

**Temple
Shabbat Shalom**

Volume 12 Issue 1 **Passover 2010**

5770/2010

Shalom and Blessings

Passover 2010:

On Being a Twenty First Century Person

Happy Passover and Easter to each and every one of you.

This year, 2010, Passover is Monday March 29. (Seder) Call or e- mail if you would like personalized guidance on how to run your Seder. In the meantime enjoy the following food for thought:

To be a person in the 21st century is to be offered the challenge of self definition. As the decades pass we are forced to redefine the terms of our existence. Redefinition begins with questions. What is Temple Shabbat Shalom? What does it mean to be a member? Is it possible to combine faiths? What is a faith? A religion? Since half of our congregation is Jewish and the other half Catholic, Protestant and other religions how do we function as an organization? How do we support the Temple?

More to the point: Rabbi Alpern, how do you define your diverse group in terms of religion? How will we raise our children? When others turn us away, Rabbi, how can you embrace with open mind, heart, and arms?

How is it possible to grant "full rights and privileges" as a member of the Temple to a person who is not a Jew? The most liberal Reform and Reconstructionist Temples do not go this far! Why are all people welcome to join Temple Shabbat Shalom?

The complete answers to these questions require a dialogue and lengthy discussion, so I begin answering with a practical challenge, Passover.

If you are a Christian all of your worship is inspired by the original Passover story of the children of Israel leaving bondage. Your story is a retelling. Jesus celebrated Passover. A Seder is an opportunity to transform your home into a sanctuary and make your religion personal to you and your family. I teach both/and not either/or.

Since Christians are also children of Sarah Rebecca Rachel and Leah; Abraham Isaac and Jacob, called Israel, I consider you children of Israel, and heirs to the promises of the patriarchs and matriarchs.

This belief is the basis of my faith and religion, and the result of self definition.

This is why I officiate at your weddings.

This is the mission of Temple Shabbat Shalom, a radical redefinition of everything old and new!

Again, Happy Passover and Easter to each and every one of you.

Stay in touch. Call or write. We are here for you!

Rabbi and Karen Alpern

Our Prayers of condolence for Laura and Roger Thompson and family on the recent death of Laura's father

Thank you to our Generous Sustaining Donors

**Robert and Lila Tickman
Marvin and Patti Demoff
Gary and Kristin Neiman
Marc and Kate Haber
Rick and Judie Singer
Mark and Mary Glazer in honor of the birth of their son Eli**

SIMCHAS AND MAZEL TOV!

We want to welcome our Newest Congregants

**Dick and Bonnie Shapiro
David and Aileen Shapiro
Adam Silverstein and Brianna Forbes
Michaela May and Ezra Klughaupt
George Maslovsky and Rachel Katz
Jaclyn Bernstein and Jeff Yusko
Leah Hyland and Jason Kniebel
Allison Frey and Jacob Studenroth
Adam Suslak and Nicole DeCrescenzo**

Mazel Tov to our Newest Bundles of Joy

**Eric and Holly Schipper on the birth of their sons Austin and Ethan
Lindsay and Michael Sheehy on the birth of their daughter Hannah on March 16
Mark and Mary Glazer on the birth of their son Eli on June 11
Mike and Jenny Rothberg on the birth of their daughter Audrey in July
Dan and Samantha Katz on the birth of Jedidiah on July 20
Amanda and James Melino on the birth of their son Barron on July 26
Jonathan and Sandi Shapiro on the birth of their daughter Sydney on July 31
Amanda and Brian Smith on the birth of their daughter Sophia on October 7
Fabrice and Priscilla Auddino on the birth of their son Elie**

Mazel Tov to our Newlyweds

**Adam and Suzanna Seltzer- NYC
Canaan and Sarah Himmelbaum- NYC
Guilaino and Liz Pignataro-Philadelphia
Jason and Martha Goldstein-Albany
Rebecca and Steven Bright- California
Damien and Debbie Dovi-Virginia
Alissa and Shane Fuhrman-NYC
Gabe and Abby Gaunt-NYC
David and Aileen Shapiro-Puerto Rico**

Mazel Tov to Fallon Etkin on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

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Thank you for your most generous support