



Temple Beth El



Mazel Tov to:

Mike Weinberg and Betty Thomas on the birth of a daughter, Emma Claire Weinberg, on February 27, 1997.

Mickey Aberman and Linda MacDonald on the naming of their daughter, Kate Eliana.

Dr. Phil and Lora Solomon on the naming of their daughter Sydney Rae.

Jill and Ed Newman on the birth of a granddaughter, Sydnie Newman.

Sheree and Ken Friedman on the birth of a daughter, Chance Marie on March 21, 1997.

Linda Brothers on the birth of a grandson, Andrew James, on March 28, 1997. Andrew's parents are Dan and Cathy Ober.

Jack and Vera Mandel on the birth of a grandson, Morris Connor Speizman, on March 28, 1997. Morris' parents are Jodi and Bryan Speizman.

Bellita and David Jacobson on the birth of a granddaughter, Sabrina Emmeline Winger, on April 12, 1997. Sabrina's parents are Eric Winger and Merrilinne Carreon.

Rabbi Leah Benamy and David Schoneveld on the birth of a son, Ayal Ehud, on April 18.

Steward and Patty Scher on the wedding of their daughter, Amy Michelle Scher, to James Calvin Spurlin on May 10, 1997.

Mazel Tov to the following on becoming B'nai Mitzvah:

Jacob Pinion, son of Jody and George Pinion on May 3.

Andrew Micahel Sadow, son of Mark and Marina Sadow on May 17.

Adam Michael Kahn, son of Dr. & Mrs. Robert Kahn on May 24.

Scott Raburn, son of Cindy and Chuck Raburn on May 31.

Bryan Benjamin, son of Lori Benjamin and Dr. Eugene Benjamin on June 7.

Jacob Horner, son of Carol and Andy Braitman and Don and Sherry Horner on June 14.

Adam Freiberg, son of Sandy and Joe Freiberg on June 21.

Welcome to the newest members of our Temple Family:

Scott and Donna Boyer

Zayin Cohen

Mara Corn

Iosif and Etel Goretsveyg

Robert Jacobson

Gary and Laura Kaplan

Stuart and Icer Litvin

David and Amy Reynolds

Bernard and Peggy Saks

David and Marcia Zielinsky

Weltman

Erik Witten

Jacob and Inzhi Yashayev

Anita Zeldin

Temple Beth El Religious School Students' "Small Change" Leads to Big Changes

The Temple Beth El Religious School is a very special place. Students are loved and nurtured by their teachers as they learn about their heritage and what it means to be Jewish.

This year, in addition to the arts and crafts, singing, and story telling the children collected almost \$2,000 in Tzedakah. They did this by bringing in money they had earned from home. Their small change will help make a big change in people's lives. Rather than give a lump sum to any one deserving organization, the students and teachers decided to give money for specific items. Local agencies were contacted and asked to provide wish lists.

The students voted and the

results are in. They will send money to Jewish Family Services to purchase items such as one pair of tennis shoes for a young child, four English dictionaries for immigrant families, book bags for school-age children, stamps for people to pay bills, a manicure for a nursing home resident and bus passes. The Jewish Community Center will receive money for hot lunches for senior adults, round trip van tickets for senior adults to participate in JCC activities and snacks and lunches for children with cancer who attend the JCC's Camp Rainbow program. They also voted to provide Hadassah with funds to purchase one layette for a baby and school supplies for homeless children at A Child's

Place. Mazon and the Ronald McDonald House also received funds.

This year many of our students had the opportunity to see Elie Wiesel in person and they heard him say, "The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference." Our children certainly took this lesson to heart and helped repair their corner of the world.

Tzedakah is not just for kids at Temple Beth El. On June 1st over 400 congregants will participate in the first annual Mitzvah Day, in projects ranging from cleaning parks to reading for the blind. To all our participants we say you have done well. *Yishar Kochachem*. All the more strength to all of you! ☆

A Healthy Baby Girl: A lesson for us all

A film review by Mindy Passe

Judith Helfand's 55 minute autobiographical documentary, *A Healthy Baby Girl*, appealed to me as a daughter, a Jew and a concerned citizen of our planet. This powerful film chronicles Judith's experience as a victim of cervical cancer caused by diethylstilbestrol (DES.) This synthetic hormone was prescribed to her mother (and 5 million other American women) as an anti-miscarriage drug between 1947 and 1971. This miracle drug, her mother was told, would prevent miscarriages and ensure a healthy baby. At 25, Judith was diagnosed with DES-related cancer and underwent a radical hysterectomy. Now 32, Judith will be here on June 21 to tell her story and share her journey.

Earlier this month, when I saw

this film at the Mint Museum as part of the Charlotte Film Festival, I was touched by Judith's passion and candor. Prior to the film, I vaguely recalled a connection between DES and the Jewish community. Immediately, upon Judith's introduction, I knew that she was Jewish and from Long Island. As it turns out, Merrick, her home, is just four miles from my hometown of East Meadow. Her first request was that we allow ourselves to laugh though it might seem inappropriate considering the topic of the film. She insisted that we allow ourselves to laugh just as she and her family did amid the turmoil and angst of her journey. From the opening bars of the Klezmer music to her nephew's bris, to the mother-daughter vignettes, I felt in touch with my Jewish roots. The Helfands' response to this health crisis was very Jewish: first they pulled together as a family, then they set out to learn as much as possible about the disease. Ultimately, they decided to use this experience and knowledge to inform others of their story, using it as a catalyst to raise awareness about the pervasive use of chemicals today in pharmaceuticals, pesticides and manufacturing. That response, of course, is the very definition of the Jewish concept of Tikun Olam: to help repair the world.

At the panel discussion following the film on June 21, Judith will be joined by representatives from Charlotte Women for the Environment, Grassroots Leadership and other local agencies who will share their stories, worries and concerns about our risks here in Charlotte. Be it a medical waste site in Matthews, the high lead levels in Paw Creek or the estrogen replacement drugs that doctors prescribe, we need to begin to ask questions about these chemicals which are so pervasive in our world. (The facilities simply do not exist to detect, test and regulate more than a tiny fraction of the chemicals currently in use.)

I was outraged to hear that for more than 30 years, pharmaceutical companies sold DES to millions of pregnant American women (with a preponderance to women in Nassau County, Long Island,) all the while knowing that the drug was ineffective and carcinogenic. Only in 1971, when

A Healthy Baby Girl goes beyond loss to document mother-daughter love, family renewal, survival and collective action.

doctors discovered the link between DES and vaginal cancer in some women exposed *in utero*, was the drug taken off the U. S. market for use during pregnancy. After pondering the implications of this film, I am ready to start asking questions about how our sons and daughters may be affected 20 to 40 years from now by chemicals in our food, medications, air and water. I can clearly see the parallels to environmental issues and concerns we face today.

A Healthy Baby Girl goes beyond loss to document mother-daughter love, family renewal, survival and collective action. Please join us on June 21st to meet Judith, to hear her story and to find meaning from her life within yourself and in your community. This "healthy baby girl" has a lot to teach us all.

NOTE: If you cannot join us, you can watch the PBS broadcast of *A Healthy Baby Girl* on June 17 on POV or contact Judith through her website: <http://www.itvs.org/babyg>. ☆

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