



**July & August 2008**

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**RABBI LEONARD A. HELMAN**

**PROUD OF OUR  
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CHILDREN**

For those of you who haven't seen our Religious School in action, either on Sunday mornings, at special Friday night services, at Shabbat Across America, and, certainly, the Purim Carnival, you have missed sharing time with a very special group of young Jewish souls. Over this past year, Barbara Cohen, Carol Frank and Sandy Levine lovingly taught Hebrew, introduced Torah knowledge, and imparted our history with a true love of Israel. I saw happy children who are proud to be Jewish and are connected spiritually with God and our heritage.

Be sure to spread the word regarding our fall 2008 semester "Open House" on Sunday, August 17 at 10:00 am. I hope to see you there. And if you know of any Jewish families who might be interested, let me call them beforehand. I will take them to lunch.

**FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE STARTING TIME**

After experimenting with an earlier starting time for services the board decided that as of August we will return to a 7:30 PM starting time for services except on the first Friday of each month. On that first Friday of each month we will begin at 7:00 PM so we will be able to emphasize the children within our congregation. Next year be sure and plan to attend one of our holiday celebrations that features our religious school children so you can see our Jewish youngsters in action.

**Saturday,  
September 13**

★ Beit Tikva 10:30 AM  
Bar Mitzvah

★ Sock Hop 7:00 PM  
Calcutta  
Silent Auction



**ALLISON STERTZER BAT MITZVAH**

One of the happiest young women I have ever met is Allison Stertzer who with her beautiful wide smile will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, August 16, 10:30 AM. Congratulations to the Stertzer family.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Our religious school addition will be happening thanks to the generosity of two families and the rest of you that have given funds for this project. More is needed, but I am confident you will be generous. Just like I have promised to do!

We have just received a pledge for another \$100,000.00 from a family that wishes to remain anonymous. This donation will be added to the January, 2008 donation of \$100,000.00 given by Eleanor and Richard Brenner for the Brenner Educational Wing. Two classrooms can now be added with this most recent donation. The generosity of these two families overwhelms me. They want to ensure the future of Judaism in Santa Fe and beyond with a school dedicated to Jewish learning and the love of Israel and they realize the importance of looking ahead to Santa Fe's next Jewish generation. Our precious children will be the fortunate recipients of these two families' devotion and caring and our children will have a home of study as they grow and ultimately take this knowledge wherever they might go; but remember we

Rabbi Helman's message continued on page 4

**B**eit Tikva is both a gift to us and a worthwhile institution to give to for a special occasion, a tasteful memorial for a loved one or good friend, or to meet a specific need that our congregation may have.

Our congregation is a gift because it allows its members, their friends and the numerous visitors to Santa Fe a warm and comforting worship experience, and for some an opportunity to recite Kaddish for loved ones.

Our congregation is also a worthwhile recipient of gifts that can enhance our worship experience or even help out with the practicalities of the synagogue and its building. We are blessed with dedicated board members who give of their time and energy to ensure that the business of our synagogue is addressed appropriately.

We are blessed by such recent donations as a Torah pointer or “Yad”, given to us by Sheila and Norton Bicol. They had attended a service during which it appeared that I had lost the one that adorned the first Torah, given to our congregation by Jerilyn and A. David Silver (the Bee Schulman family).

As it turned out, the pointer was hanging on the back of one of the other Torahs. Feeling that we should not be dependent on just one Yad, the Bicolles have added a beautiful new Torah pointer to our “klei kodesh”, our congregation’s sacred objects.

One of the delightful tasks that both Rabbi Helman and I, along with Cantor Linder and our administrator, Gail Rapoport, share is being consulted by members or friends of the congregation about donations to Beit Tikva. Let me share with you the result of such a consultation with Cantor Linder.

“It is good to give thanks to Adonai” begins the psalm for the Sabbath. This psalm continues “to affirm the creator’s love each morning and faithfulness each night, to the music of the lute and the melody of the harp.”

Not too long ago the melody of the harp was introduced into our Sabbath evening service when Cantor Linder invited Kate Shane to provide some inspirational moments through her skilled playing of this lovely instrument.

In celebration of the life of  
**Jeffrey Metzner**

May 9, 1941-February 15, 2008

Harpist Kate Shane will perform special musical interludes in memory of Joan Behrmann’s beloved brother, Jeffrey, at the following Friday night services:

July 25, August 22,  
September 19, and October 24

Please join us for these very special moments.

Rabbi Nicolas and Joan  
Behrmann

Hearing Kate play the harp inspired Joan and I to confer with our Cantor Michael Linder about an appropriate way to honor the memory of Joan’s brother, Jeffrey Metzner, who passed away a few months ago.

We are delighted to announce that during the Shabbat services on July 25, August 22, September 19 and October 24, Kate Shane will provide Jewish music interludes based on traditional melodies that Cantor and Kate chose to enhance our worship experience. It is our hope that these moments will provide a time of peace and healing for all of us.

As this message is part of a two-month Beit Tikva bulletin, allow me to bestow summer blessings upon you and those you treasure in our life. Drive carefully, drink a lot of water, and make sure to mark the High Holy Days on your calendar. (Rosh Hashanah begins September 29, and Yom Kippur begins October 8).

*RABBI NICOLAS L. BEHRMANN*



505.988.2107

NLBEHRMANN@AOL.COM

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Dear  
Congregants  
and  
Friends:



As you all try to make it through another hot summer in Santa Fe, keep in mind that Congregation Beit Tikva will carry on its full schedule of Friday night services and other programs throughout the summer. Last month, I told you about the upcoming September 13 fundraiser in celebration of our thirteenth year as a traditional reform congregation in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Some of you already have stepped up to help us make this B'Nai Mitzvot celebration a success, and excitement is being generated by word of mouth as the date approaches. Your assistance is crucial and more volunteers are needed to help with events throughout the day, from the special B'Nai Mitzvot service at 10:30am, to the evening festivities at the temple. Please contact me or Gail Rapoport to participate in organizing this memorable celebration.

One year ago, I was writing a President's Message about the importance of education in the Jewish community. I announced the reopening of our Religious School and stressed the importance of adult education programs not only for our own members but for the entire Jewish and non-Jewish community of Santa Fe. Now, a year later, our Religious School has just completed its school year and our dedicated teachers are already planning for next year. During the past twelve

Congratulations to  
**Allison Stertzer**  
daughter of  
Kimberly &  
Simon Stertzer, M.D.  
Bat Mitzvah  
August 16, 2008  
15 Av 5768  
*Shabbat Va'etchanan*

months, Congregation Beit Tikva has sponsored numerous lectures, a Purim carnival, a study of the history of Israel, weekly Torah study, and other programs, most of which have been open to the entire Santa Fe community, and we are in the process of preparing similar programs to be presented between now and the end of 2008. I am grateful to all of you who supported these important goals and helped them become a reality. This past year has demonstrated how each of us can make a real difference in our synagogue, whether through continued financial support or by becoming more involved in synagogue programs and operations.

Our Thursday evening (6:30) Torah study will continue throughout the summer. Each session focuses on the Torah passage for the week. Everyone is welcome to attend these free sessions and to join in the conversation about our heritage. Another very significant event this summer is the Bat Mitzvah of Allison Stertzer beginning on Friday, August 15, and continuing on Saturday, August 16. Please join with us in celebrating this important time in Allison's life with her family and friends.

Congratulations to  
Sherry & Jon Bell  
on the birth of  
**Aaron Jordan Bell**  
June 12, 2008

Before you know it, the summer will be over and we will be looking forward to the High Holy Days. Meanwhile, enjoy your time with family and friends, be safe wherever your summer takes you, and add a little something special to your life by joining our other volunteers in giving something back to the congregation that we all love.o.

*Shalom,*  
**Paul Grace**

505.466.7177

PGRACE2003@COMCAST.NET

## HONORING NEW MEMBERS

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Let's welcome our new members  
Friday, August 8

Rabbi Helman  
will be officiating  
7:30 PM

## OUR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 SOCK-HOP

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Thinking of dressing up for our Sock Hop? Try this site for a poodle skirt!

[http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/726955/where\\_to\\_find\\_a\\_poodle\\_skirt\\_pattern.html?cat=46](http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/726955/where_to_find_a_poodle_skirt_pattern.html?cat=46)

**July 11** *Turning Curses into Blessings*

When a seer -magician is sent to curse the Israelites, he turns around and blesses them instead. This story suggests that in our own lives we should both count our blessings and rise above our own curses to turn them also into blessings.

**July 18** *If I am Not for Myself, Who Will Be?*

The daughters of Zelophahod teach us that one needs to stand up for oneself. They stand out in our history as early campaigners for women's rights. Against the practice of male ownership of the land, these courageous Biblical women demanded their rights to their family acres.

**July 25** *Be Careful What You Wish For and How You Wish For It!*

Taking a vow or issuing an oath was a serious matter in Biblical times, and perhaps should be in ours as well. In ancient days a vow would not be uttered without God's name. That is what made them so important, and potentially powerful. It is possible that our wishes might be more productive if we involved a higher power.

**August 1** *Av – The Month of Lamentations”*

The Hebrew month of Av commemorates the destruction of the ancient temple, and one of the customs is the reading of the Biblical book of lamentations. The focus of this sermon will be on the modern lessons we can learn from this ancient text.

**August 15**

*It is Not Enough to Say I Love You!*

The ten commandments of the Hebrew Scriptures remind us that God wants more from us than idle words and prayer. These statements taken into the hearts of countless Jews and non-Jews alike provide a framework in which to live meaningful lives. They also suggest guidelines for how we should interact with each other.

**Congregation  
Beit Tikva**

**Fund Raiser  
Saturday,  
September 13**

Beit Tikva 10:30 AM  
Bar Mitzvah  
Sock Hop 7:00 PM  
Calcutta  
Silent Auction



**August 22** *Our Ancient Claim to a Most Modern Land*

Israel, both ancient and modern, has been in the hearts and souls of the Jewish people throughout the ages. The Biblical claim to the land is forceful and inspiring. This claim echoed in the lives of the modern day pioneers who dug, planted and made the land once more to “flow with milk and honey.”

**August 29** *Saying Good Bye to Summer*

Alas, the heat and activity of the summer has come to an end. This means a change of pace for us and change means re-examining our selves. The end of the summer marks the approach of the Jewish High Holidays with their themes of anticipation and the search for meaning in our lives.

Rabbi Helman continued from page 1

all look back to from where we came. God bless these families and God bless all of you.

**RABBINICAL COURT OF ISRAEL (FROM SERMON GIVEN FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2008)**

The Jewish newspaper, *The Forward*, started publishing in Yiddish in 1897. Today, publishing in English, it continues to cover a wide range of subjects. I feel compelled to discuss the headline article from May 16, 2008. “Rabbinical Court puts thousands of converts in legal limbo.” This talk is not for or against Israel. It is about Israel. A recent ruling reopens the fractious debate over who is a Jew. More than 40,000 Israelis who were converted to Judaism in the past decade by the state's official conversion courts may find their conversions annulled, rendering them non-Jewish in the eyes of the law, following a ruling last week by Israel's supreme rabbinical court. The conversion courts were established to ease the work burden generated by immigrants seeking to convert to Judaism. The case involved a woman who converted to Judaism but allegedly did not practice Orthodox Judaism. The result was that her four children born after the conversion and raised as Jews were turned into non-Jews because the mother was considered non-Jewish.

The decision was a blow to moderates. Hardline Orthodox rabbis have been gaining power in Israel. These hardline rabbis have little interest in easing rules to advance the Zionist cause of ingathering of the exiles. The editorial in *The Forward* said, “Israel's supreme rabbinical court acted cruelly and capriciously when it voted to nullify a woman's conversion to Judaism, 15 years after she took the supposedly irrevocable step of casting her lot with the Jewish people.” The court's decision robbed the woman and her Israeli born children of a lifetime of loyalties and identities. It

cast a shadow over the religious status of thousands of Israelis who were converted under the same procedure as the unfortunate woman. Yet, liberal Jews have a lesson to learn from the Ashdod ruling. Just as Modern Orthodox observant Jews need to remember the values they share with liberal and secular Jews, so liberals need to remind themselves of their fundamental kinship with Observant Jews. Liberals must rediscover the ways in which traditional Jewish values inform their liberalism. The two communities need each other. My reaction to *The Forward's* statement is as follows.

First of all, could it happen under American law? For this answer I turn to an authority in American law, Jerry Wertheim. He has been a loyal and faithful friend. I officiated at both his son's Bar Mitzvahs, at Todd and Carol Clifford's marriage, and the death of his parents. One of my most memorable Yom Kippur experiences was a talk given by Mary Carole Wertheim. (Jerry spoke at the Friday night, June 27 service. I will ask him to write his comments down for the next month's bulletin.)

Second are my comments. If the standards and definition of being a Jew expressed by the rabbinical court were adopted, there would be very few Jews left in the world. The rabbinical court could achieve what Hitler failed to do, destroy the Jewish world. I do not know what the woman did that was so bad, but I do know that this rabbi Helman has done things which would have him declared to be a non-Jew: for example, eating non-Kosher beef, eating milk and meat, riding in a car on Shabbat, I could go on. It takes no effort to find imperfection in an individual's Jewish life. The rabbinical court might have the arrogance and chutzpah to declare that all non-Orthodox conversions are invalid and

I would tell them how strongly I disagree and how wrong they are. We Jews have enough trouble with anti-Semitism and with Arab hostility to have to face this nonsense from the alleged rabbinical court. Now I am not being anti-Israel; I am being for bringing all Israeli Jews into Judaism. Oh yes, I am very proud of all the persons whom I have helped convert to Judaism. I hate to say it, but most of them are as good if not better Jews than this Rabbi.

*Blessings to all.*

**Rabbi Leonard A. Helman**



505.982.9898  
LEONARDAH@AOL.COM

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**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FOR  
THE FIRST GRADERS  
SEPTEMBER 2007 - MAY 2008**

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BY SANDRA LEVINE

One thing is for sure - our children had fun together and became real buddies!

Equally important is that they learned a great deal about Jewish holidays, traditions, symbols, Hebrew, blessings and prayers, Torah, Bible stories, and leading "wholesome" lives by understanding diversity, Tzedakah, Mitzvot, and Gimilut Chasadim

To connect with the Bible stories: "Responsibility" - Adam and Eve, "Work" - Noah, "Courage" - Esther, "Forgiveness" - Joseph, "Obedience" - Jonah.



**Religious School  
Open House  
Sunday August 17, 2008  
10:00 AM**

To connect with the holidays: The importance of trees for Tu B'Shevat, the meaning of Mishloach Manot for Purim, the role of children in the story of Lag B'Omer, the importance of never giving up in the story of Chanukah, saying "I'm sorry" for Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur

The children heard some wonderful stories, many along with the kindergarten class during the weekly Shabbat celebration: They thought it was very cool to hear about Barbara Cohen's trip to Egypt and Carol Frank's trip to Morocco! To connect with Israel, the children made their poster to celebrate Israel's 60th birthday, read the book *Israel Is* and watched the video, *Sesame Street Israel*. The arts and crafts projects were beautiful (i.e., Almond Trees, Havdallah House, seder plate, Sukkot mobile, Creation booklets). Everyone was so proud of the students when they participated in the Shabbat Across America and Tu B'Shevat synagogue programs. They quickly learned common Hebrew vocabulary and letter recognition. Their love of music extended from Schlock Rock to common songs such as "Shalom Chaverim", "Shavua Tova" and "Shabbat Shalom".

My personal thanks to everyone who helped to make our first year of Religious so successful. A special thank you to my colleague, Barbara Cohen, subs Carol Frank and Eva Wohl and our volunteer aide, Erika Sanders. The biggest "thank you" of all goes to the children and parents for their enthusiasm and support.

## JULY AND AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Dano Bell	July 6	Bud Krause	July 21
Marcelle Cady	July 21	Jay Leipzig	July 23
Al Chapman	July 5	Gerald Levine	July 24
Kristin Flance	July 7	Sandra Levine	July 17
Ariel Gudwin	July 30	Marlene Maslow	July 11
Barbara Gudwin	July 3	Edward Okun	July 7
Dena Jacobs	July 4	Miriam C. Silverberg	July 21
Lorraine Kahn	July 25	Allan Swartzberg	July 13
Adieb Nissan	July 1	Joan Vernick	July 15

Megan & Ned Siegel	July 26, 1985
Mary Carole & Jerry Wertheim	August 20, 1960
Sandra & Jules Levine	August 21, 1983

Howard Aronow	August 12	Gerald Pitzl	August 12
Sheila Bicoll	August 6	Bee Schulman	August 11
Zoe Gayl	August 28	Ernie Schwartz	August 5
Juli Horwitz	August 9	Ray Shapiro	August 7
Kenneth Kahn	August 30	Megan Siegel	August 7
Susan Krohn	August 12	Peter Santi	August 21
Seymour Merrin	August 31	Joseph Santi-Unger	August 25
Kathleen Haggerty Millman	August 1		

Rabbi Behrmann will give birthday and anniversary blessings on Fridays, July 11 and August 1

## TISHA B'AV

Tisha B'Av, the ninth of the month of Av, is a day of mourning and despair commemorating the day the Jewish Temple was destroyed. Within the sadness of the day there is also a message of hope - despite much suffering, the Jews will survive and be redeemed as promised by the prophets of old. This year Tisha B'Av falls on Sunday, August 10.



Happy 80th Birthday  
Al Chapman  
July 5  
Oneg on July 4

Happy 90th Birthday  
Mimi Silverberg  
July 21  
Oneg on July 18

Happy 93th Birthday  
Bee Schulman  
August 11  
Oneg on the August 1

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**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL  
FAMILY ORIENTATION SUNDAY,  
AUGUST 17, 10:00 AM  
FIRST SEMESTER FREE TO  
STUDENTS OF NEW MEMBERS  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 24 TO  
DECEMBER 14, 2008  
PRE-SCHOOL TO 7TH GRADE**

# DONATIONS

## GENERAL FUND

Julia & Lance Bell - In honor of the birth of Aaron Bell, their nephew, and son of Sherry & Jon Bell

Gerald Pitzl & Devi Benjamin - In memory of Samuel Apple, father of Devi

Marcelle & Jim Cady - In honor of the birthday of Al Chapman

Barbara Cohen & Al Chapman - In honor of Myra Juster's birthday

Marcia Muth & Jody Ellis - In memory of Doris Bernhardt, aunt of Marcia

Valerie Frost - In memory of Frederick William Hall, her father

John Guffey - In memory of John G. Guffey, Sr., his father

Carole Lawrence - In memory of Herman Levensohn, her father

Marc Okun - In honor of the Shavuot service

Marcia Panagakos - In memory of her mother

Skip Rapoport - In honor of the graduation of Molly Rapoport from Princeton

Skip Rapoport - In honor of the birth of Solomon Jonas Bielsky

Kate Shane - In gratitude for her son Jeremiah's safe return from Iraq

Aaron Sodikoff

Irma & Ralph Thaler - In memory of Annie Thaler, mother of Ralph

Irma & Ralph Thaler - In memory of Max Cobert, father of Irma

Irma & Ralph Thaler - In honor of Al Chapman's 80th birthday

Irma & Ralph Thaler - In honor of Mimi Silverberg's 90th birthday

Donald Tishman - In honor of Gail & Sonny Rapoport

Donald Tishman - In honor of the birth of Solomon Jonas Bielsky

Donald Tishman - In honor of the graduation of Molly Rapoport from Princeton, cum laud

Marcia & Len Torobin - In memory of Martin Garfield, father of Marcia

Miriam Wertheim - In memory of Max Wertheim, her husband

## BUILDING FUND FOUNDERS CATEGORY

Anonymous

## BUILDING FUND

Naomi Becker & Allen Cogbill - In memory of Bernie Marco

Naomi Becker & Allen Cogbill - In memory of Roger Raphael, brother of Rita

## PRAYER BOOK DONATIONS

Connie & Stuart Rosenberg - In memory of Robert McNickle, brother of Connie

Connie & Stuart Rosenberg - In memory of Beverly Deacon McNickle, sister-in-law of Connie

Bee Schulman - In honor of the birth of Solomon Jonas Bielsky

## THE MARILYN & ALLEN COHEN CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

Fran Berlin

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Nora Segal

## JAMES P. COHEN POTTERY FUND

Anonymous

Diane & Alan Miller

## SPECIAL DONATION OF SILVER YAD

Sheila & Norton Bicoll

Any special simcha deserves a donation. You can make your donation in memory of or in honor of your loved ones and designate your contribution to any fund of the synagogue. Please know that your generosity is always greatly appreciated.

Send this form or call Gail at 820.2991. The office will contact you for your request.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Amount:

Congregation Beit Tikva  
Web Site Generously Sponsored  
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## JULY & AUGUST TORAH PASSAGES

July 5 <i>Chukkat</i>	Numbers	19.1-22.1	The red heifer
July 12 <i>Balak</i>	Numbers	22.2-25.9	Resting places in the wilderness
July 19 <i>Pinchas</i>	Numbers	25.10-30.1	King of Moab, Balam the non-Jew who blessed Israel
July 26 <i>Matot</i>	Numbers	30.2-31.54	Second census, daughters of Zelophahad, inheritance
August 2 <i>Massei</i>	Numbers	31.55-36.13	Sacredness of vows, Expeditions, travel from Egypt to Jordan, cities of refuge
August 9 <i>Devarim</i>	Deuteronomy	1.1-3.22	Moses' valedictory message—treks through the desert and victories
August 10	Tisha B'av		
August 16 <i>Vaetchanan</i>	Deuteronomy	3.23-7.11	Moses' prayer and rejection, religious tolerance, the Ten Commandments
August 23 <i>Ekav</i>	Deuteronomy	7.12-11.25	Fatherly discipline of God
August 30 <i>Re'eh</i>	Deuteronomy	11.26-16.17	Israel's victory because of God
			Religious institutions, false prophets
			blessings and curses, choosing good over evil
			clean and unclean—beast, fish, and birds

## JULY & AUGUST SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

July 4	Friday	7:00 PM	<b>Rabbi Helman:</b> Jewish Perspective on Providing Workers with a Living Wage
July 11	Friday	7:00 PM	<b>Rabbi Behrmann:</b> Turning Curses into Blessings
July 18	Friday	7:00 PM	<b>Rabbi Behrmann:</b> If Not for Myself, Who Will Be?
July 25	Friday	7:00 PM	<b>Rabbi Behrmann:</b> Be Careful What You Wish For and How you Wish For It!
August 1	Friday	7:00 PM	<b>Rabbi Behrmann:</b> Av – the Month of Lamentations
August 8	Friday	7:30 PM	<b>Rabbi Helman:</b> Honoring our New Members
August 15	Friday	7:30 PM	<b>Rabbi Behrmann:</b> It is Not Enough to Say I Love You
August 16	Saturday	10:30 AM	<b>Allison Stertzer will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah</b>
August 22	Friday	7:30 PM	<b>Rabbi Behrmann:</b> Ancient Claim to Modern Land”
August 29	Friday	7:30 PM	<b>Rabbi Behrmann:</b> Saying Good-bye to Summer

