In brief

Friday service: Dec. 7, 7:45 p.m. Oneg hosts: Stephanie and Justin and the Havenar family; Steve and Barbara Levine.

Jennifer's coming home:
Great news for the Havenar family — Jennifer has orders to come home. She's expected back on U.S. soil in late December and will be in Baytown for a few days sometime after that. So, no need to send her a care package. The Havenars are grateful to all who supported Jennifer with letters, e-mail, gifts and prayer.

St. Jude honors:
Joan Linares has been named Teacher of the Year by St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. For more than 25 years she has conducted the Math-a-thon at Harlem Elementary, raising over $68,000 for the hospital. St. Jude representatives came to Baytown to present her with a plaque and symbolic key to the hospital.

Real estate 'celebrity':
Steve Levine has his own radio talk show on CNN 650 AM. "Houston Real Estate TODAY!" airs Fridays at 1 p.m. The show features panels of experts from the real estate community discussing timely topics. All shows are archived as YouTube videos on the show's Web site at www.houstonrealestatetoday.com.

New faces:
Welcome to Harriet Lopez and Marvin Keith of La Porte. Harriet is a life member of Hadassah. We enjoyed having them at the November service and hope they'll join us often.

Latkes, dreidels and gelt — it's Chanukah time again

The annual Charukah service and party for all ages will be held Sunday, Dec. 9. The service will begin at 1:15 p.m., with the party to follow from 2 to 4 p.m. in the community building.

Planning the party fun and food are Lana Berkowitz, Stephanie Schwartz, Pam Bernick, Shana and Miriam Bauman, and Jerry Fram.

Book closing on your historical contributions

We are rapidly approaching the completion of the "History of the Baytown Jewish Community" and welcome items of interest about people who previously lived here or those who are current residents.

Comments on your experiences or anyone else's are welcome and will be included if they are pertinent. Any significant contributions to the community — Jewish or otherwise — should be noted, such as serving on boards, committees, etc. To be included in the book, we must have these comments by Dec. 15.

— DON AND GERTRUDE TETER

Karen Aarons adds new role as CKI president

Karen Aarons is the new CKI president for 2007-2008. She will be pulling double-duty, as she also will continue to serve as vice president for religion. Thanks to Stephanie Schwartz for her leadership as president for the past two years.

Other officers remain John Havenar, vice president for major maintenance (pending his acceptance); Manuel Razo, vice president for routine maintenance; Don Teter, treasurer; and David Berkowitz, secretary.

Let's try again for TORCH introduction session

Because at least 10 people weren't able to attend a planned session with a TORCH (Torah Outreach Resource Center of Houston) rabbi on Nov. 8, the meeting was not held. TORCH has rabbis who are available to travel to Baytown to lead Torah study and other educational sessions.

If you are still interested in meeting with a TORCH rabbi, please contact Stephanie Schwartz as soon as possible.

Renovation ideas? Send them to Don

Don Teter is putting together a plan of what he would like, in terms of overall building renovations. If you have ideas of your own, please e-mail them to Don by Dec. 15.

The overall topic will be discussed during a general meeting of the congregation directly following the first-Friday service on Jan. 4.