

THE TEMPLE ISRAEL NEWS

ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS VOL. 12 HESHVAN 5764 NOVEMBER, 2003

RABBI'S MESSAGE

The blank screen brightens and then a soft gurgling sound is heard. The machine hums, some encrypted code flashes, and then ... a blue sky and clouds with The Name: "Microsoft 98." Something is about to happen. Trumpets herald the coming of something big from the tinny speakers on either side of the monitor. We are ready. It's another day at my computer.

I never thought that electronics could teach me a thing or two about spirituality. The way a computer boots up reminds me of what the God-aware Jew does every time he or she recites a blessing. We are mindful that our senses are about to be stimulated. We are mindful that the food we eat is not only delicious; it will also keep us alive. When we rise to start the day, we acknowledge that we breathe, that our organs function, that we are given a mind to think. Saying a blessing isn't about obsessing over some magical formula that might cause us some harm if we don't say it. Saying a blessing is the way we "boot up;" we are mindful of God's greatest gift to us. He has turned our power on and for that reason we trumpet "Baruch ata adonai" in the same way a computer announces that it is ready for another session. Like other moments in time, our tradition teaches us to stop and then taste, smell, look, listen. As one marketing expert once said, "It's the pause that refreshes."

Shalom,
Jon Perlman

SHABBAT SERVICES and COMMUNITY INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE HIGHLIGHT TEMPLE ISRAEL ACTIVITIES IN SEPTEMBER

Another Shabbaton—and yet another opportunity to enjoy Shabbat as a community--comes on the

evening of Friday, November 7 and on Saturday, November 8. On Friday evening, we will have a "dairy-vegetarian" potluck dinner at 6:00, followed by a Shabbat service at 7:00 and a delicious Oneg after the service at 8:00. Wondering what to bring? We are usually particularly in need of main dishes.

Then, on Saturday morning, we have meditation with Dr. Maron, beginning at 9:15. The Shabbat service itself will be from 10:00 to 12:00 with a special lunch at noon.

NOTE: Child care for the little ones will be available from 9:15 until lunchtime.

The afternoon will be filled with learning, discussion, and fellowship. You may join us in singing or learning some traditional Shabbat songs, if you like. After a mid-afternoon break, we return to conclude Shabbat. *At 7:00 p.m. those who are interested will join Dr. Maron in Abulafial chanting. This is a system of Kabbalistic chanting used as a concentration exercise (an energizing experience!)*

We will conclude with some lovely poetry reading and discussion at 4:45 p.m. and then a beautiful Ma'ariv/Havdalah service, beginning at approximately 5:15 P.M.

THE TEMPLE ISRAEL NEWS

ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS VOL. 12 HESHVAN 5764 NOVEMBER, 2003

IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

LEND US A HAND! PLEASE JOIN TEMPLE ISRAEL'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

AN AMBITIOUS AND IMPORTANT PLAN TO
RAISE \$100,000 FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURES
FOR OUR TEMPLE!

To make a separate Capital Campaign
donation for the building, please send a check
to Temple Israel c/o David Koester
245 Gale Road Warwick, MA 01378.

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!

COMING EVENTS REMINDERS...THIS MONTH

November 7-8—Shabbaton Weekend

November 23—Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

AND COMING UP...

December 5-6— Shabbaton Weekend

January 2-3—Shabbaton Weekend

There's so much happening these days at Temple
Israel! Please visit with us, and see what all the
excitement is about! We'd love to see you!

DUES NOTICES WILL BE SENT OUT IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS!

*We sincerely hope that you will plan to be a part
of our community and congregation by becoming
a member of Temple Israel this year.*

Family Membership: 375 dollars (or \$500
to \$1000 recommended if you are able)

Individual Membership: 200 dollars (or \$300 to
\$500 recommended if you are able)

**First year members may pay half price, at their
discretion.**

Please make checks payable to: **Temple Israel**
and send to the following address:

Temple Israel
c/o David Koester
245 Gale Road
Warwick, MA 01378

**For more information, please call Temple
Israel in Athol at 978-249-9481 or contact
Co-presidents Dr. Myron Maron at 978-724-
0238 or Mitchell Grosky at 978-249-9090.**