

November Program Highlights

Al Sh'loshah D'varim haOlam Omeid:

The world stands on three things:

Al haTorah – Study

Rabbi Jonathan Stein's *Shabbaton* – See page 13

Al haAvodah – Prayer & Worship

Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration – See page 13

V'al Gmilut Chasadim – Loving Acts of Kindness

Mitzvah Sunday, November 9 – See page 9

MITZVAH SUNDAY

November 9, 2008

11 Cheshvan 5769

A *mitzvah* day for the entire congregation!

Choose from a wide variety of volunteer projects, at the Temple or at off-site locations, indoors and out!

Opportunities abound for adults and children of all ages to engage in hands-on community service.

Help fulfill our Jewish obligation to repair the world and care for those in need.

Details on page 9.

What's Inside:

From Our President
2

Personally Speaking
3

With Our Congregation
4

Worship
5

The Bellows Bookshelf
5

Cantor's Corner
6

Social Action
8-9

Calendar
10-11

Adult Programs
12-14

Our Schools and Youth
15-16

In Development
17



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Directory

Temple Shaaray Tefila
 250 East 79th Street
 New York, NY 10075
 Phone: (212) 535-8008
 Fax: (212) 288-3576
 www.shaaraytefilanyc.org
 General Email:
 administration@tstnyc.org

Religious School:
 (212) 535-0912

Nursery School:
 (212) 535-2146

Rabbi

Jonathan A. Stein
 Cell: (917) 572-3332
 rabbijstein@tstnyc.org

Cantor

Judith K. Rowland
 Cell: (917) 837-0925
 cantorjrowland@tstnyc.org

Assistant Rabbi

Marci N. Bellows
 Cell: (646) 752-1048
 rabbimbellow@tstnyc.org

Assistant Rabbi

Joshua Strom
 Cell: (347) 578-3987
 rabbijstrom@tstnyc.org

Assistant Cantor

Todd Kipnis
 cantortkipnis@tstnyc.org

Executive Director

Nancy Schneider
 nschneider@tstnyc.org

Early Childhood Director

Sari Luck Schneider
 sshneider@tstnyc.org

Religious School Director

Mindy B. Davids
 mdavids@tstnyc.org

Adult Program Director

Laura N. Greene
 Lgreene@tstnyc.org

Director of Youth and Informal Education

Hope Chernak
 hchernak@tstnyc.org

Director of Development

Ann Targownik
 atargownik@tstnyc.org

President

Lois S. Nyren
 Home: (212) 427-0499
 lnyren@tstnyc.org

Rabbi Emeritus

Harvey M. Tattelbaum

Cantor Emeritus

Bruce Ruben, Ph.D.



Dear Fellow Congregants,

When I turn the calendar page to the Hebrew month of *Cheshvan*, I always get a little bit of a shock. After all that fills our days in *Tishri—Rosh HaShanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simchat Torah*—the boxes on *Cheshvan's* page seem strangely empty. But as I look closer, I realize that there are important dates in *Cheshvan*, days that are incumbent upon us as Jews to observe.

Tuesday, 6 Cheshvan: Election Day

Each of us needs to vote this year. Whatever our politics, whomever we support, it's important that we mark our ballots. Voting is a privilege that Jews have not always had, and a responsibility that we need to take seriously.

And whatever the outcome, we can, and should, join together in the words of our *siddur*, our prayer book:

We pray for all who hold positions of leadership and responsibility in our national life. Let Your blessing rest upon them, make them responsive to Your will, so that our nation may be to the world an example of justice and compassion.

Tuesday, 13 Cheshvan: Veterans Day

We need to honor those who have fought, and those who continue to serve, in the armed forces of the United States. Perhaps, too, we want to remember that this day was originally set aside to commemorate the armistice that marked the end of World War I, the "war to end all wars." If only that were true.

And our prayer continues:

Deepen our love for our country and our desire to serve it. Strengthen our power of self-sacrifice for our nation's welfare. Teach us to uphold its good name by our own right-conduct.

Thursday, 29 Cheshvan: Thanksgiving Day

This is perhaps the easiest day for us to observe. We gather with family and friends, rejoice in being together, and acknowledge all our blessings.

And our prayer continues:

Make us see that the well-being of our nation is in the hands of all its citizens; imbue us with the zeal for the cause of liberty in our own land and in all lands; and help us always to keep our homes safe from affliction, strife, and war.

And as Jews, as Americans, we can say together "Amen."

Lois S. Nyren
 President



PERSONALLY SPEAKING



I was recently called for jury duty. Like many of you, I was shocked when the notice came in the mail, and I postponed my service for a little while. Now the time has come when I will have the opportunity to serve society and our system of laws. It is a duty that we sometimes complain about, but it is a great privilege to participate in a legal structure that at least attempts to be fair and equitable (balancing the traditional Jewish categories of *din*/justice, with *rachamim*/mercy).

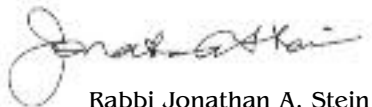
To the best of my knowledge, Reform Judaism is the only movement that has published a *brachah*/blessing to be offered upon the performance of a civic duty, thereby linking Judaism and our participation not only by serving on juries, but by voting, lobbying, and expressing our opinions so that our views are taken into consideration by those who make policy for our country. This *brachah* is found on page 33 of the Central Conference of American Rabbis publication *On the Doorposts of Your House*, the one book I would place in every Reform household if I could. The blessing reads, "Praised be the One who has called us to exalt our nation with righteousness, and taught us: 'Seek the welfare of your community...and pray on its behalf, so that all may share in its well-being'" (Proverbs 14:34; Jeremiah 29:7).

There are other blessings and prayers that pertain to a Jew's relationship to whatever country that person lives in. Our *Shabbat* morning liturgy includes a prayer for the government, and there is a traditional *brachah* for being in the presence of a head of state. There is also a rabbinic principle known as *dinah d'malchuta dinah*, "the law of the land is the law."

The CCAR *brachah* means that Reform Judaism considers it a *mitzvah* to vote in this month's election. There is much at stake concerning the future of our country, and—both as Americans and as Jews—we should feel obligated to make sure that our votes are counted. For the past several decades, the United States has had a rather low percentage of eligible voters participating in our elections—around 55 to 60 percent. This is a national disgrace given our proclaimed values of liberty and freedom, both of which are guaranteed only by the democratization of our own society. How can we be preaching the merits of our system to others around the world when our own participation rate has been so low?

On the other hand, we Jews tend to vote in higher percentages than other groups, and because we are concentrated in a number of urban areas, we leverage our impact on the outcome of the electoral process. Jewish participation in lobbying, through both financial contributions and direct contact with legislators, congressmen, senators, and the administration, has given us a favored position of influence on many local, state, and national issues and policies. It is in our best interests to continue this pattern.

So...go and vote. It's a *mitzvah*.


Rabbi Jonathan A. Stein



THE LATKE GUYS

The Latke Guys hosted a congregational End-of-Summer Rooftop Barbecue on September 9 that was enjoyed by all! Mark your calendar now for Sunday, December 14, when all Temple men and boys are invited to join The Latke Guys for their next adventure—the 2nd Annual Latke Day, when the men of Shaaray Tefila will cook all the latkes we need for the Chanukah season! To participate, contact Matthew Haiken at Matthew_Haiken@yahoo.com.





WITH OUR CONGREGATION

Condolences

Our heartfelt thoughts are with:

Robert Groden and Tracy Rogers Groden on the death of Robert's mother, Myldred Groden, grandmother of Phoebe

Mazal Tov!

Our warm congratulations to:

- ❖ Casey Baritz on her engagement to Chris Nakamura; Casey is the daughter of Renée and Stuart Baritz, and the sister and sister-in-law of Jared and Rachel Baritz
 - ❖ Susan and Warren Berey on the birth of their daughter, Leah Isabel, sister of Evan
 - ❖ Jaclyn and Craig Bonder on the birth of their son, Ethan Avery
 - ❖ Stephanie and Ari Lazarus on the birth of their daughter, Alyssa Fay, granddaughter of Renée and Arthur Weisbaum
 - ❖ Nance and Marty Liebgott on the engagement of their daughter, Blythe, to Aharon Hrebek
 - ❖ Nancy Liebowitz on her engagement to Jason Rabinowitz, and to Nancy's parents, Susan and Sol Liebowitz
 - ❖ Sara Marks on the birth of her grandson, Miles Hayden McGee
-

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Honor Roll

The Temple extends its congratulations to the following young members and their families who will celebrate *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* in **November 2008**:

- ❖ Ian Garland, son of Elizabeth & Paul Garland
- ❖ Samantha Light, daughter of Jill & David Light
- ❖ Madeleine Manasse, daughter of Pamela & Jon Manasse
- ❖ Olivia Silver, daughter of Francine & Selwyn Silver
- ❖ Perry Skolnick, son of Jill & Robert Skolnick
- ❖ Julia Wolinsky, daughter of Mindy Kristel
- ❖ Alexa Zeligler, daughter of Daria & Adam Zeligler

Welcome, New Members!

We warmly welcome the following new members to the Shaaray Tefila family. Listed below are new members who joined the Temple between mid-August and mid-September. We will continue to welcome new members in future issues of the Messenger.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Herbert Abrams | Allison Gault & Bruce Karpati |
| Rachel Ackley | Barbara & Paul Kastell |
| Andrew Altfest | Marina & Alexander Khesin |
| Carole & Irv Aronow | Bertram Kimmel |
| Becky & Avi Banyasz | Jessica Kramer |
| Molly Barnett | Ann & Howie Lindenbaum |
| Jessica & Ross Berman | Erika Guskind & Keith Littlejohns |
| Elaine & Thomas Blumberg | Anielle Axelrod & Jamie Magid |
| Jaclyn & Craig Bonder | Linda & Stanley Margolies |
| Jessica Brovitz | Kirsten & Richard Meadow |
| Lauren Levy & Jeffrey Burack | Rebecca Tayne & Eric Messinger |
| Abby Zemel & Donald Cohen-Cutler | Andreea Radu & Matthew Orent |
| Aviva DeBeer-Heidt | Jessica & Adam Perilman |
| Perri Freeman & Brett Director | Justin Pront |
| Francine Felder | Sara Rosen |
| Alexis Feldman | Wendy Barasch & Marc Rosenbaum |
| Amy & Stephen Fisch | Allison Rudnick |
| Mark & Heather Getman | Dana Schlansky |
| James & Linda Gilbey | David Schlansky |
| Beth Fischer & Erik Gilje | Tracy & Glenn Schneider |
| Melissa & Brian Goldberg | Rhonda & Matthew Simon |
| Ali & Kenneth Goldstein | Samantha & Jonathan Smith |
| Kasey Kahler & Scott Gordon | Brett & Daniel Sundheim |
| Jonathan Guskind | Heidi Manheimer & Simon Tarsh |
| Sheri Sarkisian & Mark Hauser | Michael & Stephanie Thaler |
| Stacy & Marc Hohenstein | Andrea & Philip Turbin |
| Dana & Michael Hubbe | Regina & Owen Wincig |
| Julie Ingalls | |
| Gwen & Marvin Kahn | |
| Kate & Andrew Kaplan | |

WORSHIP

November Torah Portions

November 1 / 3 Cheshvan

Parashah: Noach; Genesis 6:9–11:32
(Noah's family survives the flood. The Tower of Babel.)
Haftarah: Isaiah 54:1–55:5

November 8 / 10 Cheshvan

Parashah: Lech-Lecha; Genesis 12:1–17:27
(God promises Canaan to Avram. Avram circumcises himself and Ishmael.)
Haftarah: Isaiah 40:27–41:16

November 15 / 17 Cheshvan

Parashah: Vayera; Genesis 18:1–22:24
(Sarah gives birth to Isaac. Abraham is asked to sacrifice Isaac.)
Haftarah: II Kings 4:1–37

November 22 / 24 Cheshvan

Parashah: Chayei Sarah; Genesis 23:1–25:18
(Sarah is buried. Rebecca is chosen as Isaac's wife.)
Haftarah: I Kings 1:1–31

November 29 / 2 Kislev

Parashah: Toldot; Genesis 25:19–28:9
(The birth of Jacob and Esau. Esau sells his birthright, then vows to kill Jacob.)
Haftarah: Malachi 1:1–2:7

Lots of Ways to Celebrate Shabbat

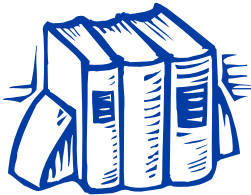
Tot Shabbat Service: Friday, November 7 at 5:15 pm,
and Saturday, November 15 at 10:30 am

Mini-Minyan: Saturday, November 8 at 9:30 am*

Shabbat Unplugged: Friday, November 21 at 7:30 pm

Jr. Congregation Service: Saturday, November 22 at 9:30 am*

* Bagel Breakfast available at 9:00 am



WELCOME BACK TO... THE BELLOWS BOOKSHELF!

This feature highlights a book recommended by our assistant rabbi, Marci Bellows...

sometimes classic, sometimes contemporary, always worth checking out!

What Is a Jew? A Guide to the Beliefs, Traditions, and Practices of Judaism that Answers Questions for Both Jew and Non-Jew, by Rabbi Morris N. Kertzer, revised by Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman.

Why does the Jewish day begin at sunset?

How do Jews decide what rules to keep?

How is Israel governed?

According to Judaism, do animals have rights?

Those are just a few of the myriad questions posed in this wonderful book, *What Is a Jew?* I have found it to be one of the best resources for a Jewish bookshelf. In fact, out of all the texts I give to my prospective converts to Judaism, this is often the most appreciated (and frequently passed along to non-Jewish relatives).

The book is wisely divided into nine sections:

I. A Road Map of Jewish Community, Past and Present

II. The Way to God: A Life of Torah

III. Rituals and Customs: The Warmth of Tradition

IV. Basic Jewish Beliefs: "God, Torah, Israel"

V. Making Hard Decisions: A Guide to the Moral Landscape

VI. The Shape of Sacred Space: Jewish Homes and Homeland

VII. The Shape of Sacred Time: Festivals and Fasts

VIII. Growing Up and Growing Old: The Shape of a Jewish Life

IX. Judaism and Christianity: The Double Helix of Western History

According to the book's introduction, *What Is a Jew?* remains the most widely read introduction to Judaism. It is written in a style that is articulate, personal, and accessible. For those who would like to learn more about Judaism, or wish they knew more, this book is a great way to start. If you find it useful, let me know! I would love to hear what surprised you, challenged you, and inspired you, as you continue along your path of Jewish learning.

And may we all continue to read, learn, and grow in good health!

— Rabbi Marci N. Bellows

CANTOR'S CORNER

It will be both an honor and a joy to share with you, my new congregational family, my service of installation as senior cantor of Temple Shaaray Tefila on Saturday evening, November 15. I have invited four of my closest clergy friends to participate: Cantor/Rabbi Vicki Axe, spiritual leader of Congregation Shir Ami in Greenwich, Conn., and my predecessor as president of the American Conference of Cantors; Cantor Dana Anesi, cantor of Temple Beth El of Chappaqua, N.Y., and one of my oldest friends; Rabbi Rex Perlmeter, previously senior rabbi of Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, who now serves as regional director for the URJ New Jersey West Hudson Region; and Rabbi Robert Nosanchuk, rabbi of Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, who was previously associate rabbi at Baltimore Hebrew Congregation.

Together, we will celebrate *Havdalah*, the ritual of separation between the holiness of *Shabbat* and the secular nature of our work week. In this ceremony, the symbols of wine, spices, and the fire of an intertwined candle represent the joy of new beginnings, the sweetness of past relationships, and the light of God's blessings. We will then chant the blessings that separate the *Shabbat* from the week—the long and inspiring history of this congregation from the great possibilities of our future together.

After the service, I have invited all of the Reform cantors serving Manhattan and other metropolitan-area congregations to present a spirited and fun-filled musical tribute, taking a humorous look at the life of a cantor. And then, of course, there is the dessert reception to follow. What would a Jewish celebration be without great food?

So—what does it mean to install a cantor? Is it like a new washing machine—you plug it in and you're ready to go? Would that it were so easy! Let us look for a moment at what our texts teach us about the consecration of new leadership:

And Adonai...said, "Single out Joshua bin Nun, an inspired man, and lay your hands upon him, have him stand before Elazar, the priest, and before the entire community, and commission him in their sight. Invest him with your authority, so that that whole congregation may obey...." Moses laid his hands upon Joshua and commissioned him, as the Eternal had spoken through Moses. (Numbers 27)

And later, in Chronicles, we read that when it came time to dedicate the Ark and carry it to the Temple, King David appointed a leader, Asaph, to lead the Levites in song and prayer; as it is written:

Then on that day, David placed the responsibility for thanksgiving to God on Asaph and his kinsmen. Accompanied by an elaborate orchestra, Asaph and the

Levites led the congregation in worship: "Hodu Ladonai Kir'u Vish'mo—Praise Adonai: call on God's name. Shiru Ladonai Kol Ha-aretz—Sing to Adonai, all the earth!" (1 Chronicles 16)

And what, specifically can we learn about the role of the cantor from our sages? Our Talmudic sages understood the power of song to lift our prayers toward heaven, for it is said that:

...the Bible should be read in public and made understood to its hearers in musical sweet tones...." (Megillah 32a). Rabbi Levi said: "Whoever reads the Bible with its delightful tone and tune, of him (it) is said honey and milk (are) under his tongue." (Tamid 7:3)

According to the *Zohar*, there is a Temple in heaven that is opened only through song. And the great rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel said: "The future of Jewish prayer is to a considerable degree in the power of the Cantor.... It takes a constant effort to find a way to the grandeur of the words in the Prayer Book. Not by might of voice, not by strength of talent alone, but by the sense of awe and fear, by contrition and the sense of inadequacy, will a Cantor succeed in leading others to prayer."

I hope you will join me on Saturday, November 15 at 7:15 pm, as we officially begin our tenure of learning, worshiping, rejoicing, and celebrating together. And, along with the Psalmist:

Raise a shout to the Eternal, all the earth, break into joyous songs of praise! Let the sea and all within it thunder, the world and all its inhabitants; let the rivers clap hands and the mountains sing with joy.

— Cantor Judith K. Rowland



From top:
Cantor Dana Anesi
Cantor Vicki Axe
Rabbi Rex Perlmeter
Rabbi Robert Nosanchuk



SAVE THE DATE!

Book Fair

The Temple Shaaray Tefila
Book Fair

Sunday, December 7
9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Davis Auditorium

Books for Adults,
Books for Children,
Books for Gifts,
and Gifts for *Chanukah*

Gift Fair
1:00 – 3:00 pm

All monies raised go to support
The Library Funds





SOCIAL ACTION

Would You Like to See Community Supported Agriculture at Shaaray Tefila?

Community Supported Agriculture offers a way for groups of people to buy vegetables directly from a local farmer. Before the harvest season, members of the group—known as a CSA—commit to buy fresh, locally grown vegetables from June through November. Each week, members pick up their “share” at a convenient location. Although sizes vary, each share has about 7 to 10 different kinds of vegetables and is enough to feed two adults and two children.

Shaaray Tefila is exploring the possibility of establishing a CSA at the synagogue. Membership in the CSA would be open to members of the congregation, and the CSA would be run by a steering committee of five or more members who are willing to commit the time necessary to organize, implement, and oversee its day-to-day operations. The time commitment would vary with the season, but would be substantial from time to time.

Family farmers in the Northeast are struggling. They are often cut out or priced out of the usual wholesale distribution channels, and are further threatened by intense development pressure, which is converting scarce farmland to commercial and residential uses. CSA creates an ongoing relationship that addresses both problems, offering local farmers a secure market in which to sell their produce. At the same time, CSA provides nutritious, affordable, and usually organic food.

If you are interested in participating in a CSA at the Temple, either as a regular member or as a member of the steering committee, or if you would like further information about how the CSA would work, please contact Matthew Haiken at matthew_haiken@yahoo.com so that we can assess whether there is sufficient interest in this initiative to proceed.

Going Green Is Easy!

Just turn off the tap! The average faucet releases about three gallons of water per minute, so please shut it off while you brush your teeth or shave. Ditto for allowing the water to run when you're getting ready to jump in the shower!

Sandwich Saturday (on Sunday!)

Our Sandwich Saturday program helps feed the hungry, homeless, and homebound. Each month, congregants gather to make bag lunches that are distributed throughout the city. We ask that each person over the age of 10 bring three (3) large loaves of sliced bread (any type) and 18 pieces of soft fruit (such as bananas, oranges, or ripe pears). Children aged 10 and up can take part in making sandwiches. Children under age 10 decorate the bags.

Our next Sandwich Saturday gathering will be part of our **Mitzvah Sunday** on **Sunday, November 9 at 3:00 pm.**

Social Action Film Night: *Chicago 10*— Thursday, November 6 at 7:00 pm

Just two days after our presidential election, the Social Action Committee will screen *Chicago 10*, a bold and inventive semi-animated, semi-documentary film produced in 2007 that dramatizes the Chicago Democratic National Convention riots of 1968 and the conspiracy trial of anti-war protestors that followed. Winner of the Silver Hugo for Best Documentary at the Chicago International Film Festival, *Chicago 10* boasts an all-star cast—including Hank Azaria, Nick Nolte, Mark Ruffalo, Roy Scheider, Liev Schreiber, and Jeffrey Wright—lending their voices to such Jewish icons as defendants Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin, and courtroom players William Kunstler and Judge Julius Hoffman. A lively discussion of the state of political activism today versus the volatile 1960s will follow the film—guest speakers to be announced. The screening begins promptly at 7:00 pm.

Support the YCP

Temple Shaaray Tefila is a proud founding sponsor of the Yorkville Common Pantry (YCP), the largest neighborhood-based nonresidential provider of emergency food in New York City. Donations from congregations like ours help YCP serve the hungry and homeless: The organization runs a 24/7 acute emergency food assistance program designed to meet the critical hunger needs of families and individuals. YCP's Pantry Program distributes nutritional grocery packages to 1,400 needy families every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

This month, YCP is requesting donations of items suitable for Thanksgiving: **traditional holiday foods such as boxes of instant stuffing and mashed potatoes; canned gravy, vegetables, and sweet potatoes; and cake or brownie mix and frosting.**

SOCIAL ACTION

Help Make a Happy Chanukah for Our Troops

The Nursery School Mitzvah Committee and the Social Action Committee are asking for the following items—some goodies, plus the basics—for our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, to help brighten their holiday so far from home.

- Snacks (must be kosher): Packets of powdered drinks, coffee, flavored oatmeal, trail mix, nuts, sunflower seeds; individually wrapped energy bars

- The basics: Lip balm, triple antibiotic ointment (such as Neosporin), sunscreen, Skin-So-Soft wipes, anti-itch cream

- A connection to home: Phone cards, holiday cards/letters

Drop off your donations in the Temple lobby November 2–14, and especially when you come to Mitzvah Sunday on November 9. Thank you for caring!

Mitzvah Sunday—November 9

Our next Mitzvah Sunday is right around the corner!

Please plan to join fellow congregants on Sunday, November 9 in any of a variety of community service projects—popular Temple-based activities such as Sanctuary Stitchers and Sandwich Saturday on Sunday, as well as off-site options such as caring for our parks, visiting with families at Ronald McDonald House, helping to spruce up a public elementary school, working with kids at an East Side shelter, and more.

If you hurry, there is still time to register, and there are projects for all ages! Participate as a family, sign up with friends or make new ones, but whatever you choose, make a commitment to make a difference! Please note that projects are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, and off-site agencies may have limited openings.

Your Mitzvah Sunday brochure, including registration information, was mailed to your home last month. Additional copies are available at the Temple, or you may download complete details and a registration form at www.shaaraytefilanyc.org/opportunities/extra.

For questions about Mitzvah Sunday, please contact Marlene Nadel at 646-303-1099/MNADEL4@aol.com or Patti Schackett at 917-539-2960/Pschackett@aol.com.



Sandwich Saturday



Sanctuary Stitchers



Cantor Kipnis leading Shaaray Tefila singers at the DeWitt nursing home



December Upcoming Events

- 1 Torah Cantillation Class
- 2 Kol Rinnah Chorale
- 3 Torah Talk
Midtown Torah Study
TaSTY Board Meeting and Lounge Night
- 4 Intro to Hebrew for Adults
Bridge Class
- 5 Tot Shabbat Service
- 6 Junior Congregation Service
Social Action Program and Lunch
Mid-Chai Dinner
- 7 Temple Book Fair
Rosh Chodesh: It's a Girl Thing!
MASA Program
- 8 Nursery School closed for Parent/Teacher Conferences
Jon Entine, author, *Abraham's Children*
SAGE Evening Book Group
Kol Rinnah Chorale
Young Professionals Vodka & Latkes Night
- 10 Torah Talk
- 12 Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Family Shabbat Dinner
Clark Memorial Shabbat Service with Ruth Messinger, followed by *Kesher* packaging
Shabbat Unplugged Service
- 13 TaSTY RAC Trip
Tot Shabbat Service
Sandwich Saturday
JJS Chanukah Dance Party
- 14 Latke Day (The Latke Guys make Chanukah latkes)
Sanctuary Stitchers
Single Boomers
Family Fun Day Program
Jewish Holiday Cooking: "A Mexican Chanukah"
Festival of Choirs at Rodeph Sholom
- 15 Torah Cantillation Class
NASHIM Gathering
- 16 Kol Rinnah Chorale
- 17 Torah Talk
Midtown Torah Study
SAGE Chanukah Potluck Supper
Klezmer Jam
- 20 Mini-Minyan
- 21 Erev Chanukah—1st candle
TaSTY Program
MASA Program
Congregational Chanukah
Chooolah
- 22 First Day of Chanukah—2nd candle
College Reunion Luncheon
- 23 Kol Rinnah Chorale
- 26 Chanukah Shabbat Service

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
2 Daylight savings time ends— turn clocks back 1 hour	3 10:00 am: Seniors Group 7:30 pm: NASHIM Program 7:45 pm: Torah Cantillation Class	4 Election Day 7:30 pm: Kol Rinnah Chorale
9 Mitzvah Sunday	10 10:00 am: Seniors Group 7:30 pm: Bnai Adam Program 7:30 pm: SAGE Contemporary Issues Discussion Group 7:45 pm: Torah Cantillation Class	11 Veterans Day 7:30 pm: Kol Rinnah Chorale 8:00 pm: Fall Theater Outing
16 9:00 am: Grade 1 Family Program Noon: Boomers: "Your Checklist for Surviving the Financial Crisis" 1:15 pm: Family Fun Day Program 1:15 pm: Rosh Chodesh: It's a Girl Thing! (grades 6-8)	17 10:00 am: Seniors Group 7:30 pm: Arts & Culture Monday: "Spanish Jews and Their Oral Narratives" 7:45 pm: Torah Cantillation Class	18 7:00 pm: SAGE Evening Book Group 7:30 pm: Kol Rinnah Chorale
23 9:00 am: Grade 6 Bnai Mitzvah Family Seminar	24 10:00 am: Seniors Group 7:45 pm: Torah Cantillation Class	25 7:00 pm: Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration
30 Building closed		

Calendar Events and Programs for November 2008

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1</p> <p>8:00 am: All Youth Groups Hershey Park Outing 10:00 am: Service <i>Bnot Mitzvah:</i> Samantha Light Alexa Zeliger 10:15 am: <i>Minyan</i> and Study 4:30 pm: Nursery School <i>Havdalah</i> Pajama Party</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Noon: <i>Torah</i> Talk 6:00 pm: TaSTY Board Meeting 7:00 pm: TaSTY Lounge Night</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:15 pm: Introduction to Hebrew for Adults 7:00 pm: Bridge Class 7:00 pm: SA film: <i>Chicago 10</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:15 pm: Tot <i>Shabbat</i> Service 6:15 pm: <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service 7:45 pm: New Members <i>Shabbat</i> Dinner</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:30 am: Mini-<i>Minyan</i> 10:00 am: Service <i>Bnai Mitzvah:</i> Ian Garland Julia Wolinsky 10:15 am: <i>Minyan</i> and Study</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Noon: <i>Torah</i> Talk 12:30 pm: Midtown <i>Torah</i> Study 7:00 pm: Nursery School Curriculum Night</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:15 pm: Introduction to Hebrew for Adults 7:00 pm: Bridge Class 7:00 pm: Nursery School Curriculum Night</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Nursery School closed for Staff Development Day 6:00 pm: Family <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service, including Consecration 6:45 pm: Grade 3 Family <i>Shabbat</i> Dinner 7:30 pm <i>Shabbat</i> Service</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00 am: Service <i>Bat Mitzvah:</i> Olivia Silver 10:15 am: <i>Minyan</i> and Study 10:30 am: Tot <i>Shabbat</i> Service 7:15 pm: <i>Havdalah</i> and Installation of Cantor Rowland</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Noon: <i>Torah</i> Talk 5:30 pm: Camp Shaaray Tefila Day presentation for parents 7:30 pm: Young Professionals Event</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:15 pm: Introduction to Hebrew for Adults 6:30 pm: SAGE: "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Judaism" 7:00 pm: Klezmer Jam</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:30 pm: <i>Shabbat</i> Service / Annual <i>Shabbaton</i> 7:30 pm: <i>Shabbat</i> Unplugged Service</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:30 am: Junior Congregation Service 10:00 am: Service <i>Bar Mitzvah:</i> Perry Skolnick 10:15 am: <i>Minyan</i> & Study and Annual <i>Shabbaton</i> with Rabbi Stein 6:30 pm: TaSTY Progressive Dinner and <i>Havdalah</i></p>
<p>26</p> <p>Nursery School noon dismissal Religious School closed Noon: <i>Torah</i> Talk</p>	<p>27 Thanksgiving</p> <p>Building closed</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Building closed except for Service 7:30 pm: <i>Shabbat</i> Service</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00 am: Service <i>Bat Mitzvah:</i> Madeleine Manasse 10:15 am: <i>Minyan</i> and Study</p>



ADULT PROGRAMS

NASHIM: A Women's Group for Study, Discussion, and Community

NASHIM is Temple Shaaray Tefila's women's group for study, discussion, and *kehillah* (community). We offer programs from a Jewish perspective that stimulate the minds and nourish the bodies and souls of our female congregants. There are no reservations or fees; refreshments are always served. Please join us for any and/or all of our events.

Monday, November 3, 7:30 pm Introducing *The Torah: A Women's Commentary*

Be among the first at Shaaray Tefila to study from this new and very important *chumash*, written by the most scholarly Reform Jewish women of our time. This event will be facilitated by NASHIM advisor Rabbi Marci Bellows. No previous text-study experience is necessary.

Then, be sure to mark your calendar for our next event:

Monday, December 15, 7:30 pm. See you there!

■ **Seminar for Boomers: "Your Checklist for Surviving the Financial Crisis"—Sunday, November 16 at Noon**

Midlife investors are shaking their heads in disbelief over current economic conditions. If you're looking for tips on how to cope, join us on November 16 for a program with guest speaker Michelle Price of investment firm Edward Jones, who will discuss ways to get through the current economic crunch that is especially worrisome to baby boomers who are thinking about retirement. **All Temple members are invited to attend this program**, sponsored by Shaaray Tefila Single Boomers. **RSVP to Lgreene@tstnyc.org so we may prepare for the correct number of attendees.** Light refreshments will be served.

■ **A Call to Action...**

Did you know that there are many ways to get involved at Shaaray Tefila?

You can attend our programs, volunteer to serve our community, and participate in the decision-making of our congregation.

Most of our programs and events are planned by members of the congregation working on permanent committees or ad hoc teams. Over time, many of our committees seek new members. You can view a list of Temple committees on our website at www.shaaraytefilanyc.org/about/committees. If you have a special skill, interest, or area of professional expertise that seems like a good "fit" with one of these committees, please let us know! You may contact Laura Greene, Adult Program Director, at Lgreene@tstnyc.org or 212-535-8008 ext. 265. While not every committee is able to accept new members, it's always worth exploring the possibilities.

At Shaaray Tefila, there are multiple programs and activities on nearly a daily basis. Here are the best ways to stay informed:

- **Visit our website at www.shaaraytefilanyc.org.** The site has a wonderful **Calendar** with lots of interactive features; click on any event to open a window with the event details. And on the website's home page, scroll over the category headings to find a wealth of information about Shaaray Tefila, as well as links to many Jewish community resources here and around the world.
- **Be sure we have your email address** so we can send you our weekly **Shaaray Tefila eNews**, which contains highlights of the week ahead.
- **Look for our Temple bulletin in your mail.** Our Shaaray Tefila bulletin, the **Messenger**, arrives at the beginning of each month (September through June). It contains important news of upcoming events and updates on what's happening in our schools and committees.
- **Stop by the lobby rack** to pick up flyers and reservation forms for programs.

So, make a list of programs and activities that interest you, then mark your calendar! We look forward to greeting you at worship services, educational programs, special events, and more.

— Laura Greene
Adult Program Director



ADULT PROGRAMS

■ “Spanish Jews and Their Oral Narratives” with Dr. Reginetta Haboucha Monday, November 17 at 7:30 pm

Our series of Arts & Culture Mondays dedicated to exploring the Jewish Diaspora continues this month with a look at the exiled Sephardic Jews who departed their homeland but took along their oral traditions and the vernacular they cherished. Over the course of many centuries, they cultivated a repertoire of folk stories that incorporated borrowings from the cultures surrounding their new homes. Guest speaker Dr. Reginetta Haboucha is vice president of academic affairs at the Fashion Institute of Technology and holds a Ph.D. in Spanish from Johns Hopkins University. She is a scholar of Judeo-Spanish oral tradition and an author now preparing her third book, *Ghosts of an Egyptian Past*.

■ Annual Shabbaton with Rabbi Jonathan Stein— “Homeland, Exile, and Diaspora: A Theological Look at Jewish History”

Friday, November 21 at 7:30 pm: *Erev Shabbat* service in the Sanctuary

Saturday, November 22 beginning at 10:15 am: *Minyan* in Morse Chapel, followed by lunch (at noon) and study sessions, and concluding at about 3:15 pm

Rabbi Stein’s annual *Shabbaton* has moved to November, so be sure to mark your calendar!

All are invited to this intensive study *Shabbat*. In keeping with the year’s focus on the Jewish Diaspora, Rabbi Stein will lead us in an examination of traditional texts that explore the ways our ancestors understood their situation in the world, the tension between *Eretz Yisrael* (the land of Israel) and *Galut* (exile, Diaspora), including an exploration of contemporary Reform Jewish thought.

Pre-registration is requested, especially if you plan to participate in lunch at noon. To register, please call the Program Office at 212-535-8008 ext. 267.

■ Young Professionals

We’re excited to invite you to our **Fall Kickoff Event!!**

Wednesday, November 19, 7:30–9:30 pm

Come meet new people, enjoy good food and drinks, and hear Rabbi Stein, Early Childhood Director Sari Luck Schneider, Cantor Kipnis, and Isabel Schein, MSW, discuss what it means to create a Jewish home.

Find out what Young Professionals is all about—couples and singles are welcome!

Questions? Contact co-chairs Melissa Levine at missyL95@aol.com or Lisa Meyers at lisabmeyers1@yahoo.com.

The Young Professionals of Temple Shaaray Tefila (YP) provides congregants aged 29–42 with a sense of community within the Temple, and encourages YP members to nurture their Jewish identity through social, cultural, and family events.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration— Tuesday, November 25 at 7:00 pm

Shaaray Tefila will host the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration presented by the Yorkville Christian-Jewish Council. Shaaray Tefila’s Kol Rinnah Chorale and Shaaray School of Rock Junior Choir will participate, along with the Young People’s Chorus of New York City. Please join us for this lovely annual event—and stay for a piece of pumpkin pie and a festive raffle!

Bnai Adam: Yom ha-Veteran-im: Jews and Veterans Day— Monday, November 10

They may not have received so much press—in their day or in ours—but Jewish soldiers have played an important part in the wars and conflicts that have defined much of American and world history. Framed by texts from our tradition, and aided by multimedia, we will explore the stories of some of the most famous soldiers in the history of the Jewish people. Join us on **Monday, November 10 at 7:30 pm**. Refreshments will be served, and no reservations are required. **Bnai Adam events are open to males aged 13 and up.** Questions or comments? Contact Rabbi Strom at rabbijstrom@tstnyc.org.



SAGE (Seniors Against Growing Elderly!) News

SAGE will host Rabbi Marci Bellows on Thursday, November 20 at 6:30 pm for a program on **“Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Judaism but Were Afraid to Ask!”** This was one of our most popular sessions last year, and it’s an opportunity to continue the discussion with Rabbi Bellows and ask new questions. Send your questions in advance to rabbimbellows@tstnyc.org.

Mark your calendar now for next month, when SAGE will hold its second annual *Chanukah* Potluck Supper on December 18.

Our **Contemporary Issues Discussion Group** will meet on Monday, November 10 at 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. Check your eNews and flyers for topic details.

Evening Book Group: Will discuss *Reconciliation* by Benazir Bhutto on Tuesday, November 18 at 7:00 pm. For information, call Rujeanne Bleemer at 212-570-9137.

Daytime Book Group: For information, contact Carole Kramers at 212-396-3193.

Women’s Night Out: For information on upcoming supper gatherings, contact Cynthia Blueweiss at 212-628-4583.

Men’s Lunch Group: For information on the next gathering, contact Lee Gordon at 212-472-3659 or Al Hess at 212-988-7109.

Questions about SAGE? Contact Co-Chairs Caryl and Lee Gordon at carylgl2@aol.com or 212-472-3659. SAGE is committed to engaging the senior population of Shaaray Tefila in educational, charitable, and social activities. All senior members of Shaaray Tefila are welcome to participate.

ADULT PROGRAMS

■ News From Mid-Chai—Champagne Tasting and Dinner Save the Date: Saturday, December 6!

Mark your calendar now for Mid-Chai’s Champagne Tasting and Dinner. Come learn which champagne to serve or bring for your *Chanukah* and New Year’s parties!

To reserve for this event, please use the all-purpose form on the inside back cover of this Messenger and include your check for \$25 per person by November 26. To check for availability after that date, please call Laura Greene at 212-535-8008 ext. 265.

For those who haven’t heard, Mid-Chai is Shaaray Tefila’s new group for baby boomer members (roughly ages 45–65). The goal of Mid-Chai is to help Shaaray Tefila’s midlife members meet fellow congregants in the same age group. Whether meeting new friends or spending time with longtime friends, Mid-Chai is an opportunity to strengthen the bonds of community.

If you have questions about Mid-Chai, please contact co-chairs Arlene Matlick at 212-249-1975/ardenematlick@gmail.com or Ruth Holzer Byowitz at 212-517-5530/ruthhb800@aol.com. To join the Mid-Chai email list, please contact Lgreene@tstnyc.org.

■ What’s Ahead for Adult Ed?

We know the temptation to hide away from the cold weather in December and January, but the Adult Education Committee has planned exciting programs to lure you out of your cozy home this winter.



On **Monday, December 8 at 7:30 pm**, author Jon Entine will visit Shaaray Tefila to discuss his book ***Abraham’s Children: Race, Identity, and the DNA of the Chosen People***. In his book, Entine explores a new understanding of Western identity and the shared Biblical ancestry of Jews and Christians using the latest tools of DNA and genealogical research. He addresses a range of fascinating issues, including the story of the Lost Tribes, the emergence of Christianity and faith-based religions, the remarkable stories of the descendants of converts who have discovered their Jewish ancestry, the DNA of Jewish IQ, and the age-old question of “Who is a Jew?”

Entine is an adjunct fellow at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research in Washington, D.C., as well as an Emmy-winning former producer for Tom Brokaw at NBC News. He has also produced magazine programs and documentaries for both ABC News and CBS News, and is the author of the best-selling book *Taboo: Why Black Athletes Dominate Sports and Why We’re Afraid to Talk About It*.



BEIT SEFER CAFÉ

Beit Sefer—a house of learning
Beit Café—a coffee house

Mark your calendar now for an exciting new learning and socializing opportunity: **Beit Sefer Café!** On three consecutive Monday evenings (**January 26, February 2, and February 9**), adult members may sample “triple shots” (classes that meet all three weeks of the series from 7:00 to 7:45 pm) and “single shots” (one-time sessions meeting from 8:15 to 9:00 pm) spanning everything from Jewish humor to Jewish spirituality, from music to child-rearing, from philosophy to diamonds, all presented by Shaaray Tefila members, clergy, and staff.

At Beit Sefer Café, there’s something for everyone—whether you’re a young parent or a senior, interested in popular culture or in history, curious about things Jewish, or simply looking to schmooze and learn. Watch your mail next month for complete details on all topics and speakers and a registration form!

OUR SCHOOLS AND YOUTH

Youth Activities Calendar

November

1	Saturday	JJS/J ³ O/TaSTY: Hershey Park Trip, all-day/evening event
5	Wednesday	TaSTY Board Meeting, 6:00 pm TaSTY Lounge Night—come mix and mingle; 7:00 pm
16	Sunday	Rosh Chodesh: It's A Girl Thing! (6th-, 7th-, and 8th-grade girls' program), 1:15–3:00 pm Family Fun Day Program and Lunch, 1:15–3:00 pm For TaSTY: NFTY-NAR's Social Action Day (open to all high school students)
22	Saturday	TaSTY Progressive Dinner and <i>Havdalah</i> (open to all high school students), 6:30 pm

Youth Groups

Family Fun Days—Open to all families with children in grades K–4

JJS (Jewish Journeys at Shaaray)—Open to all 5th- and 6th-grade students

J³O (Jewish Journeys Just Older)—Open to all 7th- and 8th-grade students

TaSTY (Temple Shaaray Tefila Youth)—Open to all high school students

Rosh Chodesh: It's a Girl Thing!—Social group for 6th-, 7th-, and 8th-grade girls

NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth)—The high school youth group of the Reform movement. TaSTY, our senior youth group, is affiliated with NFTY-NAR (New York Area Region).

Religious School Calendar

November

8	Saturday	Mini- <i>Minyan</i> , 9:30 am
14	Friday	Consecration Family Service and Dinner for all new students, 6:00 pm
16	Sunday	Grade 1 Family Program, 9:00 am Camp Shaaray Tefila Day (10:15 am presentation for parents)
19	Wednesday	Camp Shaaray Tefila Day (5:30 pm presentation for parents)
20	Thursday	Camp Shaaray Tefila Day (5:30 pm presentation for parents)
22	Saturday	Junior Congregation, led by 4th-grade students; 9:30 am
23	Sunday	Grade 6 <i>Bnai Mitzvah</i> Seminar, 9:00 am
26–30	Wednesday– Sunday	Thanksgiving holiday—no Religious School classes

Early Childhood Calendar

November

1	Saturday	Pajama <i>Havdalah</i> , 4:30–5:30 pm
7	Friday	Tot <i>Shabbat</i> Service, 5:15 pm
12	Wednesday	Curriculum Night, 7:00 pm (Catom, Lavan, Cachol, and Adom Rooms)
13	Thursday	Curriculum Night, 7:00 pm (Yarok, Tzahov, Sagol, and Kesef Rooms)
14	Friday	Staff Development Day (school closed for students)
15	Saturday	Tot <i>Shabbat</i> Service, 10:30 am / <i>Kesher</i> Activity
26	Wednesday	School closes at noon (no Sagol PM class)
27	Thursday	Thanksgiving—school closed
28	Friday	Thanksgiving—school closed

OUR SCHOOLS AND YOUTH

Camp Shaaray Tefila Day(s)!



Sunday, November 16, 2008

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Thursday, November 20, 2008

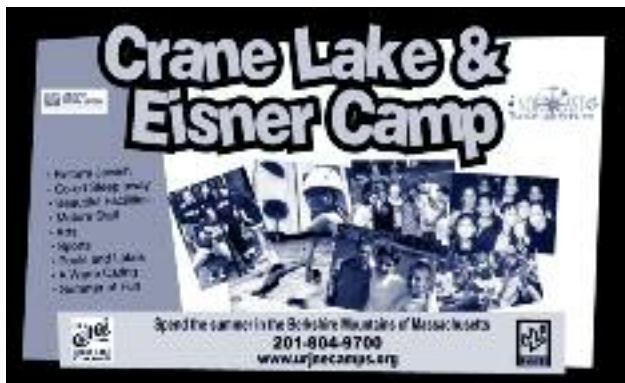
Parents and Students: Please join us during Religious School to learn more about Reform Jewish camping!

- A representative from Crane Lake and Eisner Camp will join us for a special session on Sunday, November 16 at 10:15 am.
- We will repeat the same program and presentation for students attending Religious School on Wednesday, November 19 and Thursday, November 20 at 5:30 pm.

The Reform movement's camps offer your child an invaluable opportunity to discover the joys of living Judaism as part of a warm, spirited, and diverse community. In a safe, scenic, natural environment, surrounded by nurturing and empowering role models, your child will master a variety of new skills and grow in confidence and maturity.

As a bonus, Temple Shaaray Tefila provides a **25 percent scholarship** to all of our members' children who attend a URJ overnight camp. This incentive is given regardless of need.

For more info: Please contact Hope Chernak at 212-535-8008 ext 270 or hchernak@tstnyc.org.



Rabbi Jonathan Stein, Rabbi Joshua Strom, and Hope Chernak cordially invite you to Temple Shaaray Tefila's College Reunion Luncheon

Monday, December 22 at Noon

Join us for a reunion with old friends from youth group, religious school, and confirmation.

Activities include great food, a tour of the newly renovated Youth Lounge, and a surprise!

Leave your mark by bringing in old Temple youth programs/high school photos for the Youth Lounge!

Please RSVP before December 17 to Hope Chernak at youth@tstnyc.org.



IN DEVELOPMENT

With the first chill of fall, just after I begin to think about reorganizing my clothes closet, I think about Thanksgiving dinner at my sister's house. It's delicious and fun, and I don't have to cook! I just have to get through the traffic to Long Island and say, "Yummm—thanks."

At our senior staff meeting a few weeks ago, we discussed the blessings before and after meals and the deliberations of the sages regarding required recitation. Aware of our own hunger, we pause in appreciation for sustenance as we recite the *motzi* just before a meal—whether before a bite of bread or a five-course dinner. After we are satisfied, we pause in appreciation to recite the *birkat hamazon* (and ahhh, loosen that belt).

Judaism calls upon us to act responsibly regarding food—to nurture and enjoy the fruit of the earth, to respect all living beings as part of Creation, to consider our health, and to share with those in need.

There are directives and rituals to ensure that we

remember to share. After all, once our hunger has been satisfied, can we still recall the feeling of hunger experienced by those in need?

At Shaaray Tefila, weekly, monthly, and annual programs remind and enable us to share. These ongoing efforts are essential; they continue no matter how hungry or satisfied we might be ourselves. They are a commitment of the community, with skilled organizers, dedicated volunteers and support staff, generous donors, and a gracious atmosphere. This practice is required by our tradition and supported by you, the Shaaray Tefila members.

This month, as Thanksgiving approaches, you will be reminded to appreciate Creation and each other. And it's a good month to say "Thanks" by giving—to "give as *Adonai* has blessed you" (Deuteronomy 16:17)—to support our synagogue's outstanding programs and projects of *gmilut chasadim*.

Thanks! And Happy Thanksgiving.

— Ann Targownik
Director of Development



"And these are the gifts you shall accept..." Exodus 25:3

ANNUAL APPEAL 2008-09 / 5769

an opportunity for giving, an obligation of our tradition

Temple life and the quality and depth of its programs depend on generous donations from members and friends.

In the spirit of the High Holy Days and in support of the synagogue,

I/We _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

hereby contribute to the Annual Appeal 2008-09/5769 to ensure that the outstanding programs and services of Shaaray Tefila remain a reality for congregants and community.

Gifts in the following four categories are recognized on the lobby plaque:

\$ _____ **Yesod** (Foundation) \$18,000+

\$ _____ **Migdal** (Pillar) \$10,000+

\$ _____ **Boneh** (Builder) \$5,000+

\$ _____ **Shomer** (Guardian) \$2,500+

All gifts are appreciated and much-needed; donors are listed in the monthly Messenger and annual Perspectives.

Chaver (Friend) \$1,000+ \$750 \$500 \$360 \$180 \$100 Other \$ _____

Check is enclosed Please call about a gift of securities I/We wish to remain anonymous

Charge American Express Visa MasterCard # _____

You Are Invited..

To attend the installation of

Judith Kahan Rowland

as our Senior Cantor
at a *Havdalah* Service of Installation,
followed by a spirited and fun-filled
musical tribute

Saturday, November 15, 7:15 pm

A dessert reception will follow



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