



Temple Beth Israel News

8529 Placer Dr, Redding CA 96001/POBox 2582, Redding CA 96099-2582
(530) 243-5726



URJ MEMBER

SIVAN-AV 5770

JUNE-JULY 2010

THERE WILL BE NO NEWSLETTER IN JULY NO TEMPLE EVENTS ARE SCHEDULED FOR JULY AND AUGUST, BUT MEMBERS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY EMAIL OR MAIL AS EVENTS UNFOLD AND OTHER VENUES ARE SELECTED.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Steve Zlotowsky

We certainly know how to finish a TBI season with style. I'm still relishing the Kaplan B'not Mitzvah, celebration of our high school seniors and even the vibe at the general meeting. What a gift the Kaplan clan gave to themselves and all of us. To have two women work toward this day from a different vantage point than the more traditional thirteen year old added a wonderful dimension that Kendyl and Julie so richly shared with us.

Who could not be moved and heartened by their journeys. And to have Jory lead off with such insightful and poignant words about the women in his life...what a rare and special moment. The words of Kendyl, Julie and Jory remind us how infrequently we hear the most honest words from the heart and how powerful such words are when shared. We should all be inspired to follow their leads.

Finally, Friday night kindled the faith that we have indeed passed the Jewish torch to the next generation. For Sam, Kendyl, Josh, Ben and Natalie, I hope this is a night they will remember. To hear them all speak about how TBI and its members have been such strong influences in their lives is proof positive that we are doing something incredibly right. Judaism is not the default setting in our world. It is an identity that one must choose, welcome and hold on to. As I shared with our seniors, despite their next destinations that will undoubtedly harbor more Jews and more Jewish culture, their connections to Judaism will be threatened as never before. Up until now, their parents have brought them to Judaism, but now they will be responsible for opening their hearts to the vast and rich heritage which Judaism has to offer. It seems like such an easy choice, and yet so many do not avail themselves of it. Hearing the seniors speak, we can be proud that our little community has equipped them with a powerful glimpse of what can await them. And hearing their words, we should all garner strength to commit ourselves to further explorations of our Jewish souls.

TEMPLE UPGRADE BEGINS

By Art Tilles

Next month the TBI community will reach another milestone in its yearnings for a home of our own. Work is already in progress on the renovation of our building, and it will be completed over the next several months.

Here is a very general overview of the plans: Reinforce the roof and extend the concrete on the front porch, which will include more space for entry and easier access for the ambulatory impaired; beautification (or replacement of

TBI CALENDAR

All events are at TBI unless otherwise indicated
Changes will be posted at www.tbiredding.org

Temple Renovation beginning this month (see below)

**Lay Services in July and August, conducted by
George Wandrocke and Art Tilles
Dates and times TBA**

Sun July 11

Membership outreach meeting with Keith Barany (see p2)

Wed Sep 8

7:00pm: Erev Rosh Hashanah (further details in August issue)

Fri Sep 17

Erev Yom Kippur (Kol Nidre)
Further details in Aug issue

the front door; raising of the roof in the sanctuary, with new insulation and lighting, adding a storage room between the kitchen and dalet classroom, changing out some defective and energy inefficient windows and new flooring in 3 classrooms.

The board is also committed to take on completion of our playground this summer. Jim Kelly will be assisting with ground preparation for laying of bark, and Barb and Steve have investigated new playground equipment.

I, for one, am very excited, having played a part in the acquisition of this property and even in writing grant proposals (unsuccessful) to some Jewish philanthropies for property improvement. At long last, at least part of that dream will be realized.

GENERAL MEETING SETS TONE FOR NEXT YEAR

Most importantly, in the words of our Prez, we are far better off than Greece, i.e. we are ending the year in the black. That didn't happen accidentally, but because members were willing to step forward and provide financial and in-kind support.

The board had a unique task, prudently examining two CD's that are coming due in July. Should we improve the site we presently occupy or seek a better, perhaps more central location. They chose the former course, and the improvements are discussed in the previous article.

If all goes well, the projects will be completed by fall. Meanwhile, Scott Lyon is leading an effort to take on some overdue projects this summer. We will have a community work day to complete tasks, such as touch-up painting. The playground remains in need of bark placement and play equipment not yet in place.

Jess Morris commended Barb Zlotowski for her work with our youth group, the most active in recent memory. Among theirs many activities, the teens enjoyed a hike with Rabbi Lisa and a visit to Oakland to see Rabbi Emeritus Shelley Wallenberg, still a revered friend.

Oren Nardi and Natalie Warsinger

were valuable youth assistants in Bet Sefer, as was Eli Zlotowski, offering tutoring skills to younger students.

If you don't already know, Rabbi Lisa will return for a second year. This is part of a new program at the college, and we are the grateful beneficiaries. Of course we will have to again consider rabbi options in January, as we must plan in advance for the 2011-2012 year.

Yair and Barb have stepped forward to fill board positions, so we have a dynamic and talented board confirmed at the General Meeting:

President: Steve Zlotowski
Vice-President: Barb Zlotowski
Secretary: Geri Copitch
Treasurer: Nancy Warsinger
Member at Large: Pam Lilienthal
Member at Large: Yair Nardi.

Roberta Kelly will be passing on the baton as Ritual Affairs chair, but has undertaken the rabbi schedule, holiday list and other committee responsibilities for now. She is also looking into another location for Shabbat Cinema, perhaps the County Library conference room. You asked for other activities, and we are providing them.

Newer members may not remember Yair (Jay) Nardi, who left the area some years ago and has returned with vigor. His moving description of Hanukah with the

IDF, on the front lines at the Suez Canal brought a tearful renewal of his commitment to us. Now, in addition to his board position, he will be leading Bet Sefer.

I personally have a fond memory of Yair leading Shabbat services at Cascade School about a decade ago. Besides his expected command of Hebrew, he brought us valuable insights into Jewish history.

Thank you all for committing time and energy to keep our temple and a Jewish community alive in Redding.

KEITH TAKES ON OUTREACH


Speaking of new energy, Keith Barany, recently joining us from the east coast, asks why more Jews haven't made aliyah to Redding? After all, don't we offer everything Jews have always wanted: hunting, fishing, house boating, the Porsche Club (my personal favorite), Cool April Nights, Big Bike Weekend?

Keith has offered to lead an exploration of possibilities for outreach at a July 11 meeting, time and venue TBA. You can help; email Keith at kbarany@yahoo.com

For starters, welcome Keith, and significant maidel Debra, soon to join us..

SRO AT RIVERFRONT

Well, actually they don't allow




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standing room at the Riverfront Playhouse, but members of TBI managed to entice friends to a sellout performance of *Every Little Crook and Nanny*. The play was a bit of Neil Simon meets Golden Girls, a light tour de farce. My favorite character was the cat from Hell, better heard and not seen.

Thank you Sisterhood, for the wonderful homemade sweets to accompany entre act shmoozing. We could have scheduled a 'Bar Mitzvah or wedding reception at intermission.

Proceeds from the event will be used to improve our playground, as described in the General Meeting note.

DBE DOES PLAYHOUSE

The Daughters of the British Empire - which includes our own Playhouse ticket maven Patricia Penn - invite you to an event of fun and mayhem at the Riverfront Playhouse on Wednesday Aug 4 at 7:00pm. The play is *Club Dead, the Last Resort*. Guests are encouraged (not required) to wear their best resort wear and solve the mystery for a chance to win a prize. Cecil B. De Sille, the famous film director and his wife, Lola Crawford are among the wacky characters you will meet and mingle with at this mysterious resort. Call Patricia Penn at 221-2561. Tickets are \$17, and those DBE ladies are something to trifle with. Buffet and wine will be served.

REFLECTIONS ON IMMORTALITY

By George Wandrocke

Editor's Note: George, our lay chaplain, is frequently called on to visit hospitalized Jews or officiate at funeral services at the request of TBI members or non-affiliated Jews. Here's what he says when asked "What happens to me when I die?. Is my soul immortal?"

Our consciousness is a collection of all events we have experienced in

our life. It's a permanent record of every sound, taste, image, feeling, and odor processed in our brain. I think of it as our soul.

I like to think that all of that information is stored as "quantum" packets of energy in our consciousness. And since energy can neither be created nor destroyed, it can only change form (vis-à-vis $E=mc^2$.) the our consciousness quantum packets are eternal; hence, my basis for thinking our consciousness (or soul) is immortal.

So, in death, regardless of whether you have led a good or bad life, your collective consciousness/soul returns to God, the infinite pool of all energy, the source of all things. Furthermore, since your consciousness at death includes awareness of all the people you have loved, they are joined with you in your consciousness forever.

They will always be the same as how you knew of them when you die. Similarly, you will always be the same, as they remember you in their consciousness when they die. That perspective often helps people feel that that they and their loved ones will always be together in the hereafter.

This homily still depends on faith, but more of a scientific faith than a spiritual faith.

On another level, I say to them that they exist because they come from a very successful genetic pool.

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They are the latest embodiment of thousands of generations, each successful because they have passed their genes onto another living being.

If the person I am talking to has heirs, I say, "Your heirs represent another manifestation of your immortality. You'll live on as long as your genetic chain remains unbroken."

If they do not have heirs, I describe the Jewish practice of saying Kaddish for the dead on the anniversary of their death. It matters not if those who are saying Kaddish are relatives, it only matters that the name of the deceased has been remembered.

(Any Jew can be assured that that will happen by having their name engraved on a leaf on our temple Tree of Memories. Kaddish is said once a year for every name on that tree.)

BOOK CLUB NEWS

We are pleased that the club has gained a few new members; we are growing. We will be meeting July 14 at 1:30, at the home of Gayle and Art Tilles.. The selection will be Herman Wouk's *Inside Outside*, a memoir of the renowned Jewish author. Wouk has brought us great works in non-fiction (*This is My God*) and fiction (*The Caine Mutiny*, *Aurora Dawn*, *Marjorie Morningstar*). He is one of the great author's of our century.

Participants are asked to read the book. For directions or further information email or call me at 472-1533

MYSTICISM FOR OUR TIME

Most people associate *kabbalah* (Jewish mysticism) with the *Zohar* (Book of Splendor). However, the earliest text to which the sages refer is *Sefer Yetzirah* (Book of Creation).* The exact origin of this text is unknown, but it is referenced

as early as the 1st century C.E. According to *Sefer Yetzirah*, God, who is referred to as *Ain Sof* (Eternal, Unlimited, With No End), created the world with the “building blocks” of the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet and the 10 *sephirot*. The *sephirot* are referred to in *Sefer Yetzirah* as “Ten *sephirot* of nothingness” (*Eser sephirot bli mah*). From this it is understood that the *sephirot* are both intangible and yet are the powers that serve to bind the structure of the world together (reading *bli mah* as *blimah*, binding). The ten *sephirot* are:

- 1) *Keter* - Crown
- 2) *Chachma* - Wisdom
- 3) *Binah/Daat* - Understanding /Knowledge
- 4) *Chesed* - Lovingkindness
- 5) *Gevurah* - Strength
- 6) *Tiferet* - Beauty
- 7) *Netzach* - Victory
- 8) *Hod* - Splendor
- 9) *Yesod* - Foundation
- 10) *Malchut* - Kingship

While the *sephirot* of *keter*, *chachma* and *binah* (*daat*) are considered beyond the range of human emulation, the remaining seven lower *sephirot* are given special acknowledgment during the 49 days of *Sefirat Ha'Omer*, the counting of the days between Passover and Shavuot. One week is dedicated to each *sephirah's* interaction with the other six.

Editor's Note: What I find intriguing about the Sephirot is the sense of balance required in an ordered universe.

For example, loving kindness not tempered by an inner strength can lead to poor judgment. Wisdom (intuitive perception), not accompanied by Understanding/Knowledge (education or practical experience) can be limited or hollow.

Clever those mystics..

PENNIES FOR PEACE

In the early 20th century, a teacher in the United States earned about

\$3.00 per day, a pencil cost 1 penny, and a notebook cost 15 cents. That's what goes into a school's budget in Pakistan or Afghanistan today.

Pennies 4 Peace is a non-profit effort to help those schools educate their children, especially girls. Thanks to everyone in TBI who put their loose change in the Pennies 4 Peace "bucket," we collected 6,586 pennies. That will help those schools pay for 21 teacher-days, 18 student notebooks, and 36 pencils.

Redding's mayor proclaimed May as "Pennies for Peace" month in response to SCIF's request. Though we have turned in what we collected, you can still send a check; make it out to Pennies for Peace and mail it to Pennies for Peace, PO Box 7209, Bozeman MT 59771 or go to www.ikat.org/make-a-donation/ to use your credit card.

THE TOP TEN LIES ABOUT ISRAEL

The Simon Wiesenthal Center has produced a new brochure, "2010 Top Ten Anti-Israel Lies," that will be distributed to millions of people worldwide. Here is a condensed summary of the 10 top lies and the center's responses:

Lie No. 1: Israel was created by European guilt over the Nazi Holocaust. Why should Palestinians pay the price?

Three thousand years before the Holocaust, before there was a Roman Empire, Israel's kings and prophets walked the streets of Jerusalem. The whole world knows that Isaiah did not speak his prophesies from Portugal, nor Jeremiah his lamentations from France. Revered by its people, Jerusalem is mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures 600 times, but not once in the Koran. Throughout the 2,000-year exile of the Jews, there was a continuous Jewish presence in the Holy Land.

Lie No. 2: Had Israel withdrawn to its June 1967 borders, peace

would have come long ago.

Since 1967, Israel repeatedly has conceded “land for peace.” Following Egyptian President Sadat's historic 1977 visit to Jerusalem, Israel withdrew from the vast Sinai Peninsula and has been at peace with Egypt ever since. But the Palestinian Authority has never fulfilled its promise to end propaganda attacks nor drop the Palestinian National Charter's call for Israel's destruction. In 2000, Prime Minister Barak offered Yasser Arafat full sovereignty more than 97 percent of the West Bank, a corridor to Gaza, and a capital in the Arab section of Jerusalem. Arafat said no.

Lie No. 3: Israel is the main stumbling block to achieving a two-state solution.

The Palestinians themselves are the only stumbling block to achieving a two-state solution. With whom should Israel negotiate? With President Abbas, who for four years has been barred by Hamas from visiting 1.5 million constituents in Gaza? With his Palestinian Authority, which continues to glorify terrorists and preaches hate in its educational system and the media? With Hamas, whose Iranian-backed leaders deny the Holocaust and use fanatical Jihadist rhetoric to call for Israel's destruction?

Lie No. 4: Nuclear Israel, not Iran, is the greatest threat to peace and stability.

The United States and Europe can afford to wait to see what the Iranian regime does with its nuclear ambitions, but Israel cannot. Israel is on the front lines and remembers every day the price the Jewish people paid for not taking Hitler at his word. Israel is not prepared to sacrifice another 6 million Jews on the altar of the world's indifference.

Lie No. 5: Israel is an apartheid state deserving of international boycott, divestment and sanctions campaigns.

In fact, Israel is a democratic state.

Its 20 percent Arab minority enjoys all the political, economic and religious rights and freedoms of citizenship, including electing members of their choice to the Knesset (Parliament).

Lie No. 6: Plans to build 1,600 more homes in East Jerusalem prove Israel is "Judaizing" the Holy City.

Ramat Shlomo was not about Arab neighborhoods in East Jerusalem but about a long established, heavily populated Jewish neighborhood in northern Jerusalem, where 250,000 Jews live (about the size of Newark, NJ)--an area that will never be relinquished by Israel.

Lie No. 7: Israeli policies endanger U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

A resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict would benefit everyone, including the United States. But an imposed return to what Abba Eban called "1967 Auschwitz borders" would endanger Israel's survival and ultimately be disastrous for American interests and credibility in the world.

Lie No. 8: Israeli policies are the cause of worldwide anti-Semitism.

From the Inquisition to the pogroms, to the 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazis, history proves that Jew hatred existed on a global scale before the creation of the State of Israel. It would still exist in 2010 even if Israel had never been created. For example, one poll indicates that 40 percent of Europeans blame the recent global economic crisis on "Jews having too much economic power"--a canard that has nothing to do with Israel.

Lie No. 9: Israel, not Hamas, is responsible for the "humanitarian catastrophe" in Gaza. Goldstone was right when he charged that Israel was guilty of war crimes against civilians.

The United Nations Human Rights Council is obsessed with false anti-Israel resolutions. It refuses to

address grievous human rights abuses in Iran, North Korea, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Cuba and beyond. Faced with similar attacks, every U.N. member-state, including the United States and Canada, surely would have acted more aggressively than the Israel Defense Forces did in Gaza.

Lie No. 10: The only hope for peace is a single, bi-national state eliminating the Jewish State of Israel.

The one-state solution is a non-starter because it would eliminate the Jewish homeland. However, the current pressures on Israel are equally dangerous. In effect, the world is demanding that Israel, the size of New Jersey, shrink further by accepting a three-state solution: a P.A. state on the West Bank and a Hamas terrorist one in Gaza. All this as Hezbollah, Iran's proxy in Lebanon, stockpiles 50,000 rockets, threatening northern and central Israel's main population centers. Current polls show that the two-state solution Israelis favor, most Palestinians continue to oppose.

INTERFAITH

Editor's note: The following were executed for the Voices of Faith page of the Record Searchlight. The page is printed in the Record Searchlight religion page, in the second section on Saturdays. The section asks clergy and other representatives of various faiths how their tradition views certain values and issues, and George and I alternate in contributing to the feature.

Should local, state, etc government organizations conduct invocations and prayer on government property? If so, should steps be taken to invite all faiths to facilitate?

George Wandrocke wrote:

Many Reform Jews would not advocate **any** prayer to open any governmental meeting. It does not matter how innocuous the prayer. It does not matter that over time those who offer the invocation represent diverse religious beliefs. Assuming a Higher Power guides the actions of governmental convocations does not enhance the roles of the participants.

We who elect them need more than prayer to have faith in them. They in turn, need more than prayer to draw on every available source for the wisdom and guidance to serve us. Prayer is a religious practice. In a religious setting, it offers solidarity. In a governmental setting, it supports hypocrisy.

Does your faith tradition have a story about the end of this "time" on Earth? If so, do you think that we are anywhere near it?

Art Tilles wrote:

Orthodox Judaism is rooted in a belief in a last judgment, a bodily resurrection of the dead and a judgment of souls at an end time. Orthodox customs and ritual, such as the prohibition of cremation support this. Although there might be great tribulation, there would be no cataclysmic forerunner and no Hellish punishment. Souls would simply be "within or without God's presence." The Messiah, an enlightened human, would lead us there, and God alone would judge souls. Some believe the end time to be imminent, perhaps within thirty years.

Reform Judaism, the practice of most of our congregation, places less credence on an end time and resurrection, and the need for strict observance of the ancient rules to that end. Prayers for redemption are still part of the liturgy, but they envision a Messianic Age, here in the physical world, initiated by enlightened leaders and in our time.

In its simplest form, animism is the belief that living creatures, plants and even things have souls.

Do you believe that? Why?/Why not?

George Wandrocke wrote:

Nephesh, in the Old Testament, means *soul*; its root word means *to breathe*. Genesis tells that God breathed life into all living things; thus, He gave them a soul. *Nephesh* has other translations; 32 by one count. One is *thing*. Hence, even *non-living entities* may have a soul.

God charged Adam, our biblical progenitor, to be a steward of all His creations on earth. Today, many people see that as a command to be mindful of our environment. Andrew Rothery suggests that we need to view our world not as a resource to exploit, but rather as one in which we live in harmony with all living and non-living things.

Indigenous peoples throughout the world viewed Earth as alive and humans as just a component part. To them, revering the waters, land, plants, and animals was not idol worshipping, it was the natural religion. We should revisit that concept for our survival.

TODAH RABAH TO

- Julie and Kendyl for their mitzvah project, which has provided us with many new siddurs..
- Patricia Penn, for Yeoman work in selling tickets for our play
- The Sisterhood and all who helped make our play night a great success, of course, those who purchased tickets and helped

us get a new playground

- Diane Rapport, for fixing our sprinkler system. Every house, ours included, should have a handywoman.
- Nancy, for her marvelous cooking
- Lisa, for moving to her third year in rabbinical college
- Graduating seniors: Natalie Warsinger-Pepe, Ben and Sam Rounds, Josh Copitch, Kendyl Kaplan. Wishing all a success in college and future endeavors
- Outgoing board members: Wolfram Weinberg, Josh Morris, Roberta Kelly, for their service in helping make this a great TBI year.
- Incoming board members: Yair Nardi, Barb Zlotowski, Nancy Warsinger

REFUAH SH'LAYMAH

Phyllis Glaser
Putti Baigelman
Jan Cohen
Marscia Pereira
Allison Ashby
Judith Schmid
Leigh Stoval

JUNE-JULY ANNIVERSARIES

19-Jun Eric & Diane Rapport
29-Jun: Mitch & Joanne Akman
3-Jul Judith & Henry Schmid
13-Jul Lynn & Dale Currie

JUNE-JULY BIRTHDAYS

6/12 Phil Copitch
6/13 Bernie Berkowitz
6/17 Lee Cohen
6/23 Sharon Spector
6/28 Zoila Sperber
7/4 Trasen Kaplan
7/5 Rebecca Spector

7/7 Jacob Rubanowitz/Woroniecki
7/9 Christine Rubanowitz/Woroniecki
7/11 Jake Zlotowski
7/15 Patty Bradlyn
7/19 Phyllis Glaser
7/27 Nancy Warsinger

IN MEMORIAM

TBI joins Sheila Henson, in remembering her father, Aaron Becker, who died April 11

JUNE YAHRZEITS

Arpad Clarke, maternal grandfather of George Wandrocke

Jerome Cohen, brother of Jan Cohen

Jack Israel Copitch, father of Phil Copitch

Paul Glaser, father of Phyllis Glaser

Esther Handman, grandmother of Hillary Fine

Emmanuel Katell, father of Geri Copitch

Sarah Leichtag, grandmother of Sarah O'Conner

Rose Roitman, mother of Jeri Roitman

Anna Tilles, mother of Art Tilles

Isadore Weinstock, grandfather of Lynne Currie

JULY YAHRZEITS

Barry Balter, brother of Marna Fischel

Alexander Beigelman, maternal grandfather of Alexa Singer-Telles

Rachel Cohen, mother of Jan Cohen

Deanna Fine, maternal grandmother of Sharon Hoffman-Spector

Chaim Menashe, maternal grandfather of Harvey Spector

Ida Rothchild-Beigelman, maternal grandmother of Alexa Singer-Telles