



From Rabbi Weber

PLEASE READ THIS IF YOU CARE

On Rosh Hashanah three years ago I spoke about the need to help members of our community who are suffering through financial hardship. The response was amazing, and the result was the creation of TRT CARES, which has helped well over 100 people since it began. We showed – as a congregation and a community – that we really do care, and we should all be very proud of what we have done.

Now, three years later, we need to see if we still care. The original volunteers worked very hard to set up the program and respond to people's needs, and many of them need to turn over the task to new hearts and new hands. I am grateful to every one of them for the work they have done, and I know the best way to thank them is to make sure that their work continues. So I am appealing to you now – to every person who wishes they could do something to help neighbors who are suffering, to every person who feels grateful that they have not been personally affected, and to every person who has been affected, who wants to do something positive for others while they try to rebuild for themselves.

I will be blunt: if new volunteers do not step forward, TRT CARES will cease to exist. I have heard from so many of you that you are proud of what "we" are doing that I have to believe you will offer your help if you understand the critical nature of our need, and so I am reaching out to you again, as I did three years ago.

For TRT CARES to continue, we need:

Expert Advisors: Professional, trained experts in Law, Finance, and Career Counseling are needed to advise clients on a one-on-one basis. Duties could also involve leading workshops, if so motivated.

Program Administrator: Responsible for recruiting, training, and managing the team of hotline operators, and following up on the evolving case load. Individual must be detail-oriented to ensure that TRT CARES meets its obligations to our clients.

Expert Group Leader: Responsible for coordinating the various expert groups.

Leader will work with each expert group head in recruitment and training.

Legal Group & Career Counseling

Group Heads: Responsible for recruiting and overseeing the advising work of their respective teams. Duties include dispatching work to expert volunteers, counseling with clients and mentoring team members, and ensuring that all clients have received professional and timely services.

Public Relations Head: Responsible for marketing initiatives for our services, including workshops. Must be inventive! Responsibilities also include recruiting team members to assist in PR work.

TRT CARES Hotline Operators: Must be compassionate, professional, and willing to receive calls on our hotline cell phone at odd hours from clients who are in need of our counseling services.

TRT CARES Administrative Assistants: "Right-hand man/woman" for our group leaders, to assist in following up with case status. Must be detailed oriented and motivated to the timely and professional handling of client needs. No specific education, training, or experience required. We will train.

Volunteers do not need to be temple members, or even be Jewish. They might even be your adult children, whether they live near or far; most of this work can be done via telephone or internet. No one has to work all day at this. All you have to do is... **CARE.**

If you want to volunteer, or know someone who does, please call me at 732-409-1268, or email me at rebweb18@gmail.com. On behalf of everyone we want to help, **thank you for caring.**

Comments? Sign on to the rabbi's blog at www.rabbi.trt.org.



From the Desk of Rabbi Stern:

As a response to the holiday shopping frenzy last month, we taught the middah, the Jewish value, "Eizeh-hu ashir? Hasameach b'chelko," "Who is wise? S/he who is satisfied with what

they have." We tried to reinforce the difference between "wannas" and "gottas," helping our

students acknowledge that more isn't necessarily better when it comes to concrete possessions.

This month, we're asking them to act upon the opposite value: we want to disturb them from their feeling of being grateful for having everything they need so that they recognize their responsibility to repair the world as it is, to right what they see is wrong, to mend what they see is torn. *Tikkun Olam* is a concept that goes beyond doing "good" things in the world: it entails envisioning how the world should be. It requires that we go out to find what is missing, what (and who) is broken, and make our best efforts to change that reality.

Can a child change the world? You bet s/he can. Whenever you bring your children to TRT and give them a can to drop in the food pantry basket, or participate in a soup kitchen Sunday, or remind them about always bringing in *tzedakah* that will be allocated to a worthy charity, you have taught them to change the world. When you take them to buy hats and mittens and coats for children whose parents cannot afford these items if they want to put food on the table as well, you have taught them to change the world. When you put coins in a familiar white and blue box to buy trees in Israel, you have taught them to change the world. When you bring them along to visit a neighbor who is housebound, or encourage them to help cook a meal to deliver to a family impacted by a tragedy, you have taught them to change the world.

The operative word here is... you. We can offer the road map to bring *tikkun olam* into the world, but your children need you to journey with them to make it happen. They cannot do it alone: they have to follow in your footsteps.

My mother once asked me why I run around from hospital to hospital, from hospice to long-term facility, visiting those who are ill or lonely or ignored, and all I could do was laugh. "You always brought me with you when you visited the sick, or dropped in to chat with the lonely, or delivered a little 'pick-me-up' gift to those isolated from family and friends. It's all your doing!" I told her.

It can be all your doing as well. For some suggestions as to what you can do with your kids, please click on my blog on the TRT website for a growing list, so that you and your children together can change the world, and bring about *tikkun olam*.



JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

A special opportunity for Brownies and Girl Scouts to Earn your Jewish Scouting Awards

January 22, 12:15 to 1:45 PM

February 12 12:15 to 1:45 PM

March 11, 12:15 to 1:45 PM

Lehava Award, for Grades 2 and 3

Bat Or Award, for Grades 4, 5 and 6

Menorah Award, for grades 7, 8 and 9



Awards will be presented during Shabbat services on Friday evening, **March 16, at 8 PM**

There is **NO CHARGE** for this program, but you must register by January 12th.

Open to the entire Girl Scout community!

Call Temple Rodeph Torah at 732-308-0055 to register.

All scouts should wear their vests, and a parent or guardian must attend with you.

RTSY events

Chaverim

Grades 3-5

January 15, 2012, 12:00 PM - 1:45 PM at TRT
Rock Climbing

Jr RTSY

Grades 6&7

January 21, 2012, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM at TRT
Straw Rockets

Sr RTSY

Grades 8-12

January 22, 2012, 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
in Old Bridge
Ice Skating



The Women of TRT Celebrate Shabbat

Friday, February 10 at 6:30 PM

Join us as we welcome Shabbat with dinner, song and good company....

Share in this unique and wonderful way to usher in Shabbat....

Bring your friends....

Led by Rabbi Shira Stern and Karen Joseph

Fred & Murry's, Pond Road Shopping Center, Freehold
\$36 for TRT members / \$40 for non-members

RSVP by February 3

Send a check payable to Temple Rodeph Torah to the temple office or go to the link below to sign up and pay with a credit card: www.womensshabbat.trt.org

Any questions? Need a vegetarian meal?

Contact Ellen Finkelstein at 732-972-8624 or ellenstf@gmail.com

