



Going the Distance Adult B'nei Mitzvot Celebrate on December 27th

Back row, left to right: Steve Birenbaum, Rachel Guller, Marsha Birenbaum, Hazzan Joanna Dulkan Middle row: Tracey West, Phyllis Patton, Stacy Gaal, Betty Siegel, Dorit Galor Front row: Bilgah Israel, Peggy Nehmen

Save the Date

Men's Club Sports Night will take place on Sunday January 25 at Shaare Zedek. Our guest speaker will be Cardinals General Manager, John Mozeliak

J.O.L.T. JEWISH OPPORTUNITIES & LEARNING FOR TEENS

3rd Trimester starts January 22!

A Bite of the Bible

Study portions of the Bible, then cook some of the Bible-inspired recipes. Sample unique dishes while learning Torah!

Mystical Designs of the Aleph-Bet

Take the inspiration you find in the magic of the Aleph-Bet to create original pieces of artwork to treasure.

Jews "R" News

Join us as we use a Jewish lens to analyze current and recent news.

The Ultimate Jewish Keepsake: Scrapbooking Your Jewish Identity

Create a family keepsake, designed to last a lifetime and tailored to reflect your unique Jewish identity.

Ulpan

Develop conversational skills for use in everyday Israeli life and build a vocabulary you can use on the streets of Israel.

For more information or to sign up, contact: Maxine Weil, Director
314-442-3757 or mweil@cajestl.org.

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 Early Childhood Center: (314) 727-2565
 Religious School: (314) 725-6230

Todah Rabah!

Haftarot for November

Elkahyam Boyd, Robert Boxerman, Hoben Greenberg
 Rehfeld, Steve Keyser, Jodie Guller

Greeters for November

Nancy Berg, Steven Aroesty, Jaron Asher, Siegfried
 Adler, Howard Loiterstein, Shelley Shray, Karen Aroesty

Kiddushes for November

Bilgah Israel, Burton & Benita Boxerman, Miggie
 Greenberg & Andrew Rehfeld, Synagogue, Judy & Matt
 Beizer, Marcia & Jerry Esrig, Ellen & Kevin Cordes, Mark
 Oppenheim, Tenzer Family, Guller Family

Minyan Breakfast Sponsors:

Marshall Myers
 Mendel Rosenberg
 Maurice Guller

Mark Fasman	Rabbi
Joanna Selznick Dulkan	Hazzan
Marvin Lerner	Ba'al Koreh
Jeff Miller	Executive Director
Marsha Birenbaum	Synagogue President
Liz Redler	Youth Director
Michael Raileanu	Shaare Shalom Education Director
Marty Schaeffer	Early Childhood Director
Micki Kingsley	Sisterhood President
Mitchell Shenker	Men's Club President
Jamie Rosenberg/Eliot Markman	USY Co-Presidents

Committee Heads:

Adult Education	Vacant
Budget	Steve Keyser
Building	Joan Barzilai
Chesed	Barbara Bianco
Communications	Steve Birenbaum
Development	Mitchell Shenker
Halls & Catering	Sara Myers
Israel Affairs	Don Singer
Membership	Gary Kodner
Personnel	Sandy Boxerman
Ritual	Jeremy Buhler
Social Action	Micki Kingsley
Youth Commission	Kathi Rosenberg

Welcome New Members!

Joseph Barzilai
 Doug & Miriam Baskies
 Henry & Mary Berger
 Bernard & Marjorie Feldman
 Thomas & Lisa Klein
 Phineas Oren & Lisa Simani-Oren
 Jeremy Shanas
 Jeff & Leslie Zacks
 David and Tara Tenzer

Anniversaries for December

Stan Braude & Nancy Berg
 Rolf & Shelby Cooke
 Chad & Amy Doughty
 Jerome & Arlene Feldman
 Harvey & Carol Friedman
 Stanley & Nancy Goldstein
 Merwyn & Maxine Kalina
 Jack & Arleen Kerman
 Jeffrey & Julie Lazaroff
 Joseph & Gayle Levy
 Howard & Phyllis Loiterstein
 Robert & Joyce Olshan
 Kenneth & Lydia Polonsky
 Mendel & Sandra Rosenberg
 Erwin & Gloria Rubin
 Michael & Harriet Shanas
 Zalman & Ellen Stein
 Alan & Bonnie Templeton
 Daniel & Sherri Weintrop



A Message from the Rabbi

Rabbi Mark Fasman

The world looks different from the other side of cancer. As a rabbi I speak often to individuals with cancer. Just as all persons are different, so too, all persons with cancer are different. It will take some time for me to understand if my recent experience will have a significant impact on how I see the world.

But let me share some initial comments.

For me, cancer became a reality in my life as a child. My father's father died from prostate cancer. I really never knew him (he died when I was just two years old). My mother told me how unpleasant his last years were. As I realized that prostate cancer runs in families, I became increasingly convinced that one day I, too, would hear the diagnosis that I received last June.

Just a short time earlier a congregant commented to me that the hardest part about having cancer was the unreality of applying that word to oneself. She was right, at least for me. One's closest friends and relatives can have cancer, but not me.

Even though cancer was omnipresent in my thoughts, I am not my cancer. However, there is something so defining about having the disease that one fears the possibility that, in the eyes of others, one will become defined by that cancer. Am I "the rabbi with cancer"? Or "the rabbi who had cancer"? (Please God.) In large part, this is why I did not share my cancer diagnosis with anyone (except for Alice, my doctors, and three rabbinic colleagues who live out of town). Initially, I was careful to tell only those who I could trust to keep it secret, that is, people with a professional obligation to protect confidences.

I knew that I would eventually have to tell my son and brother and nephew – after all, my cancer is now significant in their medical histories. But the question became, who has the right to know? My family? My closest friends? My colleagues? My congregation? Anyone at all?

Once I told anyone, I no longer owned that information.

At a time when my health was out of my control, I could at least keep control over who knew.

Many people I respect deeply have made a very different decision concerning with whom they shared their diagnosis.

So, one of my first insights was that all persons with cancer are unique.

And my second insight was that each of us struggles with the real possibility of – and thus consequences of – our death. What would I miss (e.g. holding a grandchild)? How would my death affect those closest to me? Who would care,

and how much?

In a larger sense, the question of the High Holy Days looms ever larger: what does my life mean? Am I doing what I should be doing? If so, should I be doing it better? If not, what should I do differently?

A third insight is that cancer is cancer. Even an eminently treatable form of cancer, a cancer that has a relatively low mortality rate, carries with it many serious life-long implications for health (both physical and psychological). I will never again fill out a medical history form without checking the box that asks if I have had cancer.

And finally (for now), I feel my blessings in a far more profound way. My family and friends. My work and my congregation. My opportunities and my experiences. My very life.

I also became deeply grateful for the blessing of access to good health care. I have had doctors who have monitored my PSA for a decade now. And when my PSA began to climb, I was immediately referred to a specialist (whom I saw the next day), who was able to schedule a biopsy (inconclusive) – and then another biopsy three months later. Once I received my diagnosis of cancer, just one week before leaving for Israel this summer, I was able to have a bone scan and CT scan within a couple of days. I could have had surgery by early September, but it was my choice to postpone (with my doctor's okay) until this past month. I wish that everyone could have access to the same level of medical care. Yet I know that, if everyone did, I would not have had the same access that I did. It isn't an easy question, not from this side of cancer.

I have been deeply moved by your response to my illness and surgery. I know that *bikkur cholim* (visiting the sick) is a positive obligation, going back to Abraham. And I have found that there are many ways to "visit." Thank you for your emails, your cards, your notes, your offers of support, your kindnesses to Alice, the meals, and many thoughtful ways that you have made my recovery possible.

God willing, I am now a cancer survivor. I pray, with special feeling, for all those in our congregation who suffer with life-threatening illness, that God will grant us all a *refuah shleimah* – a complete healing.

**Our warmest thoughts go out
to the Fasman Family.
Rabbi & Alice, David, and
Jack. May you have a *refuah
shleimah!***



President's Gavel

Marsha Birenbaum

As I write my final bulletin article as president, mixed emotions abound. Believe me, I'm happy not to have to write an article every month. It was definitely one of my least favorite responsibilities. But that's the only responsibility that I didn't enjoy. Being president of Shaare Zedek has been one of the most rewarding and fulfilling "jobs" I've ever had. It's been an honor to serve this community. I hope that I've left a solid foundation, spiritually and financially, on which to grow. And that's an important concept to grasp, that we are not stagnant but are an evolving community.

We do so many things well here that we can be proud of. And we can be proud for not only what we do but who we are; warm, friendly, supportive of each other. But, as in everything we do, there's always room for improvement. It's not just the officers and Board of Directors that take on the job of seeing that the synagogue thrives. It's all of us, each one of us is responsible to make sure that Shaare Zedek is THE place we want it to be, the sacred space that we need it to be.

It's been a privilege to work with so many dedicated people; past presidents, officers, chairs of the various committees, and the Board of Directors. The office staff has been wonderful. Rabbi Fasman and Hazzan Dulkan



are an incredible team, full of respect for one another as well as a love for our congregation. We are very fortunate. I wish the next administration well as they embark on the continuing journey to make and keep Shaare Zedek strong. *B'shalom. –Marsha*

HELP FEED THE COMMUNITY

The Jewish Food Pantry Needs Our Continuous Help

For the month of December the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry is looking for these specific items in order to provide well-balanced nourishment for those in need:

1. Tuna Fish
2. Canned Pasta with Meat
3. Peanut Butter & Jelly
4. Hearty Soups
5. Pasta and Rice Mixes
6. Healthy Snacks
7. Cleaning Supplies
8. Personal Care Items



Items should be brought to to the collection box near the elevator at the entrance of the synagogue. **If every one of us brought in a can or box of food each time we enter the synagogue, we could feed a lot of families who are struggling during these difficult economic times. Consider going through your own pantry for canned and packaged goods or pick up something extra the next time you're at Schnucks. (It doesn't have to be kosher). Grocery store gift cards are also a nice way to help out families in need.**

For further information, please contact the synagogue office at (314) 727-1747.

HazzaNotes

Hazzan Joanna Selznick Dulkan

Each Chanukah, after we light the candles, our family sings the first verse of Maoz Tzur, a medieval piyyut (liturgical poem) that dates back to the 13th century or thereabouts, perhaps as early as the Crusades (late 11th century). The poem celebrates the rededication and renewal of the Temple and our triumph over evil forces, in a traditional acrostic form: the first letters of each stanza spell the first name of the composer, Mordechai.

In its six stanzas (usually we just sing the first one!) Maoz Tzur takes a sweeping look back at history, beginning with Pharaoh's army's pursuit of the Israelites at the Red Sea, the destruction of the first Temple and the Babylonian exile, the story of Esther's triumph over Haman, the Jews living in Eretz Yisrael under Antioches, and the miracle of our victory and the oil. The last stanza glances forward to the days of the Messiah.

Many people may have grown up singing "Rock of Ages," a loose translation of Maoz Tzur in English using the same tune. Marcus Jastrow, more famous for compiling a dictionary of the Talmud that appears on every Rabbi's reference shelf, co-wrote these words. The music itself dates back a thousand years or so, to the place known as Ashkenaz: the portion of Central and Eastern Europe's Jewish population who settled around the Rhine river. It was around this time that a few threads of the music of our Jewish year were developed and

canonized by a Rabbi known as the Maharil, also known as Ya'kov ha-Levi ben Moshe Mollin (1358-1427). These tunes have come to be known as MiSinai (from Sinai) tunes. Not because they came from Mount Sinai (we have no idea what that sounded like!) or even the Temple (ditto). However, these tunes have become so ingrained in our communal memory, it is as if they have descended from Mt. Sinai! The authorship of these melodies is unknown, nor does it particularly matter: tunes like Kol Nidre, Adir Hu, and, yes, Maoz Tzur, when you hum a few bars, transport you to a certain time and perhaps even a particular place in your memory. A few notes of Kol Nidre or the Great Aleinu can send chills down your spine, even if it's not Yom Kippur. Maoz Tzur is one of these melodies, and we still sing it every year. New tunes have sprung up over the years, from Benedetto Marcello, an 18th century Venetian composer who was not Jewish, to the contemporary craftings of Craig Taubman and Marc Cohn – but the traditional melody, still going strong from 14th century Ashkenaz, holds sway.

This Chanukah, I invite you to gather round the lit Chanukiyah after singing the b'rachot, and linger a little longer to sing or listen to Maoz Tzur. Last year, by the end of the eight nights, both Zac and Jesse could hum along and even finish the last syllable or word of each line, chiming in with "-til!" and "-ach!" every other line. Maybe this year they will sing it on their own. As we light our candles this Chanukah, may our many singing voices also light up the dark nights.



Support Our Synagogue Gift Shop

We have hundreds of unique gifts!

20% off mezuzahs

Please give us your college student's address for Chanukah gifts!

314-727-1747

Open M-F 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Special Hebrew School
Hours: M,W 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Sunday hours by appointment.
Special arrangements may be made for weddings and Bar/Bat Mitzvahs.



Thank you!

Again, the Ikens say "thank you" many times for your good wishes, your tributes, and your offers to help during our illnesses.

Many of our Shaare Zedek extended family helped us back to good health. We celebrated our 85th birthdays, our 62nd wedding anniversary and we hope and pray to be around for many more simchas.

Todah Rabah, Joe and Julie Iken

"Thank you to all our relatives and friends who have wished us a happy anniversary."

From Stan & Ruth Levy

"Thanks to all for the donations made in honor of my granddaughter's wedding."

From Irene Belsky

Men's Club

Mitch Shenker, President

This month the Men's Club is happy to offer our congregation an opportunity to help our environment and support Israel by participating in the JNF GoNeutral/FJMC Synagogue Affiliate Program (see opposite page for details).

The program is part of the Conservative Movement's Greening Initiative that was initiated by the FJMC. Being a Steward of the Land is a Biblical imperative and is part of what it means to be Conservative/Masorti Jew in the 21st Century. The Conservative/Masorti Movement is currently the only denominational movement with a Movement-wide environmental agenda. Through our partnership with the JNF, the FJMC hopes that our affiliates will start to make greener choices in their synagogues and communities, and together, we will start to reverse the harmful effects of global warming,

hence saving our planet and helping Israel in the process.

With 107 years of experience as caretaker of the land of Israel, Jewish National Fund has planted more than 240 million trees, transforming over 250,000 acres of arid land into lush green forests. Because of JNF's forestry expertise and commitment to environmental protection, Israel is one of only two countries to leave the 20th century with more trees than it had at the start. The trees already planted by JNF have absorbed an estimated 110 million tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.



Sisterhood

Micki Kingsley, President

It's December and we are getting closer to the celebration of Chanukah. We will light the first candle on the eve of the 25th of Kislev, Monday, December 22. The blessing over Shabbat candles was instituted some time in the 11th century, more than a thousand years following the ritual blessing for lighting Chanukah candles. The women, who were at home preparing the Shabbat meal while the men of the family were attending *Kabbalat Shabbat* prayers, lit candles so that the family would not have to eat in the dark when the men returned home. Women felt that the mitzvah of lighting Shabbat candles should be accompanied by a blessing, and thus it was that they took the blessing from the Chanukah candles and changed it ever so slightly to apply to Shabbat.

Sue Propper and Sue Roth are working on our upcoming Chanukah craft program with Jennifer Rogers Asher, to be followed by a delicious brunch. We are excited about the prospect of making our own dreidels or mezzuzot. The program is set for 10:30 a.m., Sunday, December 14th. Watch for all the details in the mailing and be sure to RSVP.

As you may or may not have heard, the Sisterhood is selling little Kosher Pastry Bags for \$5. They are almost ready-to-bake, quick, easy, and yummy! Joy Goldfeder is collecting money and the bags are available through anyone in the office or the Gift Shop. These are just perfect for little gifts or a combination gift at the holidays. And don't forget to "stop and shop" at the Gift Shop. There are some lovely items for Chanukah.



Cindy Ginsberg, as a new Board Member of the Intracontinental Region (the reconfigured Midwest/Southeast region), attended the Biennial Conference of Women's League of Conservative Judaism, held in Detroit last month. Yasher Koach to Cindy for agreeing to accept a regional office. We look forward to hearing from her about her experience as a regional Board delegate.

Please arrange your schedule to be able to attend Shabbat services on January 24, 2009 for Women's League Shabbat. If you know of one of our ladies who would like to participate in the service, read a portion of the Torah sidra, or who should receive a special honor, please let me or Wendy Anderson know.

Becky Shimony has been hard at work sending out letters and keeping track of Sisterhood membership and dues. If you haven't sent in your dues yet, please do, as we are trying to plan an event in the next few months for paid up members.

The only requirement at Chanukah is to light candles for eight nights. So, as you and your families celebrate the holiday and light those candles, may they remind us that we can go from darkness to light, and we can rededicate ourselves to family and community. *Chag Urim Sameach!* Happy Chanukah! –Micki



Save our planet and connect our synagogue to Israel.



Jewish National Fund (JNF) and the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC) are pleased to offer our congregation an opportunity to help our environment and support Israel by participating in the JNF GoNeutral/FJMC Synagogue Affiliate Program.

The effects of unchecked environmental damage are already evident. Glaciers are melting, severe storms and droughts are becoming more frequent, and animals are being forced out of their natural habitats. We can learn to address these challenges and to live in better harmony with our environment. **Together we can make a difference!**

To Participate in the JNF/FJMC GoNeutral Synagogue Affiliate Program:

- Click the link on our synagogue's webpage which will take you to the JNF/FJMC GoNeutral carbon calculator to offset your household's environmental footprint. After calculating your household's footprint, you will be given the option to plant trees in Israel OR support JNF's cutting-edge research on alternative sources of energy.
- JNF will return 20% of all donations received through this link to your Men's Club/Brotherhood on a quarterly basis to be used for environmental or Israel activities in your congregation and community.
- All members of the congregation will receive outstanding educational content through the JNF GoNeutral Newsletter, as well as program ideas and activities.

Let's seize this excellent opportunity to get involved in addressing the environmental challenges of our time, and show our support for Israel.

VISIT WWW.JNF.ORG/GONEUTRAL TO SIGN UP.



JNF, for
ISRAEL
forever.

Shaare Shalom

Michael Raileanu, Education Director

The weather has changed and we have moved into the heart of the school year. We can now begin to look to Hanukkah, the most American of Jewish Holidays.

We have a new president getting ready to be sworn in. Like those who have come before, this campaign triumphed over tremendous odds. I do not think it is too much of a stretch to find a connection between the rise of a number of unlikely American politicians and the Maccabees. All of them started small, fought against forces of history, brought about an age of change and created a movement that grew into something so much more than any one individual. Some might even say that the entire American experience is Maccabee-like; not to mention the obvious parallels with the short but dramatic history of Israel!

I am not a big fan of giving gifts on Hanukkah. This is an American innovation that has moved around the world. Most of us know the reason for giving gifts, allowing Jews to give one another gifts as their next-door neighbors do at the end of December. Although as a parent I have now resigned myself to giving gifts and to not making too big a deal out of it. From the beginning I have tried to explain to my children, and as an educator to explain to my students, what the real story of Hanukkah is and why it is important. I cannot imagine life without Hanukkah and so I work to bring meaning to our celebrations, I hope that you will as well. And, what's wrong with giving gifts in the glow of the candles? We are free to do

so and the Maccabees would have appreciated that freedom, gifts or no gifts!

In November a number of our teachers were able to participate in the annual Jewish Education Fair by CAJE of St. Louis. There were classes on a number of subjects ranging from Torah for its own sake to practical hands project-based classes. I genuinely appreciate the great effort expended by CAJE to make this day special and to offer so many experts to our staff. Professional development is important in every job; teaching is no different. It is hard to find the time to do course work on the Internet and with so much going on in our daily lives, it is just as big a challenge to commit the necessary resources to educating yourself. It is in this light that the work of CAJE seems all the more important. Although our students missed one class the long-term benefit to our children, our school and our community make it worthwhile.

On Sunday, December 7th we'll be gathering for a special event. Please mark your calendars now for that day, everyone is invited, parents and siblings. We are going to be working on a couple of different projects and will be meeting at Shaare Zedek. We will all be meeting at our regular time, 10:00 a.m - 12:00 noon. It should be a great day and I look forward to sharing it with all of you.

Have a great winter break and a bright and joyous Hanukkah.

Youth Programs

Liz Redler, Youth Director

What a great time of year this is! Time for wonderful parties, delicious food, and gathering with family and friends. December is also the month for the USY International Convention in Washington, DC and this year Shaare Zedek is sending two great representatives, Jamie Rosenberg and Jacob Goldsmith. I am sure they will have a wonderful time and will represent our synagogue well.

This month USY will be babysitting on December 6 from 6:30-9:30 pm. The cost is only \$10 per child for the entire three hours! So go shop, go out to dinner, see a movie, and leave the kids with us! While you have fun, we'll have fun! Call or email me for more details.

From all of us at USY, we wish everyone a happy happy Hanukkah and thank everyone for your generous support!

B'Shalom, Liz Redler

lizszsl@gmail.com

TAKE THE NIGHT OFF!

USY Babysitting (ages 2-12)

DECEMBER 6

6:30 - 9:30 PM

\$10 per child for 3 hours



Early Childhood Education

Marty Schaeffer & Tessa Katan

SHAARE ZEDEK SYNAGOGUE MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PRIORITY ENROLLMENT IN THE ECC

We have found that the ECC has developed a fine reputation as a childcare center in the community. Therefore we seldom have openings for children, especially infants. When a synagogue member calls they are given priority placement on the waitlist, but even so their child may not be able to be placed in a class. To avoid this, we have developed a Priority Enrollment Period for Synagogue Members.

Our synagogue members are important to us and we want to meet their preschool and childcare needs. During the month of January, 2009, Shaare Zedek Synagogue members are eligible for priority enrollment for summer camp and classes for school year 2009-2010. As members of the synagogue, families will receive priority placement in the center during this month.

The enrollment process involves a few steps:

- Call the center office for an enrollment packet 314-727-2565
- Submit a reservation form found in the packet
- Take a pre-scheduled tour with the director
- Make a financial commitment to retain a place for your child

It is important that you identify yourself as a synagogue member.

We encourage all synagogue members, particularly expectant parents or parents of infants, to contact the center promptly during this enrollment period. Since our infant classes contain only eight places, members who wish to place an infant must take advantage of this opportunity.

Call Marty Schaeffer, ECC Director, today to receive your enrollment packet and be prepared for Synagogue Priority Enrollment Month this January. Enrollment packets may also be found on the lobby information table during that time.

-Marty & Tessa



JOLT

Morah Maxine Weil

Rumor has it that on Thursday night's JOLT is the place to be! I keep hearing this from many of the teens (and their parents) who are participating in Jewish Opportunities and Learning for Teens. Over 60 teens from eight St. Louis Congregations participated in our 1st Trimester taking advantage of the variety of courses being offered.

Our 2nd Trimester is already underway but we always have room for new and interested students. Thursday evenings consist of an optional dinner from Simon Kohn's and elective course which the students select based on their personal interest. There is also always an opportunity to socialize and snack with friends. First hour course offerings consist of: A "Bite" of the Bible, Jews "R" News, Mystical Designs of the Aleph Bet, Talmud Tales and The Celebration Continues...Israel @ 60! Our second hour courses include: Red, White and Jew; Ulpan; Eenie, Meenie, Minie, Mo; Follow the Leaders; Blood, Guts and Gore in the Book of Judges; Friends, Best Friends & More Than Friends; and The Bible As Literature.

More information on any of these courses can be found at www.cajestl.org or by contacting me at (314)442-3757. Our 3rd Trimester begins January 29, 2009 and registration materials will be sent to all community teens at the end of December. Be sure to check your mailboxes!

Thursday nights have truly become the place to be. I know that I thoroughly enjoy sharing my Thursday nights with so many of our St. Louis Jewish teens. Encourage your teens to stop by and check out JOLT!



Live. Love. Learn Jewish.

Everyone Has A Story

The Story of Sara and Marshall Myers

by *Sima Needleman*

Although Sara Raskas grew up in St. Louis and Marshall Myers was born and raised in Kansas City, they were destined to meet. Their paths crossed first in high school and a few years later in college.

Sara, who was the fourth of Ethel ("Pat") and Abe Raskas' five children, lived on DeGiverville St. near their large extended family in a Jewish neighborhood in the Central West End. Her father was a milkman, and her mother was a full-time homemaker. Although the household income was limited, Sara didn't feel deprived. The family had all the necessities, and growing up in her neighborhood was a lot of fun. She has fond memories of playing step ball and riding her bicycle outside in the summer-time with her siblings, her cousins and her neighborhood friends.



Sara completed the 8th grade at Hamilton Elementary School, which she felt was a good school that provided students with a solid foundation. Sara remembers becoming a Girl Scout, her first encounter with leadership training. In 1954, Sara entered Soldan High School for 9th grade. She and several of her friends started a BBG (B'nai Brith Girls) chapter, and BBG became a big part of her life. She was the chapter's first president and received more leadership training through the B'nai Brith Youth Organization (BBYO), which was the umbrella organization for BBG (for girls) and AZA - - Alef Zadik Alef - - (for boys). (Coincidentally, SZ members, Marilyn Singer Kunitz and Isabelle Pollack, were active members of the same BBG chapter.) In time, Sara became St. Louis Council President, Missouri Kansas Regional President, and BBG District Treasurer. It was at a BBYO convention in Kansas City in 1956 that Sara and Marshall had their first date at the Final Banquet, where she was installed as Regional BBG President, and he completed his term as Regional AZA Aleph Godol.

Sara's father davened at Beth Hamedrosh Hagodol, an Orthodox shul in the neighborhood. Her two brothers both celebrated their B'nai Mitzvah at Shaare Zedek, and her older sister went to the Miriam Hebrew School, but Sara and her younger sister didn't attend Hebrew School. Her uncle, Wolfe Grand, decided that Sara and her sisters, along with his children, should attend Sunday School, so he enrolled them at Brith Shalom for a few years. When Shaare Zedek was built on Hanley Road, they transferred to the Shaare Zedek Sunday School, which she attended through Confirmation. (Barbara Benkof Bianco and Barbara Kopperman Becker were in Sara's confirmation class.)

At Soldan High School, Sara played the violin in the

school orchestra for one year. In addition, she was a member of the Drama Club, the Pep Club, the Student Council, and the Assistant Editor of the school newspaper one year, and Co-Editor of the school yearbook the following year. When Sara graduated from high school in 1958, she got a half-tuition scholarship to Washington University where she was an Elementary Education major. While there, Sara became an active member and officer of both a National Jewish Sorority (AE Phi) and Hillel.

Marshall's life story begins in Kansas City, Mo., where he was born to William and Edith Weiner Myers in 1938. Marshall's father's original name was William Cohen, but he and one of his 3 brothers changed their last name from Cohen to Myers when as young men they became traveling salesmen in the South and their employer thought that their having a Jewish name might not be safe.

Marshall's father served in the U.S Army during WWII under General Patton. During the years that his father was overseas, Marshall and his mother lived with his father's parents in a neighborhood in K.C. that was similar to University City with large Jewish and Catholic populations. Marshall remembers walking 2-3 blocks everyday to the Longfellow Elementary School (which he attended through the 7th grade). Like Sara, Marshall was close to his extended family. In fact, his cousin, Lois Cohen Levitch, who was his age, was like a sister to him. In elementary school, Marshall became a Cub Scout and his mother was the scout leader.

When he was about 7 or 8 years old, Marshall's father returned from the war, and soon after, his younger brother, Andrew, was born. In school, his 5th grade teacher, Ms. Lowmiller, stands out as an inspiration to Marshall, and while in her class, Marshall started a school newspaper and became its editor. As Marshall got older, he advanced to the Boy Scouts and even became an Eagle Scout (although he admits that he is not the outdoor type). Instead, he was a good student.

Marshall's family belonged to Beth Israel, an Orthodox synagogue, and he went to Cheder (Hebrew School) 4 days a week after school. He celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in 1951.

For Marshall, high school began in the 8th grade, and that year he joined BBYO, which he really liked. Like Sara, he became very active in BBYO (i.e., his local AZA chapter) and attended BBYO conventions. He remembers serving as President of his chapter. In high school, he was an R.O.T.C. officer and was on the school's debating team. He also took part in school plays in the fall and spring. At that time, Marshall thought he might want to go to law school.

However, when he graduated from high school in 1956, he went to the University of Kansas City, which awarded him a full tuition scholarship. During his first year at the university, he took a full course-load, including two accounting classes, which led to his being hired by H & R Block. He worked for Block part-time, and saved the money he earned so he could transfer to Washington University the next year.

The first semester of his sophomore year at W.U., Marshall was enrolled in the Liberal Arts program, lived in a private residence in Clayton and pledged a fraternity (Pi Lambda Phi). After that semester, he moved into the fraternity house and (with a fraternity brother) ran the commissary, thereby earning free room and board.

In his junior year, Marshall made another change. He transferred from W.U.'s Liberal Arts program to its Business School. Towards the end of his senior year, one night while he was studying for finals at the Hillel House, he ran into Sara, who was then a sophomore at W.U. After they chatted a while, Marshall invited Sara to go out for a snack. And, that was the beginning of their courtship. In June 1960, Marshall graduated from W.U. with a B.S. in Business Administration. He and Sara decided to get pinned. Over the summer, Sara worked as a camp counselor and did secretarial work while Marshall went back to K.C., where he had arranged a summer job at an accounting firm.

In the fall, Marshall came back to W.U. to go to Law School. During that year, he also passed the CPA exam. Since he and Sara planned to get married, Marshall decided to go back to the Business School, which offered him a full tuition scholarship plus an assistantship that would pay him to teach part-time. When Sara told her parents that they wanted to get married, her father insisted that Marshall show him in writing how he thought he could afford to get married. Marshall and Sara drew up a budget and her father was satisfied. They became engaged in April and were married by Rabbi Epstein at Chesed Shel Emeth on September 3, 1961.

After their marriage, they moved into an apartment in Brentwood and both of them returned to W.U. -- Sara to complete her senior year (which included student teaching), and Marshall to work on a master's degree in Accounting. During that year Sara continued to work part-time for the Jewish Federation of Southern Illinois, and the JCC of St. Louis, as a youth group leader, and Marshall worked part-time for a St. Louis accounting firm. At the W.U. commencement exercises on June 5, 1962, Marshall was awarded his master's degree and Sara her B.A. in Elementary Education. Marshall's degree eventually led to his 11 year part-time teaching career at Washington University's night school.

Marshall and Sara planned to move to Kansas City, where Marshall had been offered a full-time position with an accounting firm. However, the move was delayed as the couple awaited the birth of their first child. (The unexpected death of Marshall's mother at the end of May was another

traumatic event during that time.) Eddie was born on June 18th, and in mid-July Sara and Eddie flew to Kansas City to join Marshall, who was staying with his father and brother in their home. Marshall, Sara and the baby soon moved into their own apartment. The couple began to make friends and join various organizations.



After a year, Marshall, realizing how important family was to them, suggested to Sara that they move back to St. Louis so that they could be closer to her siblings and their children. He applied for and got a job as comptroller of a manufacturing firm and the 3 of them returned to St. Louis. Within a matter of months, Marshall took a position with an accounting firm, Epstein Aftergut. In a short time, Marshall became a partner in the firm, and remained with them through two mergers. In 1983, Marshall was ready for a change

and once again considered going back to law school, but something better came along. He was offered a position as a stockbroker at Drexel Burnham Lambert (which later sold its retail business to Smith Barney). This position turned out to be a perfect fit for Marshall, who was not only very good at the job and really enjoyed it, but he continues to work at Smith Barney to this day.

During those years, Sara joined Women's American ORT. (And, when Sara joins something, she gets very involved.) It wasn't long before she was the St. Louis Region president, then the Southwest District president, and eventually a National Vice-President of ORT. She did a lot of traveling and public speaking for the organization.

In addition to her work with ORT, Sara has had an active role at Shaare Zedek. She worked on a number of committees, was President of the Congregation in 1993-1994, and in 1996 agreed to serve as a full-time "Volunteer" Executive Director, a position she held for 8 years! In appreciation for Sara's devotion and dedication to the synagogue, the shul named the "Sara Myers Community Room" in her honor.

Marshall, too, has been extraordinarily active in community service and service to SZ over the years. For example, he served as President of CAJE, President of the Hillel Board, President of the Solomon Schechter Day School Board and the President of the Shaare Zedek Congregation. In addition, he goes to the shul 3 mornings a week and frequently leads the minyan.

Family is so important to Marshall and Sara. Maintaining a close relationship with their 3 children and 4 grandchildren is a priority. Their oldest child, Ed (who is an attorney), and his wife, Marla, are members of SZ and have 2 children: Brian (14) and Suzy (8), both of whom have attended SSDS. Brian celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at SZ last year. Their daughter, Stephanie, who was born in 1964, worked on the staff of the Jewish Light for a number of years and then was Executive Director of the local chapter of the ADL. Stephanie's sudden death in 1996 at the age of 32, left a hole in the family's heart. Stephanie and her husband, Marc Seleman had 2

children: Melanie (17) and Carrie (14), both students of the Ladue High School. Their son-in-law, Marc, re-married and his second wife, Laura, became a part of the Myers family. Their third child is Anne, who was born in 1968 and graduated from Macalester College. She lives with her husband Trevor Richards in Minnesota, and serves as the Director of Volunteers for Fairview Hospice. All their local children come to the Myers' home for Shabbat dinner most Friday nights. This past summer the entire family went on a cruise to celebrate Marshall's 70th birthday.

Destiny surely had a role in bringing Sara and Marshall Myers together. They are both high-achievers with many things in common. Both had a strong interest in scouting, BBYO, and Washington University; both value education and their Jewish roots; both have a history of taking leadership roles on behalf of the community, and both consider their family as their most valued asset.



CHOICES

JEWISH COLLEGE FAIR 2009

LOOKING AT COLLEGES THROUGH JEWISH EYES

Sunday, January 25, 2009

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Temple Israel, #1 Rabbi Alvan Rubin Drive., St. Louis, MO 63141

Meet college reps from around the country and have your specific questions answered one on one. Over 55 colleges and universities will be represented! List includes commitments for 2009 and expected attendees from previous years.

Bradley University
Brandeis University
Brown University
Columbia University
Drake University
Duke University
Indiana University

Maryville University
Miami University, Ohio
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
Princeton University
Stanford University
Truman State University

Univ. of Illinois
Univ. of Kansas
Univ. of Michigan
Univ. of Missouri
Univ. of Pennsylvania
Univ. of Wisconsin
Washington University

Consider an Israel FRESHMAN YEAR ABROAD Program:

Meet Israel Freshman Year Abroad program providers during the fair and Learn how to earn college credit while exploring Israel.

**Contact: Karen Rader 314.442.3756 or krader@cajestl.org
or visit our website www.cajestl.org.**

CHOICES is coordinated by the Central Agency for Jewish Education, a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis.

Shabbat is here!

A special class for parents with new babies to create and enhance Shabbat rituals at home.

In a relaxed atmosphere, get to know other Jewish parents and share parenting tips and concerns. Through music, craft, discussion, and cuisine, we explore the ways we can make Shabbat special for our families, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Taught by Liz Redler, Shaare Zedek's Youth Director and experienced Jewish parent with Hazzan Joanna Dulkan and select guest presenters.

Friday mornings, 10:30 – noon at Shaare Zedek

- ❖ January 9, 16, 23
- ❖ Feb. 6, 13, 20
- ❖ Mar. 6, 13, 20; Makeup class: Mar. 27

Tuition is \$100/Shaare Zedek members; \$125 non-members, and includes a book and original CD recording Geared for children 18 months and younger. Space is limited, please register ASAP.

314.727.1747 ❖ shaarezedek.org ❖ 829 North Hanley Rd

2009-10 B'nai Mitzvah Family Meeting



Date: December 7
Time: 6:15-7:45 pm
Place: Shaare Zedek

DON'T MISS IT!



**SAVE THE DATE
SHAARE SHALOM FAMILY
PROGRAM
JANUARY 11, 2009**

IN HONOR OF PARASHAT SHEMOT

**MISHPACHA HAVDALAH
PAJAMA PARTY:
SATURDAY NIGHT
DECEMBER 20
5:30-7:00PM:**



GET READY FOR CHANUKAH!

Donations to the Synagogue

Shaare Zedek acknowledges with gratitude the following contributions:

GENERAL FUND

IN HONOR OF

Rachel & Maurice Guller's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Benita & Burton Boxerman

Hank & Jackie Schneider

Stanley & Elaine Gollub

Jean Payuk

Bruce & Ellen White

Joe Levy's Speedy Recovery

Hanley & Florence Cohn

Tommy & Esther Goldenberg's 65th Wedding Anniversary

Marshall & Sara Myers

Nancy & Stanley Goldstein

Leo & Sara Wolf's 60th Wedding Anniversary

Marshall & Sara Myers

Elkahyam Boyd's Bar Mitzvah

Marshall & Sara Myers

Bobbie Boxerman's Bar Mitzvah

Marshall & Sara Myers

Florence & Hanley Cohn

Hoben Rehfeld's Bar Mitzvah

Marshall & Sara Myers

The Goldwyns

Rudy Oppenheim's 80th Birthday

Marshall & Sara Myers

Julie Iken's Speedy Recovery

Bonnie Templeton

Marshall & Sara Myers

The Marriage of Jodi Becker to Sam Sanders

Bob & Sandy Rudman

IN MEMORY OF

Pauline Krauss

Alex & Phyllis Kane

Rose Washtein

Dorit Galor

Betty Ruth Taxman

Sara Gaiman

Philip Roth

Elaine Kesten

Yahrzeit of

Sam Goldstein

Nancy & Stanley Goldstein

SAMUEL FRANK CHESSED FUND

IN HONOR OF

Tom & Esther Goldenberg's 65th Wedding Anniversary & Birth of Great Grandchild

Barbara Bianco

Ann Frank

Jodi Becker's Marriage to Sam Sanders

Ann Frank

IN MEMORY OF

Herbert Williams, beloved husband, father & Grandfather

Ruth Jacob

Mildred Cutter

Sherry Kaplan

Rick Paul

Larry Goodman

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN HONOR OF

Phyllis Loiterstein's Speedy Recovery

Joyce & Mitch Podolsky

Jane Walden's Speedy Recovery

Stan & Ruth Levy

Julie Iken's Speedy Recovery

Ruth Jacob

IN MEMORY OF

Abe Drust

Stan & Ruth Levy

Minnie Levy

Stan & Ruth Levy

Selma Nathanson

Ruth Ehrlich and Family

Ralph Hartmann

Ruth Ehrlich

HAZZAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (MUSIC)

IN HONOR OF

Tom & Esther Goldenberg's 65th Wedding Anniversary

Helene & Alan Spetner

Mel & Zandra Ashkenazi

Joe Levy's Speedy Recovery

Helene & Alan Spetner

Phyllis Loiterstein's Speedy Recovery

Helene & Alan Spetner

LIL & BUDDY SPETNER "SWEET MEMORIES" FUND

IN HONOR OF

Julie Iken's Speedy Recovery

Barry & Carol Pessin

Tom & Esther Goldenberg's 65th Anniversary & Great-grandchild's naming

Barry & Carol Pessin

Justin Brockman's Engagement

Helene & Alan Spetner

Lily Doughty's First Birthday

Helene & Alan Spetner

IN MEMORY OF

Heinz Baer

Cecile & Fred Spiegelman

Mildred Cutter

Helene & Alan Spetner

Yahrzeit of

Cecile Zimbalist

Ruth Hartstein

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IN MEMORY OF

Lillian Heifitz

Esther Zuckerman

Mildred Cutter

Esther Zuckerman

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IN HONOR OF

Rachel & Maurice Guller's 50th
Wedding Anniversary

Sara & Marshall Myers

RABBI ARNOLD ASHER LECTURE FUND

IN HONOR OF

Sophie Aroesty's Bat Mitzvah

Karen & Mike Wetmore

Maurice & Rachel Guller's 50th
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David & Nira Geller

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Stanley & Nancy Goldstein's New
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David & Nira Geller

Jennifer Asher's Birthday

Micki Kingsley

Nira Asher Geller's Birthday

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IN MEMORY OF

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Sidney Rosen's 92nd birthday

Martin & Barbara Becker &
family

Rudy & Frances Oppenheim

Recovery of Julia Iken

Sylvia Covitz

Tom & Esther Goldenberg's 65th
anniversary

Rudy & Frances Oppenheim

Sylvia Covitz

Martin & Barbara Becker

Rudy Oppenheim's 80th birthday

Micki Kingsley

David Weinstein's birthday

Micki Kingsley

Bobby Boxerman's Bar Mitzvah

Rudy & Frances Oppenheim

Julia Iken's 85th birthday

Pat Rosen

Rudy & Frances Oppenheim

Rhoda Grimsky

Shaare Zedek Sisterhood

IN MEMORY OF:

Mother of Reva Weinberg

Jackie Ketcher

Dr. Albert Boime

Martin, Barbara, Jodi, &

Michael Becker

To make a contribution, please
contact Frances Oppenheim
314-721-0026.

Condolences

The family of Mildred Cutter
who passed away on
October 29th. Mother of
Anita (Allan) Fine and Gary
(Sharon) Cutter.

Sara Goodman Tribute Fund

The Sisterhood acknowledges with thanks the following contributions in support of our many projects. Tribute Chairman: Doris Lerner (314) 434-3676
1997 Seven Pines Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146

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Esther & Tommy Goldenberg – new great-grandchild, Paige
Dorothy Goldstein
Rhoda Grimsky
Micki Kingsley

ANNIVERSARIES

Tom & Esther Goldenberg
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Irene Belsky
Rhoda Grimsky
Ruth & Stan Levy
Dorrie & Marvin Lerner
Rhoda Grimsky
Sherry Kaplan
Marion & Jerry Cohen
Irene Belsky

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Sanford & Cynthia Boxerman – son, Bobby
Rhoda Grimsky
Irene Belsky
Mr. & Mrs. David Kahn – son, Sam
Irene Belsky
Bilgah Israel – son, Elkahyam Boyd
Irene Belsky

BIRTHDAYS

Dorothy Goldstein
Ruth Ehrlich
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Micki Kingsley
Darien Arnstein
Micki Kingsley
Pat Rosen
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Micki Kingsley
Leo Bressler
Micki Kingsley
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Irene Belsky
Sid Rosen
Micki Kingsley

Sydney Farber
Micki Kingsley
Betty Siegel
Micki Kingsley
Marriage
Irene Belsky – granddaughter's marriage
Phyllis Warner
Recovery
Beverly Leve
Jerry & Marion Cohen
Phyllis Katz
Rhoda Grimsky
Lorraine Schankman
Rhoda Grimsky
Micki Kingsley
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IN MEMORY

Anita Fine Family – in memory of mother, Mildred
Cutter
Mel & Zendra Ashkanazi
Jerry & Marion Cohen
Rhoda Grimsky
Mollie Stone
Courtney Cerulo
Pat Rosen – in memory of niece
Jerry & Marion Cohen
Rhoda Grimsky
Phyllis Warner
Gail Lanznar – in memory of mother
Louise Kaufman Yavitz & Gary Yavitz

Yahrzeits

Zendra Ashkanazi
David Kass

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IRA INFORMATION BENEFITS TAXPAYERS....

When President Bush signed the \$700 billion economic bailout bill (H.R. 1424, The Financial Rescue Package, October 3, 2008), it included a two-year extension of the IRA Rollover provision.

The provision will be made retroactive to Jan. 1, 2008, and will apply to gifts made from that date through Dec. 31, 2009.

The provision exempts from taxable income any funds transferred (“rolled over”) from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to a charitable organization (For example, Shaare Zedek).

The following limitations apply:

- The donor must be age 70½ or older.
- The cap on annual IRA rollovers is \$100,000.
- The contribution must be a direct gift to a charity (no planned gifts).

What does this mean???

If you are 70 ½ or older you must withdraw a certain amount from your IRA. Instead of taking the money and being taxed, transfer the money to Shaare Zedek to be used for commitment, tribute in the tribute book or possibly starting an endowment fund.

For more information, please contact the synagogue office at (314) 727-1747.

This information is intended for educational purposes only and is not intended as legal advice. You are urged to contact your own legal and financial advisors for information regarding your tax situation.