TEMPLE ISRAEL OF GREAT NECK





Vol. LVII, No. 7 December 18, 2014 26 Kislev 5775

Temple Israel Players Plan 44th Production: 'Mame'

Show To Be Staged Saturday, March 14 and Sunday, March 15

Temple Israel's resident theater troupe, The Temple Israel Players, is staging their 44th production, the Broadway and film blockbuster musical "Mame." The show opens in March, according to the show's producers, who have announced a large cast composed of members of the congregation ages 8-88.

The show is set to open on Saturday, March 14, at 8 P.M., followed by a Sunday matinee performance the following day at 2 P.M. "March is a month where the weather beats you down," said Eileen Putterman, the show's senior producer. "It's time to lighten things up and have some fun and 'Mame' reflects exactly that feeling."

Asked why "Mame" was chosen, Mrs. Putterman simply said: "because we never did it and we felt that now we had the right group of people to do this show. The production stars Kim Kaiman as Mame, Elaine Paris as Vera



The cast is getting ready for the next Temple Israel Players production, "Mame."

Charles, Lois Sazer as Agnes, Mark Putter as Old Patrick, and Gary Noren as Babcock.

Other members of the cast include

George Abrahams, Shoshana Cellers, Mark Cwern, Amy David, Bill Dunckley, Van Frankel, Marylin Goldberg, Jon Kaiman, Abe Kanfer, Ron Klempner, Kenneth M. Leff, Shahnaz Maiekan, Nelly Mizrahi, Andy Nadler, Ofra Panzer, Harriet Picker, Eileen Putterman, Mickey Putterman, Lillian Rokhsar, Alex Rothstein, Rusti Rothstein, Naomi Schulman, Steve Smolinsky, Diana Stein, and Debbie Volk.

Children in the cast are Iyana Kaiman, Sahar Tartak, Amanda Putter, Nancy Schoen, and Amanda Volk.

Linda Burson is returning as director for the 11th time, and Debbie Tartell is again serving as the musical director. The sets are being designed by Sherry Modlin and Carol Smolinsky is working on costume design. Working behind the scenes are Robert Lopatkin and Alex Schoen.

The show's producers are Ron Klempner, Mark Putter, Eileen Putterman, Lois Sazer, and Carol Smolinksy.

"Mame" is based on the novel by Patrick Dennis. The play "Auntie Mame" was first brought to Broadway in May 1966. It was written by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee and the music was written by Jerry Herman.

At the METNY Convention



Temple Israel Vice President Rebecca Yousefzadeh Sassouni and Associate Rabbi Seth Adelson explained the success the congregation has had training new leadership at a workshop at the METNY United Synagogue Biennial Conference, held recently at the Jericho Jewish Center. The presentation, titled "Transforming Your Leadership Base: Sulam for Emerging Leaders," told other area synagogue representatives how to conduct a similar program.

At the conference, Marc Katz was installed for another term as a member of the METNY District Council representing Temple Israel. Also attending the meeting representing the congregation were Ofra and Rob Panzer.

Voice photo by Marc Katz

The Men's Club Welcomes You

- By Ken Kobliner and Dan Wotman

EDITOR'S NOTE: Men's Club Co-Presidents Ken Kobliner and Dan Wotman invite all congregants to participate in Men's Club activities, as described in this Voice Guest column.

If it's the fourth Thursday of the month, chances are there is a Men's Club meeting, which means that Temple Israel men of different ages and backgrounds come together for a night of socializing, enjoying a light pizza and salad dinner, learning (via a *D'var Torah* and a guest speaker) and dis-

Why not join us to see what it's all about?

cussing Men's Club business. The men who attend the meetings really enjoy coming out for the evening. Why not join us to see what it's all about?

But, we are not just about meetings. When it comes to "being there and helping out," the Temple Israel Men's Club has a long-standing history and tradition of service to our synagogue. For the High Holy Days, volunteers from the Men's

Club label the seats, distribute the Kol Nidre pledge cards and provide ushers (all under the watchful eye of Men's Club Past President Howard Spun), in addition to the Breakthe-Fast (organized by Past President Charlie Adler). We hold two blood drives each year (also led by Charlie Adler). The Men's Club can be counted on to package and mail the Yom HaShoah Yahrzeit candles to all members of the congregation each year (coordinated by our liaison to the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, Dave Scherr) as well as to support the Hatzilu Rescue Organization, which helps the Jewish poor and elderly in Nassau County. This effort is coordinated by Past Presidents Manny Bardash and Van Frankel.

But wait—there's more! Our fall activities included coordinating the 9/11 Memorial Service on the Saddle Rock Bridge; our annual Men's Club Breakfast, this time featuring Sergeant Yoni Asseraf, a highly decorated IDF soldier who spoke about his

——Continued on page 5

FROM THE RABBI -

A New Generation of Zionists

- By Rabbi Howard Stecker

At the Waxman Youth House, Rabbi Adelson and I have been conducting weekly discussions with a group of our high school students about the State of Israel, past and present. We started by discussing the recent war in Gaza as the backdrop for an analysis of Israel's identity, values and challenges.

Preparing for these discussions has compelled me to identify what I want the next generation to know and consider when it comes to Israel. I want them to have a strong sense of how the State of Israel emerged out of Jewish history and various approaches to Zionism. I want them to appreciate the complexity of Israel's identity as a Jewish and democratic state. I want them to understand the diversity of opinions that exist among Jews, Christians and Muslims living in Israel when it comes to Israeli politics and culture. And I want them to sense that, while Israel is a real nation with real problems, she has accomplished an extraordinary amount, ranging from the mundane to the miraculous.

Recently, we discussed the values that Israel shares with the United States, includ-

ing a commitment to democracy and peace. I asked the students to consider what it means for Israel to be a state that's both Jewish and democratic. They raised questions about whose definition of Judaism would impact public policy and how that would affect a range of Jews, as well as people of other faiths. We examined recent tragic events, including the murders of five

...information and freedom yield the deepest commitment...

Israelis, and their implications for Israeli society and Israeli-Palestinian relations. We also took a close look at the provisions of the new "Jewish State" proposal being considered by the Knesset.

This class continually affirms my faith in our students' abilities to appreciate the subtleties regarding the challenges Israel faces. Rabbi Adelson and I are not trying to encourage our students to emerge with

—Continued on page 4

Opinions Count

- By Alan Klinger

Your lay leadership, as has been discussed in this space before, desires your input on topics of significance to the synagogue community. This column will highlight important opportunities for communication of your thoughts on major items.

We start with the personnel review of Rabbi Stecker. As you may recall, several years ago we undertook reviews of Cantor Frieder and Rabbi Adelson. Although some initially questioned the propriety of a review of clergy, we explained that clergy, while our spiritual leaders, also function as senior professional staff and that, in those roles, reviews were not only appropriate but recommended by the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, our parent

Your lay leadership... desires your input...

body. Views were solicited of Executive Committee and Board members, other committee heads, staff and members. I truly believe that the process produced positive results for our congregation. Adhering to USCJ guidelines for senior rabbi review, we have appointed a committee of three, composed of current Executive Committee member Maddy Gould and two former Board members, Larry Greengrass and Sam Husney, to head this effort. They and I, along with Rabbi Stecker, have worked out a process for the review that we believe comports with best practices and protects the confidentiality and dignity required for a successful result. The goal, as with the prior reviews, is to assess strengths, areas that merit attention and desired priorities. The process has begun and the committee members are working diligently to reach out, again, to lay leadership, professional staff and others to assess their views. We welcome as well comments from congregants concerning Rabbi Stecker. Should you desire to share your thoughts, please let Leon Silverberg <lsilverberg@tign.org> or me <aklinger@stroock.com> know and we will get you connected to a committee member.

We also are in the closing days of our annual High Holy Days Survey. The weekly Temple Israel email contains a link to the survey and those not on email should have received a hard copy in the mail. The survey seeks your views on myriad aspects of the High Holy Day experience, ranging from clergy interaction, to the room venues, to possible alternative service models. We ask that you take the five minutes or so needed

----Continued on page 4

IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences to the families of:

JEROME LEGATT

husband of Hadassa Legatt and esteemed member of Temple Israel

BELLE ARKIN

mother of Andrea Bloomfield

IDA GOLD

mother of Bernard Gold

LARRY KREDITOR

father of Alise Kreditor

MIRIAM ROSE BERGER

mother of Susan Krugman

JOSEPH BOVERMAN

husband of Judith Boverman and esteemed member of Temple Israel

May their memories be for a blessing.

Minyan	TIMES
6:45 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
7:00 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
7:00 A.M.	6:30 P.M.
7:00 A.M.	4:30 P.M.
7:00 A.M.	4:30 P.M.
9:00 A.M.	3:50 P.M.
9:00 A.M.	3:55 P.M.
9:00 A.M.	4:00 P.M.
8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
	6:45 A.M. 7:00 A.M. 7:00 A.M. 7:00 A.M. 7:00 A.M. 9:00 A.M. 9:00 A.M.

Nominating Committee Is Seeking Candidates

The Nominating Committee has begun to consider candidates for the Board of Trustees, as well as for president, for election at the June 2015 General Membership Meeting.

"We are currently seeking suggestions of Temple Israel members who have demonstrated a commitment to our *kehillah*, our synagogue community, and the potential to help lead us into the future," said Nominating Committee Chair Marjorie Hoffman.

She said the committee expects a trustee to "support the principles of Conservative Judaism, actively participate in committee work and projects to strengthen our *kehillah* in a secure and well functioning facility, and serve as a liaison to others and to help nurture a warm and spiritually uplifting environment."

If you believe that you or a member that you know would make an excellent candidate to help govern and forge the future direction of Temple Israel, contact Mrs. Hoffman, at <Jonmarj@aol.com> or Executive Director Leon Silverberg at <lsilverberg@tign.org> or 482-7800.

	I In	COMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRA	CT
			_
Dec.	21	Singles Connection Hanukkah Celebration	2:00 P.M.
	21	Shalom Club Dinner and Hanukkah Party	6:30 P.M.
	22	Men's Club Latkes and Vodka Program	8:15 P.M.
	27	Waxman Youth House Shabbat-Game-A-Palooza	3:45 P.M.
Jan.	6	TILL Discussion: "Did God Create the Universe?	8:15 P.M.
		The Conflict Between Religion and Science"	
	8	Men's Club Meeting	7:30 P.M.
	10	Niggun Circle Led by Cantor Frieder	1:00 P.M.
	11	Family B'nai Mitzvah Workshop I with Rabbi Adelson	10:30 A.M.
	11	TILL Movie Night: "Omar, The Movie"	8:15 P.M.
	12	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 A.M.
	13	TILL Dialogue with Rabbi Stecker	8:15 P.M.
	15	Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	15	"Creativity and Community"	8:15 P.M.
		With Rabbis Stecker, Sara Hurwitz and David Inger	
	17	Waxman Youth House Shabbat-Game-A-Palooza	4:00 P.M.
	18	Waxman High School Holocaust Museum Trip	
	20	Sisterhood Discussion: "Jewish Values in Star Trek"	7:30 P.M.
		with Rabbi Marim D. Charry	
	21	Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	25	Family B'nai Mitzvah Workshop II with Rabbi Adelson	10:30 A.M.
	25	EmpTI Nesters Book Talk	6:30 P.M.
	27	TILL Rabbis Series	8:15 P.M.
	29	Men's Club Meeting	7:30 P.M.
	30	Congregational Tu Bishvat Seder	7:30 P.M.

Film Series Is Returning On Sunday Evenings Movies are coming back to Temple Israel when the congregation's free monthly Sun-

Movies are coming back to Temple Israel when the congregation's free monthly Sunday evening film series returns in January. Each thought-provoking picture is followed by a lively discussion with the audience, led by a member of the clergy.

Kicking off the series on January 11 at 7:30 P.M. is "Omar, The Movie," a gripping thriller about betrayal. Omar is a Palestinian baker who routinely climbs over the separation wall to meet up with his girlfriend. By night he is either a freedom fighter or a terrorist, risking his life to strike at the Israeli military with his friends. Arrested after the killing of an Israeli soldier and tricked into an admission of guilt by association, he agrees to work as an informant. Is he playing his Israeli handler, or will he really betray his cause? And, whom can he trust on either side?

"Omar raises many ethical issues about behavior by stakeholders in difficult circumstances," said Susan Wagner, who co-chairs with Gloria Delott the TILL committee planning the film series. "The film is intriguing, provocative, and makes you think about issues that you do not confront every day," she said.

A wide-selection of movie snacks is available at no charge at each showing. For further information about the series, call the Temple Israel office, 482-7800.

The next two film series dates are February 8 and March 8. Film selections will be announced shortly.



Middle East lovers: A scene from "Omar, The Movie," which starts the Temple Israel Film Series on Sunday, January 11, at 7:30 P.M.

B'NAI/B'NOT MITZVAH IN OUR TEMPLE FAMILY



Rachel Breidbart

Rachel Anne Breidbart will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah on January 10. She is the daughter of Adina and Rory Breidbart. Rachel is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School and is the recipient of the 2011 All County Exhibition Award. She is an avid and dedicated figure skater. Her recent competitions include the Empire State Games, State Games of America and North Atlantic Regionals. Rachel also enjoys Pilates and ballet. She hopes to attend the Waxman High School and visit Israel in the near future.

Mazal Tov To . . .

- · Carol and Steve Smolinsky on the marriage of their son, Josh, to Emily Goldberg.
- Tareneh and Dr. Farzan Shirazi on the marriage of their son, Daniel, to Sheila
- · Sofia and David Sohayegh, on the marriage of their daughter, Sheila, to Daniel Shirazi.
- · Karen Lewkowitz-Miller and Monte Miller, and Robert Shpuntoff on the marriage of their daughter, Hilana Megan Lewkowitz-Shpuntoff, to Neil Ruben.
- Rusti and Alex Rothstein on the birth of their great-grandson, Oliver Archie Rothstein.

Temple Lites . . .
• Jessica Essex Lorden, daughter of Johanna and Harold Essex, has been named executive director of Congregation Kol Ami in White Plains.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Friday, I	December 1	9	4	4:11 P.	M.
Friday, D	ecember 2	6		4:15 P.	M.
	nuary2				

Next Voice Issue, Deadline

The next issue of The Voice will be published on Thursday, January 8. The deadline for that issue is Friday, December 19. Happy New Year!

A New Generation of Zionists

-Continued from page 2

a particular political viewpoint; rather, we are trying to give them the tools to understand the background to current events, to ascertain biases in media reports and to form their own reasoned opinions.

One day, we hope, they will become thoughtful college students and, ultimately, thoughtful adults, engaged with Medinat Yisra'el in multiple realms, through their own informed perspectives, as a cornerstone of their Jewish commitment and identity. Again and again we see how information and freedom yield the deepest commitment to our land and our people.

People occasionally ask me, "How are we training young people to become advocates for Israel?" My answer? True advocacy comes from deep understanding, for teens as well as adults. Israeli educators at Makom call it "high resolution." I'm confident that Temple Israel will continue to foster such deep understanding, confident that our teen community, inspired by thoughtful adults, will continue to grow in their understanding and appreciation of Israel. I'm confident not as an amorphous act of faith, but because the entire congregation—clergy, educators, Israel Affairs Committee members and numerous lay leaders-continue to invest time and resources in promoting informed commitment to the land and people of Israel.

Our students and our heritage deserve no less as a new generation of Zionists begins to emerge.

From the President: **Opinions Count**

——Continued from page 2

to complete the survey, for the results help us plan a meaningful experience for you. Please contact Leon should you have difficulty in accessing the survey.

You hopefully have seen the fruit of the Tefillah Re-Imagine group's work to make our Shabbat service more participatory and meaningful. At a recent committee meeting, goals for the next "semester" were set out (e.g., more B'nai Mitzvah family participation in the service; more kavanot; better use of Sephardi Torahs). Should you have other ideas to consider, please send them to Leon as well, and he will have

them presented, in a coordinated fashion, to committee co-heads Brent Greenspan and Sherry Husney.

Finally, a Nominating Committee has been selected to consider the slate of officers and trustees for our next fiscal year (starting July 1). More will be said in the future as to its operation, but for now please consider whether you would have recommendations for lay leadership positions to be shared with committee chair Marjorie Hoffman (information can also be coordinated through Leon).

Wishing you and your families an enjoyable Hanukkah and a happy and healthy (secular) New Year.

D'var Torah

-Continued from back page

status of Israelite tribes. Jacob then calls in all of his sons and delivers his testament in which he characterizes them and predicts what the future will bring each of them. Upon Jacob's death, the brothers bury him in the Cave of Machpelah and return to Egypt where they beg Joseph's forgiveness for the way they treated him. Joseph reassures them again that it was all part of God's plan. The concluding verses remind us of God's promise that the Israelites would return to the land of Canaan and prepare us to move in the Book of Exodus with its account of the enslavement and redemption.

SABBATH SERVICES		
——Continued from back page		
Friday, January 2		
Evening Service	4:30 P.M.	
•		
Saturday, January 3 Shabbat Hazak		
Morning Service	9:00 A.M.	
Weekly Portion: Vayehi		
Genesis 47:28 - 50:26		
<i>Haftarah</i> : I Kings 2:1 – 12		
Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:		
Robert Lopatkin, Audrey Itzkowitz, Gail Zahler, and Leonard Sch	ıultz	
Junior Congregation	10:30 A.M.	
Toddler Service	11:00 A.M.	
Min <u>h</u> ah	3:50 P.M.	
Shabbat HaMishpachah	4:00 P.M.	
Se'udah Shelishit	4:30 P.M.	
Ma'ariv	5:05 P.M.	
Havdalah	5:21 P.M.	

Guest Column: The Men's Club Welcomes You

——Continued from page 2

experiences in the Lebanon War of 2006; watching Monday Night Football together (of course, accompanied by deli sandwiches and beer); and hearing about the United Synagogue Trip to Poland from participants Rob and Ofra Panzer.

Closing out 2014 and upcoming in 2015, we look forward to the following events:

- Latkes and Vodka with Cantor Frieder Monday, December 22
- The World Wide Wrap, where we join with Conservative synagogues world-wide to teach our young people how to wrap *tefillin* Sunday, February 1
- Men's Club Shabbat HaChodesh Friday Night Service and Dinner Friday, March 20
- Spring Blood Drive Sunday, March 22
- Scotch and Seder with Rabbi Stecker March 26
- The annual Rabbinic Dialogue with the clergy from Temple Beth El and Great Neck Synagogue joining Rabbi Stecker Sunday, March 29
- Congregational Second Night Passover Seder April 14
- Beer, Wine or Spirits Tasting with Rabbi Adelson May 28
- North Fork of Long Island Winery Tour Sunday, June 7
- Our final Men's Club meeting before the summer featuring a Texas Hold-em Tournament
 June 25

Whether you are a member or not, please come to an event or meeting and see what the Temple Israel Men's Club is all about. It you are not on our e-mail list, please let the office know that you want to be added to our list to receive communications. We will keep you informed about our activities and we hope to see you soon!

NOTE OFFICE CLOSINGS: The Temple Israel office will also be closed on two upcoming Sundays, January 4 and 18. The office will close at 3 P.M. on December 24 and 31.

Congregation Thanks Its Kiddush Sponsors The Temple Israel officers and Board of

The Temple Israel officers and Board of Trustees express appreciation to members who have generously sponsored and enhanced the Sabbath *kiddush*.

A contribution toward the *kiddush* on July 26 was made by Barbara and Steven G. Hertzberg in honor of the *Auf Ruf* of their son, Theodore, and Christine Ryan.

Bruce and Sarah Rothstein sponsored the congregational kiddush on August 9 in honor of the *Auf Ruf* of their son, Nathaniel Jay, and Andrea Beth Grossman.

A contribution toward the *kiddush* on August 23 was made by Gail and Lloyd Grauman and Anat and Sol Gourji in honor of the *Auf Ruf* of their children, Scott Adam Grauman and Arielle Gourji.

Rebecca and Ben Cohenmehr sponsored the congregational kiddush on August 30 in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Michael. Brenda and Natie Kopelowitz made a contribution toward the kiddush in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary.

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The marriage of their daughter, Betsy, to Andy Field

Simhat Torah honorees Iris

and Charles Adler

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Carol and Marc

Seidenberg

The marriage of Morgan

Handsman to Ian Spitalnick

Linda and Fred

Handsman

The marriage of their granddaughter, Ariel Klein,

to Perry Kornblum

Loretta and Leonard

Klein

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Husney

Chloe Madison on a job well

done

Neil and Cindy Dolgin Receiving a special Rosh

Hashanah aliyah Joan Schussheim

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From Generation to Generation



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Ellen Rosen's 90th birthday

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Harriet Rosenbaum

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Their son, Jordan, becoming a Bar Mitzvah Carol and Marc Seidenberg

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Robert Braunschweig Marilyn and Michael Yanowitch

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D'var Torah

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Miketz

Saturday, December 20

The Joseph narrative is continued in this portion after two years. Pharaoh has two dreams that no one can interpret. The cupbearer finally remembers Joseph, who is called from jail and interprets the dreams to mean that there will be seven years of plenty, followed by seven years of famine. Joseph advises Pharaoh to store up food during the years of plenty, as a reserve for the famine. Pharaoh designates Joseph to implement such a plan. When the famine comes, Jacob sends his sons to Egypt for food. By way of testing their character, Joseph, whom they don't recognize, although he recognizes them, puts his brothers through a series of tests involving their father and youngest brother, Benjamin. In these episodes we see the prediction of Joseph's dreams realized as God moves His plan inexorably forward through human agency.

Vayigash Saturday, December 27

In this portion the Joseph narrative is continued as Judah makes a moving appeal to Joseph, still unrecognized by his brothers, on behalf of his brother, Benjamin, who had been accused of stealing Joseph's goblet. Judah's words convince Joseph that his brothers have truly changed since they sold him. He reveals himself to them, inquires about his father's health and assures them that their action was part of God's plan to put him in a position to save lives. He invites the entire family to come to Egypt to live out the five remaining years of the famine. When Jacob arrives, Joseph presents his father at court and settles the family in a choice area of the land. In the following years, he continues his work and brings great benefits to the crown. Jacob's journey to Egypt connects him with Abraham, who also went to Egypt because of famine, but is also the first step in the transformation of the patriarch's family into the people of Israel.

Vayehi Saturday, January 3

We conclude the cycle of Jacob stories and the Book of Genesis in this portion. After 17 years in Egypt, Jacob feels that his end is approaching. He makes Joseph swear that he will bury him with his forbearers in the land of Israel, and he blesses Joseph's children, Ephraim and Manasseh, thereby effectively elevating them to the

-Continued on page 4

SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, December 19

N'Ranenah / Evening Service

6: 30 P.M.

Saturday, December 20 Shabbat Hanukkah

Morning Service 9:00 A.M. Weekly Portion: Miketz; Genesis 41:1 - 44:17; Numbers 7:30 - 41 Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14 - 4:7

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Edith Robbins, Veronica Bisek Lurvey, Seth Horowitz & Sima Taeid Bar Mitzvah

MARTIN LEV

son of Alicia and Theodore Lev

Junior Congregation	10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service	11:00 A.M.
Min <u>h</u> ah and Ma'ariv	3:50 P.M.
Handalah	5·12 PM

Friday, December 26

Evening Service

4:30 P.M.

Saturday, December 27

Morning Service

9:00 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Vayigash; Genesis 44:18 - 47:27 *Haftarah:* Ezekiel 37:15 – 28

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Pargol Khadavi, Miriam Kobliner, Brent Greenspan & Andy Katz Havurah Service 10:00 A.M. **Junior Congregation** 10:30 A.M. Toddler Service 11:00 A.M. Waxman Youth House Shabbat Game-a-Palozza 3:45 P.M. Minhah 3:55 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 4:25 P.M. Ma'ariv 5:01 P.M. Havdalah 5:16 P.M.

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