

The Messenger

The Voice of Congregation B'nai Israel

901 MAMIE STREET

HATTIESBURG, MS 39401

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RABBI URI BARNEA



Kol HaRav - The Rabbi's Voice



Happy New Year! – Indeed, as Jews who live outside of the State of Israel, we are privileged to

enjoy twice a ‘New Year’: In the fall, on Rosh Hashanah, and again, three months later, on the first day of January. In both cultures, the Jewish and Christian, a ‘New Year’ symbolizes the time for renewal. But in this regard, at least three questions should be asked: First, why do we need a renewal at all? Second, a ‘renewal’ of what?, and third, what is the essence of ‘renewal’?

The first question I would answer by saying that, more often than not, routine, the pursuit of comfort over effort, and natural laziness breed apathy and carelessness, and thus they must be countered by some kind of renewal to prevent our sinking into total decadence. In other words, in order to attain our capabilities and purpose as humans, one must periodically

reinvigorate the body, the mind, and the soul.

To the second question I posit that any renewal must be one of relationship. And in this context, a relationship, in my opinion, can be one of three kinds: The relationship with oneself (my body, my mind, and my soul); the relationship between me and other human beings, both individually and as the basic components of a community, and finally, the relationship between me and anything that is so much greater than myself, which for me is the relationship with God. God, of course, is only one of many names for a divine power, but choose for yourself whatever you deem as so much greater than yourself, and as full of both tremendous awe and deep mystery.

As I see it, the relationship between me and myself, and that between me and God are extremely private and personal. We may try to talk about them with others, if we can come to it, but we will never be able to express to

"Hillel said:
Do not
separate
yourself from
the
community;
do not be
certain of
yourself until
the day you
die, and do
not judge
another until
you are in his
position."

*Mishnah, Pirkei
Avot, 2:5*

others our innermost thoughts and emotions concerning such relationships.

On the other hand, the relationship between a person and his/her circle of friends, community, or congregation has been dealt with by every culture for millennia. In Judaism especially, this issue, the one of sustaining the community, has been paramount from the very day that Abraham challenged God concerning the imminent destruction of the communities of Sodom and Gomorrah. In our Jewish tradition, the individual and the community are inextricably bound together in a common fate. We are reminded of this truth both during our joyful celebrations and, in less fortunate times, when we mournfully contemplate our painful history. When the great Rabbi Hillel is quoted of saying, "Separate not thyself from the community" (in Hebrew, *al tifrosh min hatzibur*) he gave expression to an important "Thou shall not", while at the same time affirming one of the most important concepts in our tradition.

And this leads me to the third question about the essence of 'renewal'. In my sermon last Erev Rosh Hashanah, I stressed the importance of caring, getting involved, and participating. But one can only care, get involved, and participate when one has a commitment to the relationship in question. This is, then, the essence of 'renewal': A new steadfast commitment to a cause; not a lip service, but a truly and deeply felt commitment that would be materialized in the new year by actual deeds by the individual, the person who has decided to embark on a renewal (i.e., you and I), towards which one perhaps had a fading commitment in recent months, if any.

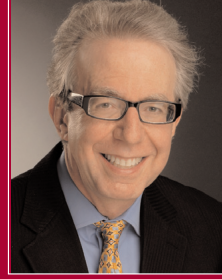
So, as we begin another New year, I ask you to think about these important matters: You have just asked me to continue to lead this congregation, Congregation B'nai Israel.

As I agreed to do so, I have made a real commitment to this cause, a commitment of body, mind, and soul, without which I would totally fail in my mission. Therefore, on the threshold of this new year, would it be entirely out of line for me to ask for your commitment as well? Don't you think that it is important that as a member of this congregation you give yourself an account of why you wish to have a Jewish congregation in Hattiesburg in the first place? Why have a synagogue, and why have a rabbi? Please remember that your Jewishness is not dependent on your children, but the Jewishness of your children is dependent on you and on your own commitments or lack thereof. So, I ask that at this juncture you make a real and substantial renewal, a renewal of the relationship with yourself, with the God of our ancestors, and with your very own congregation. Following my call last Rosh Hashanah, let me do so again now - at the beginning of the new civil year of 2012 - a call to care more, to get involved more, and to participate more often, body and soul, in the life of your congregation.

My very best wishes to you and your loved ones in this New Year.

Rabbi Uri Barnea

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL &
THE AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT



Jonathan Adelman

Professor, Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2012

***Threats and Opportunities:
Expectations for The Middle East in the New Year***

7:00 p.m. Program & Briefing

**Temple B'nai Israel
901 Mamie Street
Hattiesburg, MS 39401**

There is no charge to attend this program

For Additional Information:

Please contact Joshua Karsh at (770) 541-7610 or JKarsh@aipac.org

Dr. Jonathan Adelman, a full professor at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver, has written and edited 12 books. His recent book, *The Rise of Israel: A History of a Revolutionary State*, has been well received. Having taught at both Hebrew University and the University of Haifa, he was invited this summer for talks at both the Israeli Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem and the Israeli Embassy in Washington. Dr. Adelman also served as the doctoral dissertation adviser to Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

Professor Adelman has extensive international experience. He has been a Honorary Professor at both Peking University and People's University in Beijing. He taught at the Diplomatic Academy in Moscow, Central European University in Budapest and People's University in Beijing.

Professor Adelman also has extensive experience with the American government. In September he briefed the Chief of Naval Operations Executive Board on Northeast Asia security issues. In the 1980s he served for eight years as a Senior Scientist working for SAIC on contracts on the Soviet military for the Defense Department/ The State Department has sent him on 15 international speaking tours to countries ranging from China, Russia, Japan and India to Germany, France and England.

"The most important organization affecting America's relationship with Israel."
— *The New York Times*

2012 B'NAI ISRAEL YAHRTZEITS

2012 January Yahrzeits

- 1 Sam Samuels
Josephine Azarch
- 2 Abe Pevsner
- 3 Esta Lynn Auerbach
- 8 Esther G. Signoff
- 9 Eva Stein Waldoff
Sarah K. Gomez
Mollie Fromkin
- 11 Dora Miller Davis
- 12 Herman Pelman
- 16 Fannie Kurtz London
- 20 Edsel Meretsky
- 22 Sam Sackler
Dora Signoff
Saul Kelsey
- 24 Esther Rosenthal Shemper
- 25 Jack Rabkin
Eddie Shemper
Florine Abrams
- 26 Irving Sackler
- 28 Marie Stamm Stotland

2012 February Yahrzeits

- 1 Ethel Joy Roberts
- 3 William Azarch
Herbert Ginsberg
- 4 Moses Signoff
- 5 Murray M. Fischman
- 6 Harry Botnick
Ralph A. Snider
Ethel E. Waldoff
- 7 Gust K. Mark
- 15 Max Reikes
- 16 Theodore F. Dreyfus
- 19 Anna Scharff Rabkin
- 25 Lena Watts Matison
- 26 Florence C. Glass
- 27 Esther Rebecca Kelsey
- 28 Frank Conway

TEMPLE FUNDS

ERS FUND

In honor of Esther R. Shemper - with Interest used to help with Temple expenses

MARVIN SHEMPER BUILDING FUND

In honor of Marvin's constant maintenance and loving care for our building

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

To be used at the discretion of the Rabbi

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Materials & books for Religious School

TREE OF LIFE

In memory of Marvin Reuben for the Marvin Reuben maintenance fund

GENERAL FUND

General maintenance and upkeep of TBI Building

CEMETERY FUND

Upkeep of the cemetery

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

To care for our own, Jews everywhere and the rest of the world

TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL ENDOWMENT FUND

For the existence and operation of the

Camp Scholarship Fund

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES
WHOSE CHILDREN WANT TO ATTEND HENRY S. JACOBS CAMP.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT LOU GINSBERG: 601-584-8878

IN MEMORY OF

ADDRESS

IN HONOR OF

ADDRESS

OTHER

ADDRESS

Send To:
Treasurer, TBI
P.O. Box 15636
Hattiesburg, MS
39404-5636

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 9:45am - NO religious school 12:15pm - NO Hebrew I 1pm - NO Hebrew II	2	3	4	5	6 7:30pm - Shabbat Service	7
8 9:45am - Religious School 12:15pm - Hebrew I 1pm - Hebrew II	9	10	11 6:30pm - Sisterhood Meeting at the Temple	12 7pm - Dr. Jonathan Adelman: The Middle East in 2012	13 3pm - Jacob's Camp Family Weekend Begins 7:30pm - Shabbat Service	14 8am - Jacob's Camp Family Weekend continues all day
15 9:45am - Religious School 12:15pm - Hebrew I 1pm - Hebrew II	16	17	18	19	20 7:30pm - Shabbat Service	21
22 9:45am - Religious School 12:15pm - Hebrew I 1pm - Hebrew II	23	24	25	26	27 8am - United Nations Holocaust Memorial Day 7:30pm - Sisterhood Shabbat Service	28
29 9:45am - Religious School 12:15pm - Hebrew I 1pm - Hebrew II	30	31				

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 10am - Torah Study
5 9:45am - Religious School 12:15pm - Hebrew I 1pm - Hebrew II	6	7	8	9	10 7:30pm - Shabbat Service	11
12 9:45am - Religious School 12:15pm - Hebrew I 1pm - Hebrew II	13	14	15 7pm - Adult Ed	16	17 7:30pm - Shabbat Service	18
19 8am - Sisterhood Bazaar -- No religious school, no Hebrew	20	21	22	23	24 7:30pm - Shabbat Service	25
26 9:45am - Religious School 12:15pm - Hebrew I 1pm - Hebrew II	27	28	29			