

CHAI TIMES

TEMPLE BETH EMET OF BURBANK

Mark H. Sobel, Rabbi | Mark Greenfield, President

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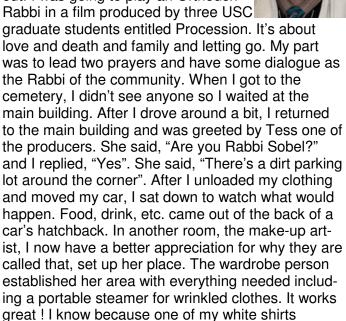
JANUARY, 2009

Rabbi Says:

needed some work.

"And the youth shall lead them". (Isaiah 11:6)

At 6:00 AM on December 14, I arrived at the Mountain View cemetery in Altadena. It was about 52 degrees out. I was going to play an Orthodox



I was impressed by the headquarters staff, but that was only the beginning. When I had done the episode of ER, everything was on the WB set, including all the cameras, the booms, the dollies, etc. This was "on location". There was nothing there except graves and gravestones. No booms, no dollies, no microphones, no bathrooms. Oh and Sunday morning before it warmed up, no warm cast bungalow for me to sit in like Warner Brothers. We stood and waited and froze until we saw them light up the Klieg lights. Those spot lights that garner so much

(Continued on page 3)

Tuesday, January 6 at 7:30 PM

Adult Education Series

Presented by Rabbi Mark H. Sobel

The Great Religions of the World

What do they say about

LIFE, HISTORY and COMMUNITY

This month's Topic: Islam

Tuesday, January 6 at 9:00 PM Israel tour information meeting

Tuesday, January 20 at 6:30 PM
Sisterhood Meeting
"Pot Luck"
All temple women welcome
Bring your favorite dish to share

Sunday, January 25 at 9:30 AM

Men's Club Meeting and breakfast Guest Speaker

Singles Group starting up soon. Anyone interested call Alana at 818-720-7048 or email at alstaria@gmail.com

President's message

Dear friends and fellow temple members.

Here we are, about to start the secular new year of 2009. What does that mean to you? Is it a time to reflect on 2008? What kind of year was it for you? Good...bad...indifferent? Now I'd like to look forward



to the future. This is a time for new starts. With that, we have the opportunity to define what is important in our lives.

Our Temple board of directors is enjoying an infusion of new, energetic members with some great ideas. At the top of our "wish list" is the goal of creating not just one, but two youth groups for our kids. The first group we envision would be for the younger children, ages approximately 7-12, to provide a place outside of the classroom for them to build a community of peers through fun activities. Some of our parents and grandparents have taken steps in this direction. Members of one class have already been meeting for several years for play dates, birthday parties, and special outings. Other parents have expressed interest in setting up a havurah for families with similar aged kids.

The second group would be for teens ages 13-18. Its goals include providing opportunities for them to socialize with other Jewish teens at this crucial time of their lives, participating in exciting activities that they help develop, and defining their places in the Jewish community.

Would your children be interested? Would you be willing to contribute towards these goals? Bring your ideas and energy to create meaningful and lasting bonds with your kids and your community! You have an opportunity to play a critical part in the lives of our young people at this Temple. If you see a place here for you and/or your kids, please contact Lucy in our temple office at (818) 843-4787.

Happy Chanukah and a good New Year! Mark Greenfield. President, Temple Beth Emet

TEMPLE BETH EMET CONTACTS

President	. Mark Greenfield	. 818-749-2839
Gift Shop	. Fran Bernstein	.818-920-0426
Havurah	. Ruth Glick	.818-780-9134
Host an Oneg	. call Temple	.818-843-4787
Men's Club	. Jerry Engelberg	.818-843-4787
PTA	. Beth Rosen	.818-843-4787
Reach Out	. call Temple	.818-843-4787
Singles Group	. call Temple	.818-843-4787
Sisterhood Membership	Ruth Glick	.818-780-9134
Temple Enrichment	. call Temple	.818-843-4787
Temple Membership	. Ruth Glick	.818-780-9134
Temple Usage	. call Temple	.818-843-4787
Tributes	. John Eisinger	.818-842-5439
Ways and Means	Lisa De Luca	.818-843-4787
Youth Group	. call Temple	.818-843-4787
Publicity	Yvonne Beltzer	.818-848-6204

Rabbi William M. Kramer Z"L* Rabbibill.com *May his memory be a blessing."

CHAI TIMES TempleBethEmet.com

Chai Times is a free, monthly newsletter delivered by mail or available on the Temple Beth Emet website.

Article submissions are welcomed and may be emailed directly to the Chai Times at

Office@TempleBethEmet.com

or by delivery to the Temple office. Articles will be published based on space available, relevant content, and at the discretion of the Editing Staff, Temple Officers and Directors.

Tribute Cards

Tribute cards are always in order for happy or sad occasions. These cards are a wonderflul way to remember or honor someone. The cost of our Tribute cards is now \$3.00 each.

If you would like to send a card, just contact our Tribute Chairperson, John Eisinger at 818-842-5439, and he will do the rest.

If you have any suggestions or ideas on how we can better serve our members. Temple President. Mark Greenfield would like to hear from you. He can be reached at (818)749-2839 or you can call Temple office at (818) 843-4787.

Temple Beth Emet Officers and Board Members for 2008-2009

President:

Mark Greenfield

Executive Vice President:

Ira Goldstein

Vice Presidents:

Ruth Glick Natalie Greenfield Yvonne Beltzer Vicki Margolin Neil Margolin

Corresponding Secretary: Naomi Aronoff

Recording Secretary:

Shirley Abramson

Treasurer:

Steve Abrams

Board of Directors:

Alana Beltzer George Davis John Eisinger Jerry Engelberg Andrea McKinnon Jodi Gross Lucy Rafaeli Roni Rozankova Barry Verdi Craig Weisman

Rabbi Says: (Continued from page 1)

light to make daylight from night. Right away those of us without our winter clothing on, remember I was used to WB with its cast bungalow with my name on it, gravitated to the lights. My bungalow this time was under the trees or near the grave markers, but next to the Klieg lights. But I am not complaining because what happened next more than made up for the cold and the primitive surroundings.

When we began to rehearse and later to shoot, I became aware of several different things. First, these people are really good at what they do. I watched them construct a camera and dolly in the middle of the cemetery that rivals anything I saw at WB. Those of you who know me know that I am a gadget freak. I love watching how things are put together. To see the camera crew work and create in real life and real time was fantastic. Next came our part, we practiced and practiced and practiced until it was to the director's liking. But, it wasn't like the stories I've heard about directors berating actors, it was the gentle touch of a teacher with a vision for all of us. I know this situation well because I watched our director, Beth, correct an actor several times over a missed line. Each time it was gentle and with a smile. I know, because the actor was me. But it wasn't just me who needed guidance to share the vision. And with each of the actors I was with, it was done with a quiet word, a gentle gesture and true joy when the goal was reached.

All throughout the filming, I was asked my opinion on Judaic matters. I would share what I know and whether I was agreed to or not, my input was always treated with respect. This was not just from Beth the director, but from the sound man and the camera crew and the grips and just about everybody. Once people found out I was a 'real Rabbi', they would ask questions and we would have discussions. What made the discussions so much fun is the honesty and enthusiasm the questions were asked with. Overall, this is what I love most about the media world. Its youth. I have been a teacher for a long time and this has kept me young up to now. My new 'career' in television and now movies, will make it certain that I stay young. Those of you who worry about the youth of today, don't fret. They are alive and well doing what they've always done, creating reality out of visions, living entities out of dreams, warmth out of caring, respect and love of mission.

B'ahava, Rabbi Mark

January Yahrzeit Donations

Lois Jones

In loving memory of Fanny Sillman

Mitch & Jackie Fogelman

.. In loving memory of Rabbi Gavriel Noach Holtzberg, Rivka Holtzberg, Rabbi Leibish Teitelbaum, Bentzion Chroman, Yocheved Orpaz and Norma Swartzblatt-Rabinovich

Mitch & Jackie Fogelman

.. In loving memory of Norman Jack Ockene

Valerie Bernath

In loving memory of Elizabeth Horowitz
Florence Mazzei

.. In loving memory of Gloria Glatzer

Marlene Dreyfuss

.. In loving memory of **Frances Rose**

Allen & Fran Ravine

In loving memory of Diana Turchik

Monica Pink

In loving memory of **Ann Johnson**

Bertha Yaras

In loving memory of Ida Polakoff

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of a generous donation to the Scholarship Fund from *Bruce & Karen Cervi*.

We wish to thank *Manuel Silverstein* for his generous donation in honor of Temple Beth Emet's 50th Anniversary.



Happy Anniversary

LaVerne & Robert Cohen Bonnie & Stuart Friedman Diane & Alexander Linger Frances & Ron Kaden Lucy & Uri Rafaeli Chris & Victor Jacobovitz Debra & John Gilmore Freda & Herbert Murez

Each happiness of yesterday is a memory for tomorrow.

George Webster Douglas

Temple Member Chai Lights

November 20, 2008

Please accept this memo as proof that the following children volunteered their time to participate in Temple Beth Emet's Mitzvah Day. We stuffed backpacks with school supplies for needy children, collected food and clothing donations for fire victims, wrote letters to service personnel overseas, and held a dog wash and a car wash.

November 16, 2008				
Student Name	Grade	Service Hours		
Isabella Lewin	2	3		
Amanda Chugg	8	3		
Drew Nathan-Thomas	4	3		
Dani Nathan-Thomas	K	3		
Allie Jackson	8	3		
Katelyn Rosen	8	3		
Zoey Rosen	8	3		
Spencer Kiersten	3	3		
Carly Gilmore	8	3		
Adam Gross	5	3		
Sarah Gross	1	3		
Leah Silverstein	8	3		
Sarah Emerson	10	3		
Aleesa Aronoff	10	3		
Jessica Berger	6	3		

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call.

Lucy Rafaeli, Mitzvah Day Chair

Mitzvah of bikkur holim

We would like to know if you are ill, in the hospital (or being treated at home), not as an exercise in gossip, but as an opportunity for *bikkur holim*, to extend a helping hand or a word of encouragement to the sick person. Yet it is quite possible you are not yet ready to share the private fact of being sick with us. We are ready, whenever, you are ready.

Bonnie Friedman had eye surgery
Leslie Babroff injured her knee and foot
Elaine Fishman had surgery
Lucy Rafaelli was in an auto accident
Mina Sobel had been ill
Maurine Gold injured her hip

Remember the sick with cards, calls and visits.

Temple Beth Emet Community Needs

- Are you in need of employment?
- Are you in need of someone to employ?
- Do you need help with chores?
- Do you have housing needs, vehicle needs or miscellaneous needs?

This column was created to assist members in finding help with their needs. If you would like to place an announcement in this column, call the office and describe the need in 25 words or less, leave a suitable telephone number and your first name. We will post it in the next month's Chai Times for two issues.

It is with great sadness we report the passing of two devoted Temple members: **Leo Peckman** and **Sylvia Rabin.**

Leo was a World War II veteran having fought in European battles from D-Day to Battle of the Bulge. He is survived by a son, daughter, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren.

Sylvia worked at Warner Brothers for many years. After retiring, she became a docent leading tours of the Warner Brothers Museum. Sylvia is survived by a son, daughter, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We mourn their loss and send our most heartfelt sympathy to their families.

Leo Peckman Submitted to Story Magazine, Inc., 1948 116 East 30th Street New York 16, New York

- WHY? -

Yes, I had felt cold – cold from the tips of my toes to the base of my neck. Even you know that water at six in the morning is cold. I didn't mind the cold too much – I was also sweating.

I gradually brought myself to dry land when all of a sudden I felt the earth rush up to grab me. I couldn't have lain there more than two days when a few men placed me on a stretcher. They carried me to a dump truck painted a very drab color. I was thrown on the back of this truck. Don't feel sorry for me – there were about fifteen more men, or rather bodies below me, so I didn't feel too lonely.

About an hour later I suddenly felt myself sliding from the truck with about thirty of my greenish colored companions falling about me. I guessed that we had been dumped from the truck. I suddenly heard many familiar sounds. There was the loud... swish... swash... swash... it could have been no other sound than water on a beach. I knew I was near some shore. Then I heard a different sound... sure, it was a bull-dozer... and those metal scratching sounds... shovels hitting rock.

I thought. Why these sounds? Where am I? Who am I? Who - am - I?

My thoughts were interrupted when I felt myself once more being lifted up and placed on a stretcher. I was carried what seemed like a few feet and placed down – still lying on a stretcher. My two stretcher bearers then placed a white cloth over me. It covered my entire body from head to foot. Why – why, over my head? What's going on here? Suddenly a thought came into my head... no... no, it isn't possible... I'm too young.

I looked around me and saw row upon row of men like me, all covered with white sheets — must have been over five hundred of us. Then I heard the fellow next to me mutter in some guttural voice. Sure, I can recognize a few words — he must be German. German — that word — why does it bother me? What does the word "German" mean to me?

I felt the dusk of night fall upon me. I looked up into the sky with twinkling little stars and a little chunk of moon. Then as I nonchalantly looked to my sides – I saw... those rows and rows of bodies covered by white sheets again... gee, how ghastly they looked this night. Men covered by white sheets with only their boots showing. Those boots... look... they are all in sort of a "V" shape with their toes pointing straight up towards the sky.

Then it came. I remembered when I was a little boy. They had told me good little boys go to heaven, bad boys to hell. I thought surely that I was descending to the latter place. Noise... such loud noise I had never heard. I tried to move... to get away from this noise which was pressing my ears. What made me think I could escape these loud noises bursting all around me? Oh – look – look in the sky... all those streaks of colors.. red.. white.. more red.. more white.. all streaking up into the sky as if reaching for the moon. It looked like a terrific Fourth of July celebration. But those noises – it sounded as if the world was coming to an end. I should have been scared but I wasn't. Why... why?

As the morning sun started breaking thru the dark curtain that had been night, I heard two voices approaching. Their footsteps gave me the impression of heavy feet stepping on soft sand. I heard two shovels bite into the sand next to me. I felt a hand reach down. My shirt was unbuttoned. A slight — clip — and this hand was holding a somewhat rectangular-shaped piece of metal. What had I been doing wearing a hunk of metal around my neck? I didn't have time to dwell on this question — for no more had it entered my head than I was lifted slightly and dropped — dropped into a hole. Oh — so that was why they were digging next to me. My eyes... eyes are still wide open. Someone please — tell me I'm dreaming!

No, Joe. I hate to tell you, but you are not dreaming – or sleeping. You are not even living, Joe. You are dead.

Do you remember that cold water, Joe? That was the English Channel... and that dry land you finally reached.... Yes, that was Omaha Beach.

You remember falling to the ground and lying there for a few days? A piece of an 88 forced you to the ground, Joe.

(Continued on Page 9)

2009	Ja	anuary	5769
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
4	5	7:30 PM Adult Education— "Islam" 9:00 PM—Israel tour information meeting	7 6:15 PM Cribbage Club
11	12	7:30 PM Temple Board Meeting (members in good standing are welcome)	14 6:15 PM Cribbage Club
18	19	20 6:30 PM Sisterhood Meeting "Pot Luck"	21 6:15 PM Cribbage Club
9:30 AM Men's Club Meeting and breakfast Guest Speaker	26	27	28 6:15 PM Cribbage Club Tree Planting
1	2	3	4 6:15 PM Cribbage Club

January	5769
Friday	Saturday
7:30 PM Shabbat Services Welcomer: Ira Goldstein Candle Blessing: Diane Goldstein Scriptures: Barry Verdi	3 No religious school
9 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	10 9:00 AM Religious School Ryan Fishman Bar Mitzvah
16 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	17 9:00 AM Religious School
23 7:30PM Shabbat Services	9:00 AM Religious School
30 7:30PM Shabbat Service	31 9:00 AM Religious School
6 7:30 PM Shabbat Services	7 9:00 AM Religious School
	7:30 PM Shabbat Services Welcomer: Ira Goldstein Candle Blessing: Diane Goldstein Scriptures: Barry Verdi 9 7:30 PM Shabbat Services 16 7:30 PM Shabbat Services 23 7:30 PM Shabbat Services 30 7:30 PM Shabbat Services

January Yahrzeits						
NAME	REMEMBERED BY	DATE	NAME	REMEMBERED BY	DATE	
Jan. 2 at Temple			Jan. 16 at Temple			
Elmer Jacob	Phyllis Shear	Jan. 1	Ethyle Greenberg	Elaine Fishman	Jan. 14	
William Naythons	David Naythons	Jan. 1	Toni Mattis	Congregation	Jan. 14	
Bernard R. Pink	Nathan Lubow	Jan. 1	Shirley Wolf	Congregation	Jan. 14	
Bernard R. Pink	Lester Pink	Jan. 1	Pauline P. Anderle	Bonnie Bunyik	Jan. 15	
Sol (Sheik) Rosenthal	Gail Arce	Jan. 2	Maurice Rosenthal	Gail Arce	Jan. 15	
Morris Yaras	Bertha Yaras	Jan. 2	Abraham Kogan	Nilda Benmaor	Jan. 15	
Morris Yaras	Fran Bernstein	Jan. 2	Moshe Marco	M/M Jerry Dash	Jan. 15	
Bertha Shapiro	Leah Nudell	Jan. 3	Naoma Goodman	Norman Goodman	Jan. 16	
Joan Kramer	Congregation	Jan. 3	Ray Stein	Bernice Dacher	Jan. 16	
Dolores Sands	Lance Sands	Jan. 3	Bernard Shenkman	Sandra Shenkman	Jan. 16	
			Helen Minelli	Leah Nudell	Jan. 17	
Jan. 9 at Temple						
Sadie Weitzman	Rabbi Mark Sobel	Jan. 5	Jan. 23 at Temple			
Gertrude Weitzman	Sally Bachelis	Jan. 5	Philip Skolnik	Carl Skolnik	Jan. 19	
Shirley Green	Adele Beckenholdt	Jan. 5	Lena Immerman	Erwin Immerman	Jan. 19	
Miriam R. Taub	Lillian Blakeman	Jan. 5	Carmel Feinsilber	William Feinsilber	Jan. 20	
Lois Lubell	Bradford Lubell	Jan. 6	Carmel Feinsilber	Russell Beck	Jan. 20	
Lillian Mendelsohn	Russell Beck	Jan. 6	Walter Schuster	Sylvia Schuster	Jan. 21	
Leonard Levine	Norma Resnick	Jan. 6	Erika Sperber	Elisa Gallay	Jan. 21	
Margaret Buckley	Tom Kiernan	Jan. 7	Eugene Gallay	Elisa Gallay	Jan. 21	
Sylvia Becker	Gerald Becker	Jan. 9	Leonore Cohen	Ruth Prinz	Jan. 22	
Meyer Nudell	Leah Nudell	Jan. 9	Doris Lee Byron Miriam Zahler	Steve Byron Adrienne Zahler	Jan. 22 Jan. 22	
Tillie Friedman	Stuart Friedman	Jan. 9				
Ruben Reiter	Alice Strauss	Jan. 10	Miriam Everakes Julius D. Sloves	Jerry Everakes	Jan. 23	
				Myra Sloves Rabbi Mark H. Sobel	Jan. 23 Jan. 24	
Jan. 16 at Temple			Anna Sobel Wallace Beck	Russell Beck	Jan. 24 Jan. 24	
Nathaniel Millman	Sylvia Gross Sutton	Jan. 10			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Herman C. Nacht	Naoma Goodman	Jan. 10	Jan. 30 at Temple			
Anna Romotsky	Bruce Epstein	Jan. 10	Ruth Frank	David Frank	Jan. 25	
Willia Flohr	Nikki Larsen	Jan. 11	Louis Bigley	Bruce Bigley	Jan. 26	
Sadie Peurye	Leo Peckman	Jan. 11	Herman Sandelman	Joyce Feinsilber	Jan. 26	
Tibor Rodai	Judy Robins	Jan. 12	Harry Shapiro	Sylvia Rabin	Jan. 26	
Ben Zober	Maurine Zober Gold	Jan. 12	Lena Rosenthal	Gail Arce	Jan. 28	
Lillian Halper	Merle Scher	Jan. 12	Baruch Vismonsky	Tsipi Yaffee	Jan. 29	
Edward Zimmer	Congregation	Jan. 13	Theodore Liebowitz	Geraldine Liebowitz	Jan. 29	
Rosalind Avrashow	Marlene Dreyfuss	Jan. 13	Theodore Liebowitz	Norman Goodman	Jan. 29	
Rosalind Avrashow	Eileen Martin	Jan. 13	Theodore J. Kall	Sandra Phillips	Jan. 30	
Mayme Saiger	Sally Bachelis	Jan. 14	Larry Jones	Doris Jones	Jan. 30	

(Why? continued from page 5)

Those bodies covered with white sheets – your companions. They were also in on this big... They are also dead. Yes, some of your companions under the white sheets are Germans. Why? Remember Joe – you were supposed to kill Germans – we are at war with Germany. Sure, he can lie next to you now. You are both dead. No one can tell either of you to kill any longer.

Joe, are you still listening? You wondered why they put you in a hole and covered you with sand when your eyes were still wide open. They bury all the dead – yes, even soldiers – didn't you know? As for your eyes being open... most men killed in battle die with their eyes open. Why? – So they can see what happens to the peace. So you can see what a mess the living make out of the peace that you had to die for.

You have a question, Joe?

No – not exactly a question. I can hear you but can't see you. If you can talk to the living as you have spoken to me – ask them – WHY?

Why must men kill each other – WHY?

Why is there so much talk of the next war when my body is still stiff?

Ask them why I am here?



This essay was written by our departed friend Leo Peckman. He was a member of World War II Combat Engineers. He fought in every major European battle from D-Day to the Battle of the Bulge. He walked the walk and talked the talk of a combat soldier. Therefore, it is not unusual that this essay represents his unflinching opposition to **WAR**.

Rabbi Mark

WE NEED YOUR HELP! We are in need of Oneg Shabbat helpers and people to serve at Bar/Bat Mitzvahs. Please call Lois Jones at (818) 363-4852 and let her know when you can help. You will be performing a *major mitzvah*.

Sisterhood Sidelines.....we

came together to enjoy Jerry's latkes, sisterhood ladies' kugels (although we sadly missed Sylvia's famous kugel), Ian Kranitz' happy mood setting music and lots of laughs with temple family and friends. I'm talking, of course, about sisterhood's Hanukkah brunch. For those of you who weren't there, you missed a rollicking good time. A lot of hard work went into the preparation of this event so many thanks go to Toby, Fran, Leona and their crew for putting this on for us.

We are deeply saddened by the loss of Sylvia Rabin. Sylvia was known for her kugels, briskets and most of all gentle kindness. We love you Sylvia, you are always in our hearts.

Glad to see Maurine and Fran on the mend.

Our gift shop has a fresh new look. It has a swanky new "Helen Pappert Gift Shop" sign created for us by George Davis. This man has made countless wood projects for our temple making it look a little cleaner, a little neater and a lot nicer. George, take a bow. We are so lucky to have you.

Coming up before you know it:

Tuesday, January 20 - 6:30 PM – Sisterhood meeting and pot luck

Tuesday, February 17 – 7:30 PM – regular sister-hood meeting

Restaurant fundraiser some time in February March 20—Shabbat across America

Sisterhood is friends working together for Temple and community. We are always receptive to new ideas. Our president, Fran Bernstein, will be happy to hear from you. Call her at 818-920-0426. She will be glad to fill you in on what we do here and answer any questions you may have.

Havurahs,

This past month, Simcha/L'Chaim Havurah lost two very dear members, *Sylvia Rabin* and *Leo Peckman*. It is at times like this when havurahs (friendships) become so important. *We need each other*.

New Havurah Forming

We are currently looking for <u>families with Hebrew</u> <u>School age children</u> to develop new friendships while having fun.

See flyer in Temple foyer. Call Ruth Glick at (818) 780-9134 if interested in starting this new and exciting HAVURAH.