

# NATA EXCHANGE

**SUMMER 2009**



**From the President**

*Edward M. Alpert, FTA  
Executive Director of Am Shalom, Glencoe, IL*

*When Moses shepherded the flocks of Jethro, he used to stop the bigger sheep from grazing before the smaller ones, and let the smaller ones loose first to feed on the tender grass; then he would let the older sheep loose to feed on the grass of average quality; lastly he let the strong ones loose to feed on the toughest. God said, "Let...him who knows how to shepherd the flock, each according to its strength, come and lead my people. Exodus Rabbah 2:2*

I have shared with you before that I am constantly asked, "How do I find the time to both be Executive Director of Am Shalom and the President of NATA?" The answer is simple. I am able to work with the incredible Officers and outstanding Board of NATA, who truly make my job as President very easy. I have never worked with a more dedicated and caring group of volunteers then the current Officers and Board. Each and every day they are hard at work on various projects and committees, doing what they can to enhance the mission of NATA and to provide support to you, the members. I am also very grateful for the many members of NATA who have stepped to the plate and asked to serve on a NATA Committee or Task Force. Along with our awesome Association Manager, Kathy Small, you are the "true shepherds" who help to guide NATA and make it such an outstanding organization.

Leadership is the key to the current and future success of NATA. That is why at the July NATA Board meeting there will be (11) of your colleagues who are not currently on the Board who will be participating in a one day workshop on leadership, led by our own Livia Thompson, FTA and Dale Glasser. These colleagues hopefully represent your future leaders and NATA feels it is a critical element of its mission to cultivate and develop these leaders. As I have stated several times before, NATA belongs to its members and if you are interested in getting involved I hope you will feel free to contact me.

The subject of leadership is really my topic for this edition of the NATA Exchange as several long time leaders of our organization will soon be stepping down from their roles. Nancy Schneider, a Vice President of NATA, will be stepping down as of the July Chicago Board meeting. In her usual kind, professional and gentle way it is Nancy's desire to create an opening for future leadership. Nancy will continue to attend Board and Officer meetings in her new role as NATA Parliamentarian. With the approval of the Board, I have selected Ruth Cohen to replace Nancy as a Vice President effective in July.

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## NATA LIFECYCLE NEWS

**Mazel Tov to:** Joe Elbaum on the birth of his grandchild, Avery Jule Duran; and to Marty Halpern on the birth of his grandson, John Joseph Halpern.

**Tributes were made by:** Norm Fogel, Mark Jacobson, Robin Rubin, Nancy Schneider, Carolyn Shane, and Joyce Sturm.

### Reform Pension Board (RPB) Report

If you are concerned about and/or are close to retirement, then it is important that you mark your calendar and attend the "RPB 2010 Retirement Planning Seminar" being held April 25-27, 2010 on the East Coast; exact location TBD.

If you have any questions, contact Carolyn Shane at 908-232-6770, ext. 114. Been there, done that, great opportunity!

For the RPB plan year 2009/2010 there will be 3 payment options. Our congregations can select one of the following three choices:

1. One payment in full paid at the beginning of the plan year, July 1.
2. Equal quarterly payments due in July, October, January and April. Final payment made by April 1.
3. Equal monthly payments commencing no later than October 1. Final payment due by April 1.

The selection forms will be sent shortly, if you have not already received it.

We are fortunate that the RPB not only serves its participants, but congregations in the Reform Movement as well.

# Welcome to NATA!

*New Members since April 2009*

### 2009/2010 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS



NATA Dues renewals are underway! You may go online and renew your dues by going to: [www.natanet.org](http://www.natanet.org).

Remember that one's dues must be current in order to register for the Toronto Convention and the URJ Biennial.

NATA dues will remain the same as they have been for the last 8 years. We appreciate your continued membership!

Thank you for your continued membership with NATA!

### 2009 NATA AWARDS

The application for the 2009 NATA awards is included at the end of this newsletter and on the NATA website under "Conventions." Please give some thought to colleagues and co-workers who may be deserving of this special recognition.

- Myron Schoen - Service to Judaism Award
- Service to Community Award
- Service to NATA Award

Please review the nominations form and contact Sydney Baer for more information. Nominations are due before September 11, 2009.

Berlin	Alan	Temple Beth-El	San Antonio	TX
Feinman	Art	Temple Beth Israel	St. Kilda	Australia
Katz	Gary	Scarsdale Temples Tremont and Emanu-El	Scarsdale	NY
Leibowitz	Frieda	The Village Temple Congregation B'nai Israel of New York	New York	NY
Teichman	Moshe	Beth El Hebrew Congregation	Alexandria	VA
Zucker	Arlene	Temple Sinai of Roslyn	Roslyn Heights	NY

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

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

**Registration begins July 1, 2009!**

Planning for the upcoming convention in Toronto is well underway. We have some splendid sessions, events and activities for you to enjoy and learn while in Toronto. Highlights include:

- What to expect now that you are a temple administrator
  - Building or moving - timelines, bumps in the road, prepared guideline
    - Preventative Maintenance/Facility Management
    - Effective use of communication and new technology
    - Great programs to engage members & raise money
      - Contract Negotiations
      - Budgeting in a difficult economy
  - Staffing- making sure you have the right people in the right seats
- And much, much more.....

We also have a very special general session on customer service presented by the Four Seasons Hotel. This is sure to be an informative experience!

As a reminder, please register as soon as possible for the convention by logging into the Members Only section of the website: [www.natanet.org](http://www.natanet.org). In addition, please call the **Four Season's Hotel** at: **416-964-0411** to make your room reservations as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

**Senior Management Courses:** If you are planning on taking a Senior Management Course, you may want to arrive in Toronto on Friday evening or Saturday morning as the courses begin at 1:30 pm on Saturday, October 31st. This year we are offering:

**1:30 pm      Personnel**

**3:30 pm      Budget & Financing**

**(Exams will be held on Tuesday, November 3 at 1:30 pm)**

**We look forward to seeing you in Toronto!**

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

*Michael Liepman & Jennifer Kelly*  
**Education Co-Chairs**



Ruth brings years of experience to her role both in her synagogue work and the various roles she has filled for NATA. I thank Nancy for her many years of service and look forward to working with Ruth.

Leon Silverberg, the Treasurer of NATA, will soon be leaving his congregation to become Executive Director at a neighboring conservative congregation. It is with sadness that this requires Leon to step down as Treasurer but I extend my gratitude for his incredible efforts over the past couple of years. I have selected, with the approval of the Board, Joe Elbaum to be the new Treasurer of NATA. I am so very grateful for Joe's willingness to step into this role and know he will make many important contributions to NATA.

As a result of Ruth Cohen becoming an Officer, and with Bob Isaacs leaving the field in mid July, two Board openings have been created. Effective with the July Chicago Board meeting I am pleased to report that Larry Glickman has been selected to fill Bob's seat, and Jane Sable Friedman to fill Ruth's seat. I have had the privilege of getting to know Larry and Jane over the past couple of years and know they will do an outstanding job on the Board. Two positions remain to be filled and I have turned the selection of those individuals over to Loree Resnik, FTA, and the Nominating Committee. There will be a need to fill Joe Elbaum's seat on the Board when he moves up to Treasurer and I am also going to ask the Board for approval to create the position of Assistant Treasurer. There is a lot of work involved in being Treasurer and I feel it is important to provide human resource

support to the Treasurer, as well as use the position of Assistant Treasurer, to hopefully cultivate future leadership.

While I felt it necessary to appoint a few people to fill needed roles on the Officer and Board level, I am also a firm believer in process. The filling of the additional Board position and Assistant Treasurer by the Nominating Committee is healthy for the organization and creates additional credibility for those selected. I thank the Nominating Committee for taking on this work and look forward to their report in Toronto.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not say a few words about two NATA colleagues, Fern Kamen, FTA and Alan Hochberg, who retired in June. I had the distinct privilege of recently being involved in the honoring of these two individuals by their congregations. To say they were loved and appreciated by their congregations would be an understatement. To experience the feelings expressed by their congregations about these two incredible individuals only reinforced my belief that all of us indeed are doing holy work. Thank you Fern and Alan for your leadership, dedication and most important, friendship.

Again, my thanks and deep appreciation to those who are leaving leadership roles within NATA and to those assuming new roles. Without missing a beat, the vital and critical work of NATA continues.

L'Shalom,  
*Ed*

**NATA Executive Committee:**

**President:**

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**Vice President**

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Temple Beth Ami, Rockville, MD  
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jsr@bethami.org

**Treasurer:**

Leon J. Silverberg  
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lsilverberg@tbegreatneck.org

**Vice President**

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**Secretary:**

Jeffrey S. Herzog, FTA  
Rodef Shalom, Pittsburgh, PA  
(412) 621-6566  
Herzog@rodefshalom.org

**Immediate Past President:**

Loree B. Resnik, FTA  
Suburban Temple-Kol Ami  
Beachwood, OH  
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lresnik@suburbantemple.org



**Honorary Board Members:**

William Ferstenfeld, FTA  
Elizabeth L. Hirsch, FTA

**Ex-Officio Members:**

Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie  
Peter J. Weidhorn  
Dale Glasser

**NATA Board of Directors:**

Sydney Baer  
Marc Cohen  
Ruth Cohen  
Debbie Coutant  
Joseph Elbaum  
Robert French  
Betti Greenstein  
Robert Isaacs  
Bekki Harris-Kaplan  
Jeanne Kort, FTA  
Hilary Leboff  
Robin Rubin  
Carolyn Shane  
Marc Swatez, FTA



## 2009 Awards Program\*

*The National Association of Temple Administrators honors its membership for extraordinary achievements—those above and beyond the ordinary. Your response in the past years has been exceptional; we look forward to your participation.*

*If you know a Executive Director who qualifies for any of these awards, please return this nomination form and any available documentation by September 11, 2009. The awards committee will review nominations, and awards will be presented at the NATA Convention's Closing Banquet in Toronto, Canada on November 3, 2009.*

**MYRON E. SCHOEN SERVICE TO JUDAISM AWARD** is presented to an Executive Director who has made a contribution well beyond the requirements of his or her position, through leadership, authorship or involvement. Previous recipients have included Executive Directors who have assumed leadership in the governance of local communities, have been key fund raisers for Israel, or have written and taught extensively.

The **SERVICE TO COMMUNITY** award is presented to an Executive Director who has contributed to the welfare of the greater community, through service such as in government or commissions, local or national philanthropies, or work with youth, the ill or elderly. Previous recipients have participated on boards of cultural institutions, educational institutions, health agencies and interfaith groups.

The **SERVICE TO NATA** award is presented to an Executive Director who has contributed to the development of the Association, through leadership, committee or board service, publication, or service to colleagues.

\* *NATA Awards are to recognize a member's accomplishments outside of service to their congregations.*

**Submit nominations by Friday, September 11, 2009 to:**

**Sydney Baer  
Congregation Beth Israel  
1972 NW Flanders Street  
Portland, OR 97209  
(503) 222-1069  
sydney@bethisrael-pdx.org**

**2009 MYRON E. SCHOEN SERVICE TO JUDAISM AWARD**

I am pleased to nominate: \_\_\_\_\_

Temple: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

**2009 SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AWARD**

I am pleased to nominate: \_\_\_\_\_

Temple: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

**2009 SERVICE TO NATA AWARD**

I am pleased to nominate: \_\_\_\_\_

Temple: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please use a separate piece of paper for comments, please be specific.*