



Temple Israel Film Series Presenting Two Thought-Provoking Pictures Next Month

By Marc Katz, Editor

Struggling to define their Judaism, their family and themselves, the story of three generations of an assimilated family of French-speaking Belgian Jews is dramatically told in the next movie to be shown in Temple Israel's Jewish Film Series.

"Rashevski's Tango," the presentation on Sunday, March 6, at 7 P.M., tells the story of three generations of a family, each of which has experienced the major forces of its era. For the oldest generation, the defining event was the Holocaust; for the middle generation, growing up in war-torn Europe and being the generation after the Holocaust; and for the third generation, dealing with assimilation and modern life in a Western culture.

"I think it will be interesting for our congregation to see that Jewish identities and challenges such as *aliyah* and intermarriage in the film can be similar to those that we experience here at home,"

—Continued on page 4



A scene from the next feature in the Temple Israel Jewish Film Series, "Rashevski's Tango," to be shown Sunday evening, March 6.

Men's Club Brings Generations Together To Wrap

Some marked February 7 as the day to watch the Superbowl. At Temple Israel, the date was marked by participation in the Men's Club's annual World Wide Wrap, when Conservative congregation Men's Clubs throughout the world "wrapped" tefillin together and showed younger generations how to perform the *mitzvah*.

Among the large number of participants, led by Rabbis Howard Stecker and Daniel Schweber and Cantor Raphael Frieder, were, left to right, a three generation family, Ted and Elizabeth Lev and grandfather Ashley Nemiroff, Debbie and Amanda Volk, the Moalemi family, and Matthew Nejat and Simon Kashfi.



Photos by Sam Husney, Rabbi Amy Roth and Sima Kashani

What Makes the Men's Club Special?

By Alex Schoen and Sam Husney

EDITOR'S NOTE: The current Men's Club co-presidents, Alex Schoen and Sam Husney, invite you to join the group in this Voice Guest Column.

Almost every synagogue has a men's club, so what makes the Temple Israel Men's Club so special? It is a group of men of various ages, interests, feelings of devotion, religious fervor, wants and needs. Why is it that

*If you are not
a member,
why aren't you?*

a group as diverse as we are accomplishes so much and is as successful as we are?

Is it the monthly meetings where we sit around and discuss the upcoming events that seem to go on every single month? Is it the large amounts of pizza and salad that are consumed 12 times a year prior to each meeting? Is it the fact that we are all in some

semblance, shape or form committed to providing service to our synagogue and society in general? Is it the fact that many of us enjoy the camaraderie of being together with a family of Jewish men? Is it the fact that we are trying to lead good lives as examples to our families as well as our community?

The Men's Club does run many worthwhile programs throughout the year. We start off with an opening breakfast featuring an important and timely speaker addressing the issues of the day. This event is free to all paid-up members of the club, including their spouses. Other featured programs are a Rabbinic Dialogue, where Rabbi Stecker faces off with the rabbis of Great Neck Synagogue and Temple Beth-El in a lively discussion; and the "World Wide Wrap," where Jews throughout the world

—Continued on page 4

FROM THE RABBI

The Crucial College Years

By Rabbi Howard Stecker

On Thursday, February 11, Temple Israel hosted Rabbi Julie Roth, executive director of the Center for Jewish Life (CJL) at Princeton University. Given the many reasons why Jewish life on campus is important to understand as deeply as we can, I'd like to provide a summary of her comments in this forum for those who were unable to attend.

Rabbi Roth addressed four major issues as they've been approached on the Princeton campus: BDS (Boycott, Divest and Sanction), Jewish pluralism, relations with other faiths and the mental health of college students.

During the past academic year, the Princeton CJL leadership opposed a divestment effort launched by a member of the faculty. Rabbi Roth summarized the main developments, including the divestment proposal, the opposition of CJL, the criticism leveled toward the opposition and the response of the CJL at various junctures. Two main outcomes resulted. The divestment proposal was ultimately defeated. In addition, the CJL established a new student group called "Tigers Together," described

as "a coalition of Princetonians committed to promoting trust and partnership between Israelis and Palestinians by supporting projects that both build mutual trust and make an immediate impact on the ground today."

The CJL actively seeks to foster a spirit of pluralism among Jewish students, one which affirms and actively creates con-

*...the college years
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Jewish identity
and commitment.*

text for a wide diversity of religious observance. In keeping with universal Hillel practice, religious services routinely include Reform, Conservative and Orthodox options. Rabbi Roth shared a specific example about how the recitation of Friday

—Continued on page 7

Inclusion

By Rob Panzer

Temple Israel has recently been selected as one of the congregations that will be the first group to benefit from a new United Synagogue program, The USCJ Ruderman Inclusion Action Community. This program is designed to foster inclusion of those with disabilities and the initiative is funded by the Ruderman Family Foundation.

We have heard Rabbi Stecker speak of inclusion on a number of occasions. This program will help to enable us to put those words into action. We have a newly formed group that has started to look into the issues we face regarding accessibility. United Synagogue will provide analysis, guidance,

*This program
is designed to foster
inclusion of those
with disabilities.*

training both in-person and through webinars and conference calls, and a cohort of other congregations that will allow us to share experiences and ideas.

We are proud to have been chosen to participate in this new program, and we will continue to participate in other USCJ sponsored programs, such as Sulam for Strategic Planners. We will be reporting back on the progress being made by our task forces, which you have heard so much about.

As always, I can be reached at <rob-panzer18@gmail.com>.

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 January 30 was made Marilyn Torodash to mark the end of the *sheloshim* period for her husband, George.

The congregational *kiddush* on February 6 was sponsored by Beth and Larry Farkas in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Matthew.

CORRECTION

A listing of officers of the Shalom Club in the Guest Column of the last issue of The Voice inadvertently omitted Naomi Schulman, a vice president of the group.

IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences
to the families of:

JUNE COPELAND
mother of Faye Rokhsar

SABINA GEIST
mother of Rachel Lee

NOURY PEYKAR
father of Steven and Alexander Peykar

May their memories be for a blessing.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Kindle the Sabbath Lights!

Friday, February 26..... 5:24 P.M.

MAZAL TOV TO . . .

• **Ilana Lustig and Eugene Gillman** on the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer, to Arthur Winer.

It's Time to Give Blood!

The Men's Club is asking all congregants to donate blood on Sunday, March 20, from 8:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. in the Crystal Ballroom. Every donor is urgently needed.

Donors must be between 16 and 75 years old (Donors 16 years old need parental permission. Those over 76 must have a doctor's note.). Participants should weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good health. Every donor is given a mini-physical to make sure it is safe to give blood. There is no danger of contracting any disease from donating blood because everything used is brand new, sterile and used only once. Careful screening procedures have been instituted for all donors. Photo ID is required.

Long Island Blood Services requires nearly 800 donations a day to meet the life-saving transfusion requirements of patients in 50 area hospitals. LIBS relies on the generosity of volunteer donors to meet the demand and replenish the community blood supply on a daily basis.

One of the greatest *mitzvot*, our rabbis tell us, is to save a life. Giving a pint of your blood can do just that. "...If any one man saves a single soul, it is as though he had saved a whole world." That is what the Temple Israel Men's Club Blood Bank is all about. By donating blood you will insure that blood will be available for the entire congregation, if needed.

Donating blood is a very tangible way of expressing generosity of spirit. Although appointments are not necessary, they will expedite blood donations. To make an appointment or for further information about the blood drive, call Dr. Charles I. Adler at 482-4421. The safest blood supply in the world will only be there if each one of us takes the time to give that gift of life.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

Feb.	26	EmpTI Nesters Presents "A Whole New World: The Challenges and Joys of Parenting Adult Children"	7:30 P.M.
	26	Waxman High School and Youth House Family Friday Dinner	7:30 P.M.
March	3	TI Bonds "Moms' Night Out" at Muse Paintbar	8:00 P.M.
	3	Men's Club Meeting	7:30 P.M.
	3	EmpTI Nesters Presents "A Whole New World: The Challenges and Joys of Parenting Adult Children"	8:15 P.M.
	6	New Member Welcoming Ceremony	9:30 A.M.
	6	TILL Film Series: "Rashevski's Tango"	7:00 P.M.
	7	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 A.M.
	8	Beth HaGan Spring Book Fair	3:30 P.M.
	9-10	Beth HaGan Spring Book Fair	9:00 A.M.
	10	EmpTI Nesters Presents "A Whole New World: The Challenges and Joys of Parenting Adult Children"	8:15 P.M.
	15	TILL Notable Authors Series Featuring Ayelet Tsabari	8:15 P.M.
	16	TILL iEngage Israel Series: "Jewish and Democratic State"	8:15 P.M.
	17	Are We Really Healthy? Program: "Being Healthy-Being Jewish"	7:00 P.M.
	17	Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	20	Congregation Blood Drive Sponsored by the Men's Club	8:30 A.M.
	20	TILL Film Series: "Gett"	7:00 P.M.

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2016

This year's Gala Journal Dinner Dance will be
a special event recognizing

Cantor Raphael Frieder's
25 years with Temple Israel of Great Neck

Join us to Celebrate



Concert, Dinner & Dancing

It all begins at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 5, 2016

FORMAL INVITATION TO FOLLOW

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



Aliza Fine

Aliza Miriam Fine will be celebrating her *Bat Mitzvah* on February 27. She is the daughter of Sheryl and Martin Jay Fine and has a sister, Simona, 15. Aliza is a seventh grade honor student at Great Neck North Middle School, where she is a reporter on the "Blazers Live" broadcast, works on the school's iPad Genius Bar, plays the flute, and was on the swim team. Aliza is a seven-time recipient of the Temple Israel Religious School Judaic Scholar Award. She is currently attending the Waxman High School and Youth House.



Ari Lissack

Ari Lissack will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* on March 5. He is the son of Cathy and Yaron (Ron) Lissack and has a sister, Yael, 17. Ari is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. He enjoys playing hockey, as well as fencing, gaming and fishing. Ari is currently attending the Waxman High School and Youth House and is planning to visit Israel with his family this summer.



Dylan Solomon

Dylan Solomon will be celebrating his *Bar Mitzvah* on March 5. He is the son of Nazy and Richard Solomon and has a brother, Jaren, 10. Dylan is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. He is a member of the school soccer and swim teams and is on the travel soccer team, participates in USTA tennis and USGA golf matches, as well as being an avid skier. He currently attends the Waxman High School.

Guest Column: Why Is The Men's Club Special?

—Continued from page 2

are invited to put on tefillin at least this one day a year as a sign of their commitment to Judaism.

Not to be forgotten is our annual 9-11 Memorial Service; and making sure that all of the congregation receives a candle to be lit commemorating Yom HaShoah; our blood drives; our annual Friday night *Shabbat* service and dinner (This year scheduled on April 4.); and our "break-the-fast" following Yom Kippur, certainly an event that one should not miss.

The Men's Club makes sure that all of the seats for the High Holy Days are labeled and that all Kol Nidre Pledge Cards are on the correct seats. We have also spearheaded the operation of the Hatzilu Rescue Organization, helping the Jewish poor and elderly. We also provide ushers for many of the Temple Israel events and services.

I guess the answer to the question as to what really makes our arm of the synagogue so special is YOU...and YOU...and YOU! If you are not a member, why aren't you? We would love to have you join us. Just check the Men's Club box on your Temple Israel membership dues statement when you send in your remittance and the rest is taken care of. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Film Series Presenting Thought Provoking Pictures Next Month

—Continued from front page

said Judit Szigeti, who is chairing the film series for TILL, Temple Israel Lifelong Learning, the congregation's adult education program. "The film talks about these issues in a light, entertaining, French way," she said.

The story explores what it means to be Jewish for three generations of the Rashevski family as they grapple with the death of the family matriarch, who believed that the tango would make all troubles disappear ("As good as chicken soup and better than organized religion."). The movie is said to be charming and endearing as the characters confront issues of relationships, family, religion, love, romance, and interfaith marriage. Like many Jewish families, the Rashevskis are an eclectic mix: *Shoah* survivors; Reform, Orthodox, and non-observant Jews; a gentile daughter-in-law, and a grandson who served in the Israeli Defense Forces and is in love with a Muslim Arab.

Rabbi Daniel Schweber will discuss the themes of the picture with the audience following the showing and answer questions about issues raised. "The film is produced in Europe and has a European Jewish theme that is definitely different from the take of Israeli and American films," Ms. Szigeti said, "but still deals with issues go-

ing on right in our own community."

Complimentary refreshments will be served during and after the presentation.

Final Film Showing Sunday, March 20

The final movie in the series, "Gett," will be shown on Sunday, March 20, at 7 P.M. In the film, an Israeli woman seeking to finalize a divorce from her estranged husband finds herself effectively put on trial because of Israeli religious marriage laws. In Israel, there is neither civil marriage nor civil divorce. Only Orthodox rabbis can legalize a union or its dissolution, which is only possible with the husband's full consent.

Trapped in a loveless marriage, the wife in the film has been applying for a divorce for three years, but her religiously devout husband continually refuses. His intransigence, his wife's determination to fight for her freedom, and the ambiguous role of the rabbinical judges shape a procedure where everything is brought out into the open in the film. The movie is the winner of the Israeli Film Academy's Ophir Award for Best Picture.

"This is a very interesting film talking about the conflicts between modern Israeli society and its religious foundations," Ms. Szigeti said. Rabbi Schweber will again moderate a discussion following the showing.

Engaging Our Teenagers

By Danny Mishkin

As Jewish educators of teens, one of the first things we are taught is to meet our teens where they are. Using the Moving Traditions curriculum, both Waxman High School teacher Moji Pourmoradi and I can attest that this special program, that separates young men and young women for educational and social purposes, does this brilliantly.

The “Rosh Chodesh: It’s a Girl Thing” program meets at Moji’s home, where she is able to create a special environment that allows young Jewish women to talk with confidence about friendship, role models, and empowerment from a Jewish lens. Citing Jewish heroines and through Jewish ritual, these young women form bonds that last a lifetime. They are more than friends, they are a force for change. This group changes the way young women treat each other, and they have a special role model who shows them a new way to be a Jewish woman. I am often quoted saying that a parent who does not encourage their daughter to participate is depriving her of a special gift.

I have been fortunate to lead Temple Israel’s “Shevet Achim: The Brotherhood” for four years. We have begun calling it “Rosh Brodesh,” and we have become a sacred community. We talk about manliness, power, money, greed, and dating—all through a Jewish lens. Every session begins around a campfire. The fire serves as a magnet for us to gather, talk and study.

In our most recent session, our groups were separated by about a mile in location, but upon reflecting with Moji, it turns out both groups were quite interconnected. I was leading a session around a fire, studying a Talmudic text about urges. I engaged these young men in a session about the difference between dating and “hook-

...a parent who does not encourage their daughter to participate is depriving her of a special gift.



“The Brotherhood,” for Waxman Youth House teens, talk regularly with School Director Danny Mishkin. They begin each session with a campfire.

ing up.” At Moji’s home the young women were participating in a session about empowering women and the beauty they each hold, while making their own perfume. More important than the content were the relationships and trust being shared.

I told Moji that this was one of our more powerful sessions, and while we were in our discussion one of the young men stopped and asked us all to notice a gorgeous sunset. I was floored, and we all stopped to bask in God’s beautiful creation. Moji laughed, and said from her house the girls stopped to admire the exact same sunset.

It was a powerful moment for our Jewish community, and we both felt honored to teach such a special group of teens that will probably change the way women and men define themselves.

Get Ready for Purim With Sisterhood

Purim is almost here, commemorating the salvation of the Jewish people from extermination at the hands of Haman Harasha. It is considered a *mitzvah* to give *shalah manot* to family and friends on Purim.

For many years, the Sisterhood of Temple Israel has been offering the opportunity to observe this *mitzvah* by making beautiful gift baskets filled with assorted food items such as dried fruit, cookies, nuts, candy and, of course, hamentashen. This year Sisterhood’s Mishloach Manot Project is continuing to go nationwide. Sisterhood members are again mailing (instead of hand delivering) mishloach *manot* packages to family and friends in Great Neck and anywhere else in the United States.

This year the Sisterhood is featuring Israeli products in the packages. All proceeds from this project go to support Sisterhood’s Yad B’Yad program, which helps Temple Israel families in times of need.

The cost of each package to be mailed is \$15. Mishloach Manot baskets for \$10 can also be ordered, but must be picked up at Temple Israel. The deadline for package orders is Friday, March 11. No orders can be accepted or changed after that date.

Your help is needed, too! Baskets are being assembled in the Blue Room on Friday, March 18, beginning at 9:30 A.M. “If you can spare any time during the morning, please come down and help. We have a great time,” said Iris Adler, the coordinator of the project. “There is such a feeling of camaraderie and accomplishment.” Call Mrs. Adler at 482-4421 or e-mail at <irisdadler13@gmail.com> to lend a hand.



“Rosh Hodesh: It’s a Girl Thing,” a program for Waxman Youth House teens, meets to discuss issues at the home of teacher Moji Pourmoradi.

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From the Rabbi: The Crucial College Years

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night *Kiddush* is conducted so as to accommodate a plurality of practices and beliefs.

Rabbi Roth is integrally involved with the Office of Religious Life, which oversees programming for individual religious groups and actively promotes opportunities for interfaith dialogue and engagement. Among other interfaith initiatives, she and the campus imam recently led a group of Jewish and Muslim students on a trip to Spain. She shared with us that while dialogue with Muslim students so far has by design largely avoided political discussions, she hopes that there will be constructive ways to include politics in the conversation moving forward.

Lastly, Rabbi Roth identified the increasing role that Hillel professionals at Princeton and elsewhere are playing in responding to students' mental health needs. As she indicated, the college environment places significant stress on students as a result of academic and social pressures. More and more, she and her colleagues recognize the importance of providing a comfortable space for students to unwind and to speak openly about issues of personal concern. Often they will act as resources for students to guide them toward appropriate professional support.

We are well aware of the significance of the college years in helping to form identity, hone intellectual skills and establish patterns of behavior that will likely have life-long implications. For Jewish students specifically, the college years provide an opportunity to broaden and deepen Jewish identity and commitment. Considering the many challenges that Jewish students face and the remarkable potential that exists on multiple levels, it is gratifying to know that professionals of the caliber of Rabbi Julie Roth are committed to the sacred task of building Jewish community on campus.

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Ki Tissa

Saturday, February 27

In this portion we find the final details of the instructions for building the *Mishkan*, the portable wilderness sanctuary. The reading actually begins with directions for conducting a census of those of military age by collecting a poll tax of half a shekel. The money was to be used for the maintenance of the *Mishkan*. A reminder to keep the Sabbath serves as an indication that the sanctification of time is more important even than building a sanctuary. At this point, we read that the Israelites panic over Moses' protracted absence on Mt. Sinai and demand that Aaron make a god they can see. The outcome is the golden calf. When Moses sees this egregious breach of the covenant, he breaks the tablets of the Ten Commandments. God, for His part, wants to destroy the people. Moses punishes the people and manages to assuage God's anger. Moses then returns to Sinai to rewrite the tablets. With the covenant renewed, the construction on the *Mishkan* can proceed.

Learn to Read Hebrew!

"Beginning Hebrew Reading: A Gateway to Siddur Literacy" is a new Temple Israel Hebrew Reading course for adults focused on the prayer book. Feel at home at services reading prayers in the original Hebrew, opening a path to the beauty and spirituality of the Siddur and its relevance to issues and concerns in daily lives. Learn (or re-learn) the Hebrew letters and vowels and be better able to follow the basic service.

Study with Rabbi Amy Roth on Wednesday mornings from 11 A.M.-Noon in the library or Sunday mornings from 10-11 A.M. in room alef with Elsa Friedman.

For further information and to reserve your place call Jennifer at 482-7800.

SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, February 26

N' Ranenah Evening Service	6:30 P.M.
EmpTI Nesters Discussion and Dinner with Rabbi Stecker	7:30 P.M.
Waxman High School and Youth House Family Friday Dinner	7:30 P.M.

Saturday, February 27

Morning Service	9:00 A.M.
Weekly Portion: <i>Ki Tissa</i> Exodus 30:11 - 34:35 <i>Haftarah</i> : I Kings 18:1 - 39	
Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters: Sherry Husney, Audrey Itzkowitz, Miriam Kobliner, and Andy Katz <i>Bat Mitzvah</i> ALIZA FINE daughter of Sheryl and Martin Fine	
Havurah Service	10:00 A.M.
Junior Congregation	10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service	11:00 A.M.
Niggun Circle with Cantor Frieder	Following <i>kiddush</i>
<i>Minhah</i>	5:05 P.M.
<i>Se'udah Shelishit</i>	5:35 P.M.
<i>Ma'ariv</i>	6:10 P.M.
<i>Havdalah</i>	6:25 P.M.

DAILY MINYAN TIMES

Attend the Daily Minyan!

Monday	6:45 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Tuesday & Wednesday	7:00 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Thursday	6:45 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Friday	7:00 A.M.	6:30 P.M.
Saturday	9:00 A.M.	5:05 P.M.