



BETH-EL CONGREGATION

JUNE/JULY 2017

Rabbinical Reflections

_____ Rabbi Jordan Ottenstein



Dear Friends,

In just a few short weeks, I will be leaving Beth-El for Congregation Dor Tamid in Johns Creek, Georgia. As a goodbye, here is part of the sermon I delivered at my "Farewell Service" on May 19. To read the entire sermon, you can go to www.bethelfw.org.

On this Shabbat that we have a golden opportunity to take stock, to look at who we are, and to look to the future, by looking to the sacred words of our tradition, the words of our

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Calogero Moore _____

Son of Bonnie and Carlos Moore
Bar Mitzvah, Saturday, June 3, 2017

Worship Calendar

Friday, June 2 _____ Kabbalat Shabbat Early Service
Wine, Cheese, and Shabbat candles at 5:30 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat at 6:00 PM
John Sauvey will lead the music.

Saturday, June 3 _____ 10:30 AM
Morning Shabbat Service
Bar Mitzvah of Calogero Moore

Friday, June 9 _____ 7:30 PM
Rabbi Ottenstein's final Shabbat Service with Beth-El
Angie Friedman will lead the music

Friday, June 16 _____ Kabbalat Shabbat Early Service
Wine, Cheese, and Shabbat candles at 5:30 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat at 6:00 PM
Charna Blumberg will lead the music.

Friday, June 23 _____ 7:30 PM
Shabbat Service featuring a special
Sermon-in-Song concert with Mimir Chamber Music
Founder Curt Thompson
John Sauvey and Christine Levy will lead the music.

Friday, June 30 _____ Kabbalat Shabbat Early Service
Wine, Cheese, and Shabbat candles at 5:30 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat at 6:00 PM
Cantorial Student Monica Braverman will lead the music.

Friday, July 7 _____ 7:30 PM
Shabbat Service
Scott Slotter will lead the music.

Friday, July 14 _____ Kabbalat Shabbat Early Service
Wine, Cheese, and Shabbat candles at 5:30 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat at 6:00 PM
John Sauvey will lead the music.

Friday, July 21 _____ 7:30 PM
Shabbat Service led by Dr. Michael Ross
Cantorial Student Monica Braverman will lead the music.

Friday, July 28 _____ Kabbalat Shabbat Early Service
Wine, Cheese, and Shabbat candles at 5:30 PM
Kabbalat Shabbat led by Dr. Michael Ross at 6:00 PM
Linda Hoffman will lead the music.

Monday, July 31 _____ Tisha B' Av (9th of Av)
Service of Commemoration at Congregation Beth Israel
6100 Pleasant Run Road, Colleyville

President's Message

Jeff Kaitcer, President

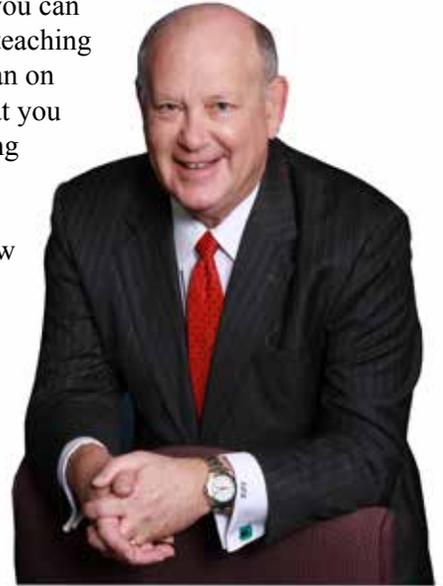
ℳ **Aleph**—As all of you no doubt know, *Aleph* is the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. It signifies beginnings. In my case, this is the beginning of my two year term as your president—unless there is a call for impeachment, to which I might accede.

Twenty-four months, but only twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet; close to a letter theme for each month. However, I just realized that we do not send out newsletters each month. There are only ten newsletters a year. That will actually make it easier. I can drop two of the more troublesome Hebrew letters; ם and ך, watch out! You are on the chopping block. It is, I admit, a gimmick, but gimmicks can be useful. However, I digress.

I do want to express my appreciation to all of the past presidents of the congregation who, along with rabbinic leadership and dedicated board members, have made Beth-El the place that it is today. In particular, I would like to recognize the tireless efforts of our immediate Past President Laurie Kelfer, whom, I should say, is still on the job, assisting our congregation with important issues relating to our building. Speaking of rabbis, we have an outstanding one here at Beth-El. You haven't lived until you have walked into a Friday night service and observed Rabbi Zimmerman dressed in a chicken suit, leading services from the bimah. Granted, it was the Shabbat service that occurred during Purim, and I am not exactly sure how a chicken fits into the *Purimspiel*. Perhaps after Haman met his well-deserved fate, they all had chicken soup. Rabbi Zimmerman has a unique ability to connect with our congregation through his Shabbat services, and if you have not had a chance to enjoy his educational and entertaining style, then I urge you to do so.

While the summer months are a little quieter at Beth-El, we still offer, of course, more casual Shabbat services in the intimate setting of the chapel. There is always an oneg

where, after services, you can happily disregard any teaching from Rabbi Zimmerman on healthy moderation that you might have heard during the service by munching away on goodies provided by your fellow congregants. Summer is also a time when we plan for our congregational High Holy Day observances, and we think we will have a few pleasant surprises to share with you as that time grows closer.



Take this opportunity to join with us, when you can, for our activities and be a part of our congregational family. Like any family, we might have our differences, but we come together to support one another. From classes in Torah study, to learning Hebrew; from Religious School to the Jewish film festival; from the Young Families group to the more “mature” Beth-El Boomers group (I count myself as being one of the “mature”); from the stylish Women of Reform Judaism to the cooking Men of Reform Judaism; we have something for everyone. If you see me around the Temple (I am the large bald guy) and have some suggestions or observations you would like to make, please do not hesitate to stop me and visit with me about them. Even better, volunteer to pitch in working on something that interests you. There are always volunteer opportunities available. I look forward to the next two years of serving as your president.



At any Moment in Time, Members of our Congregation may be in Need—Not of Charity—but in Need of Acts of Loving Kindness! In order for the Caring Congregation Committee to do its best job, we need to know who needs a welcome visit, who is ill, and who needs a meal. Please contact the Temple office, and a member of our committee will be in touch. We want to know, for the Caring Congregation cares! —Carol Minker, chair

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 Educator Ilana Knust: ilanaknust@bethelfw.org; Music Director John Sauvey jesbaritone@gmail.com; Temple Administrator: betheladmin@bethelfw.org;
 Temple Secretary: bethelofc@bethelfw.org; Bulletin publisher: akirk@bethelfw.org

Officers: Jeff Kaitcer, President; Joan Katz, 1st Vice President; Cynthia Alkon, 2nd Vice President; Jill Clay, Secretary; Julie Diamond, Treasurer; Laurie S. Kelfer, Immediate Past President

Directors: David Askin, David Bekerman, Todd Blumenfeld, Jackie Bzostek, David Eberstein, Laurie James, Corey Mandel, Ruth Roper, Russ Schultz, Stephen Schwartz, Evelyn Siegel, Bruce Weiner, Anna Caplan, Women of Reform Judaism President; Howard Bellet, Men of Reform Judaism President

Staff: Brian Zimmerman, Senior Rabbi; Jordan M. Ottenstein, Assistant Rabbi; Ralph D. Mecklenburger, Rabbi Emeritus; Ilana Knust, Education Director; John Sauvey, Music Director; Suzie Koonsman, Administrator; Sareth Collins, Congregational Secretary; Jaime Rivera, Custodian

Richard Baratz: A "Portrait" of Artistic Talent

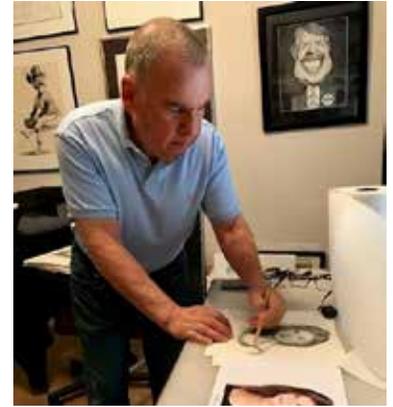
Find something that you love to do and you'll never have to work a day in your life. This is familiar advice for finding one's life's work and very appropriate for caricaturist and multi-talented artist Richard Baratz, whose passion for drawing is among his earliest, treasured memories. "From a very early age, I picked up something to draw with on anything handy, and at age 10, I began art school," said Baratz.



"Jimmy Carter"



"Ronald Reagan"



The artist at work.

Diverse, creative and eclectic aptly describe his decades of artistic creation, including scenes of New York, cowboys in the Old West, and Judaic art, both cultural and religious, executed in watercolor, pastel, pen and ink, and various types of mixed media.

In addition to his primary career as a currency engraver for the U.S. Bureau of Printing and Engraving, Baratz has served for more than 40 years as the caricaturist for Sardi's, a 90-year old New York City institution, which he describes as "a magnetic and exciting mecca for stage and theater professionals." And, since 1995, he has also been the artist for the Bob Hope Cultural Center's McCallum Theater in Palm Desert, California.

As Sardi's fourth resident and longest-tenured artist, he has created more than 1,000 caricatures of Broadway stars, writers, directors and producers as well as other celebrities who have frequented the legendary restaurant.

Well-known in the New York theater district, Baratz, a Brooklyn native who studied at New York's School of Visual Arts and the American Art School, relocated to Keller more than a dozen years ago. Since then, he created the majority of the caricatures from photos e-mailed to him

by Sardi's current owner, Max Klimavicius.

"Baratz's engraving background brings a rich look to his work," said the late Vincent Sardi, Jr. Specifically, cross-hatching used in engraving gives a 3-dimensional look to caricatures, which have evolved to feature less exaggeration of features and greater emphasis on flattering, identifiable portrayals.

With decades of interacting with a great array of Broadway talent, both on stage and behind the scenes, Baratz has amassed some treasured memories. Among his favorites are Katherine Hepburn and Tom Hanks, both of whom he worked with in person. He brought Hepburn a dozen roses and found her "charmingly old-fashioned and solicitous of his welfare." More recently, he flew to New York to caricature Tom Hanks, whom he termed "a regular guy and everybody's friend."

Capturing the Famous and the Familiar

Richard Baratz

caricaturist, mixed-media artist, engraver

June through September in the Temple Board Room

Meet-the-Artist Reception, Friday, June 23,

during Oneg Shabbat after services.

Family Activities Pool Party

Saturday, June 3, 4:00 PM

Ilana's house: 6325 Warwick Hills Dr.

Fort Worth, 76132

Calling all families with children 7 and under (older siblings welcome)

Please join us for our end-of-the-year Pool Party

We will swim, enjoy dinner, and join in Havdallah together!

Beth-Elements

Friendly Neighbors

Reverend Sherry Woodbury, Cindy Fountain, and Louanne Rice of Westside Unitarian Universalist Church presented Suzie Koonsman and Rabbi Zimmerman with a special banner in support of the Jewish community of Fort Worth. We are so grateful to our neighbors for their kindness and prayers.



Jewish War Veterans Installation and Awards Ceremony

On Sunday, June 4, Jewish War Veterans Post 755 will be holding its installation and Annual Morton Herman awards ceremony at a breakfast at Temple Beth-El.

Councilman Jungus Jordan will be receiving the Morton Herman Service to Veterans Award, and Hollace Weiner will be receiving the Service to the Post Award for preserving the history of Fort Worth Jewish servicemen and women for many, many years. Post Commander Peter Levy will turn the reigns over to Bill Landy, Nana Atkins will be Senior Post commander, Mike Bumagin, Junior Vice Commander, Phil Kabakoff will be Judge advocate, Rabbi Sidney Zimmerman, Chaplain and Will Kutler, community liaison officers.

Facility Rental

The Great Hall, catering kitchen, board room, and Gathering Area are available to the public to be rented for an occasion, reception, or group meeting.

For additional information regarding availability, to take a tour, or to schedule an event, please call the Temple at 817-332-7141 or send an email to betheladmin@bethelfw.org.

Summer Study Opportunities

Torah study does not end when summer arrives. Lay-led Torah study continues every Saturday at 9:00 AM all summer long. Join our Temple members for a line-by-line Torah study and conversation.



Please join Rabbi Zimmerman for a **special Jewish movie night in Dallas.**

Date: Wednesday, July 5th

Time: 5:00 PM - Dinner at Northpark Mall
7:00 PM - Movie showing of *Denial*, with Rachel Weisz as Dr. Deborah Lipstadt, and the Oscar-winning short, *Toyland* on the big screen at Temple Emanu-El in Dallas

Price: \$5, popcorn included

There will be a post-film conversation with David Patterson, Hillel Feinberg Chair in Holocaust Studies at UT Dallas.

RSVP to Rabbi Z (rabbiz@bethelfw.org) if you want to join him for dinner before the film.



Parshat Hashavuah: *A Weekly Dialogue with the Torah Portion to prepare for Shabbat*

Join Rabbi Zimmerman on selected weeks this summer to prepare for Shabbat with the study of timely sections from the weekly Torah portion. This dialogue with Torah goes back through hundreds of years of Torah conversations. Each session, Rabbi Zimmerman will pick an ancient or modern commentary as our study source to seek new insight into Torah and its role in our lives. Prepare for Shabbat as you engage with our sacred texts.

Thursdays, June 22, July 6, July 13, August 6 at 12:00 PM

Sermon-in-Song Concert

Friday, June 23, 7:30 PM

Mimir Chamber Music Festival, now celebrating its milestone 20th season, June 26 to July 7, makes its annual return to our Friday night service on June 23, with founder and creative director Curt Thompson performing several selections, accompanied by Michael Schneider on piano.

The Festival, which has grown to become one of the most celebrat-



ed annual music events in Texas and the Southwest, features outstanding musicians from the world's leading orchestras, music schools and concert halls. All performances are at TCU's PepsiCo Recital Hall, except the Sunday, July 2 matinee performance at the Kimbell Art Museum's Renzo Piano Pavilion. For more information, go to www.mimirfestival.org.

Havdallah at the Drive-In

Saturday, August 26

Attention all Beth-El Members! Boomers, Empty Nesters, FWFTY, BEJY, Young families, MRJ, WRJ, Movie-Goers of all ages.

Join Rabbi Zimmerman for a summer send-off to Shabbat

All ages are invited!

The Coyote Drive-In has four screens.
At least one always shows family films.

Where: Coyote Drive In Movie Theater, 223
NE 4th Street, Fort Worth, 76164

Drive: To the screen of the movie you picked

Meet: At the playground area near the snack bar anytime after 7:00 PM to meet new friends from the Temple.

Join: The Rabbi at the playground area for Havdallah at 8:00 PM right before the movies begin.

Cost: \$8 per adult, \$5 kids ages 5-11, kids under 5 are free!



You can buy tickets that night but we recommended getting advance tickets a couple of days in advance to guarantee your choice of movies. Advance tickets and more information about the Drive-In can be found at <http://coyotedrive-in.com/fortworth/>

Don't love movies? Then come hang out at the bar area with friends and watch a sporting event.

Remember, this is a family event. No unsupervised children allowed at this event, as there will not be chaperones.

Rabbinical Reflections, continued from page 1

Torah. This week's Torah portion is *Behar*, on the mountaintop. And it is on the mountaintops that we have the ability to gain perspective. In the Torah, Moses ascends the mountain to hear God's teachings, it is also where he will ascend to look out into the promised land before he hands off the leadership of the people to Joshua. It is among the

mountains, *behar*, that David finds comfort, where he can exclaim, *esah einai el he-harim mei-ayin yavo ezri, ezri me-im Adonai oseh shamayim v'aretz*. I lift up my eyes to the mountains, from where will my help come. My help comes from God, the maker of heaven and earth. *Behar*,

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Update from the Temple Archives Hollace Weiner, Archivist

Our Holocaust Torah Goes Online



Our Holocaust Torah is cloaked in a mantle beautifully designed and needlepointed by Ellen Mack in a style reminiscent of the artist Ben Shahn. On the front are the Hebrew words, Am Yisrael Chai, meaning, "The Jewish People Shall Live."

The oldest Torah at Beth-El dates to the 1820s. It survived the Holocaust and this spring became the 213th scroll to have its story and picture posted on the international website of the Memorial Scrolls Trust.

The Trust, which is affiliated with London's Westminster Synagogue, became the repository of more than 1,500 Torahs that the Nazis plundered from Czech synagogues. During the war years and the Cold War, the Torahs were catalogued, stored in a drafty warehouse, and largely forgotten until 1963 when they were ransomed and transported to England. A *sofer*, meaning a scribe skilled at creating and repairing Torahs, reverently restored the pages of most of the Holocaust scrolls. As the restoration work was completed, the Memorial

and needlepointed a Torah mantle that says in Hebrew *Am Yisrael Chai*, meaning "the Jewish People Shall Live."

To learn about the journey of our scroll and its Tex-Czech connections, on your computer to go memorialscrollstrust.org/, press the upper menu for "MST Friend," scroll to the bottom, then type "Beth-El, Fort Worth, US." An easier way to find our Torah's story is simply to look at Beth-El's web page, www.bethelfw.org. Under the "Worship" menu, press "Beth-El Holocaust Torah." Here are some photos to get you started.



The Hebrew scribe, or sofer, re-stitched two pieces of parchment, using thread made from the sinews of a kosher animal.

Library Exhibit Includes Our WWI Vets

"From Cowboy to Doughboy," an exhibit opening July 9 at the Fort Worth Central Library, will include four panels about local Jewish soldiers who served in World War I. The exhibit's multicultural wall will also feature panels about African American, Hispanic, Native American, and German American soldiers from Tarrant County who served in what was called "The Great War."

If you want to attend the exhibit's opening reception the afternoon of July 9, contact Hollace Weiner (hollaceava@gmail.com) to get your name on the invitation list. "From Cowboy to Doughboy: North Texas in WWI, Mobilizing for The Great War," will be open to the public from July 9 until Oct. 20.

More Local WWI History

Dr. Julian Haber's new book, *The Yanks are Coming, Over There, Over There: Stories of Fort Worth Jewish American Soldiers in World War One*, is at the printer and will be published this summer. The book was printed with a grant from the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County. Several profiles from the book were published this spring in the magazine *Tarrant County Physician*. Haber's previous two books, volumes I and II of *They Were Soldiers in Peace and War*, focuses on local Jewish veterans who served in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf Wars. They are available on amazon.com.



The white patch, resembling a band-aid, is made from parchment. It reinforces a weak, worn area in the scroll.

Scrolls Trust began placing each Torah on permanent loan to institutions around the globe.

Beth-El's Holocaust Torah was originally in an ark at the synagogue in Uhrineves, a Czech village on the outskirts of Prague. The scroll arrived at Beth-El in 1971, after a committee donated funds to the Memorial Scrolls Trust in memory of Rabbi Samuel Soskin, our WWII-era spiritual leader. When the Torah arrived in Fort Worth, Ellen Mack designed

and it is on the mountain that I stand tonight as I take stock in my past three years as the rabbi of this holy community, and look into the unknown that is my new community in Georgia. *Behar*, it is on the mountaintop of this moment of transition where I say *hineini*. Here I am. I am real, I am dedicated, I am in the moment, and I am with each of you.

For the past three years, you have each given me the honor of being your rabbi. I have been lucky to celebrate with many of you at your highest moments, births, baby naming and brises, b'nai mitzvah, weddings, and conversions. And I consider myself blessed to have had the privilege to have helped many in the community walk the path of grief and mourning. From the highest of highs, to the lowest of lows, you have embraced me, let me into your lives, and made me a part of your families. And for that I am eternally grateful. You have also given me the greatest gift by allowing me to teach you and your children. From our Young Families program and 2 and 3 year old classroom, to confirmation, and from listening to my sermons to taking classes with me, I know how much I have learned from you, and I will hope that you have learned even one iota of that from me. And most importantly, this community, which has allowed me to expand the experiences of spirituality in ways that, I have been told, would have made Rabbi Shur a little uncomfortable, has allowed me to grow and become the rabbi that I am today, standing here *behar*.

The community as a whole holds that responsibility: for my growth as a rabbi. But, there are a few people that I would like to single out for thanks.

First and foremost, I want to thank Rabbi Mecklenburger, who is currently in rehab in Charleston, and who I miss being here tonight, and Rabbi Zimmerman. In *Mishnah Avot*, we read that Yehoshua ben Perachya taught "*aseh l'cha rav u'kneh l'cha chaver*, find a rabbi, a teacher, for yourself, and you will acquire a friend." I have been blessed, in my life to have had a number of people that I consider "my rabbi," and I am pleased to add both of you to that list. You both have shown me what I can do, and what I can be as a rabbi. You have encouraged me to expand my focus, to reach out to different members of the community, both at Beth-El and outside of the Temple, and have nurtured my growth. By allowing me to succeed and fail gently in my endeavors and programs, I have learned so much from each of you. And, from the moment that you, Ralph, along with the rest of the search committee that hired me, brought me on board, I have been treated by both of you as a colleague and an equal. For that I thank you. But not only do I count both of you as my rabbis, I am blessed that we, and our families, are friends as well. Thank you.

Along those lines, thank you to Judie B. Greenman and the rest of the search committee that traveled to Los Angeles to meet with me, then invited me, not only back

for a second interview, but back to serve this community. This time has been a wonderful experience for me and my family, and it would not have happened without your trust and support.

Eddie Feld and Laurie Kelfer have been the two presidents that I have worked with. Each of you, with your vastly different styles of leadership, has taught me so much about the Temple, budgets, leadership, and community engagement. And most recently, due to some issues we have had in the library, about humidity, air conditioning units, and roofs. These are things you don't really learn about in rabbinical school, and I feel like I have a gotten a good education as of late. And you also have become friends: Eddie at our frequent lunches and on the golf course, and Laurie, through working together so closely for two years and traveling together to the URJ Biennial in Orlando. Jeff, I have really enjoyed having you as the president as well, if only for 12 days.

To all of the committee chairs, committee members, board members, religious school teachers, and volunteers that I have worked with: Thank you. Without your tireless efforts, your dedication, and your time, the holy work that we engage in would not happen. You all make my job as a rabbi possible. Specifically, tonight, I want to thank Fran Kreindler and Ruth Roper who coordinated this evening, along with everyone here who baked and cooked for tonight's oneg Shabbat honoring Marni and me.

Additionally, I want to, and I urge each of you as well, to thank our staff, both current and former: Suzie Koonsman, Sareth Collins, Ilana Knust, Alexa Kirk, Olivia Mathis, Jaime Rivera, Jaime Rivera, Jr., Sandra Adriano, and the rest of our building staff. While the rabbis have the privilege of being on the bimah each week, you are the ones behind the scenes that truly allow everything we do to happen. Without your help and support, our programs wouldn't be as successful as they are, our congregants would not be served at the high level that they deserve, and it would, frankly, be a lot harder to be the rabbi. And Cantor Nancy Bach, John Sauvey, the members of the choir, members of Klezzoup and all of our other musicians, you truly add to the *kavanah*, the spirituality of our prayer, and bring to new heights what we try and accomplish from this bimah. Thank you.

I also want to thank my colleagues in Tarrant County: Rabbi Bloom, Cantor Abrams-Kaikov, Cantor Allen, Rabbi Cytron-Walker, Rabbi Mandel, Rabbi Gurevitch, Bob Goldberg, Esther Wolf, Carole Rogers, Angie Freidman, and Hedy Collins. Each of you is instrumental in creating a *kehilah kedoshah*, a holy community within the county that extends beyond any one of our individual synagogues and institutions. And you have all taught me so much and become colleagues and friends. Thank you. Thank you as

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Men of Reform Judaism

Howard Bellet, President

As I write this for the combined summer issue, many Temple activities have ended their year (or started their new year depending, I suppose, upon how one looks at it). Beth-El Men of Reform Judaism is no different.

The past few months have been very busy for us as we catered several Bar and Bat Mitzvah luncheons and Temple events, and had our monthly meetings. We supported a number of Beth-El activities. As an example, we recently provided funding for a number of Greene Family Camp camperships and in late May provided lunch for the religious school's end-of-year picnic and pool party. We will not have our regular monthly meetings during June and July.

On Sunday, June 4, we will be preparing and serving brunch for the annual meeting and office installation of the Fort Worth Post 755 Jewish War Veterans of America. This is a yearly event that members of Beth-El MRJ (many of whom are veterans themselves) really look forward to.

We have done a lot of different things over the past twelve months and will continue to do so during the coming year. As is often the case with many organizations, we have a lot more people who pay their annual dues to Beth-El MRJ than the number of people who actually roll up their sleeves and get involved. One of my goals for the coming year is to increase not only our membership, but, more importantly, the number of people who "suit up and show up." So if you have not been active with Beth-El Men of Reform Judaism, I encourage you to "get that way." Whether it is being an usher during the High Holy Days, constructing the *sukkah*, golfing in our annual Matzo Ball Classic Golf Tournament, cooking several hundred dozen (yes, you read that correctly) latkes around Chanukah time, preparing

gourmet dinners for any number of Temple programs, helping with our private event catering, or assisting in many other ways, I am certain there is an activity or event that is (or should be) of interest to any current Beth-El MRJ member or anyone thinking about joining us.

Our members recently gave thought to an activity for this summer. We came up with what I think is a great idea. On Saturday evening, July 15th, the Beth-El MRJ Summer Social will be held at the home of Alan and Loretta Feinberg. The idea behind the event is to enjoy one another's company, along with our significant others, and to give those who are interested in getting involved in Beth-El MRJ a chance to come join us. We will have our custom-made smoker on site and will no doubt be serving up some great food, in addition to great fellowship. There is more information on this event elsewhere in this issue. Please read it and plan to come.

Before I close for June and July, I want to send a BIG thank you to all those Beth-El MRJ members who have worked so hard for us on many different "fronts" over the past twelve months. I appreciate each of you. Enjoy the summer months ahead, because I promise we will get busy quickly in the fall.

Please let me know if you have any questions about Beth-El MRJ membership or activities. Your comments and suggestions on how we can become a better organization are always welcome as well. Contact me at hbmjrzprez@gmail.com.



Howard Bellet, MRJ
President

Join us at the home of
Alan and Loretta Feinberg
6721 Morning Dew Dr., Fort Worth
Limited Seating. Reservations Required.
Don't Be Left Out. Make Yours Today!
RSVP to 817-591.8045
Questions??? Email to hbmjrzprez@gmail.com

**BETH-EL MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM
SUMMER SOCIAL**
Saturday, July 15, 6:00 p.m.
**For all current Beth-El MRJ members,
Prospective members and their significant others**
Great Food! Great Fellowship! More!



Rabbinical Reflections, continued from page 7

well to my classmate, Rabbi Andrew Terkel, who is the Director of Year-Round Programs at Greene Family Camp for coming in from Dallas to lead this service with us tonight.

And finally, and most importantly, I need to thank my family. Thank you Marni, Noah, and Kaden. The three of you have been patient and understanding through evening meetings, weekend events, and other commitments that have taken me out of the house. Without your support, I would not have been able to serve this community. For that I am eternally grateful, and I love you.

I am here tonight counting up as well: counting up the number of families I have become intimately involved with in this community, the number of you who have learned from me and taught me at the same time, the number of you that I have had the honor of being with through the highs and lows of lifecycle events. And I am here tonight, *behar*, on the mountaintop, counting up the blessings that I have had being a rabbi in this community. And as I count up, as I take stock in all of these blessings, I am reminded of an old rabbinic teaching, in that it is not *semicha*, ordination, that makes one a rabbi, it is acceptance by the community as the rabbi. So, in going back to the *Velveteen Rabbit*, it was not only my ordination from the Hebrew Union College that allowed me to receive all of these blessings, but it was each of you, who has accepted me into this community and made me the real rabbi that I am today. *Todah rabbah*, thank you, and Shabbat shalom.

Women of Reform Judaism

Anna Caplan, President

Looking back over the past 12 months, WRJ has had a great run. We kicked off the New Year with a stellar bake-in for Rosh Hashanah; along the way, made a serious number of hamentaschen; and closed out the kitchen season with another successful Second-Night Seder. Thanks to Liz Manion, WRJ's culinary pro, for making it all possible. And the help we received from Faye Slater and Linda Hoffmann was immeasurable.

On a programming front, we painted van Gogh-themed masterpieces with WRJ board member Julie Lazarus, had a fabulously fun Hanukkah book exchange, and learned about two Jewish female artists at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art. Following a tour of the exhibitions, the influx of culture could only be tempered by queso, tater tots and more than a few tacos at Velvet Taco. Special thanks to Jessica Poole, a Carter staffer and Temple member, for coordinating!

This year, our Donor Brunch was a resounding success. With a change in venue (the new Neiman Marcus Clearfork), the brunch featured popular door prizes, an abun-

The Judaica Shop

Now that our year has ended, I would like to thank all of the volunteers who gave of their time to help in the shop: Elizabeth Cooper, Genie Long, Harriet Schneiweiss, Jane Oderberg, and Loretta Causey. There would not be a Judaica Shop without their help. It is hard to believe the year is already over.

The Judaica Shop will be closed for the summer. If you would like to shop during the summer, please call Reggie Rog for a special appointment. The shop will re-open at the end of August with many new and interesting items. We will be open on Wednesdays, 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and on Sundays (when there is Religious School) from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Be sure to come in and check out our items for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Have a wonderful safe summer.

We still hope to get some new volunteers to help in the shop. You don't have to give more than time, and you will receive much more in return (including 10% off your purchases). If you have any spare time and would like to help, please contact Reggie Rog at 817-989-1862.

Shop Hours

**By Appointments only in the summer:
Call Reggie at 817-989-1862**

dance of popovers with strawberry butter, and a great tour of the store. I am pleased to report that after the event we were able to continue our tradition of presenting Religious School with \$10,000 gift. A few weeks later we made a significant contribution to the Beth-El campership fund.

Speaking of numbers, our lovely treasurer Charlotte Ray has done a remarkable job this year, but will be stepping aside for other Temple duties. Know anyone who's good with figures, balance sheets, etc.? We would love to welcome a new treasurer on board, and on the board. The good news is the training is simple and the job is low-maintenance—that is if you're numbers-inclined. (I barely even know what that means.)

Going into the next year, we also have openings for programming and spirituality VPs on the board. If you're looking to get involved with WRJ and meet new friends, this is a great leap to take.

I can't wait to see what the next year entails and hope we can entice a few more faces to join our board, as well as new members to join our ranks!

Religious School

Ilana Knust, Educator

Chanoch l'naar al pi darko.—“Train a child in the way he should go; when he matures, he will not deviate from it.” (Mishlei 22:6)

Aristotle said, “The roots of education are bitter, but the fruits are sweet.” What did he mean? We understand how the fruit of education can be sweet, but why are the roots bitter? Does it have to be bitter?

Every Sunday, I see most of our students engaged, enjoying learning, interacting with each other, and sharing a special bond being Jewish. There is nothing bitter about our Sunday morning learning/Jewish education. Where are the bitter roots? Where is the challenge? And how can we look forward and find ways to overcome it?

The journey in our school starts sweet. Our children don't mind coming to school--they even enjoy it. As they turn into teens, we sadly see a change in some of our teens. They do not take pleasure in coming; the roots are bitter for them.

This year, we looked closely at our teens to find out

why. We asked for feedback and looked all year for teachers who will address their needs. Our teens told us that they would like to learn according to their ways.

Isn't this what our rabbis taught us thousands of years ago?

Creating an atmosphere and environment that insists that only a narrow range of skills and interests are considered to be of value knocks both the potential and spark out of our youth. We will find ways to allow our children/students to grow in their own unique strengths and dreams. We will get our students out of their chairs, make them more engaged, help them to teach themselves, and let them play more and find their passions as this process will help them to find their purpose as people and as Jews in the future.

The roots do not have to be bitter.



Yahrzeits

June 2

M. J. Amstater
 Billie Louis Aronoff
 J. D. "Buddy" Baccus
 Edwin Couleur
 Doris Diamond
 Ida Aranow Esakov
 Fay Kalish Fairman
 Bea Field
 Abe Friedman
 Isadore H. Ginsburg
 Nessa Griver
 John N. Gurney
 Sarah Herman
 Minnie Cohen Jackson
 Allan Jacobi
 Herman Klar, Jr.
 Lena Friedlander Klotz
 Leah Krauss
 Florence Lederman
 Harry Lehrer
 Bernice Osser
 Abe Pozez
 Esther B. Rauch
 Jobe H. Richards
 Jack Rotman
 Tamara Rousch
 Henry Sandberger
 Anne Sher
 Alvin Shwarts
 Mildred Lefkowitz Spitz
 Hyman L. Stern
 Sam Sturman
 Bernice Tarshis
 Pauline Kurtz Weiner
 Flora Wolffson

June 9

Ida Marcus Anisman
 Mariam Anspacher
 R. C. "Archie" Archenhold
 Madlyn Barnett
 Alexander Bellows
 Elias Brachman
 Isadore S. Brin
 Gertrude Chicotsky
 Jennie Chicotsky
 Bess Cohn
 Joseph Cristol
 Irvin J. Farb
 Louis Feit
 Grace Goodman
 Leonard Hollander
 Abe Horowitz

Nathan Marx Jacobs
 Rosalie Jacobs
 Frank Kahn
 Mona Kaitcer
 Morris Kotkin
 Jennie Kragen
 Elizabeth Kuehn
 Barbara Kurtz
 Sam Label
 Sidney Landman
 Helen Levenson
 Daniel Lucas
 Gary Luskey
 Edith Maximon
 Jacob Nathan
 William A. Nathan
 Esther Robbins
 Ruth Roberts
 Frances Silby
 Natalie Levin Simon
 Uriah Simon
 Jake Tobolowsky

June 16

Leah Baum
 Leon Benkoff
 Rose Nulman Bilsky
 Gary Bustillos
 Abe Davis
 M. Gaston
 Ellie Louis Gilbert
 Rose Haas Gilbert
 Anne Goubina
 Saul Haber
 Rebecca Lind Hurwitz
 Mollye Anne Davis Kahn
 Sam Kahn
 Jacob Klar

Sadie Lefkowitz
 Louis Lesnick
 Julius Lurie
 Herman Nass
 Herman Parker
 Edgar Parvey
 Bernice Rapfogel
 Eva Rosenberg
 Jerome Selig
 Jan Stanton
 Lenora Starr
 Arthur "Skip" Urbach
 Lillie Weiner
 Fannie Winterman Wolf

June 23

Abraham Anolik
 Valerie Rosenthal Aronoff
 Sharon Balick
 Elaine Bernstein
 Grover Bressert
 Julian Brown
 Dave Chicotsky
 Isadore Echt
 Charles M. Eckber
 Leonard Faden
 Simon Florsheim
 Rhoda Fontanelli
 Brian David Fritzer
 Bluma Goldman
 Syd Kboudi Harris
 Irma Leff Howard
 Ruby Kantor
 Joel Klar
 Rosann Mundt
 Lamensdorf
 Sylvia Luskey
 Amy Merfeld
 Herman H. Miller
 Joseph Maurice Polsky
 Norman Richard
 David Rousch
 Hazel Weltman
 Rubenstein
 Felicia Shloss
 Jackson Smith
 Lillian Steinbach
 Sidney Stern
 Ann Coles Tomlinson
 Maryanne Townes
 Imre Ungar
 Phyllis Weiss
 Leo Zeve

June 30

Francine Bobkoff
 Milton R. Carr
 Marcus Cristol
 Nathan Freeman
 Jay Fried
 Maryan Einzig Fried
 Sophia Jay Fried
 Brad Gaber
 Mayer Gabert
 David Gaines
 Belle Goldblum
 Stella Mayer Goldsmith
 Sadie Gross
 William Haas

Frederick W. Hall
 Erica Hochster
 Harry Hoffman
 Selma Kay
 Isaac Kleinman
 Allen Klotzman
 Irving Klotzman
 Joseph Loveridge
 Esther Kreina Miron
 Ruth S. Rosen
 Anna Belle Rosenthal
 Marian Rubinson
 Walter C. Sanders
 Jacob H. Schloss
 Tillie Schloss
 Bernice Cristol Selman
 Milton Meyer Weil
 Frances Weiner
 Ida Zeve

July 7

Yetta Amstater
 Pnina ben Avraham
 Martin Bellet
 Rose Bernstein
 Pauline Meliss Boardman
 Burney Bobkoff
 Janice Bomash
 Larry Lewis Boyles
 Jake Chanosky
 Wolf Friedman
 Martin Fruhman
 Ruben Fuller
 Dina Goldstone
 Morris Greenspun
 George Jacobs
 Minnie Joseph
 Miriam Keller Lipman
 Morris Lipshitz
 Thelma Miron Long
 Harriet E. Maskell
 Ethel Rosen Mehl
 Milton Meyer
 Abraham Micklin
 Harry Pink
 Eleanor R. Posnock
 Sarah Rosenstein
 Herbert Rothstein
 Max Shapiro
 Ben Walter Suby
 Herbert Tuchin
 Thomas Vaden
 Anne Oderberg Varvaro
 Stanley Weiner

July 14

Helene Baginsky
 Lorraine K. Berenson
 Mathilda Rosenbaum Carb
 Elizabeth Finkel
 William Friedman
 Yale Glazer
 David "Donk" Gordon
 Louis Gordon
 Sadie Grabstald
 Bertha Harris
 Irene Jacobs
 Clifford Kern
 Lena Klar
 Marshall Kopman
 Patricia Korenvaes
 Ben Label
 Katie Merfeld
 Dona Miller
 Paul Miller
 Yetta G. Parker
 Rose Raphael
 Charles Lee Richards
 Esther Rosenthal
 Samuel Rubinton
 Frederick Schlinger
 Milton Sylvan Simon
 Louise Snelgrove
 Rose Tiras
 William E. Weinschenker
 Edwin Wittenberg
 Mary Susner Yentis
 Erna Lesaius Zentner
 Shlomo Ben Zusel

July 21

Stephen Allen
 Abraham Antweil
 William A. Bermont
 Helen Bressert
 Gabriel Cohen
 Florence Cohn
 Mae Joseph Davidson
 Nathan Eckert
 Sara Feit
 Lana Jeanne Fleischman
 Martha Frank
 William Benjamin Fried
 Morris Hendelman
 Rudy Kemp
 Pauline Kleier-Levy
 Thomas Leachman Lacy, III
 Herman Lehmann
 Pearl Brown Linette

Samuel Leve Narrett
 Sarah Nurenborg
 Arthur Pritchard
 Burton Lee Rakooover
 Alfred M. Rosenfield
 Seyman Rubinson
 Seyman Rubinson
 Rochelle Sachs
 Meryl Alpern Sadow
 Rolly Schur
 Marvin Schuster
 Bebe Schwartz
 Hazel Shapiro
 Mary Levine Shwarts
 Alice Van Natta
 Gussie Weiner
 Richard Weisberg
 Anna N. Wolfson

July 28

Minnie Schorr Bihari
 Meredith R. Carb, Sr.
 Isidore Cederbaum
 Mamie Cederbaum
 Adolph Chanosky
 Helen Markusfeld Cohen
 Robert G. Eckstein
 Charlotte Fleischmann
 Jerry Frank
 Yvette "DeeDee"
 Friedberg
 Leah Landman Gold-
 stucker
 Arthur J. Greenspun
 Arthur Marvin Kay
 Albert Kleiman
 Sandra Rubin Koslow
 Carrie K. Kruckman
 David Krumholz
 Julius Kunen
 Elaine Levy
 Pauline Nimkoff
 Odile Patrick
 Esther Neumegen
 Polasky
 E. M. "Manny" Rosenthal
 Nancy Jo Rosenthal
 Gerson Sepin
 Israel Taylor
 Susan Von Till
 Louise Weltman
 Hyman Wolf

Contributions

Rosenthal-Siegel Education Fund

In Honor of _____ From

Evelyn Siegel, on her 90th birthday

Judie W. and Dick Greenman
Rachel, David, and Reuben Cristol
Roz Rosenthal
Maddie and Larry Lesnick
Roz Rosenthal

a speedy recovery for Rabbi Mecklenberger

Rosenthal-Siegel Education Fund

In Memory of _____ From

Sara Betty Gilbert

Holly and Bill Schur and family

Prayerbook Fund

In Honor of _____ From

a speedy recovery for Margie Zentner

Joan and Howard Katz

Prayerbook Fund

In Memory of _____ From

Buddy Freed

Beverly and Michael Ross
Maddie and Larry Lesnick
Joan and Howard Katz
Elaine and Michael Griver
Cheryl and Richard Kress
Joan and Howard Katz

Sara Betty Gilbert

Sheldon Anisman

Floral Fund

In Honor of _____ From

the naming of Eila Sydney Hollander and
Clara Judith Wagoner

Sandy and Ira Hollander

Floral Fund

In Memory of _____ From

Alvin Polsky
Elwood Minker
Harry Rubinson

Sandra and son, Joseph Polsky and John, Debbi, and Julian Tyler
Carol and Richard Minker
Ellen Rubinson
Marty Rubinson and Denae Chance

Simon Oderberg
Seth Mitchell
Leonard Hollander
David William Gross

Jane Oderberg
Sandy and Ira Hollander
Roz Rosenthal

Libary Fund

In Honor of _____ From

Rabbi Zimmerman, Rabbi Mecklenbuger, and Rabbi Ottenstein
for a joyful community seder
a speedy recovery for Rabbi Mecklenburger
Evelyn Siegel, on her 90th birthday

Judy Cohen

Judie B. and Bob Greenman

Libary Fund

In Memory of _____ From

Sara Betty Gilbert

Judy Cohen
Margie Zentner
Judy Cohen

Barry Bzostek

Mitch Stenzler Sunday School Scholarship Fund

In Honor of _____ From

Marty Stenzler, on his birthday

Evelyn and Joe Sandler

Mitch Stenzler Sunday School Scholarship Fund

In Memory of _____ From

Mildred Pearlman
Ben Sandler

Avette Covitt
Sonya Stenzler

Rabbi Zimmerman's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of _____ From

Rabbi Zimmerman
Claire Kelly
Arthur Gressman, on his 90th birthday

MunSon Lyons
Gordon Kelly
Jeanne and Izzy Bloomberg

Food for the needy

Sol Flamholz

Michele and Fred Reynolds

Bernice Etkoff

Reggie Rog

Rabbi Zimmerman's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of _____ From

Bettye Baccus
Mace Luftman
Dot and Maury Solomon
Sara Betty Gilbert

Bonnie and Michael Grossfeld
Andrew Marks
Jenny Solomon
Cynthia and Burton Gilbert

Rabbi Mecklenburger's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of _____ From

Rabbi Mecklenburger
Claire Kelly
a speedy recovery for Rabbi Mecklenburger

MunSon Lyons

Gordon Kelly

Elaine and Jim Stanton

Avette Covitt

Susan Samson Saxe and De De Samson Seltzer

Susan and Guy LaMere

Roberta and Mark Gerrick

Rabbi Mecklenburger's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of _____ From

Bettye Baccus
Sara Betty Gilbert

Joel Davis

Cynthia and Burton Gilbert

Rabbi Ottenstein's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of _____ From

Rabbi Ottenstein
Claire Kelly

MunSon Lyons

Gordon Kelly

President's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of _____ From

Rabbi Ottenstein
Claire Kelly

MunSon Lyons

Gordon Kelly

Religious School Fund

In Memory of _____ From

Sara Betty Gilbert

Beverly and Michael Ross

Maddie and Larry Lesnick

Susan and Guy LaMere

Maddie and Larry Lesnick

Barry Bzostek

Bernie Appel

Temple Fund

In Honor of _____ From

a speedy recovery for Ron Arnold

Rina Arnold

Laurie Kelfer

Dr. Carole Rogers

Max and Bobbie Prostok

Cynthia and Jeff Prostok

a speedy recovery for Burton Gilbert

Marilyn and Jack Rubin

the birth of Ari Moshe

Dana and Jacob Rosenstein

Marcia Kurtz, on her award from the Federation

Marilyn and Larry McGee

Arthur Gressman, on his 90th birthday

Harriette and Arnold Gachman

Jeanne and Izzy Bloomberg

Carol and Richard Minker

Evelyn Siegel, on her 90th birthday

a speedy recovery for Stan Kurtz

Rachel, David, and Reuben Cristol

a speedy recovery for Jillian Fenton

Beth-El Congregation

Jutka and Tamas Ungar

Lynne Tilkin

MunSon Lyons

a speedy recovery for Elaine Stanton

Susan and Guy LaMere

a speedy recovery for Rabbi Mecklenburger

Elaine and Jim Stanton

Laurie S. and Howard Kelfer

Elaine and Allen Schuster

the naming of Eila Sydney Hollander and

Clara Judith Wagoner

Gail and Seymour Roberts

Temple Fund

In Memory of _____ From

Eleanor Gachman

Arnold & Harriette Gachman

**Temple Fund
In Memory of _____ From**

Frances Klotzman
Jack Gachman
Bernie Appel
Leo and Esther Selig
William Schwartz
Hubert Gibson
Buddy Freed

Harriette and Arnold Gachman

Dr. Barry Bzostek

Sara Betty Gilbert

Joel & Harriet Selig
Michael & Elaine Griver
Harli Dollinger
Richard & Carol Minker
Eddie & Debbie Feld
Linda & Jeff Hochster
Richard & Edie Ventis
Kathy & Jimmy Friedman
Carol & Steve Kline
Adrienne & Tom Rosen
Winnie & Dick Simon
Idarene Glick
Sherry Clark
Linda & Jeff Hochster
Ed & Lynny Sankary
Meredith & Edwin Cohen
Theodore & Ellen Mack
Corrine Jacobson
Laurie & Howard Kelfer
Jim & Elaine Stanton
Steve & Cathy Gilbert
Eddie & Debbie Feld
Sam & Joan B. Rosen
Richard & Carol Minker
Laurie, Lynda & Bertha Shanblum
Jim & Carol Dunaway
Martin & Judy Tobey
Marilyn & Larry McGee
Hope Zipp
Kathy & Jimmy Friedman
Gail, Alan, & Pauline Wittenberg
Susan & Ron Grodsky
Cindy & Burton Cohen
Lynn & Jay Glazer
Arnold & Harriette Gachman
Ed & Lynny Sankary
Sam & Joan B. Rosen
Lisa & Thomas Payne
Eddie & Debbie Feld
Abe & Kim Factor

Hal Klotz

Mimi & Hal Klotz
Jayne Eisen
Duncan Thomas Ware
John Factor
Bettye Baccus

Estelle Blotner
Gloria Hoffman
Dena Gressman
Dora Goldberg & Bill Goldberg
Bayla Simon
Elizabeth Rubin

**Operating Endowment Fund
In Memory of _____ From**

Sara Betty Gilbert

Sandy and Ira Hollander

**Tree Fund
In Memory of _____ From**

Buddy Freed

Hollace and Bruce Weiner
Jane Oderberg
Hollace and Bruce Weiner
Jane Oderberg
Yvonne Rubenstein

Verna and Wayne Snell
Bernie Appel
Edward Rubenstein

**Operating Endowment Fund
In Memory of _____ From**

Sara Betty Gilbert

Susan Samson Saxe and De De Samson Seltzer

Wish List
Purchase of _____ From

Seder Plate
Listening system for the hearing impaired in loving
memory of Hans and Hertha Friedman

Lynne Tilkin and George Harris
Jimmy and Kathy Friedman

Did You Know?

Presented by the Worship Committee

Did you know that 5 times a year, we chant "*Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazeik*"?

Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazeik—"Be strong, be strong, and we will strengthen one another" is recited each time we transition from one of the five books of the Torah to another.

No one knows when this tradition started. This phrase is found only once in our Bible, the Book of Samuel (II Samuel, 10:11), when General Joab said these words in preparation for one of King David's wars. However, the phrase has become tradition to use whenever we experience change, such as moving from one book to another in the Torah, or a change in our own lives.

Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazeik—"Be strong, be strong, and we will strengthen one another." The mystics refer to the first part as singular; the individual should be strengthened when change occurs. The second part is plural; indicating that we are strengthened by our community.

Now that you know, feel free to sing this phrase whenever you are going through a change in your life.

Join with us Friday evening, July 28, and chant with us: *Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazeik* as we close the final chapter on Numbers and begin Deuteronomy, the fifth book of the Torah.

Is there anything you would like to know about our worship services and rituals? Email your questions to BethElQuestions@gmail.com.

Thank you _____

- Thanks to everyone for the Uniongram for our 30th anniversary. ~*Harriett and Jim Bressert*
- Hans Friedman, father of Dr. Jimmy Friedman, maintained that the hearing impaired deserve to fully participate in our worship services. He followed through by funding the listening system when the magnificent Temple building was completed in 2000. Sincere thanks to Jimmy and Kathy Friedman and their family. In honor of Jimmy's parents, they generously donated an updated listening system. Hans and Hertha Friedman would be proud and honored to know of their giving spirit.