

# Yom Huledet Sameach, Congregation Ner Tamid

Ner Tamid celebrated its fifth birthday on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Member Marcia Shepard offered these wishes:

Marvin and I joined officially four years ago on the first anniversary. At that time we were still a Chavurah – a group of friends joined together for the purpose of celebrating our Judaism without the trappings of squabbling boards and members, hefty mortgages and dues, and constant money worries. During these four years, even though we became a congregation, according to IRS rules, we have remained a chavurah – a group of friends, meeting to celebrate Shabbat and holidays, observing life cycles, rejoicing with those who choose to become Jews, and mourning the loss of those whose life cycles have ended.

We have watched our young people grow, become Bar or Bat Mitzvahed, and helped them perform Tikkun Olam, the healing of the world, not just our people.

We have gone into the community to help those less fortunate. My personal favorite is helping serve Christmas dinner at Our Daily Bread. The kids participated in this as well. I certainly hope we get to do it again this year.

Our extracurricular events are fun for all who participate – pizza and a movie, barbecues, pot lucks. Yes, they all involve food – but then, we're Jewish!

May we all be here to celebrate all our events for many years to come.

Marcia Shepard

Member Doug Morley offered these wishes:

Dear Congregation Ner Tamid,

A very happy fifth birthday to you and a sincere wish that there will be many more yet to come. Mazel tov.

Although I'm not Jewish, I go back a few years - first in 1943 meeting my future wife Sylvia, Sophia Hartog of blessed memory, a Jewish girl with a

Dutch background, whose family had moved to the south coast of England from London and then around 2000 desperately trying to find a synagogue and rabbi who would accept Sylvia's Jewishness as fact so that if the worst came to the worst, Sylvia, borne a Jew, could die a Jew.

I found such a person in your Rabbi Barbara and it is something of a private joke between us. I found her on her knees in her office at TBE filling bookcases, Newly ordained and her first day on the job, who is her first "client" but a goy - Oy Vey.!

You, at Ner Tamid are very fortunate to have her for your spiritual leader. You should also be proud of your organization which tries to rise above the petty arguments and jealousies that plague all congregations, Gentile and Jewish. G-d grant that it ever remains thus... "I'm a proud member of Congregation Ner Tamid for as long as you will accept me and then it is my daughter Carol's turn...

Thank you for your friendship.

Doug Morley aka Moishe

