

HAPPENINGS

JANUARY 2010

NUMBER FIVE

From Our Rabbi

Be Kind to Your Animals

Many of us keep animals, more often dogs or cats, at home. It has been said that God created animals to teach us to be better givers. While animals can't communicate with the same ability as humans, they are God's creations and express basic feelings such as pain, hunger, satisfaction and, many would argue, loyalty and love.

Jewish law teaches us that when a person assumes responsibility for an animal, whether a pet or a farm-animal, care of the animal becomes a top priority. In Talmud *Berachot* 40a, Rabbi Judah quotes Rav as saying: "It is forbidden for a person to eat until one has fed one's animals, since the verse states, 'and I will provide grass in your field for your cattle,' and only then does it say, 'and you will eat and you will be satisfied'" (Deuteronomy 11:15).

Our matriarch Rebecca is, perhaps, the greatest Biblical example of kindness to animals. When Eliezer, Abraham's servant, who is seeking a wife for Isaac, meets Rebecca at her town well, she gives him a drink of water and then says: "I will draw for your camels as well, until they have done drinking" (Genesis 24:19). She ran to the well numerous times to ensure that the camels were properly satiated. (The reason she did not offer to water the camels first was because they were not hers. Additionally, there is an opinion that water, unlike food, should first be given to humans for the sake of *pikuach nefesh*, saving a life.)

While the obligation does not include animals at large (such as stray cats), the principle itself is intended to make one much more aware of the ways in which he/she can be kinder to all animals and,

indeed, to all people.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Jacques Cukierkorn

Special Family Fun Opportunity!

January is Artist Colony Month! We will have two fantastic "Sketch and Paint" session with our very own, world renowned Dr. Eugene Bortnick!

Save the dates . . . **January 17 and 24** right after Sunday school (11:30 a.m.) for our learning sessions. Children should be 2nd grade or older and we welcome adults of all ages! At our January 29 Family Shabbat Service, we will have the world premier showing of our art work in The New Reform Classical Art Exhibition Hall!

Please RSVP to the Temple at 816-523-7809 so that we have enough supplies for everyone.

THE NEW REFORM TEMPLE

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WORSHIP HOURS

- January 1 6:30 p.m.
- January 8 6:30 p.m.
- January 15 6:30 p.m.
- January 22 6:30 p.m.
- January 29 6:30 p.m.
Family Shabbat Service

Adult Education - Challah, Byalis & Bagels Oh My!

Join us on **Sunday, January 10** from 4-6:00 pm at the Temple as we 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. Please RSVP to the Temple office at 816-523-7809.

Lunch With the Rabbi

Our lively discussion of ethics and Jewish thought continues as we discuss Medical Ethics. We will discuss such topics as “Is it kosher to clone?” Lunch is provided by Michael Rosenblum from Mama’s 39th Street Restaurant. Join us on **Wednesday, January 13** at noon in the Temple’s library. Please RSVP to the Temple office at 816-523-7809.

Art Show & Family Shabbat Dinner

Join us for our Family Shabbat Service on **January 29** as we will be showing the art work from our recent Artist Colony workshop. Following the family service there will be a family Shabbat dinner in our social hall. We’re trying something new this month. We will provide juicy roasted chicken as the main course and we are asking that each family bring a side dish to serve at least 5 people. Please RSVP to the Temple office that you are coming to the dinner along with what side dish you plan to bring.

Tot Shabbat Service

Please join us on **Friday, January 29** 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 guest. The service will be held in the sanctuary from 6-6:20 p.m.

Youth Program

Casting Call for our Purim Play. We will be doing The Esther-Minotaur. You guys will love this one! It’s a very funny play and is a take-off of the Terminator! I need from 9 to 13 actors and 1 or more trumpet players. (Roger...Hello!) We will meet in the social hall from 11:30 to 12:30 on **Sunday, January 31**. Of course there will be my world famous “Over the Top Ooey-Gooey Brownies”!

Torah for Non Torah Scholars

Come to service early! If you are a creature of habit and like showing up at 6:00 p.m. on Friday night, you will love our new program, "Torah for Non Torah Scholars." We will have a study session in the Krasne Room from 6-6:30 p.m. before Worship Services on **Friday, February 5**.

Shabbat Dinner

Round off your Shabbat experience on **Friday, February 5** by joining us in the social hall following Services with a great brisket dinner. Cost is \$10 per person. Call the Temple office at 816-523-7809 before Thursday morning the 4th to make your reservations.

Upcoming NRT Young Adult Member's Event

Please stay tuned for details about an upcoming wine & cheese event for young adult NRT members. Watch your inbox & mailbox for Evites and fliers which will go out soon. This will be a special opportunity for 40-somethings and younger to meet, mingle, nosh a bit and get to know each other in a more casual setting. Dan & Erin Margolin will host this event sometime in early 2010.

Porter Reel Read Program

The following students have earned a movie ticket this month from our Porter Reel Read Program: Ridley Angrist, Allie Erdner and Billy Jacob. To earn a movie ticket, students must read two books and complete a report on the books.

The program is a great success and a big thank you goes to Karen and Edward Porter for being the program's sponsors.

We Gratefully Acknowledge the Following Contributions to The New Reform Temple

To the Levin Library

To the Porter Reel Read Program
by Mr. & Mrs. Edward Porter

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

To the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

by Dan, Erin, Abby & Izzy Margolin
by Mr. Michael Rosenblum
by Mr. & Mrs. Norman Siegel
by the Lawrence D. Starr Charitable Foundation
by Dr. & Mrs. Marc Turner

In Memory of Jeanne Benjamin
In Memory of Elaine Ryder
by Mrs. Patricia Sanditz

In Honor of Sarah Epsten's Bat Mitzvah
by Mr. & Mrs. Brad Epsten

In Honor of Lucy Fromm's Baby Naming
by Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Fromm

In Memory of Marsha Goldman
by Mrs. Gloria Block

In Honor of Adam & Lily Starr and Lawrence D. Starr
by the Lawrence D. Starr Charitable Foundation

From Our Religious School

Happy 2010! I hope this new decade brings good health and prosperity to all. The teachers worked very hard during the first semester to teach your children about Judaism. Second semester will continue with many great lessons and activities. The storyteller will read to students in grades K-2, the Israeli Emissary will stop by to share information about Israel, the annual Purim carnival will be an enjoyable activity, and the mitzvah market will give the students a chance to learn about local charities. Eight and ninth graders last day will be March 7th, and the Confirmation Class will go to New York in April.

I want to thank all the families who donated gift cards to JFS for Hanukkah. We collected over twenty cards worth nearly \$500, and JFS was overwhelmed with our generosity.

Just a reminder, there will be classes on January 10, 17, 24, and 31st.

Ann Brendle
Religious School Director

Household Items Needed

The Jewish Vocational Service facilitates resettlement of refugees coming into our area from many countries. The JVS is in need of GOOD, USED household items to furnish apartments with for these families. They can use: furniture, linens, any and all kitchen items.

The JVS will come to your house and pick up any items that you have. To arrange for a pick up or if you have any questions, please call 816-471-2808.

From Our President

Dear Friends,

As you all know, we celebrate the Jewish New Year every fall and ask God for atonement of our sins; it is a time to “wipe the slate” clean and get a fresh start on the year. As Jews, we are doubly blessed in that we also follow the secular calendar, because come January 1st, we can also choose to make New Year’s resolutions. Though doing so is not quite the identical morality check as what we do on Rosh Hashanah, it is similar, because our sense of become a “better person” may be heightened. This is the time of year we tend to do a little more self-introspection. Resolutions range from losing weight, to keeping our rooms tidier, to being kinder to our siblings and or/co-workers. How do we choose what we’re going to do to better ourselves? This fall, when Carol and I were at school for parent teacher conferences, a poster hanging in one of the hallways, with the words below caught my attention:

“Watch your thoughts, they become words.
Watch your words, they become actions.
Watch your actions, they become habits.
Watch your habits, they become your character.
Watch your character, it becomes your destiny.”

Anonymous

I believe this simple but extremely thought provoking sentiment provides a tremendous footing to help in formulating our resolutions, especially as Classical Reform Jews. We’re all about doing right, and doing better. I encourage each of you (me included), if you haven’t done so already, to make even one resolution, which by this time next year, you can reflect, that you’ve become a better person for it.

Tom Barnett
President

January Birthdays

01 Ann Baum	09 Debbie Coe	16 Kit Smith	24 Daniel Margolin
01 Steve Weneck	09 Heidi Durwood	17 Jack DiCapo	25 Julie Erdner
03 Sylvia Manko	10 Andrew Levin	17 Brian Fate	25 Laurence Frazen
04 Ernie Fleischer	11 Ed Gilbert	17 Elijah Fromm	25 Adam Seligson
04 Brett Misse	11 Gail Halverson	17 Joan Mindlin	25 Andrew Seligson
04 Bob Shapiro	11 Ellen Murphy	18 Jon Bortnick	25 Laura Ziegler
05 Lewis Rosenblatt	12 Gloria Rudd	18 Ashley Gunter	27 Marti Fromm
05 Steve Rothstein	13 Tom Dreyer	19 Alex Barnett	27 Michelle Goldwasser
06 Sally Schoenfeld	14 Diane Robinson	20 Abra House	28 Emily Uhlmann
08 Lisa Auer	15 Brandon Barouh	20 Sara Roesler	29 Eugene Bileski
08 Marcia Berlau	15 Sylvia Becker	20 Bob Tucci	29 Sabrina Feigenbaum
08 Cathy Bortnick	15 John Brendle	22 Michael Levin	29 Evan Vittor
08 Harvey Fried	15 Bush Helzberg	23 Julia Cohon	30 Hope Grunt
08 Connor Gellender	16 Louis Ashner	23 Phillip Greenbaum	30 Miranda Starr
08 Samantha Jones	16 Annaliza Bagunu Jr.	24 Drew Auer	31 Jane Rubenstein
08 Anna Lee Rubin	16 Nathaniel Crenner	24 Aaron Greenbaum	31 Gavin Sitkoff

January Anniversaries

01 Jacques & Denisse Cukierkorn	12 John & Reesa Helzberg
06 Irving & Judy Fudenberg	26 Lance & Terry Goldberg
10 Brandon & Megan Turner	26 Marc & Janet Solomon

Everyone had a wonderful time at last month's Mazel Tots Hanukkah Celebration. Latkes were eaten, dreidels were spun and a few stories were told. Don't miss out on the fun, be sure to sign up for our next Mazel Tots program coming in February!



Y A H R Z E I T S

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

JANUARY 1

Beatrice Hyman Block
Bonny Ruth Cohen
Arthur L. Glassman, M.D.
Harriet Miller Goldstein
Rabbi Ronald M. Goldstein
Tobias Grunt
Edward L. Hoffman
Amy Katz
Laura P. Katz
Mae Miller
Tulio Moltifiori
Sam L. Robinson
Jean Lewis Rubenstein
Steven O. Schwartz, M.D.
Regina Straus
Lillie Rose Weill
William Wolkoff

JANUARY 8

Samuel Adler
David Davis
Adella Fine
Julius Freilich
Barney Horwitz
Jessie M. Levy
Janice Meinrath
Robert Osten
Isadore Rainen
Esther Rubin
Lena Segal
Mayme Siegel
Gertrude Sight
Robert Stanley Sight, Sr.
Louis Sosland

JANUARY 15

Etta L. Brown
Maurice L. Brown
Sarah Rebecca Grunt
Nathan Haith
Phillip H. Halperin, M.D.
S. Harvey Laner
Stuart Levine
Sylvia K. Lewis
Maurice Miller
Violet Oppenheimer
Lois Weiner
Meta Baum Westheimer
Norman F. Westheimer
June Wolf

JANUARY 22

Allen J. Block
Shirley Cohen
Norma Grant
Benjamin Herman
Alfred Lighton
Rae Nachman Loeb
Anita Navran
Bessie Saffran
Ruth Sidley

JANUARY 29

Dorothy L. Bordeau
Mildred Epsten
Harry Gershenson
David Goldenbaum
Jean Goldstein
Frances Gunter
Lewis Hoffman
Ludwig Isenberg
Lena Kamen
Luzia Lewandowski
Radine Lewis
Beth Lyon
Stanley H. Mindlin
Charles Monasee
Theresa Montague
Frieda Perlmutter
Jay G. Wolfe