In a twist on the traditional Temple Israel dinner dance format, this year the honoree will thank the congregation with a concert at the event.

Cantor Raphael Frieder was selected to be honored for his 25 years of service to the congregation, according to Sam Husney, the co-chair of the concert portion of the dinner dance, “and he decided to show his appreciation by inviting outstanding cantors from other congregations—his closest colleagues and friends—to join him in a concert not to be missed.”

The concert, on Sunday, June 5, at 5:30 P.M.—after cocktails at 5 P.M. and before the dinner—will feature cantors Magda Fishman of Temple Beth El of Stamford, Connecticut; Dov Keren of New York's Sutton Place Synagogue; Henry Rosenblum of the Forest Hills Jewish Center in Queens; Elizabeth Shammash of Tiferet Bet Israel in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania; and Sol Zim of the Hollis Hills Jewish Center in Queens. “I chose these outstanding cantors because they are all great performers and they are all very good friends,” Cantor Frieder said.

He said the concert would feature “important music in my life.” Cantor Frieder said he selected the music based on items that have something to do with his history, music that has inspired him through the years and has had an impact on his career.

He is planning the program to include a wide range of music including a combination of light chazanut, opera and Broadway music. Because the concert will be on Yom Yerushalayim, an Israeli holiday marking the reunification of Jerusalem, Israeli music will also be an important part of the program. The evening will also include a number of surprise musical performers.

Invitations are currently in the mail for the event. In addition, a journal is being published in coordination with the concert and dinner to give those touched by Cantor Frieder an opportunity to thank him in print. For further information, call 482-7800 or visit www.tign.org.

---Continued on page 5---
This fundraiser is critical to maintaining our synagogue's viability for future generations.

...one can see the conflict between being accepted and being an outsider...

As always, I can be reached at robpanzer18@gmail.com.
In Memoriam
Temple Israel extends condolences to the families of:

SALIM MORAD
husband of Vahideh Morad
and father of Evelyn Peykar
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

SHIRLEY SUMMERS
mother of Rabbi Robert Summers

LAWRENCE WEITZMAN
brother of Hon. Howard Weitzman

May their memories be for a blessing.

Candle Lighting Times
Friday, April 1 7:01 P.M.
Friday, April 8 7:09 P.M.

Daily Minyan Times
Monday & Thursday
6:45 A.M. & 8:00 P.M.
Tuesday & Wednesday
7:00 A.M. & 8:00 P.M.
Friday
7:00 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, April 2
9:00 A.M. & 6:40 P.M.
Saturday, April 9
9:00 A.M. & 6:50 P.M.
Sunday
8:15 A.M. & 8:00 P.M.

Mazal Tov To...
Karen and Daniel Covitt
on the birth of their grandson,
Matthew Ian Covitt

Temple Lites...
- The villages of Great Neck recently held elections which saw a number of congregants reelected, including Susan Lopatkin as mayor and Jeffrey Greener as a trustee in Kensington, Manny Alani as a trustee in Saddle Rock, and Howard Hershenhorn and Jeffrey Farkas as trustees in Great Neck Estates.
- Susan Lopatkin was named to the Town of North Hempstead’s May W. Newburger Women’s Roll of Honor for her work as mayor of the Village of Kensington. A breakfast for her and the other honorees was held at Harbor Links, Port Washington.

Upcoming Events

April 3
Men’s Club Yom HaShoah 10:00 A.M.
Candle Packing

April 9
Temple Israel Players Performance of
West Side Story 8:45 P.M.

April 10
TILL and TI Bonds
Parenting Seminar 9:45 A.M.
B’nai Mitzvah Family Workshop 10:30 A.M.
Temple Israel Players performance of
West Side Story 2:00 P.M.

April 11
Sisterhood Board Meeting 10:00 A.M.
TILL iEngage Israel Series Presents:
*Religious Pluralism and
Human Rights* 8:15 P.M.

April 12
Men’s Club Scotch and Seder 7:00 P.M.

April 13
Are We Really Healthy? Series: *Being Healthy
Being Jewish* With guest speaker
Dr. Shmuel Shields  Noon

April 14
Board of Trustees Meeting 8:15 P.M.

April 15
Waxman High School and Youth House
Family Friday Dinner 7:30 P.M.

April 17
B’nai Mitzvah Family Workshop 10:30 A.M.
Pesah University 11:00 A.M.
Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs Dinner at
Crest Hollow Country Club 4:30 P.M.

April 22
Erev Pesah
Fast of the First Born Service and Siyyum Breakfast 6:30 A.M.

April 23 – 30
Pesah

April 23
Congregational Second Night Seder
Sponsored by the Men’s Club 7:40 P.M.

May 1
TILL Film Series: *Gett* 7:00 P.M.

May 2
TILL program: *In Search of Theological Modesty* 8:15 P.M.

May 5
Yom HaShoah
Yom HaShoah Service 7:00 P.M.
Canasta Class 7:00 P.M.

May 6
Men’s Club Service and Dinner 6:30 P.M.

May 8
Men’s Club Rabbinic Dialogue 9:15 AM

PARENTING WORKSHOP
Led By
Rabbi Howard Stecker
Sunday, April 10 • 9:45 A.M.
Between helicoptering
and letting them fly solo:
A frank discussion about
how much to intervene
in our children’s lives.
Light refreshments will be served.
Questions? Contact
Veronica Lurvey at
Vlurvey@hotmail.com or
Judit Szigeti at
Szigeti.judit@gmail.com
Sponsored by TILL and TI Bonds

It’s in the cards,
& the tiles too!
CANASTA &
MAH JONGG
CLASSES
BEING OFFERED
THIS SPRING
Canasta on Thursdays,
May 5, 12 & 19 at 7-9 P.M.
Mah Jongg on Tuesdays,
June 7, 14 & 21 7-9 P.M.
Contact Jodi Engel
at 482-7800, ext. 1102 or
jengel@tign.org for details
Beth HaGan Celebrates Purim In Style!

From The Beth HaGan Nursery School By Rachel Mathless

Beth HaGan's incredible Purim Gala 2016 was the best ever. Children dressed in costumes they created in school, proudly parading and displaying their dramatic holiday attire. Rabbi Howard Stecker read the Megillah and the children used their homemade groggers. They sang, danced and rejoiced with the seniors who meet at Temple Israel each week and delivered mishloach manot to them containing hamantaschen made by the children. The students enjoyed a delicious catered Purim seudah feast fit for Queen Esther!

On Friday of Shushan Purim the celebration continued with a special interactive show by the Yellow Sneaker Puppets entitled “Harry the Hamantasch Tells the Whole Megillah and Then Some.”

“Everyone agreed that we had the best Purim ever,” said school Director Rachel Mathless.
The Consumption Of Kitniyot On Passover: Rice, Corn and Legumes

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rabbi Stecker issued the following statement concerning the consumption of certain foods during Passover as a clarification of his views.

By Rabbi Howard Stecker
For a variety of reasons, chief among them the value of promoting unity among Jews, I have determined that all Jews, regardless of background, who consider me as their rabbinic authority should feel free to consume kitniyot (rice, corn and legumes) on Passover. For information on general Passover preparation, please check the synagogue's website, www.tign.org, for a link to the Rabbinical Assembly 5776 Passover Guide. The website will also contain a link to my recent sermon on this topic.

Below are the relevant details from the teshuva that apply to the purchase and consumption of kitniyot, including a provision for those who choose to maintain their custom of not eating kitniyot. For information on general Passover preparation, please check the synagogue's website, www.tign.org, for a link to the Rabbinical Assembly 5776 Passover Guide. The website will also contain a link to my recent sermon on this topic.

With the holiday fast approaching, my family and I want to wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy Pesah. May our celebration this year strengthen old ties and forge new ones.

Guidelines regarding the purchase and consumption of kitniyot:

• Fresh corn on the cob and fresh beans (like lima beans in their pods) may be purchased before and during Pesah, that is, treated like any other fresh vegetable.

• Dried kitniyot (legumes, rice and corn) can be purchased bagged or in boxes and then sifted or sorted before Pesah. These should ideally not be purchased in bulk from bins because of the concern that the bin might previously have been used for hametz, and a few grains of hametz might be mixed in. In any case, one should inspect these before Pesah and discard any pieces of hametz. If one did not inspect the rice or dried beans before Pesah, one should remove pieces of hametz found in the package on Pesah, discarding those, and the kitniyot themselves remain permissible.

• Kitniyot in cans may only be purchased with Pesah certification since the canning process has certain related hametz concerns, and may be purchased on Pesah.

• Frozen raw kitniyot (corn, edamame (soy beans), etc.): One may purchase bags of frozen nonhekhsherred kitniyot before Pesah provided that one can either absolutely determine that no shared equipment was used or one is careful to inspect the contents before Pesah and discard any pieces of hametz. Even if one did not inspect the vegetables before Pesah, if one can remove pieces of hametz found in the package on Pesah, the vegetables themselves remain permissible.

• Processed foods, including tofu, although containing no listed hametz, continue to require Pesah certification due to the possibility of admixtures of hametz during production.

• Even those who continue to observe the Ashkenazic custom of eschewing kitniyot during Pesah may eat from Pesah dishes, utensils and cooking vessels that have come into contact with kitniyot and may consume kitniyot derivatives like oil.
From Generation to Generation
Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

TEMPLE ISRAEL FUND
In honor of:
Cantor Frieder’s special honor
Vivian and Yuval Brash

In memory of:
Hanna Shapero
The Brash Family
Brenda and Lance Greiff and family
Nancy Bader Leventhal and Michael,
Zachary and Jacob Leventhal
Eliyahou John Gabayzadeh
Yahya Gabayzadeh
Rachel Pois
Yvette Seskin
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Amy David
Arthur Ashkenase
Donald Ashkenase
Noury Peykar
Brenda and Lance Greiff
and family
William Dorman
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Pauline Miller
Marlene Handelman
Asher Nejat
Iraq Nejat
Gertie Sherman
Peter Sherman

From the Rabbi: Keeping the Message In Sight
—Continued from page 2
prophets and then the rabbis pointed out that we don't need the korbanot to feel God’s presence and share our feelings of thanksgiving, remorse, forgiveness etc… Instead we have the words and actions that were supposed to accompany the offerings.

If words were enough, why does the Torah spend so much time describing the ritual offerings? Were our ancient ancestors primitive in their thinking or did they see a greater value in the rituals that we fail to see now because our lives are so different.

On April 22 we will, God willing, sit down for the Passover seder. What do you remember from last year’s seder? What do you remember about other sedarim from the past?

Based on my own memories, I would venture to guess that you remember where the seder was held, who was at the seder, and what food was served. Hopefully you also recall that after all of the fuss beforehand, the seder was a positive and pleasant experience. Most of us probably do not remember what was discussed. We remember the physical more than the verbal.

Therefore, we have to conclude that there is value to physical rituals in physical places. Passover is about remembering we were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt. If we went with the straight verbal approach, all we would need to do is read the Exodus account and perhaps have a discussion about what freedom and slavery mean to us today. We would need no cleaning and no matzah!

However, a straight conversation would not be as memorable as serving symbolic food such as matzah, maror and charoset or even a family's traditional recipe for the meal. The message of freedom might be more important than whether we use romaine lettuce or horseradish for maror, but without the matzah and the maror, the holiday's message of freedom would not get across. The message is found in the details.

During Temple times, the Passover celebration was centered around the Passover offering. Alas, we have not had a Temple in 2,000 years. But we have established good substitutes with synagogues and the Passover seder.

The rabbis, in an act of brilliance, modeled the seder on the Greek symposium to achieve the true purpose of the Passover offering. We use physical actions and symbolic foods to teach and help us remember the Exodus. Vegetarians and all of us who don’t slaughter animals can also participate!

Passover is about remembering our story. Remembering that we were once slaves in Egypt and that we must never oppress others. I am speaking to myself when I say let us not try not to panic too much as we clean, shop, cook and read the Haggadah before the seder. Let us try to remember that our rituals infuse and reinforce the values in our lives. At the same time, let us remember that while the rituals are important, we cannot lose sight of the messages and values those rituals convey.
--Continued from page 2--

events will be unique. The theme of the events is “Shirateinu: Our Song.” From the commemorative Journal, specially designed invitation, the lavish dinner reception, fun dance music, photomontage, décor, and gifts to the Cantor, no detail is too small. As a special treat, the cantor has embarked on offering a musical concert to the congregation. He has invited several colleagues and musicians to accompany him for a concert performance that will lead in to the dinner reception. The concert will feature songs from the cantor’s extensive repertoire, as a musical journey of his life, open to the entire congregation free of charge. This is possible due to the generosity of the family of Jacqueline and Hilbert Eshghpour, who are underwriting the costs associated with the concert. Following the concert, those who have signed up for dinner will celebrate together in the Grand Ballroom with a lavish reception and dancing, and additional special music interludes and presentations.

Given his 25-year tenure at Temple Israel, there are undoubtedly thousands of anecdotes from individuals and families touched by the cantor’s tutelage and care. The Sassouns are deeply grateful that the cantor prepared their children, Sophia, Cyrus, Leila and Emma, to become confident and accomplished B’nai Mitzvah at Temple Israel and tefillah leaders in the Waxman Youth House, college Hillel and Chabad. In addition, the cantor taught Sassan to chant Torah as a member of the Adult B’Nai Mitzvah Class. The cantor taught Rebecca to lead tefillah, to improve her command of Torah trope cantillation, and even breathing to allow herself to broaden her vocal comfort range to hit high notes. The cantor is part of the family’s memory of a 2009 Torah event, as he lent his voice to the festivities in the sanctuary. The entire family enjoys welcoming Shabbat together at the monthly N’ranenah Kabbalat Shabbat service led by the cantor. Rebecca and Susan are pleased to have co-conceived Shabbat Kol Ishah together with Cantor Frieder years ago. Happily, Kol Ishah has become an annual standing rotation of Shabbatot that the cantor instructs, including Shabbat HaGesher and Shabbat Koleinu.

The Lopatkin family has precious memories involving Cantor Frieder, too. He trained their daughters Allie and Stefanie for their B’not Mitzvah. Susan and the cantor co-conceived the long-standing Tefillah Enrichment Program to teach students to lead Kabbalat Shabbat services. Now an adult, Allie acknowledges that even though she attended TEP under duress, she is grateful she can follow and participate in services anywhere she goes. Susan, who also trained with Cantor Frieder to become an adult Bat Mitzvah, credits the cantor for “unlocking the mystery of the Torah and haftarah trope, a life skill I will always cherish. As well, being able to lead parts of the service is something I am grateful that he helped me learn.”

Bob’s first encounter with learning tefillah was when Cantor Frieder started a class to learn how to daven. Bob was surprised to learn that the topic of the class was High Holiday Shacharit. Although he never learned that service, he went on to learn to lead the weekly services, something that would never have been accomplished without the confidence the cantor had in him.

Look for the invitation to the concert and Journal Dinner Dance, place an ad in the Journal, attend the concert, and reserve a seat to join us for dinner and dancing. Be a part of it! It is only “Our Song” because we are together!
D’var Torah

by Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Shemini  Saturday, April 2

This portion opens with a description of proceedings through which the priests begin their duties in the sanctuary. In the midst of this, we find an account of two sons of Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, who take it upon themselves to bring some kind of unprescribed offering to the altar and are summarily struck down. Their death becomes the occasion for God to issue specific warnings to Aaron and all the priests to take special care in carrying out their duties. The remainder of the Book of Leviticus deals with laws of daily life and provides rules and regulations whose purpose is to raise every aspect of human life to the level of kedusha (holiness). The first matter to be dealt with is kashrut (the dietary laws). The reason given for these prescriptions is that kashrut serves to make the basically animal function of eating, something uniquely human.

Tzaria  Saturday, April 9

We find further details concerning the burnt offering, the meal offering, the guilt offering and the peace offering, as well as details of the thanks offering. With the types of sacrifices fully described, we now move to a description of the institution of the service in the mishkan and the consecration of Aaron and his sons to the priesthood. The ceremonies consist of dressing the priests in their special vestments, anointing the mishkan and all of its furnishings with oil, offering sacrifices and putting blood of the sacrifices upon the right ears, the right thumbs and the right toes of the priests. The aim of the entire proceedings was to highlight the special duties and responsibilities of the priests as representatives of the people before God. The pattern which is described here continued to be the manner of anointing the priests for over a thousand years.