

Jewish Film Series Begins December 18 With Story About Arranged Marriages



A scene from the first movie in the Temple Israel Winter Film Series, *Arranged*, being shown December 18.

What happens when two young women—one Ultra-Orthodox and the other a devout Muslim—become friends in Brooklyn?

During the course of a year, the two public school teachers find that they have much in common, not the least of which is that they are both going through arranged marriages.

Hard to believe, but their story is based in part on the true tale of Rochel Meshenberg of Borough Park, a first-year teacher in Brooklyn and the subject of the first showing of the season in Temple Israel's Jewish Film Series. It will be shown free of charge in the Crystal Ballroom on Sunday, December 18, at 7 P.M., followed by a discussion by Rabbi Daniel Schweber on the topics covered in the film led.

"This film explores if a woman's choice to remain in a traditional religious framework is feminist or not," Rabbi

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Congregation Is Planning Simultaneous Israel Trips In February for Adults, Teens

Temple Israel is planning a first: two simultaneous trips to Israel in February—one for adults led by Rabbi Howard Stecker and one for teens led by Waxman High School staff.

While each group will have its own itinerary, they will meet up to celebrate Shabbat in Jerusalem and worship together at the Kotel.

"Nothing can match the opportunity to explore Israel with fellow Temple Israel members," Rabbi Stecker said. "The adult trip will allow us to enjoy the many faces of Israel—historic, cultural, recreational—together. As we get to know Israel better, we also get to know each other better. Based on my past experience leading Temple Israel families through Israel, I can say without exaggeration that this trip is a life-changing adventure for everyone, myself included. I can't wait to lead this trip and I hope you will join me."

The adult trip—which includes everything but airfare—will stay at five-star hotels and include tours of Israeli vineyards, hiking, a Jeep tour, and rappelling. Alternate activities will be available to all in the group.

The teens will visit Temple Israel's sister congregation in Ashkelon, work in an Israeli soup kitchen, stay in a Bedouin tent and rappel down an Israeli crater.

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Temple Israel's last teen trip to Israel, led by Waxman High School Director Danny Mishkin and then Associate Rabbi Seth Adelson, right, drew a large number of participants.

Giving Yourself an 'A'

A Voice Guest Column by Rabbi Daniel Schweber

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Guest column Contains excerpts from Rabbi Schweber's High Holy Day sermon.

The popular "The Little Engine That Could," by Watty Piper, is based on a homily by the Reverend Charles Wang that appeared in the New York Tribune in 1906. The story, about the power of positive thinking, was addressed to people of all ages.

The main lesson is that positive thinking is very powerful. Positive thinking can help us overcome obstacles in the face of difficult challenges. Just as positive thinking has the power to help you succeed, negative thinking—saying, "you cannot"—has the power to take you in the opposite direction.

The Book of Jonah is an example of negative thinking, when Jonah flees God's call to prophesize against Nineveh. In my mind, Jonah flees from God because he has personal doubts about

his abilities as a prophet of God. Instead of confronting these fears and hardships, he flees.

Self-doubt, fear of failure and a desire to avoid and flee from seemingly difficult or even from impossible situations are familiar feelings to many, if not most of us. How we can help ourselves refrain

**...positive thinking
is very powerful.**

from harsh self-judgments and have a better positive outlook for ourselves going into the New Year 5777? How can we make this new year an "I think I can" year?

This summer I read a book titled "The

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Seeking Justice

From the Rabbi by Rabbi Howard A. Stecker

American Jews enjoy a degree of opportunity and influence unprecedented in any Diaspora community. We are disproportionately represented in the finest universities, leaders in the arts and sciences, influential in governance. We have shaped, and been shaped by so much of American culture. By many measures we are stronger in 21st century America than we've ever been anywhere.

**Vulnerable enough
to know the difference
and strong enough
to make a difference.**

And yet, we are also vulnerable. In 2014 the FBI reported that Jews were the victims of anti-religious hate crimes far more than any other religious group. In the past two years, according to the ADL, there has been an uptick in anti-Semitic incidents.

In keeping with long-standing Jewish tradition, both realities should lead us to the same place, and that is to advocate for justice. We are charged to use our own sense of vulnerability to animate concern for others. "You shall love the stranger, for you were strangers in Egypt." And we have ample precedent for using our strength and influence to help us to advocate successfully.

Our ancestor Abraham had the vulnerability that comes from setting off on a new course in the world and from dealing with life's inevitable disappointments. He also gained strength and influence through his own economic and political success. Along the way he confronted God, in a supreme act of courage, insisting that the judge of all the earth must act justly. Abraham's awareness of his own vulnerability sensitized him to the needs of others and his strength and influence gave him the gravitas to speak out.

—Continued on page 6

With Your Support

From the President

by Rob Panzer

Temple Israel of Great Neck has again been bequeathed a very generous gift from the estate of our late member Elayne P. Bernstein. Elayne and Harold Bernstein were members of our congregation from 1948 and were parents of five children, all of whom became B'nai Mitzvah at Temple Israel. Elayne's warmth, spirit and generosity have benefited countless people.

Once again, Temple Israel of Great Neck is a fortunate recipient of Elayne Bernstein's commitment to education and the continuity of the Jewish people. We are grateful to the entire Bernstein family and will soon place a plaque on our endowment wall as a sign of our appreciation for their support and thoughtfulness.

Elayne's gift is not the only bequest we have received this year. We have been the fortunate beneficiaries of approximately \$100,000 in posthumous gifts. The contributions from Elayne's

**...there is still time to
make a tax-deductible
contribution for 2016.**

estate, as well as the other gifts to our Endowment Fund, will help to support Temple Israel well into the future.

If you are interested in making Temple Israel a part of your estate planning, please contact Executive Director Leon Silverberg at 482-7800. He will be happy to walk you through the process.

It should be noted that membership dues account for less than 40 percent of our annual income. Fund-raising is a critical part of our budget and there are many ways to support our congregation. We have a Tree of Life on which simchas can be recognized and a picket fence around the playground on which families and children are noted as supporters. We have tribute funds which support many different facets of synagogue life, from education to scholarships to

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In Memoriam

Temple Israel extends
condolences to the families of:

MOUNESS KHORSHAD

mother of David Khorshad,
Janet Kahen and Jackie Shirian

GERDA SCHOEN

mother of Alexander Schoen

DAVID HAMID BAKHSHI

husband of Tanaz Bakhshi,
father of Shaina, Jonathan,
Shayla and Leila,
brother of Roya Shavolian
and Daniel Bakhshi
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

EDWARD JACOB NISSAN

brother of Yvonne Shahmoon

May their memories be for a blessing.

Upcoming Events

December 6

Sisterhood Lunch and Read Noon

December 12

Sisterhood Board Meeting 10:00 A.M.

December 14

Digital Tour of the Jewish Theological
Seminary Rare Book Collection with
Chief Librarian Dr. Kraemer 8:00 P.M.

December 15

Congregational Meeting 8:15 P.M.

Board of Trustees Meeting 9:00 P.M.

December 18

Film Series Movie "Arranged" 7:00 P.M.

December 24

Erev Hanukkah

December 25-31

Hanukkah

December 29

Congregation Hanukkah Party 6:00 P.M.

January 9

Sisterhood Board Meeting 10:00 A.M.

January 19

Board of Trustees Meeting 8:15 P.M.

January 20

Adult B'nai Mitzvah

Family Dinner 6:00 P.M.

Special Congregational Meeting

A Special Meeting of the membership of Temple Israel has been called to elect two members of the congregation to the Nominating Committee. The meeting will be held on Thursday, December 15, at 8:15 P.M. in the Crystal Ballroom.

*Celebrate Hanukkah
at Temple Israel*

**Thursday, December 29
6-8 P.M. Crystal Ballroom**

*Everyone is invited for...
food, latkes, songs led by
Cantor Frieder, dancing,
Hanukkah gelt, dreidels,
candle lighting, games
(bring your own family
games), and lots of fun!*

The party is free, but it is necessary
to RSVP by Friday, December 23
to Jennifer at 482-7800



**Choose a night to come down
and sing us a song of your choice!**
(or let our Musical Director pick one with you at auditions)

Sunday, Dec. 4: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 5: 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Crystal Ballroom

(Selected Callbacks on Wednesday, Dec. 7 starting at 7:00 p.m.)

This year's production will be revue-style featuring "destination songs" from across the Broadway musical library (*Hairspray, Newsies, Memphis, Annie, 42nd Street, Movin' Out, Evita* and more!)

The Players will set sail for destinations both home and overseas while entertaining the passengers (the audience) on its musical voyage.

SHOW DATES: March 18 & 19, 2017
Plenty of parts for singers and non-singers!

Adults and children are welcome!
(Children must be at least 8 years of age and in 3rd grade or above)

Questions?

Eileen Putterman: MPutterman@aol.com/516-482-6527
or Mark Putter: MPutter@gmail.com

B'nai/B'not Mitzvah in Our Temple Israel Family



Isabela Herrera

Isabela Rose Herrera will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on December 3. She is the daughter of Carrie and Felix Herrera and has two sisters, Concetta, 34, and Maryann, 33, and a brother, Felix, 31. Isabela is an eighth grade student at Bell Academy/M.S. 294. She was the recipient of the CEC Community Service Award presented by the District 25 superintendent for four consecutive years and was just voted vice president of the student government. Isabela enjoys swimming, tennis and mixed martial arts. She plans to attend the Waxman High School.



Kevin Khadavi

Kevin Khadavi will be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah on December 10. He is the son of Pargol and Steven Khadavi and has two sisters, Justine, 10, and Jillian, 5. Kevin is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. He has been on the travel basketball team for the past four years, and is on his school cross country and basketball teams. Kevin also enjoys playing tennis. He is currently attending the Waxman High School and Youth House. This past summer Kevin celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at the Kotel with his family.



Kyle Bakhshi

Kyle Bakhshi will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on December 17. He is the son of Nazila and Daniel Bakhshi and has two sisters, Kayla, 15, and Brooke, 11. Kyle is an eighth grade student at Great Neck North Middle School, where he is in advanced English and math classes. He is the recipient of basketball, football and lacrosse awards. Kyle enjoys playing basketball and tennis, as well as skating and biking. He will be attending the Waxman High School and hopes to visit Israel in the near future.



Mikayla Hendizadeh

Mikayla Alexis Hendizadeh will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah on January 7. She is the daughter of Bita and Pedram Hendizadeh and has a sister, Sophia, 10, and a brother, Max, 6. Mikayla is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. She enjoys painting and drawing as well as dancing. Mikayla will be attending the Waxman High School and Youth House and plans to visit her father's family in Israel soon.

Temple Lites...

• **Paula Charry, Renee Altman Fleischer, Judy Greenstein, Elsa Friedman, Lori Freudman, Muriel Pfeiffer, Hermine Plotnick, and Ellen Doree Rosen**, members of the Na'aleh Women's Ensemble, will be performing "Jewish Music to Warm Your Soul on a Winter Sunday," a concert at Temple Israel, on Sunday, December 11, at 3 P.M. Admission is \$18 per person. Further information about the program, which will be in English, Hebrew and Yiddish, is available by calling 466-8428 or 482-7480, or by email to naalehchorus@aol.com.

Next Voice, Deadline

The next issue of The Voice will be published on Friday, January 6. The deadline for that issue is December 23.

Take a Digital Tour of the Jewish Theological Seminary Rare Book Collection

The Jewish Theological Seminary Library houses the greatest collection of Judaica in the Western Hemisphere, including the world's largest collection of Hebrew manuscripts, 43,000 fragments from the Cairo Genizah, extensive archives, and much more. Most of the library's rare materials have been digitized. Dr. David Kraemer, JTS chief librarian and Talmud professor, will present a digital tour of some of the library's greatest treasures, including Persian and Iraqi items.

Wednesday, December 14
8:15 P.M. • Blue Room

Congregation Thanks Its Kiddush Sponsors

Appreciation is expressed by the Temple Israel officers and Board of Trustees to members who have generously sponsored and enhanced the Sabbath kiddush.

A contribution toward the kiddush on June 18 was made by Ellen and Babak Nahavandi in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Rebecca.

A contribution toward the kiddush on June 25 was made by Helene and Paul Wasserman in honor of the Auf Ruf of their son, Nathan, and Shana Miles.

A contribution toward the kiddush on July 16 was made by Jacqueline Shirian in memory of her husband, Said Shirian.

Contributions toward the kiddush on July 23 were made by Sofia and David Sohayegh in honor of the birth of their granddaughter, Sasha Sohayegh, and by Gilbert Berookhim in memory of Jurga Kulsyte.

Contributions toward the kiddush on August 27 were made by Susan and Dr. Robert Lopatkin in honor of the Auf Ruf of their daughter, Allison, and Gregory Wood, and by the Berookhim family in memory of Najatolla Berookhim.

The congregational kiddush on September 3 was sponsored by Joanna and David Eshaghoff in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Hanna. Contributions toward the kiddush were made by Sima and Hamid Delafraz in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Brandon, and by Rebecca and Dr. Malcolm Phillips in honor of the Auf Ruf of their daughter, Lauren, and Daniel Fogelman.

A contribution toward the kiddush on September 10 was made by Neda and Farid Sedgh in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Alexandra.

Contributions toward the kiddush on September 17 were made by Michelle and Allen Ahdoot in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Alexandra, by Maggie and Daniel Goldberger in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Eli, and by Mitchell Koeppel and Madelaine Senter in honor of their Auf Ruf.

Ask the Rabbi: Lighting Your Hanukkah Fire

A New Voice Feature by Rabbi Daniel Schweber

EDITOR'S NOTE: Welcome to a new Voice feature titled "Ask the Rabbi." Each month we will explore a question of interest to congregants. The word "answer" was purposefully omitted, as some questions do not have exact answers. Everyone is welcome to submit questions they think should be addressed in this column to Rabbi Schweber at rabbischweber@tign.org.

Question: Hanukkah this year falls during winter break (first candle is Saturday evening, December 24) and some of you may be on vacation, staying in a place which may not allow candles and most likely does not allow candles to be left unattended. How should one observe Hanukkah in such a scenario?

Discussion: Let me begin with an anecdote from my own life. When my wife, Sarah, was 38 weeks pregnant with our twin daughters (we didn't know their genders at the time), the OB/GYN said we should schedule a C-section for the 39th week. We were given the option of Monday or Wednesday. Believe it or not, we looked at our calendars to see when it would be convenient to give birth! I quickly noticed that Wednesday was the first day

...I wondered how we were going to observe Hanukkah while in the hospital.

of Hanukkah and since Sarah and I were both born on Jewish holidays (Yom Kippur and Sukkot), it was only appropriate that our twins be born on Hanukkah.

In addition to all of the anticipations of a new parent, I wondered how we were going to observe Hanukkah while in the hospital. So in rabbinic fashion, I did some research. (Sarah was thankfully healthy, so much of that final week was spent sitting and waiting.)

I learned that there are two aspects to Hanukkah. There is the actual lighting of the lights and the advertising of the miracles of Hanukkah. The lighting of the lights needs to be from a flame that is either from a candle or oil. While electric lights do not count as "Hanukkah lights," they do count as advertising of the miracle.



I also learned that the rules for the Hanukkah lights are quite flexible. First, if you are unable to light a flame on any or all of the nights, you can ask someone to have you in mind when they light their flames. That person becomes your agent. Today we all light counting up; one on the first night, second on the second night, etc. The minimum requirement is just one flame per household and that flame only needs to be lit 30 minutes. It is permissible, as long as it is not Shabbat, to extinguish the Hanukkah flames after 30 minutes.

What did we do during Hanukkah 2007/5767 when Natalie and Alexandra were born? We used all of the options. We lit the first candle at home with the babies safely inside Sarah. Then, after Natalie and Alexandra were born healthy, we set up an electric menorah in the hospital room. For three nights I lit candles when I came home from the hospital for a short sleep. Then for the Shabbat in the hospital, when I stayed at a hotel across the street, I asked a friend to have us in mind. For the remainder of the holiday we joyfully lit the flames at home with two beautiful baby girls in our arms.

If you are going to be away during Hanukkah or you live in a place that does not allow flames, you can follow any or all of the options discussed.

Chag Urim Sameach, Happy Hanukkah!

Guest Column: Giving Yourself an 'A'

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Art of Possibility,” written by a husband and wife team, Rosamund Stone Zander and Benjamin Zander.

The authors posit that we generally spend too much time and effort living and operating in what they call the “world of measurement.” We are constantly measuring ourselves either in comparison to others or to some subjectively ideal goal or benchmark. While there is certainly need and value to measure things, the world of measurement can be overly competitive, limiting, and a world where there always needs to be winners and losers.

The authors posit an alternative world, which they call the “world of possibility.” This world, in their words, is “infinite, generative, abundant, and freeing.” In the world of possibility we gain knowledge through invention and imagination and our self-worth comes from our relationships and not from measurables such as how much we know and achieve.

The Zanders share some exercises to help us enter into and live in the world

of possibility. My favorite exercise is the one they call “Giving An A.” Ben Zander is a master music teacher and he describes how he tampered down their anxiety by telling the students on the first day of each semester that they would all be getting an A in the class. They just had to complete this one assignment. The assignment is “in two weeks’ time to write a letter postdated

**The more we focus
on what is possible
for us and for others
the farther we get away
from self-doubt...**

to the end of the course. Using the past tense, describe in detail what you will have done by that postdated time that is in line with the excellent grade of A.”

The book shares many excellent letters written over the years. The exercise allowed the students to imagine their real selves without the limits of “I can’t,” without focusing on the expectations and approval of others. After completing

the exercise, students who used to stress about mistakes in their music embraced the mistakes as the learning opportunities that they are. The effect of these letters was to reduce the students’ anxieties and it allowed the students to become the people they imagined in their letters.

The book also shares a beautiful parable. I am not sure if it’s Jewish or Christian in origin. It doesn’t matter. The abbot of a once great monastery with only five remaining monks is friends with a rabbi. Once during a visit with the rabbi, the abbot wonders aloud what it would take to revitalize the monastery. The rabbi replies, “I have no advice to give. The only thing I can tell you is that the Messiah is one of you.”

Because of the rabbi’s words the monks enter the world of possibility. Everyone in the monastery they interact with, even themselves, could be the Messiah. So they begin treating each other with the honor and holiness due the king messiah.

Their new demeanors create a palatable aura of holiness sensed by the occasional visitors to the abbey. The visitors start coming more frequently and bringing friends. Soon, new monks join the Order itself and the community becomes vibrant again.

The engine that thought it could, that practice of “Giving an A” and the parable all point to the power of positive thinking. The more we focus on what is possible for us and for others, the farther we get away from self-doubt and the closer we get to being our best selves. The urge to flee, like Jonah did, might be strong, but you cannot flee “storms” and challenges.

At the start of the Jewish New Year we dip apples in honey to symbolize the idea that this year will already be “Grade A.” Our first assignment of the year, due in 10 days’ time, is to compose a letter. Ideally it is written, but mental letters are okay too. The letter should be dated 1 Tishrei 5778 - September 21, 2017, addressed to yourself, and begin with the phrase “5777 was a sweet year because...” In the letter, you should describe in as much detail as you can, the story of how you were your best self in 5777.

Seeking Justice

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Let those of us fortunate enough to live in the United States of America draw direction and resolve from Abraham’s example. As Jews we know full well what it’s like to be marginalized and victimized. It never takes long, if it takes time at

Mazal Tov To...

Alise Kreditor and Jeffrey Englander on the engagements of their daughter, Rachel, to Adam Davis, and their son, Sam, to Lauren Weisskirk.

Sharon and Frank Horowitz on the marriage of their daughter, Stefanie, to Drew Greenfield.

Ronni and Wally Kopelowitz on the birth of their granddaughter, Noa Everly Zinger.

Mindy Daum and Alan Daum on the marriage of their son, Adam, to Naomi Berkowitz.

all, for hatred toward any marginalized group to become directed toward us. Our tradition and our experience urge us to channel our sense of our own vulnerability into outspoken advocacy for all those who are vulnerable for whatever reasons, including race, gender, sexuality, religion, ethnicity, socio-economics and disability.

As Jews we also understand how important it is to harness our own strength and influence in order to advocate effectively. We can, and must, register our support of individuals and policies that ensure just treatment of all people. Likewise we can, and must, register our opposition to those individuals and policies that are unjust in any way.

As American Jews in 2016 we are vulnerable and we are strong. Vulnerable enough to know the difference and strong enough to make a difference.

Temple Israel Planning February Israel Trips

—Continued from front page

"We are planning these trips to see and do things that most Temple Israel members have never done before in Israel," said Moji Pourmoradi, a popular Waxman High School teacher who proposed the concept of the dual trips to the Temple Israel Board of Trustees, which endorsed the idea.

"Participants become a tight knit community which cares about each other, about learning and about Israel. And the best part," she said, "is that we bring that community back with us to Great Neck."

Both groups will meet in Jerusalem for Shabbat services and visit the Kotel. "...I have gone with my family, with a teen tour, led a teen tour, lived in Israel for six months, and most recently led a group of Temple Israel teens," said Waxman Youth House Director Danny Mishkin. "The most important component of our trip is that we will be together. Trips to Israel are emotional, eye-opening and life-changing."

The cost of the trip for the first 25 teen participants enrolled in the Waxman High School will be subsidized by the Khorshad Dina Harounian Israel Education Fund, bringing the cost down to \$2,975. The cost for teens not enrolled in the school is \$3,600.

An informational session to further explain trip details is being planned for later this month. Additional details are available by calling Mrs. Pourmoradi at 319-6199 or emailing her at mommymoiji@aol.com.

Jewish Film Series Begins December 18

—Continued from front page

Schweber said. "I invite the congregation to watch this award-winning film, enjoy the snacks, and voice their opinions in a lively discussion to follow."

One reviewer said "Arranged offers a touching and often hilarious look at two women...who should be recognized as two of the best female characters and performances in recent years... Arranged is a must-see in this globalized world."

Men's Club Scores Touchdown at Jets Game with First Annual Tailgate



Members of the Men's Club joined Rabbi Daniel Schweber at a recent Jets game.

by Ron Klempner

The day began in the MetLife Stadium parking lot sipping a unique concoction that featured the pulp and skin of etrog marinated in a certain adult beverage. It ended with priceless views of the super moon, the closest the moon has appeared to Earth in about 70 years.

Likewise, a spirited group of more than 20 members of Temple Israel's Men's Club grew closer together with each other than they had ever been, enjoying the group's first—and what will undoubtedly now be annual—tailgate and football game outing on Sunday, November 13. Our hometown New York Jets may have lost to the Los Angeles Rams by 9-6, but nobody from Temple Israel went home disappointed.

Knowledgeable fan Rabbi Daniel Schweber helped lead the multi-generational group, which was organized by lively members of a younger wing of the Men's Club, including Michael Becker, Adam Covitt and Ezra Kassin. A comfortable coach bus shuttled the group to the game in New Jersey, where they were met by Eli, the grillmaster of Five Towns Waitering, who was already at work setting up the elaborate pre-game kosher tailgate buffet. The tailgating ritual was brought to a new level, as the tables soon began to fill with supremely grilled meats and other foods, including chicken, beef, salami, eggs, and watermelon, together with many beverages. In addition to the unique etrog concoction, the group sipped a mixture called apple pie rye, and another named not for golfer Arnold Palmer, but rather the more unpredictable John Daly. Like at a true field day, the group engaged in games of skill and chance in the parking lot, including their own version of relay races.

Good fortune seemed to follow the group around all day. Not only was it a warm fall afternoon, but while much of the stadium was enveloped in shadows, the Temple Israel group's section enjoyed the rays of the sun for almost four full quarters. At the game's end, the group finished off the leftover food, and in a unique juxtaposition that can be truly appreciated in our country, davened mincha outside the bus about 20 yards away from another group roasting a whole suckling pig.

A high bar was set here, but the energized Men's Club will undoubtedly look to outdo themselves at their next event.

From Generation to Generation

Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

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Rabbi Stecker's support for her
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In honor of:

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Sara and Ronald
Weiner

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Linda and Gary Stark
and family
Rosalinde Liebowitz
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Jill and Mitchell
Friedman and family
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Simhat Torah honorees
Toby Katz and Neda Sedgh
Cheryl Eisberg Moin
and Seth Moin

From Generation to Generation

Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

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Danny Mishkin helping their daughter, Alexandra, with her D'var Torah
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The baby naming of their daughter, Ryan Elissa
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Barbara and Jerry Ackerman

Temple Israel Museum Featuring Hanukkah Exhibit

Hanukkah is one of the most joyous holidays and to celebrate, the Temple Israel Museum has on view in its front case a selection of beautiful and unusual menorahs dating from ancient Israel to the 20th century.

An oblong stone with carved indentations for oil dates from the Tannaitic period, chased and embossed silver menorah, is from 18th century Breslau. A brass bench-form example is from 19th century Italy, while a 20th century silver menorah by Moshe Zabari looks like a piece of modern sculpture.

A very unusual silver travelling menorah from Poland, circa 1900, is in the form of a small book, which opens to reveal eight square containers, two of which swing open on each side, for oil and a wick.

Several silver menorahs are too large to fit in the front case, but should be noted. They include a huge synagogue menorah in the form of a tree with leafed arms in front of which stands a roaring lion (Germany, circa 1880). A large menorah from Warsaw, circa 1890, fits into a Shabbat candlestick, and is removable. A pride of the museum is from Frankfurt, circa 1700, and has a figure of Judith with the head of Holofernes.

The museum staff was pleased with the large numbers of visitors who viewed the collection on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. If you would like to arrange a visit to the museum, contact the synagogue office. The museum welcomes sponsors of pieces in honor of or in memory of loved ones.

Daily Minyan Times

Friday, December 2, 9, 16

7:00 A.M. 4:15 P.M.

Friday, December 23

7:00 A.M. 6:30 P.M.

Friday, December 30

6:45 A.M. 4:30 P.M.

Friday, January 6

7:00 A.M. 4:30 P.M.

Friday, January 13

7:00 A.M. 4:45 P.M.

**Sunday, December 4, 11, 18
and January 1, 8, 15**

8:15 A.M. 8:00 P.M.

**Monday, December 5, 12, 19,
26 and January 9, 16**

**Thursday, December 8, 15, 22,
29 and January 5, 12, 19**

**Tuesday, December 27 and
Wednesday, December 28**

6:45 A.M. 8:00 P.M.

Monday, January 2

8:15 A.M. 8:00 P.M.

**Tuesday, December 6, 13, 20
and January 3, 10, 17**

**Wednesday, December 7, 14,
21 and January 4, 11, 18**

7:00 A.M. 8:00 P.M.

Candle Lighting Times

Friday, December 2

4:10 P.M.

Friday, December 9

4:09 P.M.

Friday, December 16

4:10 P.M.

Friday, December 23

4:13 P.M.

Friday, December 30

4:18 P.M.

Friday, January 6

4:24 P.M.

Friday, January 13

4:31 P.M.

D'var Torah

—Continued from back page

Vayetse Saturday, December 10

In this portion we follow the fortunes of Jacob as he leaves the land of Canaan to travel to the ancestral home in Mesopotamia, spends 20 years there and leaves to return to Canaan. Jacob, fleeing for his life, stops for a night at a place near the border and has a dream in which the angels ascend and descend a ladder to heaven. God confirms the blessing of Abraham for Jacob, and Jacob, upon awakening, names the place Beth El, the House of God. Arriving in Mesopotamia, Jacob encounters Rachel, his cousin, at a well and falls in love with her. He negotiates with his uncle, Laban, for Rachel's hand, is tricked by Laban, and then decides it is time to return home. He leaves with two wives, two concubines, 11 sons, one daughter and much livestock. These events show how Jacob begins to become worthy of the blessing he has been given and of being a successor to Abraham and Isaac.

Vayishlah Saturday, December 17

We conclude the independent stories about Jacob, in this portion. In the remainder of the Book of Genesis his life is intertwined with the biography of Joseph. Jacob prepares to encounter Esau by dividing his camp as a safety precaution and sending a large gift of livestock to his brother. He wrestles all night with a mysterious assailant from whom he wrests a blessing at daybreak in the form of a change of name from Jacob to Israel. Following the successful meeting with Esau, Jacob travels on and settles down. His daughter, Dinah, is ravished by a local prince, and two of her brothers take fearful revenge. Other events serve to sever decisively the connection of the patriarchs with Mesopotamia. By the

end of this portion our focus is shifted from the lives of individuals to the emerging people of Israel.

Veyeshev Saturday, December 24

In this portion the cycle of Joseph stories begins. Joseph, Jacob's favorite, angers his brothers by tattling and by recounting dreams in which he is clearly designated lord over his family. In retaliation, the brothers sell him into slavery and he is brought to Egypt. The story is interrupted at this point to recount an incident in the life of Judah. The narrative resumes with the account of Joseph's fortunes in Egypt. He is sold to a high official and becomes his major domo, but he runs afoul of his master's wife and is jailed. There, Joseph interprets the dreams of two fellow prisoners, Pharaoh's chief cupbearer and chief baker. The cupbearer is subsequently restored to his office, but he completely forgets about Joseph. The events of this story demonstrate the working out of God's carefully devised plan for His people and serve as the prelude to the drama of oppression and redemption which is the heart of the Biblical narrative.

Mikkets Saturday, December 31

The Joseph narrative is continued in this portion after two years. Pharaoh has two dreams, which 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.

Vayiggash Saturday, January 7

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 truly have 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 14

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 fore bearers in the land of Israel, and he blesses Joseph's children, Ephraim and Manasseh, thereby effectively elevating them to the 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.

From the President: With Your Support

—Continued from page 2

musical programs. A list of funds is available on our website, www.tign.org.

There are any number of programs that can be sponsored. Any kiddush can be sponsored, as well, to recognize a simcha or to honor the memory of a loved one. Naming opportunities exist for those who might be interested in endowing programs or positions within our congregation. We also have a list of dedicatory items that may pique your interest. What's more, there is still time to make a tax-deductible contribution for 2016.

To discuss any of these possibilities, please feel free to contact Leon at any time, or you can always reach me at robpanzer18@gmail.com. I thank you for your continued support.

Sabbath Services

Friday, December 23

N'Ranenah/Evening Service 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, December 24

Erev Hanukkah

Morning Service 9:00 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Vayeshev

Genesis 37:1 – 40:23

Haftarah: Amos 2:6 – 3:8

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Pargol Khadavi, David Eshaghoff,
Jeffrey Fleit, Joyce Weston,
and Sherry Husney

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Afternoon Service 3:55 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 4:25 P.M.

Evening Service 4:59 P.M.

Havdalah 5:14 P.M.

Friday, December 30

Rosh Hodesh Tevet

Evening Service 4:30 P.M.

Saturday, December 31

Morning Service 9:00 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Mikkets

Genesis 41:1 – 44:17; Numbers 7:48 – 59

Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14 – 4:7

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Moji Pourmoradi, Andrew Bloom and
Audrey Kent Itzkowitz

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Afternoon Service 4:00 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 4:30 P.M.

Evening Service 5:04 P.M.

Havdalah 5:19 P.M.

Friday, January 6

Evening Service 4:30 P.M.

Saturday, January 7

Morning Service 9:00 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Vayigash

Genesis 44:18 – 47:27

Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15 – 28

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Brent Greenspan, Jeffrey Englander,
Madelyn Gould, Ofra Panzer and
Deanna Stecker

Bat Mitzvah: Mikayla Hendizadeh,

daughter of
Bitá and Pedram Hendizadeh

"Unlocking Tefila" 10:30 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Afternoon Service 4:05 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 4:35 P.M.

Evening Service 5:09 P.M.

Havdalah 5:25 P.M.

Friday, January 13

Evening Service 4:45 P.M.

Saturday, January 14

Morning Service 9:00 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Vayehi

Genesis 47:28 – 50:26

Haftarah: I Kings 2:1 – 12

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Moji Pourmoradi, Audrey Kent
Itzkowitz, Andi Katz, Eleanor Askari,
and Sherry Husney

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Afternoon Service 4:10 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 4:40 P.M.

Evening Service 5:17 P.M.

Havdalah 5:32 P.M.



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D'var Torah

by Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Toledot December 3

We follow the events in the lives of Isaac and Rebekah, in this portion. Twin sons—Esau and Jacob—are born and their struggles before birth foreshadow later conflicts between the nations they are to found. Although Jacob is the younger, he tricks Esau out of his birthright. Isaac, like Abraham meets a number of challenges and is assured by God that he will have many descendents and possess the land of Canaan. When Isaac feels his end approaching and arranges to pass the blessing of succession on to Esau, Rebekah connives to have Jacob trick his father and get the blessing for himself. Jacob must then flee to the ancestral homeland to escape Esau's wrath, but before he leaves, Isaac intentionally passes on to him the blessing of Abraham. This action attests that the leadership of the Jewish people depends on God's plan, not an accident of birth.

—Continued on page 10

Temple Israel of Great Neck

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Sabbath Services

Friday, December 2

Evening Service 4:15 P.M.

Saturday, December 3

Morning Service 9:00 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Toledot

Genesis 25:19 – 28:9

Haftarah: Malachi 1:1 – 2:7

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Patty Schneider, Madelyn Gould,
Deanna Stecker, Keyvan Frouzan,
and Brent Greenspan

Bar Mitzvah: Jordan Harouche,
son of Jodi and David Harouche

Minhah Bat Mitzvah: Isabela Herrera,
daughter of Carrie and Felix Herrera

"Unlocking Tefila" 10:30 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Afternoon Service 3:50 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 4:20 P.M.

Evening Service 4:55 P.M.

Havdalah 5:10 P.M.

Friday, December 9

Evening Service 4:15 P.M.

Saturday, December 10

Morning Service 9:00 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Vayetse

Genesis 28:10 – 32:3

Haftarah: Hosea 12:13 – 14:10

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Susan Brustein, Lynn Weitzman,
Diana Stein, Hal Rothbaum, and
Jeffrey Fleit

Bar Mitzvah: Kevin Khadavi,
son of Pargol and Steven Khadavi

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Afternoon Service 3:50 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 4:20 P.M.

Evening Service 4:54 P.M.

Havdalah 5:09 P.M.

Friday, December 16

Evening Service 4:15 P.M.

Saturday, December 17

Morning Service/Group Aliyah 9:00 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Vayishlah

Genesis 32:4 – 36:43

Haftarah: Obadiah 1:1 – 21

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Edith Robbins, Mark Putter,
Leonard Schultz, Ellen Birnbaum,
and Diana Stein

Bar Mitzvah: Kyle Bakhshi,
son of Nazila and Daniel Bakhshi

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Niggun Circle with Cantor Frieder
following kiddush

Afternoon Service 3:50 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 4:20 P.M.

Evening Service 4:56 P.M.

Havdalah 5:11 P.M.

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