

## *Thank You to the 2013-14*

### *Patrons & Benefactors of Temple B'nai Or*

Susan and Gary Aidekman

Lorraine Aresty

Arnold Brauer\*

Jodi and Joseph Carfagna, Jr.

Julie and Philip Cohen

Jenifer and Brian Dicker

Liz and Gary Fisch

Margot Jackler and Paul Flowerman

Dana and Robert Hamwee

Jackie and Larry Horn

Ilene and Bruce Jacobs

Gordon Keil

Carrie and Brad Kurtzman

Joyce and Larry Leibowitz

Cindy McCollum and Josh Mackoff

Joan Bedrin Murray and Brian Murray

Denise and Richard Neibart

Laurie and Joseph Nosofsky

Ellen and Robert Rose

Linda and Marc Rubman

Sigal and Dan Rudd

Debbie and Jonathan Sebiri

Poppy and Richard Segal

Barbara and Philip Sellinger

Judith Deiss-Shrem and Leslie Shrem

Bobbie and Harold Sobel

Meg and James Wiviott

Marcie and Glenn Yarnis

\*of blessed memory

*One of the greatest mitzvot is to enable others to perform mitzvot, those sacred acts which propel us to godly living and the world towards godly ends. Those who make God's home a "house for all people," birth blessings beyond count and are themselves seven-fold blessed.*



## From Rabbi Rossoff....

I am writing this in the middle of February, and oh, what a week it has been! It began watching the sun set over the Pacific from Coronado Island, California, and is ending as I shovel out my sidewalks and driveway (again) after winter storm Pax's second snowfall. To paraphrase Paul Simon, California seems like a dream to me now.

I lived in southern California for three out of my six years at HUC-JIR, and truth be told, when I left, I had no desire to return to live there. What I missed the most was the changing of the seasons. They have summer when it gets hot and the rest of the year when it is cool. The only snow I ever saw in LA was the artificial white stuff they put under the Santa Claus display, which I felt was not a little disingenuous. I missed the colors of Fall, the first snow of Winter, and, most dear to me, the life-renewing rebirth of Spring which liberates the soul from the confines of the winter. Such is the nature of nature and the changing of the seasons. The seasons' cycles bring warmth and cold, beauty and challenge, and the promise that after the frigid white winter, the warm green spring will surely return.

Like nature around us, our lives as individuals and as families have their cycles and seasons. We go through different stages as individuals, as couples, and as families. Unlike the seasons of nature which are circular and repetitive, the seasons of life and the family life cycle are linear and non-iterative. If so blessed, each of us goes and grows through infancy, childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, middle age and old age. We live as members of families, nuclear and extended. Together with others, we live and love, perhaps partner and perhaps unpartner, perhaps become parents with children with whom we go and grow through their infancy, childhood, adolescence and adulthood. Each of these seasons of life brings moments of joy and sorrow, achievement and disappointment, hope and despair, love and loss.

Continued >>



**Rabbi**  
Donald B. Rossoff

**Cantor**  
Galit Dadoun Cohen

**Rabbi Emeritus**  
Z. David Levy  
(Of Blessed Memory)

**President**  
Susan L. Levinson

**Executive Director**  
Wendy Gottsegen

**Director of Education**  
David Iskovitz

**Director of Early  
Childhood Education**  
Jennifer Rubin

**Choir Director and  
Organist**  
Mark Hyczko

**WRJ/Sisterhood**  
Judy Allen  
Vivian Gibilisco  
Karen Lilienfeld

**Men's Club**  
Bill Schlosser

This Bulletin is published quarterly by  
Temple B'nai Or  
60 Overlook Road  
Morristown, NJ 07960  
  
Phone: 973 539 4539  
Fax: 973 539 2758  
Email: [office@templebnaior.org](mailto:office@templebnaior.org)

One of the reasons I cherish Judaism and love being a Rabbi is that Judaism, like other religions, elevates and sanctifies each of life's seasons and makes our lives demonstratively better. Clinical research\* has found that spirituality and religion promote emotional well-being both in individuals and families. Active involvement in a *kehilah kedosha* (sacred community) like ours has been found to unify families, promote long-term satisfying marriages, lower levels of anxiety and depression, and add to individual and family resilience. Living a serious Jewish life helps us to face, cope with and transcend illness, adversity, tragedy, and loss. It nurtures, faith and hope, provides networks of fellowship and support and connects with a higher Power. Studies have linked family spiritual and religious life – including involvement in family worship and rituals - to better marital adjustment and satisfaction for couples and pro-social, non-materialistic and altruistic values and behaviors in children and adolescents. (Of course, there are always exceptions.)

As we go through the seasons of our lives, we are so very blessed to be part of Temple B'nai Or. Our membership and engagement in Temple not only enriches the community as a whole, it adds to our happiness and emotional wellbeing and that of our children as well. For when the snows fall and life's cold winds blow, we are here with each other and for each other with the warmth of our sacred community and the promise of life renewed.

\*Space does not permit me to cite the research, but I am happy to share it with anyone so interested.

**Rabbi Don Rossoff**

## From the Cantor... **ברית עולם לישראל Brit Olam I'Israel**

In our prayers we chant psalms commanding the people of Israel to remember our *brit olam* - our covenant. The Hebrew word *olam* describes a multi-dimensional infinite concept of both time and space. It means both the whole universe and forever as the ancient Hebrew civilization perceived it. We are bound by this covenant forever. The Jewish principles provide guidelines to a moral existence. But how do we adopt the wisdom given to us by our ancestors and make it accessible and meaningful to us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

In the URJ biennial of December 2013, I studied with Jewish professionals who all dealt with that question. We heard over and over again by Rabbi Rick Jacobs that our synagogues should open our doors wide and offer our communities acceptance and inclusion with audacious hospitality. Rabbi Jacobs also stated we should meet people where they feel they are. We should not just feel comfortable where we are, even with our successes. We should be ready to evolve, find out what the next paradigm is before the current program becomes stale.



Along with these ideas, many of the American synagogues are moving towards models of strong congregant ownership and leadership. This ownership creates a community that is *arevim ze lazo* – *responsible for one another*. I have been privileged to serve a community that has members within it that feel so connected that they express their connection and spirituality through their contribution of their most valuable asset, their time. These superb people serve their community by working alongside me within the musical programming. Some sing with me, some organize files, some head and run committees and others volunteer occasional hard work. No matter what the help or service is, it is always greatly appreciated, and a moral teacher to all who are surrounded by it. I am grateful to all those I am surrounded by who elevate us to holiness with their volunteerism.

I hope that in the coming days more of us will connect to a spiritual existence through feelings of ownership to our community.

B'Hoda'a (In gratitude)

**Cantor Galit Dadoun-Cohen**

# From the President... **WHAT COMMUNITY MEANS TO ME**

Over the next months as we examine how Temple B’nai Or is “Connecting Tradition to Life,” we will be asking ourselves what “community” means to each of us and how we can best shape our community to bring meaning and value to all who walk through our doors.

For me, community is about choosing to be a part of something that is bigger than the individual, choosing to affiliate with a community based on our interests and needs. This initially creates our connectivity with others but it is the passion of many in our community to offer and get support, to share joy and sorrow, to learn and grow together and explore the meaning of life that makes us a community.

It has been my great good fortune to see the passionate efforts of so many of our members working together to shape the present and future of Temple standing on the shoulders of our rich history. With this issue of *The Or-acle*, we celebrate those who have chosen to give their time and expertise to enrich our community and pave the way forward, building on our traditions and creating community for all. I am thankful. Toda Raba!



L’Shalom,

**Susan Levinson**

## Schedule of Services

When	What	Time	Description	Dates
1st Friday of each month	Shabbat Mishpacha	7:00 pm	Family friendly service with birthday blessings	3/7, 4/4, 5/2
2nd Friday of each month	Torah Explorers	5:45 pm	For children from birth to Grade 2— (a brief happy Service with songs, prayers, followed by Shabbat dinner)	3/14, 4/11, 5/9
	Torah Shabbat	7:30 pm	Shabbat Service with Torah reading	4/11, 5/9
3rd Friday of each month	Choir Shabbat	7:30 pm	A beautiful service accompanied by our congregational choir, with sermon or guest speaker	
4th Friday of each month	Kabbalat Shabbat	6:30 pm	Welcoming Shabbat—an earlier, shorter, informal service—meditative and musical	3/28, 4/25, 5/23
5th Friday of each month	Shabbat Service	7:30 pm	A brief service where we explore alternative ways to worship	5/30
Saturday	Shabbat Service	10:30 am	Service held only when B'nai Mitzvah are scheduled	3/1, 8, 15, 22, 4/12, 26, 5/3, 10, 17, 31



### **2014 Coat Drive** Toda Raba TBO!

Thanks to the wonderful donations from the Temple B’nai Or community, we collected 104 coats for those in need in the NJ area in just two weeks.

Our deep gratitude to those who gave—there is no better gift than that of warmth, especially this winter!

# Schmooze Newz

## MARRIAGE

Michael Rubin to  
Kimberly Markoff,  
daughter of  
Carol and Steven Markoff

## B'NAI MITZVAH

Madeleine Levinsohn,  
daughter of  
Christine St. Peter and  
Adam Levinsohn

Derian Dobbs,  
son of  
Heather and Timothy Dobbs

Hannah Cheren,  
daughter of  
Rebecca and Stephen Cheren

Samuel Kotkin  
son of  
Ellyn and Howard Kotkin

William Hains,  
son of  
Joanne and Jonathan Hains

Kyle Herman  
son of  
Eric and Vicki Herman

Olivia Hamwee,  
daughter of  
Dana and Robert Hamwee

Justin Lerner,  
son of  
Nikki and Jason Lerner

Jordan Handler,  
son of  
Laurie and Scott Handler

Benjamin Lifshy,  
son of  
Caroline and Steven Lifshy

Matthew Litman,  
son of  
Laurie and Eric Litman

Joey Oettinger,  
son of  
Cathy and Kenneth Oettinger

## BIRTHS

Jackson Solomon Tobe,  
grandson of  
Bonnie and Alan Ackerman

Nathan Michael Mayer,  
grandson of  
Laura and Robert Mayer

Everly Lilah Rotz,  
granddaughter of  
Sherry and Steve Rotz

Logan William Zubof,  
grandson of  
Meg and James Wiviott

Jordyn Rachel,  
granddaughter of  
Sandra and Barry Efros

## ANNIVERSARIES

Judith and Mel Fink  
50th wedding anniversary

Marcia and Horst Schran  
40th wedding anniversary

Karen and John Pawlo  
25th wedding anniversary

Stacey and Bill Schlosser  
25th wedding anniversary

Marie and David Singer  
25th wedding anniversary

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Michael Supron,  
son of Wendy and Greg Supron  
made Dean's List  
1st year at Franklin and Marshall

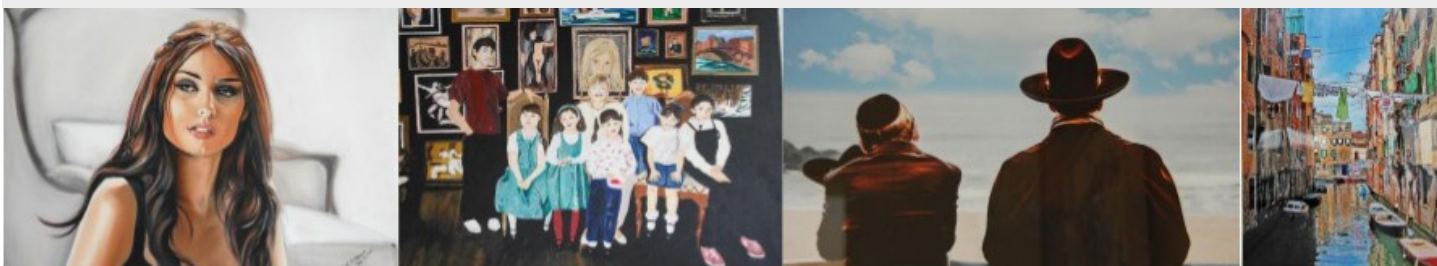
Andrew Supron,  
son of Wendy and Greg Supron  
accepted at Rice University  
in Houston

## NEW MEMBERS

Emily Wolper  
Mischa Wolper (daughter)

**Don't Miss "The Spirit of the Human Family" Show at the TBO Gallery!**

**Feb 3—March 31**



## THE REWARDS OF BEING INVOLVED **Begin in Pre-School**

Visitors to our Pre-School see that what sets our school apart –besides the exceptional staff and curriculum— is our sense of community. Parents and children find lifetime friends within our walls. The warmth and support we provide to one another is very, very special.

The proof in the pudding is the willingness of our alumni to get involved in all aspects of Temple life. Former Pre-School parents are on our Board of Trustees (Brian Dicker, Greg Pine, Alan Silverstein, Hillary Lindner, Judy Stein-Lowenthal, Bill Schlosser), as part of our Pre-School Staff (Ms. Susan, Ms. Sarah, Ms. Jodi, Ms. Liz, Ms. JoJo, and me), on our Religious School staff (Susan Rosenberg, Sarah Honea, Laurie Hoffman, Jen Van Frank, Jane Conklin), the smiling face within the Gift Shop (Alise Ford), and as our Executive Director (Wendy Gottsegen).



Catherine and husband, Paul

Current Pre-School parents chair Temple fundraisers (Randi Silverstein), volunteer in the office (Julia Kanowitz), and create incredible events for our Pre-School to ensure this beautiful tradition of community continues (Hallie Beyer, Jessica Exley, Catherine Rosenthal, Randi Silverstein).

There is a new voice on the Board of Trustees this year that is caring, smart, and passionate about ensuring that the values of Jewish life are vibrantly present within our institution. Catherine Rosenthal is that voice. When I met Catherine seven years ago, she was 8 1/2 months pregnant with her third child, and had brought her 17 month old twins to our Mommy & Me class. Let's just say that she had me at hello. I was completely in awe of her calm and cool demeanor. As I got to know her, I found her heart to be as large as her intellect. She has always been a tremendous volunteer at school regardless of pregnancy, work, or “mother of 4” exhaustion. We are truly fortunate to have her impeccable judgment as a guiding force on our Board.

I say a huge and heartfelt Toda Raba to Catherine, and all the volunteers in our temple for showing that the power of our community is fueled by caring individuals. It's what makes us extraordinary!

**Jennie Rubin, Director of Early Childhood Learning**

## A MARRIAGE OF MITZVAH

It's pretty impossible not to notice the beautiful white mums that adorn the sanctuary and much of the building during the High Holy Days. Their special appearance signifies the most sacred days are upon us, in addition to Fall and all the wonder of that season.

But did you know that to two very wonderful TBO families, these flowers signify their gratitude to this Kehilah Kedosha for the support and blessings they have received here?

For the past 16 years, the Sarasohn and Spurr families have donated the funds for the High Holy Days mums to Temple B'nai Or in honor of their children. They started this tradition after Amy Sarasohn married David Spurr. A friendship that began in the Temple Religious School.

This wonderful gesture has long-inspired the clergy and staff at Temple. We hope that it will add a new layer of meaning to your High Holy Days experience here. Toda Raba to the entire Sarasohn and Spurr clan.



Amy and David Spurr



# PURIM CARNIVAL

Sunday March 16, 2014

Megillah Reading and Costume Parade at 9 am

Carnival: 10 am - 1 pm

### K-3RD GRADE:

Sanctuary at 9 am  
Carnival at 10 am

### 4TH -6TH GRADE:

Religious School: 9 -11:30 am  
Carnival at 11:30 am

New Games

Moon Bounce

Hamentaschen

### New Family Pricing:

All-Inclusive Wristband: \$20  
Each Additional Wristband: \$10

Popcorn

Arts & Crafts

Cotton Candy



60 Overlook Road, Morristown, NJ (P) 973-539-4539  
Questions? Contact BOOTYadviser@gmail.com



# SAVE THE DATE



# Refrigerator Art Festival

April 27

2:00-4:00 pm

Arts and Crafts Stations

Great for  
Mother's Day Gift making!

Fun for kids of all ages!

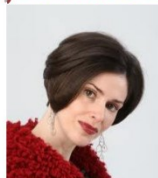
Enter a piece of art to be exhibited in the Summer  
Gallery Show

# SISTERHOOD PASSOVER EVENT 2014

Sunday, March 30th at 6:00 PM



with Fraidy Reiss, Founder & Executive Director



Join us for a memorable evening as we prepare our homes for  
Passover and Spring.

Today, in this country, there are many women who are not  
free. Fraidy Reiss, founder of

Unchained At Last, will talk about her vision for all women: a  
world where every woman is free to choose whether and  
whom to marry, and whether to leave a marriage.

**PRE-REGISTRATION \$18.00 by check, payable to  
TBO SISTERHOOD/WOMEN'S CONNECTION**

Appetizers, dessert and wine served.

**RSVP by Monday, MARCH 24th**



## WRJ/Sisterhood Judaica Shop



### What to Shop for:

#### March/April:

Time to prepare for Passover!

If you are hosting the *Seder* or will be a guest -  
we have what you need!

Matzah plates, *Seder* plates, Miriam cups & Elijah cups

Midrash Nail Decals & frogs!

Our selection of frogs include flying, flipping & iced.

**Inventory is always changing so please hop in!**



Hours: Sunday 9:00 - 11:30 AM &

Thursday 4:30 - 6:00 PM

We are open during Religious School hours. Please see our  
wonderful Temple office staff for assistance during  
non-shop hours.

By appointment, contact Laura Siegel at 973-455-0474

Looking to order *kippot* for your *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*:  
Contact Karen Anolick at 973-993-1096

Email the Gift Shop Staff @ [tbogiftshop@gmail.com](mailto:tbogiftshop@gmail.com).

Like us on Facebook: Temple B'nai Or Gift Shop

*The Judaica Shop thanks all those who volunteer  
their time to work. We would not be able to do it  
without you! Todah Rabah!*

TBO Judaica Shop

**10% Off**

Valid from

2/18/14 - 4/27/14

May not be combined with other  
offers. Not valid on sales items.

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL Stronger with our volunteers

A school's success is often attributed to the faculty, resources, and parental support. At our Religious School, the parental support often includes significant volunteering that is essential to our ability to achieve our goals of Jewish identity, history, Hebrew, community and much, much more.

Our school has benefited immeasurably from volunteers. Linda Rubman, who runs the Book Fair, has been involved with Social Action and helping families prepare for Shiva at their homes. Jessica Cohen stepped up to implement the successful monthly Shabbat Family Dinners so that families and children can socialize and celebrate Shabbat prior to our monthly Family service.

Our class ambassadors have served as a voice for school-wide issues, as well as assisting in broadcasting school events. We've had record numbers of kids and families at Hanukkah events, Mishpacha days and more.

Our teen Madrikhim, who work with teachers and students in the classrooms, deserve a lot of recognition as well. They are the face of youth commitment and positive role models for our impressionable young children.

I see volunteers as agents for the school, helping create enthusiasm and community and even to troubleshoot misconceptions and misunderstandings. We appreciate their ideas and suggestions. Volunteers have a stake in the success of our school. For this we are deeply grateful.



*David Iskovitz, Director of Education*



### BOOTY NEWS

We are off to a great start in 2014 and have so much to be grateful for! Our recent events have relied on the support of the temple community, so thank you to everyone who has participated and shared their enthusiasm.

Our first-ever Parents' Night Out was a great success. Parents enjoyed a few hours to themselves while the kids had fun with Temple teenagers – nobody wanted to go home! We are planning another Parents' Night Out in May (without snow!) so please stay tuned.



The BOOTY Benefit Concert was a great afternoon, filled with talented performers and raised \$360 for the URJ Philippines Relief Fund for Typhoon Haiyan. Special thanks to Shira Buchsbaum for organizing the event, Ketzev Junior Choir for headlining, and all the kids who shared their talent with us. Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy the concert and help us fulfill the mitzvah of tzedakah.

BOOTY cannot achieve successful events without the help of our wonderful teens. Our members enthusiastically attend our events and add their own flare to everything we do. The BOOTY Board has worked tirelessly to plan and program every event this year. Their creativity and enthusiasm have brought diversity and excitement to youth group this year. And I cannot forget a special thanks to our parent volunteers - they donate time, gas, and food keeping our youth group members safe, happy, and well-fed. We couldn't do this without you!

*Jen Spiegel, Booty Advisor*



## Wintertainment Yields an Avalanche of Fun at TBO

The first-ever Wintertainment for Kids event was so much fun, it will return again next year – just like the season it’s named after.

The event entertained more than 100 kids with a magic show by Simon the Magician, dancing led by Gwen Gencarelli and an exercise/sports session by local coach and personal trainer, Mag Irizarry. A super-creative craft room was in full swing, for those looking for fine motor skill stimulation.

All-in-all, the Wintertainment Committee of Laura Axler, Catherine Rosenthal, Jessica Temlock-Fields, Randi Silverstein, Judy Stein-Loewenthal and Michelle Pullaro met their goal of getting the kids out of the house and moving on a winter’s day AND raised \$2,000 for Temple.

We offer special thanks to congregant and clinical nutritionist, Debbie Weinstein, for providing immune-building snacks and recipes, to the TBO Senior Youth group for running the concession stand, and our volunteer helpers who staffed the event: Rachel Platt, Debbie Golub, Sherri Marks and Rebecca Murray.



### Toda Raba Sponsors!

#### FABULOUS FAMILIES

Cory & Greg Pine

Catherine & Paul Rosenthal

Randi & David Silverstein

The Axler Family

Wendy & Paul Gottsegen

#### AMAZING LOCAL BUSINESSES

Glassworks Studios

Children’s Dentistry of Morristown

Encore Catering



## KEEPING OUR BEST FOOT FORWARD

Hopefully you’ve noticed fewer typos and inaccuracies than ever before in weekly Chai-Light emails and other Temple-wide communications. This is thanks to a wonderful call our Executive Director received from Gail Hirsch. Gail is a retired copy editor and graciously offered to be our “fresh eyes” each week and proofread the Chai-Lights before it goes out.

In fact, if you do find a typo these days, it’s likely because Gail is on vacation or some weather-related crisis has not allowed us to send Chai-Lights to her. Gail also took over proofing the *Or-acle* from long-time volunteer, Jackie Horn, who also deserves our thanks. Toda Raba, Gail and Jackie, for giving of yourselves and helping us be “better versions” of ourselves!

The Temple Board of Trustees, Clergy and Staff sincerely thank the many members who have served on Committees this year. Temple could not run without you! We've highlighted some new committees that started work this year. Please contact the office or any member of the Board if you would like to help.

**Membership/Dues Restructure Task Force**

Mel Hecht, chair  
 Carol Markoff  
 Claude Hagelberg  
 Jim Wiviott  
 Glenn Yarnis  
 Charlotte Abberman  
 Stuart Rayvid  
 David Fields

**HR Committee**

Laurie Nosofsky, chair  
 Aaron Cohen  
 Stephanie Zweben  
 Cara Sroka

**Marketing Committee**

Paul Gottsegen, co-chair  
 David Fields, co-chair  
 Steve Cheren  
 Dan Sroka

**Financial Obligations Committee**

Mel Hecht  
 Carol Markoff  
 Claude Hagelberg

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee**

Michele Murray, co-chair  
 Sharon Rosner, co-chair

**60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee**

Mitzi Szerlip  
 Stacey Schlosser  
 Mary Fernandez & Adam Buchsbaum

Fred Palace  
 Linda & Mark Rubman  
 Gail Hecht  
 Susan Levinson-Agrusti  
 Carol & Daniel Barkin

Amy Merl

**Casino Night Committee**

Poppy Segal, co-chair  
 Randi Silverstein, co-chair

**Wintertainment Committee**

Catherine Rosenthal  
 Judy Stein-Loewenthal  
 Jessica Temlock Fields  
 Laura Axler  
 Randi Silverstein  
 Wendy Gottsegen

*Renaissance News*

**Celebrating the 25th year of Fun... Friendship... New Experiences... Lifelong Learning**

**It's not too early to plan your summer!**

Join the Renaissance Coalition Trip to Tanglewood, Aug 4-7

Enjoy the Concert of the Season: "Tanglewood on Parade," including fireworks and roaring cannon



The trip includes 3 Nights of accommodations, 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners  
 MassMOCA, Tanglewood On Parade Concert, Jacob's Pillow Performance,  
 Tanglewood Tour, Yiddish Book Center (YIVO), Eric Carle Museum, round trip motor coach  
 transportation, all applicable taxes and gratuities (except customary guide and driver gratuity), round trip luggage handling.

**The trip is limited to 48 participants, so contact Charlotte Abberman today!**



# Temple B'nai Or

60 Overlook Road  
Morristown, NJ 07960-5800  
*Member of the Union for Reform Judaism*

Dated Mail

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
DOVER, NJ  
PERMIT NO. 33



**WHAT DIFFERENCE  
CAN YOU MAKE?**

**ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.**



The difference for Adam and Clare? A profound connection to their Jewish Identities, courtesy of a free Birthright Israel trip.

**ACT NOW**  
(973) 929-3198  
[www.jfedgmw.org](http://www.jfedgmw.org)



**Jewish Federation\***  
OF GREATER MORRISTOWN NJ