



Mark Your Calendar!

- Friday, November 3, 7:45 p.m.
Shabbat Kristallnacht Service
with guest speaker Margit
Feldman
- Sunday, November 5
PTO Meeting
- Saturday, November 11
10:30 a.m. Torah Study
- Sunday, November 12, 8:00am
road cleanup followed by
breakfast
- Friday, November 17, 7:45 p.m.
Shabbat Service
- Sunday, November 19
10:45 a.m. Pirke Avot
- Sunday, November 26
No Sunday School
Happy Thanksgiving!

Chanukah Bazaar Dates:
Nov. 17 & Dec 1 Evening
Nov. 19 & Dec 3 Day

Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Jack Stern, the rabbi who was the rabbi of my childhood, has written a book. Actually, modest person that he is, he didn't write the book himself. Those who have worked with him, loved him and learned from him; they approached him and asked if they could publish a collection of the sermons he delivered over the past three decades. He was hesitant initially for a couple of reasons. One was that he considered himself a better communicator via the oral word than the written. The other is, in his own words:

"When a book is printed, the words are permanently stamped in black letters on white paper – a suggestion of validity for the future. For me, however, each sermon belongs to the time and circumstances immediately at hand, to be explored under the lens of what our Jewish faith and tradition are ready to teach us, what the existentialists call 'the living moment.' As such, it makes no claims to future validity, but if, by chance, a sermon offers some insight that extends to some future 'living moment,' so much the better."

The book is entitled *The Right Not to Remain Silent: Living Morally in a Complex World*, a title that aptly describes Rabbi Jack Stern and his rabbinate. I was enjoying flipping through the sermons when I stumbled upon a statement that brought me up short. He was speaking to the CCAR, to a congregation of rabbis, at his installation as president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis in 1985. Among the people he acknowledged, he included his teacher Ceil Singer: "I want you to know she was a part of my journey," he wrote, "Not only mine, but a lot of rabbis in this room tonight learned from her that *Talmud torah k'neged kulam* [the teaching and study of Torah is the highest principle] and that you were teaching not only a Jewish subject but a Jewish child." This statement leapt off the

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President's Message

How well do you handle disappointments? As far as showing character goes, I think how you handle disappointments show more about the real you than how you handle success. When things have gone wrong, how do you respond? Do you go into a shell and wait for the funk to go away? Do you think that maybe you did something wrong and are being punished? Do you get angry and lash out at people or things? Do you go on a binge of self-destructive behavior? Do you go out and do something for someone else?

I think I have handled disappointments and frustrations in each of those manners at some point in my life. As I get older, I tend to take notice of what makes me feel better. Going into a shell and waiting for things to get better has seemed to always take the longest to get back to feeling good again. Blaming myself and trying to figure out what I did wrong rarely works, because much of the time, what happened was way beyond my control. If it was something that I could control, then I would try to figure out what I did wrong and how to make things better. Getting angry has never worked for me. When I do get angry, I then tend to beat myself up for not being able to act in the way that I wanted to act. The one thing I really try to do is to keep control of who I am and how I react to others. Binging, such as overeating, overdrinking or even over shopping is a quick fix that can make you feel better for a short time, but tends to create more problems in the long run.

That leaves me with only one viable solution — that is to go out and do something for someone else. The more selfless the act, the more it makes you feel better. As Rabbi Lewis

Rabbi's Message, cont.

page because I realized in that moment that it was a principle I had learned from Rabbi Stern without my knowing that I had learned it from him. In the reliving of that living moment, I was once again face to face with this rabbi who had been my teacher when I was a small child. I remembered how he always knew my name and how he always made me feel special because he was aware, no matter the subject, that first and foremost he was teaching a human being.

That awareness is what I admire most about our teachers at our Jewish Center. They understand that their curriculum isn't found in a book; it is found in the faces and hearts of those children who sit expectantly in our classrooms. Rabbi Jack Stern's "living moment" of the past gave me a moment of appreciation for the "living moments" that take place every Sunday morning in our school. And I like to think that our teachers reflect the culture of our entire congregation, that the most important thing is to remember the humanity of each of our members, whether it is in worship or in committee meetings or in setting up a sukkah.

It has taken me thirty years to call Rabbi Stern by his first name, not because he didn't offer, but because the child in me was so overwhelmed by the love I felt when I saw him that I had a hard time remembering I was an adult. The child in me still recalls the respect I felt from him so many years ago. His teaching lives in my heart today even though the original living moment happened years ago. At this new year, while we are still assessing our lives and asking how we might live differently, I was grateful for the reminder that each of us has the potential to create "living moments" every day.

Ken yehi ratzon, May it be God's will.
Rabbi Ellen Lewis

President's Message, cont.

has said many times, the act comes before the feeling. I take this to mean that especially when you don't have the desire to go out and do something for someone else, it is more imperative to do it at that time. The desire to do this may not come until after you have done your Mitzvah.

May all of your Mitzvot be done with joy in your heart.

Howie

Oneg Shabbat

Jennifer Rosenblum has graciously offered to become the Temple's new Oneg Shabbat coordinator. Please let her know in advance if you plan to switch Onegs with other members.

The Temple mourns the loss of our member, Dr. David Simms.

Shabbat Kristallnacht

On **Friday, November 3**, we will have a VERY SPECIAL guest speaker, Margit Feldman. Margit is a Holocaust survivor, author, and eloquent speaker. Margit is a tireless worker on behalf of spreading the story of the Holocaust. She is a survivor of both Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen. She is the author of *Margit: A Teenager's Journey through the Holocaust and Beyond*. By an uncanny coincidence, Margit was born on the same day and in the same year as Anne Frank and was very likely in Bergen-Belsen when Anne died there. She feels, in a real sense, a special connection to Anne Frank, but she also feels linked to many others who did not live to tell their own stories. Her life's work is to speak for those who did not survive.

Adult Programs

Adult Education classes taught by Rabbi Ellen Lewis will continue to discuss the wisdom found in *Pirke Avot*. All adult congregants are welcome to attend and participate. There is no "homework" and you don't need to have come last year. Classes meet Sunday mornings from 10:45 to noon: November 19, December 10, January 7, February 11, March 18, and May 6.

Torah study: Monthly discussions are held from 10:30 to 12:30 or so. New participants are welcome. The group studies at its own pace, not following the schedule of the weekly portion, and will be studying the Book of Exodus during 2006-2007. The following Saturday mornings are the expected dates: November 11, December 16, January 20, February 17, March 24, April 14, May 12, June 16.

Education Committee and PTO News

Next PTO meeting will be November 5 at 9:30am
Chanukah Bazaar Dates: Nov. 17 & Dec 1 Evening
Nov. 19 & Dec 3 Day

There will be no Hebrew School on November 26 because of Thanksgiving weekend.
Sunday School Chanukah Party is December 17 - each family is asked to bring in a dozen latkas.

Upcoming December events:

The school-wide Hanukkah craft project is scheduled for December 10, and a continuation of the Parent Book Discussion, *Blessings of a Skinned Knee*, is December 17.

Donations

Diane Margolin & Michael Weiner,

Memorial plaque in memory of Isaac Weiner
Linda Albin and Jim Arvesen, in honor of the marriage Sarah Arvesen and Chris Lento

E. I. and G. J. Lewis, in honor of their daughter, Rabbi Lewis Rona and Stanley Schick, in memory of Rose Fleisher

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

JEWISH LIFE (Learning Is For Everyone) upcoming programs will feature Ruth Messinger on Sunday, November 19 at 10:30 a.m.; Daniel Callahan on Sunday, December 3 at 10:30 a.m.; and a Family Chanukah Celebration will take place on Sunday, December 17 at 4 p.m. All programs will be held at the Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC, 775 Talamini Road in Bridgewater and are open to the community.

Ruth Messinger, President and Executive Director, American Jewish World Service, will speak on "Jews as Global Citizens: Our Responsibility in the World." Daniel Callahan's topic will be "Medicine, Money & Morals...Equity versus Medical Progress." \$10/Jewish LIFE members and \$15/Guests. To register, please call the JCC at 908-725-6994 x201.

OHR TIKVAH JEWISH HEALING CENTER

Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center, 775 Talamini Road, Bridgewater. Call Ohr Tikvah at 908-725-6994 for more information or to register, www.ohrtikvahjhc.org

Coping with Loss - Bereavement Support

Group with Rabbi Robin Nafshi and Lillian Swickle, ACSW
Thursday evenings, 7:00 to 8:30 PM – Nov. 2 & 16
Jewish Family Service, 150 West High Street, Somerville
\$20.00 (\$10.00 per session)

Medicine, Money & Morals - Equity vs. Medical Progress

Sunday, December 3, 10:30 AM to 12 noon
Shimon and Sara Birnbaum JCC
\$10.00 for Jewish LIFE members; \$15.00 for guests
Ohr Tikvah and Jewish LIFE welcome Daniel Callahan, cofounder of The Hastings Center, and author and editor of more than 35 books dealing with bioethics, health care policy and research policy, and equity and health care costs. For more information contact the JCC at (908) 725-6994 x 201.

Visiting the Sick: Making It Easy and Meaningful

Sunday, December 10, 10:00 to 11:30 AM

Temple Shalom, North Bridge Street, Bridgewater

No fee – Donations accepted

Rabbi William Horn, Rabbi Emeritus of the Jewish Community Center of Summit, will share engaging, heart-warming and humorous stories from his 43 years' experience both as chaplain at Overlook Hospital and as a rabbi, and will also provide practical tips as well as inspiring lessons about visiting people who are ill or isolated.

Free! A Weekly E-newsletter of Jewish News

Want to receive a weekly update of news of the Jewish World? Now, as a benefit of our congregation's membership in the Union for Reform Judaism, you can receive a free subscription to the Weekly Briefing, an e-mail of news about the Union and the greater Jewish world. Produced in cooperation with JTA: The Global News Service of the Jewish People, the Weekly Briefing is delivered to your inbox every Friday. To subscribe, go to www.urj.org/subscribe.

Save the date for NFTY Convention '07!

February 16-20, 2007, NFTY Convention in Philadelphia, PA will be the greatest gathering of Reform Jewish teens in the world! It's a time to experience the power of Reform Judaism with more than a thousand of their peers from across North America. They will study with the leaders of the Movement, participate in engaging workshop sessions that they choose, and celebrate being Jewish at live concerts, song sessions, in prayer and with this remarkable community. Details are available online at www.NFTY.org/convention or call the NFTY Convention and Youth Workers Conference hotline 212.650.4130 for more information.