

Temple Adath Israel Bulletin

March 2018

Adar/Nisan 5778

A big month: Purim and Passover

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK



David Wirtschafter

HIDE AND SEEK: Reimagining the Rituals of Afikomen

The rituals of breaking the middle matza, declaring a portion of it to be afikomen, hiding it, sending people to find it, redividing it and sharing it with everyone are wonderfully playful and deeply profound. It was a stroke of pedagogical

genius to have something so physical, a ritual

Please fill out and return **High Holy** Days survey on Page 10.

requiring participants to get up and move, to infuse a healthy dose of variety and contrast to a night that revolves around a lot of talking, listening and staying in place. So, too, the progression of afikomen events is consistent with the essentials of great storytelling. We introduce See RABBI, Page 2



Join your temple family on the first night

Due to a confluence of circumstances, including the start of Fayette County Public Schools' spring break and the NCAA Final Four, this year's congregational seder, presented by TAI Sisterhood, will be on the first night, Friday, March 30. This is also Shabbat, so services will be at 5:30 p.m., followed by the Seder at 6. The Seder registration form can be found on Page 7, online at Lextai.org/welcome/passover-sign-up or in the temple office.

Get the jump on Purim fun at March 4 carnival



\$5 person or \$10 per family for unlimited wristbands. Cake walk is additional \$1 per ticket.

Bounce house? Check! Super slide? Check! Games and prizes? Check? Cake walk? Check, check! LEXTY, TAI's youth group, will present its annual Purim carnival from noon to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 4, in the social hall.

Pizza, drinks and hamantaschen will be available for purchase.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



I've used this column often to bemoan the demographic crisis faced by the Temple, as with most Reform congregations across the country: As we age, our membership shrinks. We get caught in a vicious cycle, as less money from dues impinges on our ability to offer programming to attract new members.

But I have also used this column to share my enthusiasm about an initiative we've been working on behind the scenes to reverse this dynamic. And I'm excited to report that we have gained an important partner in this effort: Ohavay Zion Synagogue.

As you may recall, we have secured a will be promoted at these signature variety of grants and donations to fund events. Some of these smaller a two-year outreach programming effort. Our mission will be to grow our membership by 10 percent. A particular focus will be on the university community – students, staff and faculty - where the unaffiliated Jewish population has been growing rapidly. We also plan special outreach to area intermarried couples and families looking for a spiritual home. Of course, we will have programming to welcome local Jews of all ages, backgrounds and interests.

As part of this effort, we received a \$15,000 grant from the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence in Louisville. That money will be directed to development of an annual or biannual signature event – inviting a big-name Jewish speaker on a Jewish cultural topic. We will partner with OZS on this major program, and ask our friends at UK and the Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass for their expertise and help with publicity and outreach into the community.

The event will hopefully draw a big crowd, but that's really a means to our real end: In the interim, we will develop discreet programming that

programs will be done in conjunction with OZS, such as a social action network or youth programming. Others will be TAI only, such as Introduction to Reform Judaism for intermarried families.

It's a simple formula – capture the community's interest, offer them meaningful programs that they would appreciate and enjoy, and encourage them to join our congregation. Of course, it will require a complex effort - all of the Temple's committees will be engaged in developing the kind of programming that the community wants and needs.

And here's where you come in. We need your help. This is still very much in the design phase, so I solicit your ideas. More importantly, we need everyone to pitch in to provide the kind of welcoming spirit that will build our congregation. Please let me know what programming you'd be interested in helping to organize. Thanks in advance for your involvement. Together, we can come out of this demographic wind stronger as a congregation.

RABBI

Continued from Page 1

the elements of the subplot, build anticipation, step back from the game, return to the seder, create even more suspense, reopen the search, try to keep up with any number of those looking for the hidden matza, and finally rejoice in the afikomen being found. Participants meet Afikomen. Participants lose Afikomen. Participants get Afikomen back.

Both the ones who hide and find the afikomen have each other over a barrel. The seder cannot end without the afikomen being shared, so the lucky winner wants a prize for its return. Then again, we cannot go home (or go to sleep) without the afikomen being shared, so the host has the leverage of peer pressure to help bring

negotiations to a close. All of those present have a personal stake in "getting to yes." Like other elements of this game-like ritual, the return of the

afikomen teaches that we are mutually dependent on one another for a positive outcome.

What else does the afikomen hunt teach? It teaches that finding requires seeking. That seeking, in and of itself, is worthwhile and fun. That discovering new meaning demands that we keep looking. That we can't bring anything to a satisfying conclusion without the patience and persistence needed to get there.

The seder calls not only for imagination but reimagination. What



would happen if our children were the ones to hide the afikomen, and we were the ones expected to find it? What would they learn from the task of

placing it so that locating it is difficult enough to be challenging yet easy enough to allow us to welcome in Elijah before midnight? What would we learn from the task of looking for it and from the joy of looking at our children looking at us look?

Knowing where things are and how to look for them is good for young and old alike. Our children need to know that we're still interested in seeking. and we need to remember that where we put things will surely have an effect on the ability of others to find them.



Menemsha Films

One World Film Festival presents Israel's 'The Women's Balcony'

Hewing to its mission to show quality films that "present issues of culture, society, ethnicity, gender, and the politics that surrounds them in ways that increase understanding and encourage creative thinking," the 20th annual One World Film Festival is bringing "The Women's Balcony" to The Kentucky Theatre at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 8. Admission is free.

The 2016 Israeli film, from director Emil Ben-Shimon, is

described as a rousing, good-hearted tale about women speaking truth to patriarchal power.

After the women's balcony collapses during a bar mitzvah, leaving the rabbi's wife in a coma and the rabbi in shock, a devout Orthodox community in Jerusalem falls into crisis. Charismatic young Rabbi David appears to be a savior after the accident, but he starts pushing his fundamentalist ways and tries to take control. This tests the women's friendships and creates an almost

Lysistrata-type rift between the community's women and men.

A New York Times review cited the film's "smart direction" and "lighthearted and topical script," which "ensure the proceedings not only hit all the right notes, but also entertain while being respectful of religious traditions."

The 96-minute movie is in Hebrew with English subtitles. It is not rated.

Lexington Hadassah is cosponsoring the film and will hold a reception afterward at The Kentucky.



Friday, March 9

Tot Shabbat at 5:45 p.m., dinner at 6; Family Service at 7 4th Grade will participate

Please RSVP for dinner to Temple office (269-2979 or laura@lextai.org).



FROM SISTERHOOD

Elissa Weinstein, president

Shalom Sisters! Can you believe that we're approaching springtime? Pretty soon we'll be grabbing the matzah and setting the table for Passover. Spring is traditionally a time of rebirth and renewal. What better way to express renewal than renewing your passion for Sisterhood.

In February, a wonderful group of us came together for a great cause: making fleece blankets to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. We crafted, we laughed and, of course we ate! Once again, this was a fantastic program, and I know that everyone enjoyed themselves.

On March 22, we have plans to dine out together, and I hope to see many of you there. It's such a great way to connect with different Sisters on a social level. Please be on the lookout for an Evite for this event.

On March 30, Sisterhood is again presenting the annual congregational Seder. Look for details on the front page of this bulletin; the registration form is on Page 7.



Debbie Masters, left, and Starr Gantz display one of the fleece blankets made by Sisterhood.

Then, on April 22, we'll be having a Game Afternoon. Join us for a couple of hours of nibbles, games and friendship. Look for more information as the event approaches; until then, mark your calendars!

If you are interested in becoming involved with Sisterhood, don't hesitate to contact me at 263-1859 or taisisterhoodpresident@gmail.com.

Get your green thumb dirty

It might be winter, but it's time to plant coldseason seeds and transplants in the TAI Garden. The crew, which needs your help, will be planting arugula, collards, cabbage, kale, lettuces, Swiss chard, mustard and other crops from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 18. Wear gardening clothes and closed-toe shoes. All of the crops, tools and gloves will be provided. It is a fun activity for the family, including children older than 6.

The food produced by the garden helps the Bob Brown House, an independent living facility for adults with various challenges, and also is used for the temple's Lexington Jewish Food Festival.

Your help and support are appreciated.





FROM TAI
PRESCHOOL
Katherine Henry,
Director

Registration for the 2018-2019 school year is in full swing. We have a lot of families returning to TAI next year, but we also have openings that we would love to fill! Please contact Katherine Henry for information about the upcoming school year. The preschool number is (859) 269-1915.

We are looking forward to an exciting March! We will celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday at the beginning of the month. It is always a fun-filled week with lots of wacky outfits and hairstyles. We really enjoy reading numerous Dr. Seuss books and the tongue twisters that can result from all the rhyming words!

We will end the month learning about the Passover. This year, Passover occurs entirely during spring break, so we will spend the week before singing songs, reading stories and having a classroom Seder.



While learning about China in February, TAI Preschool's transitional kindergarten class built the Great Wall out of wooden blocks.



FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Kristen Hoffman, Interim Coordinator

On Feb. 9, TAI's Religious School joined together for a family service. The third-grade class, Junior Choir, and members of our seventh/eighth-grade class all participated meaningfully in this wonderful service.

PJ Library hosted a communitywide Hamantaschen Bake-off at TAI on Feb. 18. Attendees enjoyed songs from Rabbi Smolkin, a story from Rabbi Wirtschafter, and a neck-and-neck competition for the best cookie.

We are welcoming spring with busy and enriching programming.

On March 4, TAI will celebrate Purim with a school sssembly at 11:30 a.m., followed by the LEXTY Purim Carnival (see details on Page 1).

The following weekend, TAI Religious School welcomes back Shira Muroff, our education fellow from the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life. She will be helping us with special Passover programming and joining the congregation for a family service and Saturday programming.

On March 11, our high school students will head to Ohavay Zion Synagogue for a joint event, "College From a Jewish Perspective," presented by ISJL and Rabbi Smolkin.

Lauren Higdon will return March 25 to lead a wellness enrichment program for some of our students.

If you have any questions about religious school, contact me at (773) 425-2005 or kristen@lextai.org Thank you for your continued support.

Effort underway to form Lexington post of Jewish veterans' group

TAI member Jerry Cerel is organizing Kentucky's first local chapter of Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America. The JWV is open to military veterans or reservists, male or female, of all service branches.

The group was created as the Hebrew Veterans Union in 1896 in an effort to refute criticism after the Civil War that Jews had not come to America's defense. In 1929, after various name changes, the group settled on the name it stills carries. Today there are more than 400 JWV posts around the country – Lexington will be known as Post 859

-- with thousands of members who take part in a variety of philanthropic activities to help Jewish and other veterans. In addition to veterans, JWV welcomes "patrons," described as any supporter who upholds, reflects and pursues the values of the organization.



To learn more about plans for and membership in the Lexington JWV post, call Jerry Cerel at (859) 229-9198. For more information about JWV, go to JWV.org.



From left: Emmy Sippy, Samantha Levine, Lily Kaufman, Bela Nelson, Zach Eichner, Ruth Nelson and Madison Dresler.

Millions of ways to have fun with LEXTY

On Sunday, Feb. 11, LEXTY, the temple's youth group, "robbed" Countdown Games of more than \$4,000,000!

Countdown Games are movielike scenarios in which you step into a role and solve puzzles, riddles and brain teasers in order to escape the game. LEXTY played Bank Heist, the most complex game choice. The teens had to get into the bank and its vault, then pick the right safety deposit box before the security system and the police caught them red-handed. It was difficult but awesome!





SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR GOLDMAN UNION CAMP INSTITUTE (GUCI), CAMP SHALOM AND SUMMER ISRAEL TRIPS

The Temple has a limited amount of scholarship money for those youths attending Jewish summer camp or participating in organized travel to Israel. To apply for a scholarship, please submit a written request to Laura Creamner by April 15, 2018. Entering 3rd through 10th grade children from synagogues across Midwest are currently being enrolled for the coming summer program at our regional U.R.J. camp, GUCI. A four week session (a two week session is offered for entering 3rd and 4th graders) at Goldman Camp is a unique experience. Scholarship incentive grants are now available. Find out more about this wonderful opportunity by calling or emailing the camp directly (317) 873-3361 or guci@urj.org.



March 8

JFS Caregiver Support Group

The group will meet from 10 to 11 a.m. at Temple Adath Israel. It provides a confidential and supportive environment to allow family members, friends and caregivers to meet regularly for mutual support, education and an exchange of ideas. For more information, contact Mimi Kaufman at jfs@jewishlexington.org.

March 23

YBJ "By The Candlelight" Shabbat Dinner

Join Young Bluegrass Jews at 7:00 p.m. for a Shabbat dinner hosted by Katie Kaplan. For more details, check out the YBJ Facebook group or contact daniel@jewishlexington.org.

March 27

Lunch & Learn with Our Local Rabbis

This series an opportunity to get together and learn about a variety of topics with our community's rabbis. This month's discussion leader is Rabbi Moshe Smolkin. Meetings are at noon at the JFB office, 1050 Chinoe Road, Suite 150. Please RSVP to Rabbi Sharon Cohen at rabbisharon@jewishlexington.org. April 24: Rabbi Uri Smith

March 27

JFB Board Meeting

Regular board meeting at 7:30 p.m. at JFB office. Contact tamara@jewishlexington.org for details.

March 31

YBJ Passover Seder

Join Young Bluegrass Jews on March 31 for its annual Seder hosted by Ilana Kline. For more details, check out the YBJ Facebook group or contact

Camp Shalom 50th Anniversary Celebration



Save the weekend of Aug. 3-5 for a celebration of Camp Shalom's Jubilee year. Currently, the main event will be Sunday brunch. A Shabbat evening service on Aug. 3 honoring the history of the camp will be part of an exciting weekend of activities. Please look for more information in future bulletins and emails.

2018 Congregational Seder Registration Form

6 p.m. Friday, March 30

COST

 MEMBERS
 NON-MEMBERS

 Adults
 \$18
 \$25

 Children (ages 5-12)
 \$8
 \$15

Free ages 4 and younger

ONLY 200 SEATS AVAILABLE

Reservations due by Monday, March 26. There will be a late charge of \$5 a person for reservations made after that. Make check payable to: Adath Israel Sisterhood. Send reservation form below and check to:

Passover Seder c/o Temple Adath Israel 124 North Ashland Avenue Lexington, KY 40502

New Members:

Pamila Tabacnic & Jancee Wright 450 N. Keeneland Dr., #1210 Richmond, KY 40475 (859) 358-6844 (859) 421-6928

Julie Mickler 1327 Prather Rd, 40502 (859) 269-3394

Henno Lohmeyer 1331 Prather Rd, 40502 (859) 269-3860

TEMPLE ADATH ISRAEL MISSION STATEMENT

Temple Adath Israel is a Reform Jewish congregation linked to a tradition of welcoming those searching for a community committed to honoring the dignity we all share as children of the one God by embracing these enduring Jewish values: AVODAH (Worship); TALMUD TORAH (Torah Study); TZEDEK (Social Justice); and KEHILAH (Community). Our mission is to inspire our congregants' Jewish engagement and to ensure a vibrant Jewish present and future by nurturing the many generations of our community. We share a commitment to the Reform Jewish foundational beliefs of furthering individual and communal spiritual growth, while recognizing a range of personal philosophies, practices and needs. We are the community center through which our families can celebrate faith, justice, and the blessings of family lives present, and future.



YAHRZEIT.....These we remember....

March 2

Louis Abrams Sarah Fox Ades Maurice M. Ballin Sadye M. Breck Sylvia Carter Lena Clebanoff I. Davis **Anita Ditty** Steve Fleckman **Irving Fleet** Ora Slaughter Frankel Barbara "Bobbi" Fried Pauline Goldenberg Sam Herman Linda Keplinger Hilda Kerber Annie H. Kreger Jack Landesberg Henry Loevenhart Melvin Machesney George Melcher Jeanne Schennberg

Corinne Strauss Stern

Geraldine H. Balmer

March 9

Larry Steur

James D. Weil

Meta Berchner

Riva Bisnovataya Louise Bitman Julia Bloom Isaac Capilouto Sylvia Cohen Lewis Epstein Sidney Gall Emma B. Goldman Frieda Y. Goldman Martin Goldschmidt Reginald Ernest Haskell Samuel Charles Hite Sr. Lori Rebecca Hufana Regina Hustedde Hyman S. Hymson Maude S. Jacobson Jason Karpf Robert Adam Katz

Harry Kessler Dora (Doris) Krekun Avraham Lazurik Joseph Lester Levens Jack Lincoln **Emanuel Meyers** Beatrice Milner Ralph Petrone Charlie Phillips **Shirley Ades Platt Roland Rabe** Morris Rattner Morris Rattner Herbert P. Sarett **Esther Schwartz Edward Shuster** Robert Silverman Jonathan William Snyder Milton Victor Belle Weill Weil **Howard Weiss** Dr. Abraham Wikler Henrietta "Henny" Witzer

March 16

May Abraham

Burnis Akers

Morris J. Baker Sophie Bloomfield **Ruth Brown** D. Kay Clawson Martin Cremer Rebecca Davis Doukas Louis Engel Jakob Fischer Zelma Fleischman John Frank Michael Ralph Gross Dora Heller Kate Hymson Lea Kaplan Nathan Kaplan **Thomas Katz** Mark Kaufman Freda Kornreich Ruth Magen Mark Magilow

Henrietta (Jettchen) Marx

Anita Morris
Jack Neufeld
Donna Saleeby
Pauline Scott
Sam Seigan
Sidney Shain
David Kenneth Sommer
Dorothy M. Stith
James M. Strauss
Robert Arnold Strauss
Nathan Waldman
Janice M. Weil
Douglas Weinberg

March 23

Ed Beeman Rose Newhoff Bloomfield David Bolotin Darwin James Braun Arlene Cobin **Charles Cool** Dr. Maurice S. Davis **Dorothy Doran** Dr. Charles F. Elton Jr. Lillian Frumberg May Golde **Brent David Hershinow** Adolf Kerber Harry Klein Cindy Jennings Kline Adolf Leichtman Nathan Levine N. O. Jr. McDowell Meyer Mendelsohn Harry Mertens Moses Moses William Moses **Morton Norris Ephim Nudel** Isadore H. Pollack Reva Schottenstein **Gerald Schumer Pavel Sheftel** Nell S. Straus **Audry Sustin** Sidney Wachtel Lurie Williams

March 30

Hennie Abel Lillie Bederman Mildred Cool Gitel Grobstein Delbert F. Haynes Lawrence Hymes Henry Jacobsen Robert Katz Virginia Lloyd Pearl Ann Lowenthal Walter Magid Joseph E. Marks Leonore S. Mayer **Gertrude Meyers** Bernard H. Miller Corinne Wachtel Maree M. Winters Sol Wurmser Ben Abraham Zuckerman

In Memoriam.....

Peggy Fain, grandmother of Nick Fain (Debbie Masters)

Susan Kelly Knoll, partner of Dan Liebman

May their memories be for a blessing





WORSHIP SCHEDULE



SHABBAT SERVICES

March 2

Shabbat 7:00 pm Lorne Dechtenberg will lead us in song

March 3

Jewish Texts 9:00 am Parsha 11:00 am *Ki Tisa - Exodus 30:11 - 34:35*

March 9

Tot Shabbat 5:45 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Family Shabbat 7:00 pm Aviva Bowling will lead us in song

March 10

Kollel Study 9:00 am Parsha 11:00 am Vayakhel-Pekudei Exodus 35:1 - 40:38

March 16

Shabbat 7:00 pm Stephanie Barrett will lead us in song

March 17

Jewish Texts 9:00 am Parsha 11:00 am Vayikra - Leviticus 1:1 - 5:26; Numbers 28:9 - 15

March 23

Shabbat 7:00 pm Shir Adat will lead us in song

March 24

Kollel Study 9:00 am Parsha 11:00 am Tzaz - Leviticus 6:1 - 8:36

March 30

Service 5:30 pm Passover Seder 6:00 pm

March 31

Jewish Texts 9:00 am Parsha 11:00 am Pesach - Exodus 12:21 - 51

April 6

Shabbat 7:00 pm

April 7

Kollel Study 9:00 am
Parsha 11:00 am
Pesach - Deuteronomy 14:22 - 16:17

KOLLEL STUDY GROUP



Kollel meets at 9:00 a.m. every two weeks in the TAI Library. The group explores cultural, ethical and historical aspects of our 4,000-year tradition. The emphasis is on dialogue and exploration. Please join us any time. We will get together on March 10 & 24 and April 7.

JEWISH TEXTS STUDY

We will discuss selected readings in rabbinic literature on alternate Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. in the library. The discussion is always lively and informative, and you can join the group anytime. We will meet March 3, 17 & 31.

PARSHA

Join us each Saturday morning at 11:00 a.m. in the library as we take a look at the Torah portion for each week. We will meet March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 and April 7.

Upcoming Meetings

Executive Committee Meeting Thursday, March 8 @ 5:45 p.m.

Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, March 13 @ 6:30 p.m.

High Holy Days Survey

Please return this survey to us by mail or drop it off with Laura in the Temple office.

Additionally, an electronic version will be sent by email and made available on our website/Facebook page. Thank you for your input.

Respond to the following questions using a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest. Feel free to add any additional thoughts that might be helpful.

1. Impression of new High Holy Day prayer book

1 2 3 4

2. Convenient start times of services

1 2 3 4 5

3. Appropriate length/duration of services

1 2 3 4 5

4. Overall quality of music

1 2 3 4

5. Overall quality of sermons

2 3 4 5

6. Appropriate balance between Hebrew and English

1 2 3 4

7. Good balance of service leadership among Rabbi W., Lorne Dechtenberg/Shir Adat.

2 3 4 5

8. Number of readings/proportion of each service led by congregants seemed appropriate.

9. Overall quality of children's programming

Other responses and reflections:

CONTRIBUTIONS

FLOWER FUND

Judi & Ira Gewirtzman in memory of Peggy Fain David & Pat Shraberg in memory of Hyman and Bess Shraberg

Bobbi & Lou Shain in memory of Jennie Meyer **Elissa & Alan Weinstein** in memory of Alan Forman & Bertha Pessin

Beth & Scott Schumacher in memory of Neoma Mellman Debbie Masters & Nick Fain in memory of Robert Joffe

GENERAL FUND

Rita & Larry Steinberg in memory of Jim Levenson, Sr. Ben Kaufmann in memory of Jimmy Levenson, Sr. Samye & Darryl Stith in memory of Peggy Fain Gail Broida in memory of Jim Levenson, Sr. Connie & Joe Grobstein
Nat & Judy Sandler in memory of Jim Levenson Sr. William Hays

Mixon Ware in memory of Jack Joffe's Groundhog Day birthday

PRAYER BOOK FUND

Jo Ann & Byron LaVan in memory of Jim Levenson, Sr.

RABBI'S FUND

Joe Umansky

Ida Waldman

Bobbi & Lou Shain in appreciation of Rabbi Wirtschafter and uniongrams for Bobbi's birthday

Judy Engelberg in honor of Lowell Nigoff and Robert Tannenbaum

Barbara Hymson Frommer

SHERMAN E. AND FANNIE H. MILLER FUND

Samye & Darryl Stith in memory of Hattie Gordon & Dorothy Stith













This Space Available

This Space Available

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TEMPLE FUNDS

Contributions may be made to any of the following funds. Acknowledgment will be made to the individual or family honored and will be listed in the Bulletin. Please check the fund of your choice. Fund descriptions may be found on pages 20 & 21 of your Temple Yearbook/Directory. All donations not specifically directed to one of the funds listed below will be placed in the Temple Hineni: Here I Am Reserve Fund.

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	Max Berman Memorial Library Fund		Outreach Program Fund
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	Building Fund for the Future		Rabbi's Fund
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Please accept my enclosed donation in the amount of \$ for the fund checked above.			
	For the recovery of		
	In honor of		
	In memory of		
Please notify family of/or			
Address if not a Temple member			