

HAPPENINGS

FEBRUARY 2010

NUMBER SIX

From Our Rabbi

The Meaning of Names

According to our traditional and that of many ancient peoples (like the Native Americans for instance) names are vital. If you know someone or something's name, you know their essence. At the very beginning of the Bible, in Genesis, Adam is granted power and sovereignty over the rest of the animal kingdom by being granted by God the right to name the animals.

We have the privilege of naming our own children. There are different traditions on how we go about it. Ashkenazi Jews, normally name their children after relatives that are already deceased in the hope that the baby will embody the good qualities of that person. Sephardic Jews name their children after relatives that are still alive. Some people may choose Hebrew names, some are Yiddish. All traditions embody good feelings and hopes for the future of our offspring. Performing at baby namings is always one of my favorite rabbinical duties. Our names are supposed to stay with us forever but in Jewish tradition it is possible to change one's name. If someone is sick or when they wish to change the direction of their lives, they change their Hebrew names. Some people actually go to court and legally change the name they were given at birth. It is a way of saying that they truly became another person.

God also has a name. In the book of Exodus, God reveals that name to Moses for the first time. It says "I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as El Shaddai, but I did not make Myself known to them by my name *Yud-Hey-Vav-Hey*." (Exodus 6:3) God's name is spelled with the four Hebrew letters *Yud-Hey-Vav-Hey*, coming from a Hebrew root being "to be." We are not capable of understanding God's essence. We can only know that God is, that God

exists. Jewish tradition also teaches that God's four letter name reflects God's attribute of mercy. Since the Israelites are unsettled by their leaving of Egypt, God shows them his merciful side.

An interesting aspect of Judaism is that we are warned "Not to use God's name in vain" in the third of the Ten Commandments. Since we know God's name we have the ability or possibility of misusing that name. The Bible has many different names for God, but these are just different attributes of the Eternal. Elohim tells us about God's attribute of Justice, while Adonai tells about God's mastery of the universe. In fact none of the "names" used for God are God's real name. God's "real name" was used only once a year. In the days of the Jerusalem temple, only the High Priest on Yom Kippur, when he went into the Holy of Holies, actually pronounced the holiest word in the Hebrew language, the name of God.

These days, we are known by yet another kind of names: our screen names. Those are names we use on chat rooms, or in our email addresses. How do we choose them? What do they say about us? I believe these kind of names tell much about who we believe we are or hope to become. The Midrash teaches that "Every person has three names; one his father and mother gave him, one that others call him, and one he acquires for himself." Everyday we are defining who we are and what our names mean to others. Indeed we are defined by our names but we have a say on what that name will mean to others!

Sincerely,

Rabbi Jacques Cukierkorn

THE NEW REFORM TEMPLE

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WORSHIP HOURS

February 5 6:30 p.m.
Guest Speakers - Eva & Phoebe Unterman
Adult Shabbat Dinner

February 12 6:30 p.m.

February 19 6:30 p.m.

February 26 6:30 p.m.
Family Shabbat - Purim Play

Special Shabbat Dinner

Following services on **Friday, February 5**, we will have a Shabbat brisket dinner in the social hall - \$10 for adults and \$8 for children - call the Temple, 816-523-7809 to make your reservations. Reservations must be received by February 4.

Torah For Non Torah Scholars

Come to service early! If you are a creature of habit and like showing up at 6:00 pm on Friday night, you will love our new program, "Torah for Non Torah Scholars." We will have a study session in the Krasne Room on **Friday, February 5 from 6:00 to 6:30** before Worship Services. Our first series will start with B'reisheet-Genesis Round off you Shabbat experience by joining us in the social hall for a great brisket dinner. Cost \$10 per person. Call the Temple at 816-523-7809 before Thursday morning the 4th to make your reservation.

A Very Special Shabbat

We are so happy to welcome as our guest speakers on **February 5**, our own high school senior, Phoebe Unterman and her grandmother Eva Unterman. When Phoebe was 12 she wrote and illustrated the book "Through Eva's Eyes", the story of her grandmother's life in Poland before the Holocaust. Phoebe initially viewed the book as a tale of an idyllic childhood abruptly interrupted, and she wanted it to be child-appropriate. After first resisting her editor's request to include her grandmother's war experiences, Phoebe agreed to expand the story. She spent more than a year revising the text. The book was published in December and has already received awards. We will have books available for purchase (\$20) and signing. Following the service we will have a special Shabbat brisket dinner in the social hall - \$10 for adults and \$8 for children - call the Temple, 816-523-7809 to make your reservations. Reservations must be received by February 4.

Mazal Tots

Everybody needs an ark! You just never know what will happen! Bring the children to play learn and create with us as we study and learn about Noah and the Ark on **Sunday, February 7**. Our rhythm band will learn a new song and each child will make and fill an ark to take home and we will add to our scrapbook. Please call the Temple to let us know if you will be attending, 816- 523-7809.

Lunch with the Rabbi

Individual Rights and the Collective Good. In a rapidly changing world, we're demanding higher and higher levels of security from our government . . . but at what cost? Are we sacrificing too much of our freedom for a level of security that can't be had in a free society? What is the relationship of individual rights to the collective good? We will examine this concept from both a Jewish and a Constitutional perspective on **Wednesday, February 10 at noon** in our Temple's library. Call the Temple at 816-523-7809 to make your reservation and/or to order lunch.

Tot Shabbat

Please join us on **Friday, February 19** for a special worship service designed for toddlers and their families. We would love to take this opportunity to introduce NRT to unaffiliated families with small children, so please feel free to invite guests. The service will be held in the sanctuary from 6-6:20 pm.

Challah, Byalis and Bagels Oh My!

Rescheduled from January 10th, Challah, Byalis and Bagels Oh My! Come and discuss the joys of Jewish baking, learn how to make challah, and get some tips on how to avoid emergency room bagel mishaps! Great learning and fun in an informal, social atmosphere. From **4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 21**. Please call the Temple to RSVP.

Family Shabbat with Esther the Minator!

Don't know what a minator is? Come and find out as the NRT Prime Time Players perform in our Purim play on **Friday, February 26**. It has intrigue, action and romance...and it is *very* funny! Curtain time is 6:30 pm during our Family Service. You won't believe the beauty contest for the next queen!

Young Adult Member Reception

NRT will be hosting its first Young Adult Member wine and cheese reception on **Saturday, February 28, 2010 at 7:00 pm**. This will be a wonderful opportunity for NRT's younger members (44 and under) to meet in a casual setting. This event is also open to prospective members, so please feel free to bring any friends who are considering NRT. The get together will be at the home of Dan & Erin Margolin, 6253 Glenfield Drive, Fairway, Kansas. There will be plenty of hors d'oeuvres for noshing, as well as wine and beer, so bring your appetites! Contact Brandon Turner, Erin Margolin or Jennifer Auerbach with any questions. RSVP to the Temple at 816-523-7809. Formal invitations to follow.

Levin Library

Porter REEL Read Congratulations to Elinor Bortnick for earning one AMC movie ticket, Dahlia Cukierkorn and Mikaela Judy for both earning 2 movie tickets. Keep reading!

We also want to thank Dick Rubenstein for his donation of 20 more Jewish themed or Jewish produced/acted movies for our collection in memory of his late wife, Jean. Wonderful selections are available for you to check out: Fiddler on the Roof, Oliver, The Ten Commandments, Cabaret, Funny Girl, Chariots of Fire, Biloxi Blues, Dirty Dancing, Crimes and Misdemeanors, Driving Miss Daisy, and Ben Hur, just to name a few. We are grateful for this and his previous donation that have made a fantastic video collection for NRT members.

Welcome New Temple Members!

Dr. Joseph Reuben & Rebecca Noel

From Our President

Dear Friends,

I am excited to share with you that after many requests from our members, we will have a Yahrzeit Remembrance plaque to memorialize our members' loved ones and a Tree of Life plaque to recognize individuals' life cycle events. After months of research and planning, Diane Robinson, who finalized the project, with the help of Barb Bloch, Ginny Epsten and Danny Slosburg, found two plaques very befitting to the Temple. Our NRT Board has unanimously approved to add these meaningful symbols to the New Reform Temple.

The Yahrzeit plaque will be located in the back of the Sanctuary, on the left-hand wall as you're entering the Sanctuary. Above the columns displaying the names, there will be the adage: "The memory of the righteous shall be for a blessing. They shall dwell in the house of the Lord."

The Tree of Life plaque will be located in the foyer on the left-hand wall as you're entering the Temple from the parking lot side. Not only will it be a way for members to honor loved ones, but it will add a beautiful artistic element to the Temple. Members will be able to commemorate births, birthdays, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, graduations, weddings, anniversaries, etc., essentially any life cycle event. Individual leaves will be used to recognize the honorees. Believe it or not, decorative rocks at the base of the tree can also be included in the design.

We are finalizing the prices of the plates for both plaques as this newsletter is being printed; look for a separate mailing that will list the prices of the respective plates. We will have special pricing for plates purchased prior to the plaques' installations. Once the plaques are installed, we will have celebratory dedication events—most likely in May or June for the Yahrzeit plaque and September for the Tree of Life plaque. Meanwhile, you can get a sneak peak of the new plaques on the NRT website at the end of the month and we will have an Artist rendition in our temple foyer in early March.

I thank you for your interest in bringing these lasting tributes to life.

Tom Barnett
President

We Gratefully Acknowledge the Following Contributions to The New Reform Temple

To the Levin Library

In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Dreyer's
Anniversary
by Mrs. Harriet Epstein

To the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

by Diane Krizek & Eugene Bileski
by Ms. Miranda Starr & the Lawrence D. Starr
Charitable Foundation
by The Wally Foundation

In Memory of Jeanne Benjamin
In Memory of Elaine Ryder
In Memory of John Uhlmann
by Dr. & Mrs. Rolfe Becker

In Memory of Lena Segal
by Mrs. Sylvia Manko

To the Temple

In Memory of Alvin H. Berlau
by Mr. Charles Berlau

In Honor of Mrs. Sylvia Manko's Birthday
by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Nachman

In Honor of Mrs. Anna Lee Rubin's Birthday
by Ms. Thelma Byers
by Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Zarr

February Birthdays

01 Janet Dubrava	04 Harrison Swartzman	11 Barbara Kovacs	21 Brad Wolfe
01 Andy Eastman	05 Betty Jo Marder	11 Kate Sachse	22 Jackson Auerbach
01 Jamie Helzberg	06 Chuck Udell	12 Stuart Eisen	22 Tyler Auerbach
01 Diane Levin	07 Leon Bloch	12 Scott Schoenfeld	22 Wanda Lowenstein
01 Susan Sight	07 Henry Epstein	14 Sydney Stoops	23 Pamela DiCapo
01 Cliff Trenton	07 Nancy Flora	15 Lila Bortnick	23 Edward Minskovsky
02 Katie Gerson	07 Jeff Wolfe	15 Leonard Horwitz	25 Jean Brown
03 Jack Mayer	08 Robert Cohon	16 Fran Brozman	25 Arthur Stern
03 Jimmy Uhlmann	08 Clarice Epstein	17 Betsy Jacob	26 Michael Brozman
03 Tricia Uhlmann	08 Karen Porter	19 Jacqueline Epsten	27 Paul Erdner
03 Ken Weiner	09 Jordan White	21 Jessica Sight	27 Irving Fudenberg
			28 Charles Sosland

February Anniversaries

07 Ira & Pat Stein	09 Tom & Carol Barnett	19 Harold & Marilyn Melcher
08 Mark & Valerie Discher	10 Steve & Suzie Block	23 Irv & Sue Belzer
08 Paul & Fran Kapleau	14 Mike & Kathy Rainen	26 Mike & Linda Lyon

From Our Religious School

What a winter this has been so far! But with February here, we know spring is not far off. Religious School continues to bustle with activity. The 6th grade is studying G'milut Chasadim, acts of loving kindness, with the care and protection of animals and exploring peace. Third grade is also covering G'milut Chasadim and being responsible. Seventh graders shared posters they made about a child's life before and after the Holocaust that they "adopted" to study. They will also study the story of Rebekkah. Grades K-1 will be performing a play after services about creation called "When G-d Made the World" on January 31st. This is child driven, inspired by their experiences singing with Miss Devra each week. Watch for pictures in next month's newsletter. On **Sunday February 7th, from 10:30- 11:30**, our very own Phoebe Unterman and her grandmother, Eva Unterman, will talk about the book that Phoebe wrote, illustrated, and published about her grandmother's experience during the Holocaust. Students in grades 7-10 will be attending and the entire congregation is invited to attend. Please be aware that this is not appropriate for young children. **Please note that our Purim carnival has moved to March 7th.**

Ann Brendle
Religious School Director

Harvesters Volunteers Needed

The Social Action Committee will be volunteering for a project with Harvesters on **Wednesday, February 17, from 9am to noon.**

We are helping with the BackSnack program. We will be filling backpacks with food for children in our community who would go hungry over the weekend without this nutritious, child-friendly food provided by Harvesters.

This year Harvesters will be feeding 10,000 children **every week!** NRT volunteers will go to the Harvesters warehouse and put together the sacks of food that will be delivered to schools—where the backpacks will be distributed on Friday afternoon. The students return the backpacks to the schools on Monday so they can be filled again for the next weekend.

We will meet at 8:15 am on Wednesday, February 17 at the Temple to car pool to Harvesters. Please let Deedee King know if you will join us at kinghouse@aol.com. Friends are welcome to come!

Y A H R Z E I T S

"The memory of the righteous shall be for a blessing"

FEBRUARY 5

George K. Baum, II
A. Keith Brodtkin
Carrie Copeland Brown
Irwin E. Hurwitt
Melvine Hyken
George S. Lewis
Violet R. Lyon
Emilie Mnookin
Jacob B. Neiman
Louis Niman
Alfred P. Rosenstock
Mitchell Shapiro
Suzanne G. Statland
Louis Udell
Bernard H. Winston, M.D.

FEBRUARY 12

Mildred Auer
E.B. Berkowitz
Sherri Lynn Brown, M.D.
Bernice A. Dreyer
Herman J. Galamba
Hyman W. Krasne
Haskell Lazere
Linda Niman Schwartz
Dorothy Shapiro
Jack Sight
Victor Stern
Barbara L. Uhlmann
R. Hugh Uhlmann
Nettie Weneck

FEBRUARY 19

Sylvia Aaron
Ruth Adler
Margarita Alfie
Mrs. Leon E. Bloch
Edith Rubin Dondis
Donald Glabman
Julius Hyken
Harold Kain
Arnold Robinson
Jacob Steinzeig
Glen V. Wilson
John Wolf

FEBRUARY 26

Bertha Abend
Carolyn J. Boasberg
Laura Brendle
Herman Copaken
Hy Davidson
Albert Finkel
Paul Goodman
Frieda Herman
Ben S. Lefkovitz
Nat Nast
Muriel K. Stern
Dan C. Tucker
Sam Weiner