

in November 2005 brought them to Pastor Overstreet's church—the first time the two had met. “A black Pentecostal preacher and a Jewish doctor don't have many opportunities to interact,” comments Dr. Ginsberg with a smile.

It was then that Pastor Overstreet

told Dr. Ginsberg of her plans to open a free health clinic in the neighborhood. “Great,” Dr. Ginsberg responded, “let me know if I can help.”

Pastor Overstreet escorted the doctor a block and half to a vacated bakery.

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## CHAIRMAN'S PERSPECTIVE *continued from page 63*

Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie urged us to tackle at the 2007 Biennial convention. You'll also find a debate on whether we should encourage non-Jews in our congregations to convert.

We chose these issues because they are controversial. We hope they generate thoughtful and vigorous debate in your congregation and home. And we welcome the diversity of opinions on these and other subjects, for it is our willingness to honestly and openly debate the big issues that makes our Movement strong. Regardless of where you stand on the spectrum, know that you have a place in our big Reform tent.

Joan joins me in wishing you a Happy Chanukah. May the light of the menorah provide continued guidance in our quest to establish a better world.

*Peter Weidhorn, Chairman  
Union for Reform Judaism Board of Trustees*

## WHAT WORKS *continued from page 63*

“jacks of all trades,” splitting wood, fixing floor joists, painting bathrooms, installing fans, repairing screens, adjusting basketball hoops, repairing holes in siding, and much more. Most recently they put down a floor, lifted the rafters, added a roof, and completed the remaining work on GUCI's new outdoor, covered theatre pavilion, named Teyatron. “There isn't a building or area in camp that these men have not worked on or improved during the Work Weekend,” says Bernie Solomon (photo #3), founder of what he jokingly calls GUCI Director Rabbi Ron Klotz's Slave Labor Weekend. “We do whatever it takes to make camp a better place for our children, and now our grandchildren.”

➔ **A *Chevra Kaddisha* for All** In 2004, Dr. Patricia Cluss (photo #4), a member of her local *Chevra Kaddisha* (Jewish burial society), wanted to perform the *mitzvah* of *taharah*, ritual purification of a body after death. But in her hometown of Pittsburgh, non-Orthodox Jews were not permitted to perform *taharah*, according to the Orthodox organization running the society. It was at that point, she says, “three like-minded friends and I met with my rabbi, James Gibson of Temple Sinai, started networking, and created the New Community *Chevra Kaddisha*,” a burial society by and for the entire Jewish community.

Now, four years later, the New Community *Chevra Kaddisha*, comprised of Jews from Reform (Temple Sinai and Temple Emanuel), Conservative, and Reconstructionist congregations, has performed six *taharah* ceremonies.

“It is so rewarding to be part of a team of Jews that comes together, anonymously,” says Dr. Cluss, “giving the mourning family the reassurance that their community is taking care of their loved one at this important time—and that any Jew they see on the street could be one of the people who cared.” □

## NOTEWORTHY

**Rabbi David Saperstein Delivers Invocation at the Democratic National Convention:** On August 28, 2008,



before Senator Barack Obama accepted the nomination, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC) director intoned: “Eter-

nal God, you ennoble our lives by empowering us to do your work here on earth in creating a world of justice and peace for all....We ask that you send your blessing... on this historic day, upon Barack Obama, as candidate for the highest political office in our nation. Guide him that he may ever be a champion for justice.” For the full text visit [www.rac.org](http://www.rac.org).

**URJ Camps Become Hurricane Relief Shelters:** This



fall, the URJ Greene Family Camp in Bruceville, Texas and the URJ Jacobs Camp in Utica, Mississippi opened their doors to shelter and feed some 800 evacuees fleeing Hurricane Ike on the Texas Coast and Hurricane Gustav on the Gulf Coast (among them many who'd found shelter at the camp after Hurricane Katrina). The Union also reopened its Hurricane Disaster Relief Fund; contribute at <http://urj.org/give/>.

**Building Relationships: A Social Justice Program Guide for National Holidays:** This

new guide assists individuals and congregations in the Jewish observance of American and Canadian holidays such as Mother's Day and Thanksgiving. [www.rac.org/pubs/holidayguides/national](http://www.rac.org/pubs/holidayguides/national) ►