds for the reupholstering of the pews and bima benches in our sanctuary as well as the elbow grease and time to clean the frames of those same pews.

I would like to offer my special thanks to two people whom I had the privilege to work with at various times as co-presidents, Brenda Rutstein and Phyllis Stone. And now it is time for new leadership and ideas, as I look forward to spending more time with my grandchildren and family. Grandparenthood certainly deserves as much time as Sisterhood and I am excited about all the possibilities!!! However, I will always leave time to work with the Sisterhood and Temple Beth Sholom and look forward to sharing Sisterhood's future with the next administration. Good luck to you all.

Leah Moldovan

NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

I am always amazed when it comes time to write the year's last article at how quickly the year has flown by. The children's doors in September are so different from the children we say good-bye to in June. We are so delighted by how much physically, emotionally, cognitively and spiritually. How lucky the teachers and I are to be a part of that growth!

I would like to thank our president Marty Rutstein and our Vice-President in charge of the schools, Jon Bernstein for their encouragement. I would also like to thank Donna Sobel for all of her work in organizing Tot Shabbat, Young Members Club and our new this year "Parent Volunteer Recognition". What will we do without you in our Nursery School? Along with Donna and other parents chaired or were members of committees that did such important work for our Nursery School. Whether it was for Shabbat, Staff Appreciation, or Toy, Food & Coat Drives, I can never thank you enough for all you do.

Thanks go out to Marilyn Altman and Sue in our Temple office and of course, to George, who helps us all year through.

Save Money on Vehicle Insurance & Reduce Points on Your Driving Record

Complete this DMV-approved accident prevention course to cut costs on your liability & collision insurance by >10% & reduce up to 4 violation points on your driving record.

Tuesday, June 2, 2009 & Wednesday, June 3, 2009

7-10 PM in the Temple Social Hall

This is a six (6) hours course divided into two three (3) hour evening sessions. You **MUST** complete both sessions of the same course.

The program is approved by the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles and qualifies for a 10% insurance reduction for the principal operator of the liability, no-fault and collision premiums for a three (3) year period. In addition, 4 points are reduced from your New York License.

Class size is limited to 36 students. Advanced Registration and Payment is required. Certificates are sent 6 weeks after class completion and credit is effective on the first renewal following class completion.

-----DETACH AND RETURN-----

Enclosed is my check payable to Brotherhood Temple Beth Sholom in the amount of \$40.00. There will be no confirmation. Your cancelled check is your receipt.

Name: _____

Phone # (day) _____ Evening/Cell _____

Address: _____

Mail to: Larry Wolf - 3 Oriole Road, New City, NY 10956 - phone: (845) 634-1800

Please use separate forms for each driver attending classes

Our next issue of the Lamp will be in September. We wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy summer.

THANKS FOR DONATIONS TO:

RABBI DAVID E. FASS DISCRETIONARY FUND

Bob & Lois Silverman

In appreciation

Bob & Elaine Kaplan

In honor of *Mara Koss*' Bat Mitzvah

Ann & Gary Hochman

In memory of *Sidney Laxmeter*

Gail & Alan Koss

In memory of *Estelle Marlow*

Delores & Gene White

In honor of *Mara Koss*' Bat Mitzvah

Lois & Steve Mayer & Family

In memory of *Andrew Binder*

Lucille & Ken Borden
In honor of their son *Zachary's* Bar
Mitzvah
Paula & David Ridge
In honor of *Mara Koss'* Bat Mitzvah
Rhonda & Michael Seidenberg

In honor of *Heather Seidenberg's*
Bat Mitzvah
Milton & Nancy Goldberg
In memory of *Florence Unger*
Suzanne & Marty Bernstein
In memory of *Ruth Dier*

CANTOR SERGEI SCHWARTZ DISCRETIONARY FUND

Carol & Mark Adelman
In honor of their daughter *Rachel's*
Bat Mitzvah

Ken & Lucille Borden
In honor of their son *Zachary's* Bar
Mitzvah
Rhonda & Michael Seidenberg
In honor of *Heather Seidenberg's*
Bat Mitzvah

DONATIONS

Shirley & Gerson Feiner
In appreciation of *Sally Winter*
Risa Stern
In memory of *Larry Stone*
In memory of *Sol Bernstein*
Sheldon & Joi Horowitz & The Staff of Safe
Harbour Group
In memory of *Andrew Binder*
Sue & Gil Rifkin
In memory of *Andrew Binder*
Rhonda & Michael Seidenberg & Family
In memory of *Anne Rutstein*
In honor of the birth of *Sutton Hope*
Korn

Susan & Frank Richard
In memory of *Julius Wallenstein*
In memory of *Amy Blumenfeld's*
mother
In memory of *Mitchell Bernstein*
In memory of *Sherri Reid Lobel*
In memory of *Andrew Binder*
Marc Richard & Matt Hoffman
In memory of *Julius Wallenstein*
Shari & Alan Feldstein
In honor of *Heather Seidenberg's* Bat
Mitzvah

MUSIC FUND

Pat & Paul Barad
In memory of *Andrew Binder*

DAVID CHARGER FUND TO BENEFIT THE NURSERY SCHOOL

Adrienne Blassberg-Milich
In honor of *Cary Falber's* dedication
to teaching

Ira Blassberg
In honor of *Cary Falber's* dedication
to teaching

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE FUND

Cliff & Sima Malat

In memory of *Andrew Binder*

MICHAEL CANDERO FUND FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Patty & Jimmy Hyland

In memory of *Michael Canderero*

Toby & Steven Ross

In memory of *Hyman Lober*

Marty & Brenda Rutstein

In memory of *Ruth Dier*

In memory of *Mitchell Bernstein*

In memory of *Jeff Jacobson*

In honor of the birth of *Matthew
Brise Salit*

ELLIOT TITLEBAUM FUND

Carole & Jerry Korn

In support of *Len & Ellen Binder &
Family*

In memory of *Mitchell Bernstein,*
son of Richard Bernstein

In memory of *Ruth Dier,* mother of
Sharon Zuckerman

Carol & Larry Wolf

In honor of the birth of Carole &
Jerry Korn's granddaughters, *Remy
& Sutton Korn*

SISTERHOOD CAMBERSHIP FUND

Sisterhood

In honor of the children

Estelle & Jay Sturniolo

In memory of *Erwin Brunn*

Rhonda & Michael Siedenberg

In memory of *Helene Stern*

SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE FUND

Sisterhood

In honor of the children

Terry & Steve Zeitlen

In memory of *Anne Rutstein*

In memory of *Larry Stone*

Leah & Len Moldovan

In memory of *Anne Rutstein*

Phyliss & Bob Stone

In memory of *Anne Rutstein*

In memory of *Larry Stone*

Sylvia Holland

In memory of *Alex Robbins*



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