

Denim **Diamonds** *Gala 2011*

WITH OUR 2011 HONOREES

Robin & Bob Ballin and Jody & Bruce Steifman

Saturday, May 21st

6:30 pm Havadallah

Service and Presentation

Cocktail Hour & Dinner by Hasson Caterers

Dancing with Party Harty Entertainment

Dress in Festive Attire!



The Ballins with daughter, Amy



The Steifmans with daughter, Jordyn



RABBI'S MESSAGE

RABBI JONATHAN L. HECHT, Ph.D.

Remembering the Triangle Fire

Thirty years ago MTV was launched and IBM gave us the first PC. Twenty years ago the first website went live and the internet was born. In September we will mark the 10th anniversary of the World Trade Center tragedy. Anniversaries are times we reflect on pivotal moments.

March 25th was the 100th anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York City. The numbers tell a sad story. Of the 146 victims, 102 were Jewish and 39 were Italian. Most were young immigrant girls, many engaged to be married; the headline in the Yiddish Forward read "Funerals instead of Weddings." The youngest victim was 14. They are buried in 16 cemeteries, including the Hebrew Free Burial Society Cemetery on Staten Island.

Fifty years ago, David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU, at the yahrzeit of this tragedy said, "These were our martyrs because what we couldn't accomplish by reasoning with the bosses ... they accomplished with their deaths."

Harris and Blanck, the two factory owners were acquitted of any wrongdoing, but the story doesn't end there. At a rally on the day after the fire, Rabbi Stephen Wise, leader of the American Jewish Congress, called for the creation of a citizens' committee to investigate, and on April 2nd, Wise demanded state legislation to ensure safety standards in the industrial workplace. The most inspirational speech was given by Rose Schneiderman, a 29 year old Jewish immigrant, and labor activist, resulting in thousands of new union members. Virtually all the leadership of the labor movement in the garment industry was Jewish, and Jewish values of communal responsibility and social justice shaped the movement's vision.

Within a month, Governor Dix created a NYS Committee on Safety and appointed Rabbi Wise to it. The resulting laws made NYS one of the most progressive for labor reform. Jewish moral leadership lives on today in state and federal labor laws.

When we celebrate Passover this month, we will remember the Exodus from Egypt. In May, we will cheer the 63rd year since the establishment of Israel. Our collective history is rich with pivotal events, and determined individuals, whose sacrifices give us lessons to learn, reasons to be proud, and inspiration for us to shape our lives. Remembering the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire inspires us to support the cause organized labor.

Temple Chaverim congregant Mark Wells' great-grandaunt was one of the young Jewish immigrant women who worked at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. She was a button-hole maker and perished 100 years ago in the fire. Read about the story of Annie Nicholas in this newsletter!



CANTOR'S CORNER

CANTOR BRADLEY HYMAN

People Behaving Badly

In the time and place we live in, it is very hard to live a completely secluded lifestyle. Even though it is possible to have everything delivered to our doorstep at the push of a keystroke or a dialing of a phone, many people choose to get out and interact. It very well may be one of the last things that keep us from turning out like that movie Wall-E or the song by Zager & Evans, completely dependent on machines for thought, action and reward.

Depending on whom you ask, an unfortunate byproduct of interaction with other humans is the realization that other people do things differently than you. This means your brilliance must make room for other stars in the sky. And when two stars collide- forget it. I don't want to be around. But if I happen to witness the negative collision of ideas, feelings, egos and the people who wield them, I have an obligation to help lessen the destructive nature of their wake. I must step in. If I can prevent such a blow up from happening at all, it is even better still.

We watch the television and computer screen, almost daily, for the next Charlie Sheen rant, or to see how the world's dictators are using their military to keep popular spirit from taking wings. When hurricanes destroyed the southern coast, we watched as some people- so worn down, stole and looted from their neighbors. Bad things happen, but sometimes because of our lack of action.

I have quoted these words from Hillel before, but I call upon his wisdom again. It is said, 'B'makom she'ein anashim, Hillel omer: hishtadeil lih'yot ish.' In a place where there is no humanity, Hillel says: strive to be a human. In other words, if you observe people acting inhuman, it is your responsibility to be the human in the room. If you travel to a place where others are behaving badly, you cannot ignore it or even worse, add to it with your own bad behavior. This concept should be applied to most situations- from the smallest of white lies to the violence in the Sudan.

We have the power to do great things, both good and bad. However, it is much easier when we work together to get the job done.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

JOINED SINCE JANUARY 1, 2011

ARTHUR GILBERT AND HELEN CHIPKIN
DANIEL, ELISA, EMILY AND NATHAN BLANK





RABBINIC RUMINATIONS

RABBI JOSH LOBEL

Yom Hashaoh, Emil Fackenheim, and the 614th Commandment

On May 1st, the 27th day in the Hebrew month of Nissan, we observe a memorial for the victims of the Holocaust, a day known as Yom Hashaoh. It is a day of solemn remembrance as we recall the most horrific tragedy to ever befall our people. The Holocaust served as the ultimate challenge to the Jewish religion. In the wake of such unbearable loss and unthinkable human cruelty, many Jews, feeling God had abandoned them, did the same to their faith. They could not reconcile the idea of a loving God who cared about them with the reality of the Shoah.

However, for many other Jews, the Holocaust did not cause them to reject their faith, but rather, to affirm it. They believed that the only true response to the Shoah was to cling to their Judaism tighter than ever. Perhaps no one expressed this belief better than Rabbi Emil Fackenheim, a survivor of the Holocaust. He created what he termed the “614th commandment,” which states that we must maintain our identities as Jews, for if we turn our back on Judaism, we do Hitler’s work for him, as we will contribute to our own destruction. If we treat our faith as irrelevant or inconsequential, we hand Hitler a posthumous victory. Therefore, Fackenheim states, we are commanded to remain a part of the Jewish community and to cherish our faith as our birthright.

The concept of “commandment” can be difficult for many Reform Jews. Commandment conveys a sense of obligation, something we have to do, for a commandment, in its strictest sense, is a compulsory action, not at all optional. The idea may feel intimidating, especially if we believe that we should have a choice when it comes to every aspect

of our faith: which traditions we follow, how we observe the holidays, how we view what it means to live a Jewish life.

But I think we can all agree that the “614th commandment” of Emil Fackenheim is incumbent upon all Jews. It is our responsibility to carry the torch of Judaism into the future, letting its light shine on future generations. For when we do this, we make the strongest statement against anyone who wishes to follow in Hitler’s footsteps. We are still here and we are not going anywhere. May the memories of the six million live on in our hearts and inspire us to carry on their legacy.



FUNDRAISING

There is a NEW FUND that we now have at Temple Chaverim that many of you might want to think about when you make your next donation. The Fund is called “Tikkun Olam Fund” and its purpose is wonderful.



PAULA LEFKOWITZ



LARRY WALD

This Fund will accept all donations as a general fund. When something happens in our community, on Long Island, or any place in the world that needs attention, the Fundraising Committee and your Board of Trustees will make a donation to that particular cause. For example, we might want to purchase trees to replant in Israel after the destruction by fire a short time ago. We might want to send a donation to a hurricane affected area. We might want to send an additional donation to our sister synagogue in Israel, Darchei Noam, or another Progressive (Reform) Synagogue in Israel that needs help.

When a donation is made it will be published in Connections for everyone to see. Right now, it is a new fund and needs funding. Please consider donating to this fund so that Temple Chaverim can continue Tikkun Olam, save the world.

From the Denim or Diamonds Gala Committee

Our *Denim or Diamonds Gala* is coming up fast! You should have received the invitation in the mail. This is our 5th Gala and so far is proving to be the best yet! The food is going to be spectacular! Hasson Caterers never fails to impress and they go out of their way to make it unbelievable because the Gala is “in house”. Last year, our first time using Party Harty Entertainment, the dance floor was not empty for one second. People were dancing and singing with the DJ all night long. It is going to be even better this year because we will have new surprises. You have probably received Raffle Books to purchase or sell to your friends. We are sure that this is going to be a huge fundraiser because the prizes are so fabulous: who doesn’t want an iPad or the other great prizes on the list? And, YOU DON’T HAVE TO BE AT THE GALA TO WIN. Not that we don’t want you to attend...we do! Raffle baskets for the night are also shaping up to be better than ever. The Raffle Subcommittee, chaired by Karen Bressner, is working very hard to bring in wonderful items. You will want them all. And we want all of you to attend. Our congregational budget is balanced only because of the money that the Gala brings in each year. Without the Gala we would have to find other ways to balance the budget. It is important that we all, in big ways and in small ways, support this event. That is why your attendance is so important. And your support is rewarded by a really fun-filled, laugh-filled, friend-filled party with delicious food. RSVP is so easy. Placing an ad is so easy. Just visit our virtual journal at www.templechaverimgala2011.org. Support our supporters! We hope to see you all there, *Paula Lefkowitz & Larry Wald, Co-chairs*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FRED GLADSTONE

The Greatest Meal

What was the greatest meal that you ever had? Was it one where you looked over a spectacular ocean view or saw a once in a lifetime sunset? Was it a dinner that was in a city such as Paris, Tokyo, Tel Aviv or Las Vegas? Or could that greatest meal have been one where the chef of a restaurant prepared the most incredible gastronomic experience for you? Several months ago I heard an interview with two authors who wrote an article entitled "25 Greatest Meals Ever." The authors were expecting meals where the quality of the meal in a restaurant was being talked about. To the authors' surprise they instead were supplied with accounts of their subjects' meals that had far more significance. Several of the subjects said that their greatest meal was one with family or a loved one. For one person the greatest meal was the pot of meatballs left on the steps to welcome the family to the neighborhood. Another one spoke of having sandwiches with a favorite uncle.

As I was listening to the interview I began to think about the greatest meal I ever had. That meal was a Passover Seder. My father was extremely ill and had not been expected to survive until Pesach. However, there he was, leading our family Seder in the same manner he always had. Of course, it was filled with the liturgy from the Seder as well as my father's comments regarding the meaning of Passover. It was also filled with great pride as I saw my then 3 year old daughter Lindsay asking the Four Questions, as well as giving her rendition of the Frog song.

I would have to say that for Jews, the Greatest Meal is the Passover Seder. Besides the gathering of family for such a festive occasion, it is also vital that the message of Passover be repeated and told each year. We need to hear of the Jews' escape from slavery in Egypt and of the important messages we can bring into our lives. We need to be reminded that there are people in our world who continue to be enslaved. The message is important but so is the chance for family to gather together. In my family, part of what always makes the Passover Seder special are the jokes and lighter moments of the Seder, which, believe me, are not in the Haggadah. These times of brevity and wit, in my view, don't take away from the occasion, but rather, have become part of the Gladstone family seder.

While the article did not list a Passover Seder as among someone's greatest meals, I think as Jews we can easily say that the Seder is one of the most meaningful and truly spectacular meals that we can have.



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

DEBBYE BRANDELL



All About Israel

Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day will be celebrated on May 10th. Did you know that Israel is the hundredth smallest country with less than one-one thousandth of the world's population? In celebration of Yom Ha'Atzmaut, here are a dozen amazing facts about Israel.

- ☆ The first computer anti-virus software package was designed in Israel back in the 1970's.
- ☆ The cell phone was first developed in the Motorola plant in Israel.
- ☆ The Pentium MMX Chip technology was designed in Israel at Intel.
- ☆ Voice mail technology was developed in Israel.
- ☆ The Israeli company Amdocs is the largest company in the world in this field.
- ☆ Both Microsoft and Cisco have built their only foreign based research and development facilities in Israel.
- ☆ A design submitted by Israeli-born Michael Arad has been chosen for the World Trade Center Memorial, from amongst 5,000 entries from around the world.
- ☆ Israeli company Retailix created the grocery scanners used in such stores as Costco, Albertson's and 7-11 as well as 25,000 additional stores and quick serve restaurants throughout the United States.
- ☆ Israeli Professor Yehuda Finkelstein has discovered the cause and cure for halitosis (bad breath).
- ☆ Rummikub, the third highest selling board game in the world, is manufactured in a family-run plant in the small southern Israeli town of Arad.
- ☆ Cherry tomatoes were originally supposed to be a snack when they were designed by a group of Israeli scientists from the agriculture department at the Weitzman Institute of Science with the cooperation of the Israeli company Zera.
- ☆ Israeli researchers developed a novel stem cell therapy to treat Parkinson's Disease using a patient's own bone marrow stem cells to produce the missing chemical that enables restoration of movement.
- ☆ A new acne treatment developed in Israel, causes acne bacteria to self-destruct, without damaging surrounding skin.

Israel has more museums per capita than any other country and puts Braille on bank notes so individuals who are blind can read them. The glue on the back of Israeli postage stamps is kosher. Israel is one incredible place! Yom Huledet Sameach!! Happy 63rd Birthday Israel!!



SISTERHOOD / WRJ AMY-JO WILLIG

Another Fun Filled Year with Sisterhood!

Sisterhood started off 2011 with our annual WINGO, Wine & Wings event in January. We had to contend with the winter weather but ICY quickly became 10+ SPICY, FUN games of BINGO and delicious, finger-lickin' chicken wings. Everyone went home a winner.

Our next wild and crazy event was our annual Shalach Manot Fundraiser. Thank You to all our volunteers who donned their silliest and finest haberdashery at our "Mad Hatter's" party, at which we assembled and later delivered all the Purim baskets. If you sent baskets this year, Sisterhood would like to also Thank You for your continued support of all that we do for your temple and local community. Sisterhood's "March Madness" continued with a night of renewal, relaxation and RE-JEW-VIN-ATION with our ZUMBA Spa Event. We danced the night away to sassy international rhythms and enjoyed lots of pampering with mini spa services and healthy cuisine.

The Sisterhood Passover Wine Tasting event is scheduled for Thursday, March 31st. Passover season concludes on Wednesday, April 6th with our spiritual "Woman of Valor" Women's Seder led by our guest, Rabbi Debra Bennet. This year's honorees are two very deserving women of Sisterhood: Jan Kreckel and Sharon Bluth.

Our last event will be our "Thanks a Bunch" Brunch in May. It will be poignant for me this year as I step down from the Presidency of Temple Chaverim Sisterhood. My years as your President have been remarkable. They have been filled with the joy of seeing our membership grow and the excitement and enthusiasm our members demonstrate at our various programs, their support of all our fundraising and social action efforts as well as their input and contributions to making such a dynamic Sisterhood. And I could not have done it for all these years without the unselfish support, vibrant leadership and friendship of my Board. I look forward to being an active member of Sisterhood as our new President, Alyssa Feller, takes it to the next level.

Sisterhood needs you! So come see what all the FUN is about! Look for notices of upcoming meetings and get involved in planning our events for next year.



Enjoying Wingo Night with friends

*Sisterhood
Without you,
we are one
woman short!*



Thank you to everyone who participated in our Shalach Manot Fundraiser

Welcome to the Sisterhood Judaica Shop Every purchase supports our synagogue

SHOP ON-LINE AT **judaicabeautiful**

Yes, Chana, there IS a JUDAICA SHOP!! Come check out all the new and exciting items for all your holiday and lifecycle needs.

Don't see what you need? Check out our new Online Judaica Shop at www.templechaverim/judaicabeautiful.com.

Every purchase you make online helps support your Sisterhood and temple.

Yom HaShoah - Holocaust Memorial Day

Temple Chaverim Remembers....

Join us for our annual service on Sunday, May 1st at 9:30 am



**HEATHER
KATZ**

CHATY - TEMPLE CHAVERIM TEMPLE YOUTH GROUPS

I hope this edition of Connections finds everyone well as we begin 2011. The Youth Committee of Temple Chaverim is proud to continue to offer great trips and social activities. As we approach the exciting spring season, with Passover around the corner and the warm weather already here, I want to remind everyone that the youth committee at our temple is alive and active. Every month we offer a variety of activities for all to take part in. Please look through your email, backpacks and mail for additional updated information.

At the time of this printing, the planning for the Purim Carnival is underway and was a huge success. The Carnival was planned and coordinated by Heather Katz and the leadership of our CHATY Executive Board and Rabbi Lobel's eighth grade leadership committee. I am sure that everyone who participated had a great time enjoying all the activities and food, provided and sponsored by our temple and the Youth Committee.



**RICK
LEWIS**

In addition, we are currently registering for the trip to the aquarium and the third grade late night. The late nights are always a blast. I also want to acknowledge and thank the following people for giving their time in March to chaperone our events and make sure that the kids had a great and safe time: Lance Bravin, Shari Kurnit, Todd Lustig, Barry Orgel, Ethan Shaw, Elijah Sauer, Lindsay Gladstone and Terry Wallach, as well as the entire youth committee, for their time and commitment to the youth of our temple.

The growth of our temple is based on our caring members who give of their time and expertise. If you would like to get involved in our youth committee, please call Rabbi Lobel and let him know. Our upcoming events include:



- APRIL 5 - LOUNGE NIGHT - CLUB CHATY**
- APRIL 14 - OUR INFAMOUS CHOCOLATE SEDER - FOR EVERYONE**
- APRIL 10 - BUILD A BEAR - JCHATY**
- MAY 15 - CITY TRIP - TO BE DETERMINED - FOR EVERYONE**
- JUNE 1 - CHATY ELECTIONS**



Mazel Tov to our April, May & June B'nei Mitzvah

- Tyler Altschul
- Rachel Berkowitz
- Chloe Ferney
- Taylor Fox
- Jake Friedman
- Ethan Glazer
- Matthew Glogower
- Spencer Goldberg
- James Goldstein
- Benjamin Green
- Brett Hollander
- Jessica Lagnado
- David Lerner
- Aaron Levine
- Evan Lubash
- Jenna Mintz
- Samantha Mintz
- Sara Mintz
- Mara Robinson
- Adam Shnitkin
- Jacob Sugarman
- Jake Supran
- Kyle Supran
- Joshua Tabak
- Emily Zucker



MEN'S CLUB PETER JANOWSKY

Men's Club Update

Men's Club Night Out continues in full swing with cards and camaraderie the last Wednesday of each month.

On a more solemn note, be on the lookout for an email with information regarding distribution of Yom Hashoah candles this spring.

The excellent chefs of Men's Club will once again provide haute cuisine at the ever popular end of year BBQ on June 17th at 6:30 pm.

For more information and to get involved in Men's Club activities, contact Peter Janowsky at pjanowsky@aol.com or 516-445-0138.

LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER?

The Temple office needs volunteers to help on occasion with tasks such as bulk mailings, Oneg preparation and wrapping Bar/Bat Mitzvah gifts. Contact Sue at 516-367-6100 ext. 108 if you have any time to spare!



LOOKING FOR A JOB?

Resume help, networking assistance, interviewing skills, job searches & more!

Visit www.parnossah.org for information.

ADULT EDUCATION

ROCHELLE POTASH



Great Programs Ahead!

The Adult Education Committee has made major strides these past few months introducing new programs and lectures.

We continue with the **Jewish Meditation Class** with instructor Donna Bloom every Wednesday morning at 10:30 am and every other Thursday evening at 7pm.

Rabbi Hecht's class **Dramas in Jewish History** takes place every other Thursday evening at 7pm - 4/7, 4/21, 5/5 & 5/19. Call the office at ext. 112 if you would like to join the class. In this new section, we are about to enter the Medieval Jewish time period.

The Jewish Current Events Discussion Group continues. Join Allen Greenbaum for an informative evening for a meeting in May.

A **Book Club** discussion is planned for one evening this summer. Watch for date and book to be reviewed.

The first **Yiddish Class** led by Claire Salant was held on Tues, January 11th. Despite the weather, there was a record turnout. Classes are the second Tuesday of the month. April 12th, May 10th & June 14th at 8 PM. Free to members; \$5 per class for non-members. To register, call Rosemary at 516-367-6100 ext. 101.

"Women in the Bible" Lecture Series got off to a great start on February 9th. We welcomed Rabbi Debra Bennet. She will continue to explore the unique role of women in the Torah. If you are interested, remaining Wednesday classes will be held:

April 13 - Celebrating Passover-Miriam and the women of the story of the Exodus

May 11- Examining the roles of Rebekah, Rachel and Leah, our remaining matriarchs

June 15 - Exploring key individuals in our text: Dinah, Delilah, Jezebel and Yael

The Adult Education Committee always welcomes new ideas for programs. If you would like to participate, call the temple office and leave a message for Rochelle.

WHO WILL BE THE NEXT TOP CHEF OF TEMPLE CHAVERIM?

Introducing another new fun program for the cooks of Temple Chaverim! Start thinking of those great recipes and Rabbi Lobel will videotape you cooking your favorite Jewish dish in the comfort of your own kitchen. Then he will post it to Facebook.



Teen Report



I'd like to thank the Temple for sponsoring my attendance at this year's NFTY Convention in Dallas, Texas. My participation enabled me to enrich and further appreciate my knowledge of Reform Judaism and its core ideal of Tikkun Olam.

When I first arrived in the hotel, I was shocked by the amount of kids as I really had no idea that this would be so BIG! I began getting a little anxious because of the unfamiliar surroundings and not knowing anyone. I found myself thinking back to when I was much younger and had difficulty adjusting to new surroundings because of a lack of confidence. That is unlike me now because over the past 10 years and because of my involvement with CHATY and Hebrew High School I have developed a new found independence and self confidence. Soon enough, however, as I was signing in I met dozens of people and my fears quickly went away. It was evident that all eight hundred plus of us were there for several common purposes – to explore our heritage and to share our love of Judaism.

Throughout the next few days I participated in many different thought provoking seminars and programs. One of the seminars I choose was about death and dying. I knew so little about the Jewish ways of thinking about death. There I learned that death was not just about mourning but a celebration of life. We learned about the customs and rituals associated with death and dying.

Another seminar I attended was named Invisible Children. Invisible Children is an organization that strives to help kids living in Uganda who are literally being stolen from their families in the middle of the night to become part of Robert Kony's army. The "bad man" is the dictator who has his army kidnap children, some as young as 5 years old, to indoctrinate them into his very evil ways and to enslave them. They are being brought up thinking it is ok to kill someone, and having no perception of morality. I am considering starting an Invisible Children club in my school to raise awareness and money to fight against this horrible situation. Helping others is a core value that I try to live by and this convention emphasized it.

The convention went very quickly and on our last night I started getting sad that there was only one day left and I did not want this experience to end. From the seminars to the tour of the Dallas Cowboys' new stadium to the dinner at the world famous Gilley's to my new friendships with people from as far away as California, Canada, Texas and as close as Westchester I cherish the experience and the memories.

Participating in the NFTY Convention really inspired me and made me proud to be Jewish. Please keep in mind that there are younger active CHATY members in our community who may benefit from these types of experiences. If you have the chance to aid them financially as you did for me, definitely take the opportunity to do so. Temple Chaverim, through its generosity and trust, has enabled me to grow as a young Jewish adult. I am proud and humbled by the Temple's confidence in me and hope to continue to demonstrate that I am worthy of such honors.

Sincerely, Zoe Finn

Editor's Note: This message was read at a temple board meeting last month and edited for this publication.

SOCIABLE SENIORS

ROCHELLE POTASH

Are You Ready for Spring Programming?



The April 7th, program welcomes back Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos, Museum Director of Kehila Kedosha Janina. She will be speaking on **Synagogues of the World** -- a lecture on the history of synagogues, featuring a visual presentation of interesting and important houses of worship in Europe, India, Israel and the United States.



At the May 5th program, Wendy Marx, Jewish Educator and President of the L.I. Association of Jewish Librarians, will share her dedication to teaching with an exciting topic **“From Guttenberg to Google -- Where does the Talmud and Responsa Fit In?”**

The final program for the season will be held on June 2nd, with Richard Knox presenting **Great Jewish Entertainers**. Take a nostalgic walk down memory lane. Using a variety of short clips, you will have a great opportunity to experience the talents of stars from Eddie Cantor through Idina Menzel.

Sociable seniors continues to bring informative and diversified programs to our community. Remember to mark your calendars for the first Thursday of the month. To make a reservation, call the Sociable Seniors RSVP line at 516-367-6100, ext 103. A delicious light lunch will be served. Cost is \$7 for temple members, \$10 for non-members.

MEMORIAL LIST 5771 Dec. 1, 2010 - March 12, 2011

Blossom Karben, mother of Suellyn Giserman, December 25, 2010.	Sonia Perez, wife of Shimon Perez, President of the State of Israel, Jan. 20, 2011.	Howard Rothman, father of Randi Albertelli, February 21, 2011.
Arthur Gerber, grandfather of Alyssa Glazer, December 25, 2010.	Naomi Tepper, aunt of Carrie Oblas, January 22, 2011.	Arthur Oppenheim, father of Marc Oppenheim, February 26, 2011.
Barney Bergman, father of Shari Goldsmith, December 28, 2010.	Morris Hanania, father of Gail Wurtzel, February 8, 2011.	Mandel Cohen, father of Lise Mayer, March 2, 2011
Leon Bauer, grandfather of Alise Schor, Dec. 28, 2010.	Betty Steinberg, grandmother of Jonathan Klein, February 6, 2011.	Howard Green, step-father of Robin Sheldon, March 4, 2011
Norman Warshawsky, uncle of Marc Oppenheim, January 1, 2011.	Paul E. Reinhold, father of Linda Greenbaum, February 9, 2011.	Lester Just, father of Michael Just, March 12, 2011
The six victims of the tragic shooting in Tucson, Arizona on January 8, 2011	Irving Orgel, father of Barry Orgel, Feb. 21, 2011.	
Debbie Friedman, singer/songwriter, Jan. 9, 2011.		

“In loving tribute, the following names have been inscribed on our Memorial Wall”

December 1, 2010
 MANDEL COHEN - MARCH 2, 2011
 MORRIS HANANIA - FEBRUARY 8, 2011
 BARNEY BERGMAN - DECEMBER 28, 2010
 AARON SOROKA - JUNE 15, 2010
 LISA LEDERMAN - OCTOBER 28, 2009
 SYDELLE SOROKA - APRIL 2, 2005
 WILLIAM HEYMANN - DECEMBER 11, 1985

THE STORY OF ANNIE NICHOLAS

BY DEBBIE WELLS



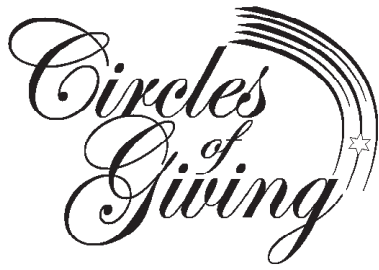
As an editor of Connections, I am one of the first to read the articles submitted for each edition. Little did I know when I received Rabbi Hecht’s article via email that it would start me on an incredible journey!

As you read in the Rabbi’s message, he talks about the 100th anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist fire. When I read that, it immediately sparked my interest because many years ago, I learned an interesting fact about my husband’s family history: A few years after the fire. Mark’s grandma, Anne Nicholas Lerman (now our wonderful Nanny Anne at age 97!), was born and named after her aunt Annie Nicholas who died at age 18 that tragic day. Family legend says that Annie was working as a button-hole maker and at first escaped the fire. Realizing that she forgot to take her scissors with her, she ran back into the building and her fate was sealed.

Years ago, when our son, Andrew, studied this event in school, Nanny Anne mentioned how her aunt was a part of history and gave him the beautiful photo shown above. We framed it, he showed it to his teacher and it sat on his dresser for years.

When I told the Rabbi about the story of Annie, Gladys immediately sent me links to research more about her. Within minutes, I contacted the Kheel Archive Center at Cornell University and then TSF expert Michael Hirsch, who had just written an article about the 100th anniversary in the New York Times. He told me that Annie was one of the victims about whom, despite all his research, little was known about her identity. He had developed an affection for this particular unsung heroine and had even placed stones on her grave that very day! When I sent him her photo, he was quite emotional. Within minutes, I connected him with Mark’s grandma in Florida and they were both thrilled to share information about Annie. He even revealed that Nanny Anne is the oldest known relative alive today!

He also invited our entire family to a memorial service at the site (which is now part of NYU’s campus) and a special reception in Manhattan later this month. Word is that the US Secretary of Labor and possibly President Obama will be there. What a thrill for our family to honor Annie Nicholas in such an important way...all thanks to the Rabbi’s article.



Circles of Giving is a vital pledge program whereby congregants voluntarily enhance their annual support to Temple Chaverim by a fixed amount. While our dues are in line with other local Reform synagogues, they do not completely cover the cost of running our temple. In fact, temple dues, tuitions and fees cover only 80% of our expense budget. The gap of \$500 per household must be made up through voluntary donations and fundraising efforts.

Temple Chaverim is committed to excellence in religious, educational and social programming and to outstanding professional leadership. Your gift will ensure that all children and adults in our congregation will continue to enjoy all the benefits of membership and to provide scholarship to those in need. To help strengthen our synagogue and secure our future of upholding Jewish values, please make your pledge to the Circles of Giving Program.

Join or renew your participation
in Circles today!

CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE

Basic Dues + \$1,500 or above.

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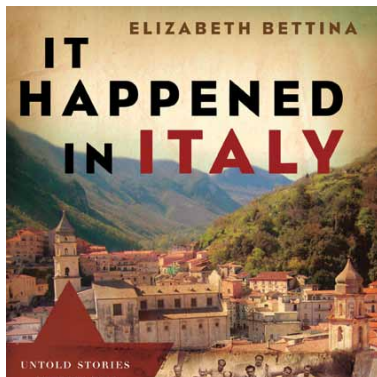
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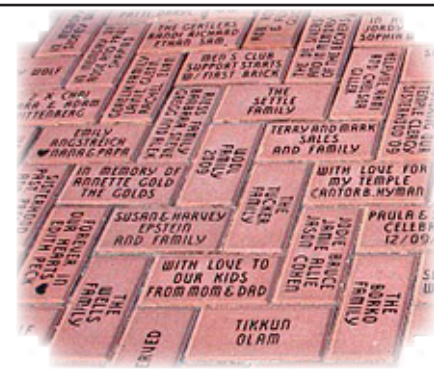
Elizabeth Bettina is presently the Co-Executive Producer of a documentary on Jews surviving in Italy during the Holocaust. She has appeared at countless venues, from libraries, bookstores and reading groups to trade associations, churches and synagogues, and also the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor; The National World War II Museum in New Orleans; The Louisiana; and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.



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