

What are you doing technologically within the Reform Movement that you are most excited about?

Rabbi Amy Perlin, Temple B'nai Shalom, Fairfax Station, VA: We've been podcasting all of our services for three years (<http://tbs-online.org>). It's been fantastic for our members, especially the elderly, people with chronic illness, and those serving in the war in Iraq, Afghanistan, and on foreign service assignments. People take services on their vacations and on business trips. Our teens and college students download to listen when they are away—and some of our teens listen to the podcasts even when they're not away. We also have listeners around the globe, some of whom have visited our congregation. One man visited from Australia.

Rabbi Phyllis Sommer, Temple Am Shalom, Glencoe, IL: I have been blogging for two years now (<http://imabima.blogspot.com/>).

Through my "main" blog, a mixture of personal stories and Jewish content, I've connected with my own congregants—

my initial goal—but also people all over the world, giving them the opportunity to see that we can live fully Jewish and fully American lives, that Judaism doesn't have to be "all or nothing." When I post about building my *sukkah* or baking *hamantashen* with my kids, it shows how rich, varied, and possible our tradition is. And when I share my personal dilemmas, say about celebrating Halloween, the questioning gets people thinking about things they otherwise wouldn't consider.

Michael Fischer, Temple Sinai, Saratoga Springs, NY: We post our monthly bulletin online one week prior to mailings (hard copies are mailed only on

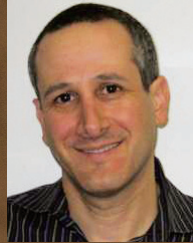
request), thereby providing timely information at less expense (a \$2,000/year savings), and with less volunteer effort (in collating and mailing). A blog on the status of our temple's expansion program

has addressed member complaints about inadequate communications. And our rabbis' blogs facilitated their communication with us during their sabbaticals. (www.templestinai-saratogasprings.org/)

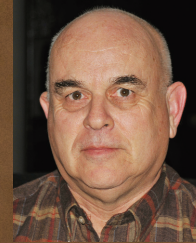
Rabbi Dan Cohen, Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel, South Orange, NJ: First, we're moving rapidly toward being "paperless." Using the same computers and handheld devices, our clergy staff communicates via applications such as Evernote, which maintains pastoral records, sharing and disseminating information much more quickly.

Second, we've just launched a website (www.tsti.org) which not only imparts information but is an active, dynamic educational resource. For example, until 2008 every bar and bat mitzvah student received a thick packet of material containing his/her prayer

CYBER



RABBI DAN COHEN



MICHAEL FISCHER



EMILY GROTTA



SCOTT HERTZ

"WE VIDEO AND PODCAST OUR SERMONS AND LECTURES THROUGH YOUTUBE AND ITUNES, AND

book, Torah portion, a large selection of commentaries on the portion, and a CD of the prayers. This year's b'nai mitzvah students receive only a prayer book; all the other materials are built into our temple website. Today's 12- and 13-year-olds are downloading to their iPods and reading the resource material on the Web—which not only saves temple and environmental resources, but also speaks their language.

Rabbi Dan Moskovitz, Temple Judea, Tarzana, CA: Our congregation uses two new systems which help us stay informed about and connected to our members. The first, a website that's called MitzvahTools (www.mitzvahtools.com), helps us track the progress of every b'nai mitzvah student, and provides a place to keep notes, schedule appointments, and share information, including downloaded materials. Our various tutors can log in from anywhere to get and keep notes on each student. The families love it because the online resource center has all the tutoring materials, so they can study from anywhere. Some students have even recorded YouTube videos of themselves chanting their Torah portions and sent

CYBER INNOVATIONS

To learn more about the Reform Movement's recent technological innovations—practices that enrich worship, enhance sacred space, educate, and build community within the synagogue and beyond—be sure to turn to "Cyber Innovations" on page 58.

OPENING SPREAD: ILLUSTRATION BY JAMES PORTO