

RABBIS' CORNER

By Bruce Gottlieb

I used to take a lot of photographs. For reasons that are not important here, I put down my camera many years ago. For my birthday last year, Adrienne and the boys gave me a new camera and I decided I was ready to pick it up again. I started shooting as much as I could. It did not take me long to get back my photographic/ artistic vision, but I found that my focus was different. Previously, I shot what I saw even if I felt no attachment to the subject. Now I find myself shooting what I do not see (I'll explain that in a minute). I have always taken my photographs for myself, but then it happened. A friend of ours owns a small gallery and Adrienne asked her to look at some of my pieces. Joanne bought eleven of my images and I had to put together a catalogue. That meant I had to really think about what I was seeing. That is how I realized that I shoot what I do not see. I take my pictures quickly and move on – either the subject speaks to me or it does not. It is an approach that relies entirely on my affective and emotional experience in the moment. It is only after I get home that I look for my image within the picture (therefore I shot what I did not see). I almost always find my image in the details. This is how I described this in the catalogue:

It is true, as the cliché suggests, that we often lose the forest for the trees. It is equally true that we often lose the trees for the forest. The images in this collection are an exploration of the magnificence and mystery in the minute.... The collection is entitled *Eye of the Beholder* because these images invite each of us to see something different in them.... Please allow these images to speak to you. Open your mind to what they can show us.

This is the same truth I discovered years ago in the Canyon Lands of Utah, as I stared at a simple piece of red sandstone for the longest time. It is a truth I use every day as I look for the subtle clues that will reveal what my clients need to discover about themselves. It is a truth I rediscover every time I look at my children. It is the truth Ralph Waldo Emerson challenged us to explore when he wrote *Walden Pond*. It is the truth Martin Buber challenged us to explore when he wrote *I and Thou*. Emerson, Buber, and others had to challenge us because too often we look without seeing. They had to challenge us because too often we see with the external eye but not the internal eye.

The world – the universe – is a magnificent place that has so much to reveal to us. It always reveals different things and different truths to each of us. Our only obligation in this process is to open ourselves to those truths. I challenge you to stop, look, see, and discover the magnificent in the minute. You'll be amazed.

SIMCHAS

AUGUST

Anniversaries

- 12 Jan and Ted Goldsmith (23)
- 13 Joyce and Elliott Slutzky

Birthdays

- 6 Marianna Singer
- 10 Bruce Gottlieb
Susanna Singer
- 20 Len Schmelkin
- 23 Jean Joseph
Jennifer Rittenberg

SEPTEMBER

Anniversaries

- 9 Edna and Peter Schmelkin (57)
- 14 Marlene and John McLeod (32)

Birthdays

- 2 Jonathan Rittenberg
- 8 Wendy Cowen
- 11 Judy Caselman
- 14 Roberta Rittenberg
- 15 Michael Sacks
- 19 Marlene Baer
- 21 Adrienne Gottlieb
- 23 Pauline Singer
- 24 Civia Tuteur
- 30 Peter Schmelkin

(Please note: The accompanying "Rabbis' Corner" column was written over a month ago, before Rabbi Gottlieb's father passed away. Because there was no July issue of Highlights, we are printing it this month.)

DEATHS IN THE TEMPLE MENORAH FAMILY

On June 17, Dr. Stanley Gottlieb, father of Rabbi Bruce Gottlieb, passed away in Philadelphia. Our sympathies to Rabbi Gottlieb, Adrienne, Aaron, Ariel, and Jake.

Dedication of a memorial honoring former member Sam Greiner took place at Shalom Memorial Park on July 15

Shirley Dobrowolski, the mother of Temple Menorah's secretary, Stephanie Dertz, succumbed to cancer on July 14 in Michigan.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By John McLeod

Soon Temple Menorah will be welcoming back some old friends and meeting some new ones.

In the summer of 1997 we began sharing our facility with Congregation Ezra Habonim. We ran a combined school, the Bet Mispacha Family School, shared Purim services, and best of all, met some wonderful people. Ezra Habonim left us in July 2002 when they merged with another Rogers Park conservative congregation, Ner Tamid. This year the combined Ner Tamid Ezra Habonim Congregation has merged with the Egalitarian Minyan of Rogers Park. After the High Holidays they will again share space with us here at Temple Menorah.

Each segment of their new congregation has an interesting history. Ner Tamid, founded in 1934, is one of the oldest synagogues in West Rogers Park. Services were originally held in a loft on the corner of Devon and Fairfield. In 1936 Ner Tamid merged with the Northtown Hebrew Congregation. In 1949 the combined congregation moved to a new synagogue at California and Rosemont.

Ezra Habonim traces its roots to both Hyde Park and Lake View. Habonim, incorporated in 1945, was an amalgam of two groups who initially held services in the K.A.M. Temple of Hyde Park. One founded in 1936, was a group of refugees from Nazi persecution, who held services in the Liberal German tradition. The other, founded in 1939, was a group of unaffiliated Jews who held conservative services.

Temple Ezra began as a sports and social club founded on the North Side in 1936 as the North Center of Jewish Youth. Religious services were held in a number of different locations. In 1946, at the suggestion of their first full-time rabbi, the congregation's name was changed to Temple Ezra. In 1967 the congregation acquired the synagogue building from New Israel Synagogue at 2620 W. Touhy and changed its name to Ezra Congregation. In 1977 Ezra and Habonim merged, holding services at 2620 W. Touhy until 1997 when they moved to Temple Menorah.

The Egalitarian Minyan of Rogers Park was founded in 1979. It is a self-run organization that has no hired rabbinic, educational or clerical staff. They call themselves egalitarian because men and women participate equally in their services and they have a non-hierarchical structure. The Minyan has brought a new do-it-yourself spirit and zest to Ner Tamid Ezra Habonim.

Temple Menorah members are welcome to their *mincha* (morning) and *maariv* (evening) services. Please join me in welcoming our old friends and make an extra effort to greet our new friends.

AND NOW A WORD FROM YENTA

Lori Klein-Blazek reports that daughter **Marissa**, who was inducted into the National Honor Society at the end of the school year, attended a leadership conference in Washington, D.C. July 9 – 14. She also notes that son **Ben**, who graduated elementary school this June, will be starting at Taft High School in September with six hours of high school credit already on his record – and a grade point average of 4.0!

Nettie Katzenberg's daughter **Pam** scored lots of touch-downs against the boys at Camp Chi, where she spent four weeks this summer. Son **Howard**, meanwhile, had his photo taken with “Borat” at Disneyland.

Joyce and Elliott Slutzky's daughter **Stephany**, who graduated from Southern Illinois University, is looking for a job teaching high school math.

And the **Milsk** children are busy this summer. **Rebecca** is doing volunteer work for the Japanese American Service Center, and **Gregory** is doing an internship to complete his B.A. in sports medicine.

Yetta Cooperman is enjoying having granddaughter **Abbe Blackwell** (who just turned 21!) in town for the summer – and she's also enjoying seeing the Cubs winning for a change. Meanwhile, Abbe's mom, **Doris**, is enjoying a relaxing vacation in Las Vegas.

And visiting from Israel, where they now live, are **Sylvia Porter's** daughter **Leah** and **Dave and Pauline Singer's** daughter **Shoshanna**. **Pauline** is counting off the days until she retires Sept. 1 from her position at the University of Illinois' Division of Services for Crippled Children.

Edna and **Peter Schmelkin's** grandson **Geoff** has just returned from Israel, where he enjoyed serving as a volunteer counselor at an Israeli youth camp. He will attend the University of Indiana in the fall.

The Wandering **Goldsmiths** will take off for the Ozarks after **Alex** returns from camp. And **Rabbi David** and **Sue Spitz** will be visit friends in Montana before touring Yellowstone National Park.

Unfortunately, trips to hospitals are also on Yenta's list. **Beverly Glassburg** is going in for a double knee replacement August 27. **Jerry Blyman** hopes he passes his stress test so he can have a rod removed from his leg. And **Michael Sacks** is still on the sick list. Yenta wishes everyone a full and speedy recovery.

However, to end on a high note, **Jerry Blyman** also reports that his son, who has been struggling with under-employment for over a year, is now employed full-time, with benefits. Huzzah!

News for Yenta? Contact **Highlights Editor, Lisa Yondorf**: 773/262-1396; lisayondorf@yahoo.com

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS ON SALE AUG. 1

Beginning Aug. 1, you can save on shopping, entertainment, hotels, and more, while supporting Temple Menorah. Contact the Temple office (773-761-5700) to order your Entertainment Book – still only \$20. Discount coupons are good through November 1, 2008.



SOCIAL ACTION – RIGHT HERE AT HOME

It's almost time once more to deliver food to Jewish families in need. **Maot Chitim** of Greater Chicago organizes volunteers twice each year, for Rosh Hashanah and Passover, to pack and deliver food packages to thousands of families in our community.

This year non-perishables will be packed on **Aug. 26** at the warehouse. Perishables will be packed and the food delivered on Sunday, **Sept. 9**.

To volunteer, please e-mail volunteer@maotchitim.org or call 847-674-3224

MANISCHEWITZ COOK-OFF: WIN \$\$\$

You could win a new GE Profile™ Kitchen by entering the Simply Manischewitz Cook-Off.

Entrants must submit a kosher recipe using a Manischewitz product and be willing to compete in person at one of three live, judged, regional cook-offs. For a wonder, one of these cook-offs will be held in Chicago November 1.

Applications are available in the Temple Menorah office. You can also enter on line, or get more information, at www.manischewitz.com or contact the Bender Hammerling Group Public Relations firm, which is managing the cook-off, at 973-744-0707.

GROCERY DOLLARS:

BUY THEM – YOU'LL LIKE THEM!

Buy Dominick's and Jewel dollars "gift cards" and keep them in your wallet in case the need for a quick trip to the store catches you on the way from somewhere to somewhere else. You never know.

For each \$100 in Dominick's or Jewel grocery dollars purchased, \$5 is taken off your dues surcharge. Buy grocery dollars. What's not to like?

To order grocery dollars: Contact the Temple office 773-761-5700 (templemenorah1@aol.com). They may be picked up from **11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Mon. – Fri.** The office is also open from **6 to 8 p.m.** one night each month. This will hold true in August (**August 30**). However, the last Thursday in September falls on Sukkot, so the late Thursday evening that month will be **September 20**.

URJ NEWS

Grandparents & Grandchildren Together at OSRUI

Grandparents and their grandchildren age 6 to 13 are invited to enjoy a weekend of Jewish camping October 5-7, 2007, at Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. The weekend will include activities for families together, and some separate programs for adults and for children. Accommodations will be provided in the Lodge and the Soref Center - both buildings feature double rooms with private bath, along with a large meeting room with a fireplace. For more information, contact Barbara Gordon: bgordon@urj.org, 847-239-6984 or visit Web site <http://www.osrui.org/>

New From URJ Books and Music

Books and Music to be published in the next few months by URJ include:

The Gender Gap: A Congregational Guide for Beginning the Conversation about Men's Involvement in Synagogue Life. Introduction by Doug Barden

Kulanu: All of Us: A Program for Congregations Implementing Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Inclusion. Revised and Updated Edition

Life, Faith, and Cancer: Jewish Journeys through Diagnosis, Treatment, and Recovery. Edited by Doug Kohn

The Still Small Voice: Reflections on Being a Jewish Man. Edited by Michael Holzman. Preface by Doug Barden

For more information on URJ publications, visit www.urjbooksandmusic.com.

Religious Action Center News & Cell Advocacy Network

RACNews and the Cell Advocacy Network help you stay on the cutting edge of social action developments in your community and nation wide. Those who wish to sign up and start making a difference in the fight for justice can log onto www.rac.org/ for more information.

Holiday Social Action Guides

With the Jewish holiday season just around the corner, you may wish to download the *Social Action Holiday Guide for the High Holidays and Sukkot*. Complete with readings and activities for the individuals and small groups, the *Social Action Holiday Guides* can help you establish new traditions while honoring the old. To download your copy of the *Holiday Guide* please visit www.rac.org/pubs/holidayguides.