



Washington Hebrew Congregation Journal

The Journal is Supported by an Endowment from Libby and Melvin Mandell

****New** Shabbat Service Experience**

T.G.I.S. at WHC - Thank God It's Shabbat!

Dear Congregants,

At Washington Hebrew Congregation, we recognize that Shabbat is the beginning of a much needed rest every week. With this in mind, we have created T.G.I.S.: Thank God It's Shabbat!

T.G.I.S. is a series of creative and interactive Shabbat worship experiences. A "come as you are" service open to everyone, these services will experiment not only with the liturgy, but the space in which the service takes place, the musical aspects of the service and the programming and dinner following.

All T.G.I.S. services are at 6:00 p.m. and will be followed by special dinners and programming that will help us find the rest we need after a long week of work and errands. Throughout the evening, you will have the opportunity to spiritually renew yourself for another week.

The first T.G.I.S., Shabbat Leiv: Using the Heart in Relationships, will be **November 18, 6:00 p.m., at Temple**. This Shabbat will focus on the relationships between loved ones as well as between an individual and his/her community. Therefore, this Shabbat Leiv is purposely placed on the Shabbat prior to the Walk for the Homeless.

To make your reservation for dinner, at \$13 per person, please return the completed form on page 5 with a check payable to WHC. Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, November 15. Watch your Journal for future T.G.I.S. services. Thank God It's Shabbat!

An Evening with Itzhak Perlman
Sunday, December 11, 2005
Details on page 8

"The Power of Good" ***International Award-Winning Film at WHC***

"The Power of Good", the dramatic story of one man whose courage and determination saved 669 children from the hands of the Nazis, will be shown on **Sunday, November 13, 7:30 p.m., at Temple**.

In 1939, Nicholas Winton, a young English stockbroker, saved the lives of hundreds of children, most of them Jewish, from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia and brought them across Hitler's Germany to his native Britain. Between March 13 and August 2, 1939, he organized eight transports to take children from Prague to new homes in Great Britain.

For nearly 50 years, Winton did not tell anyone about his extraordinary rescue mission - not even his wife. The story only emerged in 1988 when the BBC broadcast a thrilling show about the first meeting of approximately 100 of the rescued children with their "secret" rescuer about whom they knew nothing for 50 years. Today, there are over 5,000 descendants of the "Winton children", and all owe their lives to this gentle, unassuming hero. They include a Canadian journalist and TV correspondent, a former UK cabinet minister, British film director, and many writers, entrepreneurs and other contributors to society in the UK, the U.S., Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Israel.

Often called "Britain's Schindler", Winton is still alive and well at 95. On March 11, 2003, Sir. Nicholas Winton was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.

Present at the screening will be the Executive Producer, Martina Stolbova, and one of Winton's "children" to introduce the film and for the Q&A after.



continued on page 5

OUR TEMPLE FAMILY

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Irene Katcher, M.A., *Journal Editor*

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B'nai Mitzvah, November 12

Morning Service

Joseph Halloran Krakoff, a seventh grade student at Georgetown Day School, is the son of Sydney Hoffmann and David Krakoff and brother of Noa. He is the grandson of Beatrice David Krakoff and the late Louis Joseph Krakoff and the late Arthur Frommer Hoffmann and Edna Halloran Hoffmann.



Havdalah

Jessica Michelle Gerson, a seventh grade student at the Sheridan School, is the daughter of Susan Kaplan and Matthew Gerson and sister of Alex. She is the granddaughter of Lenore and Irwin Gerson and Elaine Kaplan and the late Alvin Kaplan.



Adam Greenwald, a seventh grade student at The Bullis School, is the son of Sandy and Herb Greenwald and brother of Max and Blair. He is the grandson of Joan and Gerald Greenwald and Juanita Fogelman and the late Arthur Fogelman.



Sabbath Acknowledgements

Sponsoring the Oneg Shabbat:

Susan Kaplan and Matt Gerson in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Jessica Michelle Gerson; Juanita Fogelman and Joan and Gerald Greenwald in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Adam Greenwald, and Sydney Hoffman and David Krakoff in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Joseph Halloran Krakoff

Contributing to Carrie Simon Altar Flower Fund:

Susan Kaplan and Matt Gerson in honor of Jessica, Sandy and Herb Greenwald in honor of Adam, Sydney Hoffman and David Krakoff in honor of Joseph

SHABBAT

Torah Talk

Parshat Lech L'cha

This week's Torah Portion is one of our most famous *parshiyot* in our Biblical tradition. Among other things, *Lech L'cha* marks a separation in Biblical interest with general human history and the history of the descendants of Abraham.

The separation is more than just figurative. God commands (then) Abram, "Go forth from your native land, from your father's house, to the land that I will show you."

The Torah does not explain to us why Abram is chosen by God to father faiths, except that he is at some kind of crossroads in his life. Abram is married with Sarai and they have no children together. Abram's father, Terah, has died and immediately God calls out to Abram.

Abram's crossroads are not difficult to imagine. We've all experienced moments of extreme life change. Abram, overwhelmed with emotion, looks up to the sky and questions, "Why? What does this all mean?"

According to the ancient rabbis, it was precisely these questions that caught God's attention. The basis of faith is questioning. Yet, that Abram must leave the house of his father is a strange result of this questioning. God explains, "I will make of you a great nation and I will bless you. I will make your name great and you shall be a blessing ... All the families of the earth shall bless themselves by you."

The rabbis have asked, "What is meant by 'shall bless themselves'?" They answer their own question, saying, "You will be the cause of their blessing." To be a Jew, therefore, is to bring blessing to the world. We do not separate ourselves in order to lift ourselves up, we do so to lift the world up. This and more we learn from *Parshat Lech L'cha*.

Genesis 12: 1 - 4

Friday, November 11

Early Service: 5:45 P.M.

Lay Leader
Tom Smith

Late Service: 8:00 P.M.

Rabbi Burrows
Cantor Bortnick

Shabbat in Honor of Veterans Day

Saturday, November 12

Morning Service: 10:30 A.M.

Rabbi Hessel
Cantor Bortnick

Bar Mitzvah of Joseph Halloran Krakoff

Afternoon Service and Havdalah: 5:30 P.M.

Rabbi Shankman
Cantor Manevich

Bat Mitzvah of Jessica Michelle Gerson

Bar Mitzvah of Adam Greenwald

Special Shabbat Service in Honor of Our Veterans

As we pause on Veterans Day weekend to salute our veterans and their sacrifices for our freedom, so do we take the time to honor and bless them on our bimah.

All the veterans in our Congregation are invited for a blessing during Shabbat Service on **Friday, November 11, at 8:00 p.m.** and the special Oneg following. The service will include a sermon by Rabbi Josh Burrows regarding his experience training as a chaplain with the United States Navy as well as special readings and prayers for our fallen soldiers.

If you are a veteran and will be attending this special Shabbat service, please let us know in advance so that we can honor you properly. Call Carolyn Ojwang at (202) 895-6303 or e-mail at cojwang@whctemple.org.

TEMPLE HAPPENINGS

Cantor's Culture Club: A Journey Through Music Native Nations Dance Theater

Clap your hands, stomp your feet, and learn the rhythm of the beat as you join Cantor Bortnick and Native Nations Dance Theater for a wonderful cultural program. As part of our Early Childhood Centers at WHC, the Cantor's Culture Club introduces children to various forms of music, both vocal and instrumental through our special guest artists.

The Native Nations Dance Theater will perform on **Wednesday, November 9, 9:45 to 10:30 a.m., at the Edlavitch-Tyser Early Childhood Center at Temple.**

Our children's eyes will sparkle as Native Nations Dance Theater shares Native history and traditions, as well as performs colorful dances that honor the natural world and the Earth's creatures. Plan to join us for this spectacular event!

This program is sponsored by the Early Childhood Centers and the Edlavitch-Tyser Family Relations Fund.

College Reunion Brunch

Join your friends and Rabbi Hessel for a special College Reunion Brunch on **Friday, November 25, 1:00 p.m.**, at the home of the Rothsteins. There is no cost to attend, but you must RSVP no later than November 16.

To RSVP and for directions to the Rothstein home, please contact Suri Meirovich in the Rabbis Study at 202.895.6305 or smeirovich@whctemple.org.

Giant A-Plus Program for Abram Simon School

It's that time of year again to register for the Giant A Plus program for the students that began October 2, 2005 and runs through April 1, 2006. Please designate the Abram Simon School as a recipient of the Giant A+ program. Their school identification number is **00256**. You may enter the Simon School on-line by going to www.giantfood.com/aplus or you may go to the customer service desk at Giant and personally register the school. Last year, the school received \$1,007.65 thanks to the support of our congregational family.

Thank you for remembering WHC's special partnership with the Abram Simon School.

67th Anniversary Kristallnacht Commemoration With Holocaust Survivor, Regina Spiegel

We invite you, your family and friends to share in a most unusual interfaith religious observance of Kristallnacht, the anniversary of the night the Nazis ravaged hundreds of synagogues and attacked tens of thousands of Jewish homes and businesses, on **Wednesday, November 9, 7:30 p.m., at St. Alban's**. The guest speaker will be Regina Spiegel, a member of WHC.

In addition to commemorating Kristallnacht, the service will address the continuing genocide in the Darfur region of western Sudan. Participating in this unique service will be two Darfurians whose organizations aid victims of the crisis: Dr. Abdalla Adam, Director for Relief and Development, Darfur Peace and Development Fund, and Mr. Elnour Adam, Director, Darfur Rehabilitation Project.

Please join us at this observance of Annunciation Catholic Church, St. Alban's Episcopal Church and Washington Hebrew Congregation.

Jewish Community Initiative on Darfur

A special opportunity to learn more about the crisis in Darfur, as well as actions of the Washington area's Jewish community to address that crisis will take place on **Monday, November 14, 7:30 p.m.**, at Adas Israel, 2850 Quebec St., NW.

Since 2003, Sudan's military and Arab militias have targeted black Darfurians, killing tens of thousands and driving more than two million from their villages. Rabbi David Saperstein, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, will discuss his recent trip to Darfur. Other speakers will include an officer of American Jewish World Service, whose programs include aiding victims of the Darfur crisis, and a representative of the Sudan Human Rights Organization.

This program is sponsored by the Greater Washington Jewish Task Force on Darfur, of which Washington Hebrew Congregation is a member. The Task Force will launch a fundraising campaign to support Darfuran children living in camps for the displaced. Washington Hebrew Congregation has taken a leadership position in this campaign.

For more information, call Layne Weiss at 202.895.6307 or email lweiss@whctemple.org. or Carolyne Ojwang at 202.895.6303 or email cojwang@whctemple.org, contacts for the Community Issues/Social Action Committee.

Visit our website: www.whctemple.org for a complete November calendar

TEMPLE HAPPENINGS

Participate in the Mitzvah of Caring

Our clergy and Caring Committee are eager to reach out to our Temple community. If you have a family member or friend who is ill or needs some special attention, WE ARE HERE, but we need your help getting the information. PLEASE LET US KNOW by calling Carolyne Ojwang in the Rabbi's study at 202.895.6303 or cojwang@whctemple.org or the Caring Committee Co-Chairs, Nancy Minkoff and Amy Krupsky, at caringcommittee@whctemple.org or jotting down the information on one of our WHC CARING CARDS, located on the Shalom Table at Temple and at the Julia Bindeman Suburban Center and dropping it in the Caring Box. This may be the only way we know that one of our members is in a difficult situation.

CAN YOU HELP? The Caring Committee would also like to hear from people who are interested in lending a hand to those in need. If, on an occasional basis, you can drive a homebound congregant to a Temple event, prepare a meal, shop, visit or make a phone call, please add your name to our list of volunteers. Again, you can contact Carolyne Ojwang or Nancy Minkoff or fill out an I CARE CARD and drop it in the Caring Box.

Because we care, we also want to hear the good news! If someone you know is celebrating a special birthday or anniversary, moving to a new home, welcoming a baby, getting married or marking some other significant event, tell us about that too. Along with Caring Cards and I Care Cards, we now have SIMCHA CARDS as well.

These simple acts can make a tremendous difference in someone's life. As the Mitzvah of "Bikur Cholim" says, "these are the obligations that are without measure."

T.G.I.S. Dinner Reservation

TO: Washington Hebrew Congregation
3935 Macomb St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20016
Attention: Suri Meirovich

I/We will attend the dinner on Friday, November 18, 2005.


Name(s).....
.....

No. attending..... Telephone.....

Enclosed is check for adult(s) at \$13 per person,
payable to WHC, for \$.....

Deadline for reservations is November 15, 2005.

WHC Sisterhood Presents



Holiday Boutique 2005

Sunday ~ Monday ~ Tuesday
November 13 ~ 14 ~ 15
9:30 am - 7:00 pm

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The Power of Good continued from page 1

The evening is open to all at no charge. For ticket information, contact Layne Weiss at 202.895.6307 or lweiss@whctemple.org.

This film has a strong message for our turbulent times and may be the ultimate expression of confronting "evil" on a personal level. Sir. Nicholas Winton is a compelling symbol of how the caring of one man can truly make a difference and demonstrate "The Power of Good". Whatever plans you have for November 13 – shopping at the Sisterhood Holiday Boutique, outdoor activities with the family - make time to see this moving film.

This program is co-sponsored by the Amram Scholar Series and the Edlavitch-Tyser Family Relations Fund.

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proudly presents

An Evening with



Itzhak Perlman
Sunday, December 11, 2005
7:00 p.m.
Kaufmann Sanctuary

With special musical tribute by
Cantors Mikhail Manevich and Susan R.A. Bortnick
in honor of
Sisterhood's 100th Anniversary

TICKET ORDER FORM for An Evening with Itzhak Perlman

Please return this form with your payment to Washington Hebrew Congregation, 3935 Macomb Street, NW., Washington, DC 20016, ATTN: An Evening with Itzhak Perlman

Name: _____ Phone (day) _____

Address: _____

I would like to become a Concert Patron for \$1,500 and receive two tickets for An Evening with Itzhak Perlman, priority seating and parking, program listing, and two tickets to private Cantorial Spring Concert.

Please send me _____ concert tickets at \$36 for An Evening with Itzhak Perlman.

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Reserved seating as reservations are received. Satellite parking and busing will be available.

For additional information, please contact Madge Novel at Temple, 202.895.6327.