

# NATA EXCHANGE

**AUTUMN 2009**



**From the President**

*Edward M. Alpert, FTA*

*Executive Director of Am Shalom, Glencoe, IL*

***"Jews alone are vulnerable...But Jews must not be alone" - Elie Wiesel***

I suspect, like me, that sometimes in your role as an Executive Director, you feel all alone and that no one else understands the issues you are grappling with. But the wonderful thing about NATA is that in fact we are never alone in our roles. Whether it is through phone calls, NATA-NET or the exchange of ideas in the NATA Journal, we have the opportunity to reach out to each other and show our support and understanding. As we approach our 2009 annual convention in Toronto I am looking forward once again to spending time with, and learning from, my wonderful colleagues and friends.

Thanks to the incredible scholarship support provided by the NATA Board of Directors, I am pleased to report that as of this article we have 130 individuals registered for the convention. Given current economic conditions and the financial challenges being faced by our congregations, this is a remarkable number. I urge all of you that plan to attend to take advantage of the workshops offered, and especially to meet and spend time with our vendors. There is so much to learn and our convention team has also created many opportunities for you to simply talk and socialize with those in attendance. I have seen the program for the convention and for those of you that will be attending, I can say with great certainty you are in store for a very special experience. For those that for a variety of reasons cannot attend Toronto, it is my hope you will start planning to attend the 2010 NATA Convention in Portland. I view our conventions as our once a year opportunity for continuing education. I firmly believe that what you learn at NATA Conventions will, in fact, be of benefit to your congregation and the important role that you play.

In advance I wish to offer thanks and appreciation to those individuals that have been working so hard on the 2009 Toronto Convention. They include Co-Chairs Ruth Cohen and Robin Rubin, Officer Oversight-Jeff Herzog and Education Co-Chairs Gennifer Kelly and Michael Liepman and local arrangements, Karen Grimm. Their time and efforts on behalf of all of us is deeply appreciated. I especially wish to thank our Association Manager, Kathy Small. She has put in more hours than I can count, making sure that everything will be perfect and dealing with some very complicated room and banquet issues. I feel so fortunate to work on a daily basis with Kathy and know how much she cares about our organization.

SEE YOU IN TORONTO!

L'Shalom  
**Ed**

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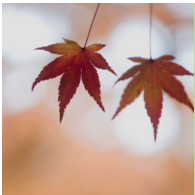
***By-Laws Update***



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**NATANET.ORG**



## NATA LIFECYCLE NEWS

**Our deepest sympathy to:** Ed Alpert, FTA on the passing of his father, Louis Alpert; and to Ron Wolfson on the passing of Bernice Wolfson.

**Mazel Tov to:** Jeff and Jackie Herzog on their marriage; Susanne Geshekter on her marriage to Robert Smith.

**Tributes were made by:** Susie Amster, FTA, Steve Breuer, FTA, Debbie Coutant, Nancy Drapin, Richard Fishkin, Susan Gold, Jeff Herzog, FTA, Liz Hirsch, FTA, Bob Isaacs, Mark Jacobson, Bekki Kaplan, Steve Kaye, Michael Liepman, Missy Lowdermilk, Brian Rissinger, Rick Rosenberg, Jr., Janice Rosenblatt, FTA, Robin Rubin, Jane Sable–Friedman, Nancy Schneider, Carolyn Shane, Leslie Sporn, Joyce Sturm, Marc Swatez, FTA, Livia Thompson, FTA, and the Tuesday Breakfast Group in IL!

## ***GOING FROM GOOD TO GREAT!***



### **TORONTO CONVENTION: October 31 - November 4, 2009**

The convention is just around the corner. The final schedule is available on the NATA website under “Conventions.”

Please see the Talent Show flyer in this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Toronto!

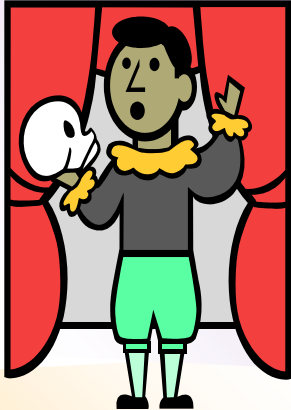
*Ruth Cohen and Robin Rubin  
Toronto Convention Co-Chairs*

## **Welcome to NATA!**

*New Members since July 2009*

Shellie	Ettinger	Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom	Montreal	PQ
Gary	Fifer	Congregation Har HaShem	Boulder	CO
Debra	Francis	Temple Sinai of No Dade	No. Miami Beach	FL
Michael	Garlin	Temple Jeremiah	Northfield	IL
Alan	Goldsmith	Temple Beth El of Great Neck	Great Neck	NY
Robert	Hersh	Temple Beth Am	Miami	FL
Melissa	Johnson	Main Line Reform Temple	Wynnewood	PA
Jeffrey	Katz	Temple Beth Or	Twp of Washington	NJ
Ken	Kaufher	Temple Beth Or	Raleigh	NC
Jonnie	Loughlin-Hagan	Congregation Beth Sholom	Napa	CA
Sandra	Moss	Stephen Wise Free Synagogue	New York	NY
Elana	Paru	Congregation Beth Elohim	Brooklyn	NY
Tal	Rosen	KAM Isaiah Israel	Chicago	IL
Miriam	Seidenfeld	Temple Israel, Minneapolis	Minneapolis	MN
Jan	Stickle	Ohavi Zedek	Burlington	VT

# TALENT



# SHOW



At this year's closing banquet, NATA will be sponsoring a members' talent show. We are looking for *singers, dancers, musicians, comedians, magicians, local NATA chapter group ditties or karaoke performers.*

Amateurs Welcome!

Simon Cowell sends his regrets.

Please contact Carolyn Shane ([shanetee@tewnj.org](mailto:shanetee@tewnj.org)) or Nancy Schneider ([nschneider@tstnyc.org](mailto:nschneider@tstnyc.org)) to sign-up.

If you don't volunteer you will be enlisted!

Dear NATA Colleagues,

The leadership of NATA during the past year has been working on several important projects, to insure that we provide our members with the highest level of service. I have reviewed and updated these various projects over the past year in my NATA Journal and NATA Exchange articles. From my perspective our most critical task has been to revise the NATA By-Laws. This is NATA's governing document and it needs to be as accurate as possible so that we may operate smoothly and professionally.

Over the past several months, a very dedicated group of your colleagues, working with outside professional legal counsel, have been examining each article in the existing by-laws and updating where appropriate. This will serve as official notification to the membership of NATA that the new By-Laws will be presented for approval during the plenary session of the 2009 Toronto Convention.

The current By-Laws and new By-Laws have been posted on the NATA website for your review. I would urge you to take a few moments and review what is being proposed so that you feel comfortable with the proposed changes. If you have any questions or comments regarding the By-Laws, I would ask that you contact Livia Thompson at: [livia@censyn.org](mailto:livia@censyn.org). As Chair of the By-Laws Review Task Force, Livia will make sure your comments/questions are addressed in a timely manner.

I cannot begin to tell you how many hours of work went into the new By-Laws and I would be remiss if I did not mention by name your colleagues who have worked so hard. As mentioned, Livia Thompson chaired the By-Laws Review Task Force and the members were: Michael Anatole, Toby Berkow, Cindi Crutchfield, Larry Glickman and Missy Lowdermilk. My deepest thanks and gratitude to all of them for a job well done.

I urge your approval of the new By-Laws in Toronto.

Ed Alpert, FTA  
NATA President

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

By Loree Resnik, FTA

Our Nominating Committee has been working since March and now presents to you the nominations for the Board terms of 2009-2012. We are very fortunate to have a group of outstanding Board members who are eligible for re-election. They are: Sydney Baer; Debbie Coutant; Betti Greenstein; Jeanne Kort, FTA; and Marc Swatez, FTA.

Each of them has made significant contributions to NATA and we are proud that they have accepted nomination for these additional terms.

In the meantime, due to some Board attrition and in accordance with our by-laws, we have nominated Ellen Franklin from Temple Judea in Tarzana, CA to complete the term left vacant by Joe Elbaum from Congregation Emanu El of San Francisco. In July, Joe was appointed to the Treasurer's position when Leon Silverberg stepped down due to a job change. We also nominated Abigail Spiegel from Leo Baeck Temple in Los Angeles, CA, to fill the vacant board position left by Hilary Leboff. Finally, for the newly created position of Assistant Treasurer, we have nominated Rick Rosenberg from Temple Emanu El in Dallas. These positions will be approved by the board at its November 4th board meeting.

The 2010 elections and work of our nominating committee will follow past procedures. We will be sending out applications to each of you either for your own self-nomination or to nominate any other members who have achieved senior status in NATA. Interviews will be conducted with all applicants by members of our committee in a process that will be open and fair for the Board positions as well as the officer positions. The slate will be presented prior to our Portland Convention for election at that time. Our committee members are: Serane Blatt, FTA, Cindi Crutchfield, Mark Jacobson, Missy Lowdermilk, Alice Miller, Saralouise Reis, FTA, Mark Rubenstein, Carolyn Shane, and alternate Karen Grimm.

### NATA Executive Committee:

#### President:

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#### Vice President

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#### Treasurer:

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#### Parliamentarian

Nancy Schneider

#### Honorary Board Members:

William Ferstenfeld, FTA  
Elizabeth L. Hirsch, FTA

#### Ex-Officio Members:

Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie  
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Dale Glasser, MSW

### NATA Board of Directors:

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