



Israel Defense Forces Orchestra Will Be Performing At Temple Israel March 9

Israel Defense Forces Orchestra musicians will be coming directly from Israel to perform in a concert for the congregation on Sunday, March 9. The concert begins at 4 P.M. and doors open at 3:30 P.M.

The group of ten musicians and two singers is coming to the United States for an exclusive performance at the IDF National Gala at New York's Waldorf Astoria two days later, but will first come to Temple Israel for the concert.

They will be accompanied by a number of IDF officers, who will speak during the performance and meet with the audience at a reception following the program.

"The congregation has been very supportive of the musicians' two previous performances at Temple Israel," a spokesperson for the orchestra said. "For Temple Israel, we wanted to make this program happen."

The IDF Orchestra is composed of Israeli soldiers that have a musical background and carry out their military obligation by performing at Israeli national events, including Independence Day and Holocaust memorial observances. Several years ago they went to Moscow to perform at several state events.

Active duty IDF soldiers who will participate in the program include a pilot who participated in Operation Pillar of Defense, an eight-day Gaza Strip operation in 2012. Because of his high-level security clearance he is only identified as "Captain I." He will also be unavailable to be photographed

during the program. He will be joined by a combat medic in the Paratrooper Brigade, Sergeant Daniel Rosner, who spent the last two years assisting in the field treatment of Syrian refugees wounded in that country's civil war, including helping a pregnant Syrian woman safely deliver her baby in an IDF field hospital in the Golan Heights.



The IDF Orchestra in a recent concert.

Lieutenant Roni Ehrlich, a well-being officer in the Artillery Corps, will also be on hand, as well as a soldier in the Golani Brigade, Sergeant Tomer Peretz, and a combat medical instructor, First Lieutenant Lev Shir Coijns.

Funds raised through ticket sales at the concert will be used by Friends of the Israel Defense Forces educational and well-being programs for Israeli soldiers.

Tickets are \$25 each for adults and \$10 each for children under the age of 18. "Friend" tickets to the concert, a VIP reception with the performers and speakers, VIP seating, a gift from the Friends of the IDF and a listing in the program are \$50 each. "Donor" tickets, which include the amenities, are \$100 for two tickets, \$180 for four "Supporter" tickets, \$360 for six "Patron" tickets, \$500 for eight "Benefactor" tickets, and \$1,000 for ten "Sponsor" tickets.

They can be purchased with a check or charge sent to Friends of the IDF, 1430 Broadway, Suite 1301, New York, NY 10018 or by calling 212-244-3118 extension 9649.

The performance was arranged by Temple Israel's Israel Affairs Committee and coordinated by its chair, Lee Harounian.

You're Invited!

WINE & WISDOM

Pre-Purim Wine Tasting & Potable Parley

Taste some great Israeli wines!

A spirited discussion about drinking and Purim, with a brief look at some Talmudic passages with Rabbi Seth Adelson and wine tasting hosted by Temple Israel members and wine enthusiasts Andrea Farkas and Harriet Becker.

Wednesday, March 5 - 8:15 P.M.

Space is limited! RSVP a must to 482-7800 ext. 1108

Our Commitment to the Seminary

By Ellen Cooper

EDITOR'S NOTE: Temple Israel's Sisterhood's commitment of financial support for the Jewish Theological Seminary is met through its Torah Fund Campaign, as explained in this Voice Guest Column by the drive's chair Ellen Cooper.

The Jewish Theological Seminary is both a place and an idea.

As a place, it occupies a portion of the upper West Side of New York, incorporating within an urban oasis four schools: the College of Judaic Studies, the Cantor's Institute, the Rabbinical School and the Graduate School,

The Jewish Theological Seminary is both a place and an idea.

as well as a magnificent, world renowned library, three residence halls, an unmatched museum, research and outreach facilities, Camp Ramah and much more—all devoted to the totality of the Jewish experience.

As an idea, the Seminary embodies the

FROM THE RABBI

Every Soul

By Rabbi Howard Stecker

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is a synopsis of comments made by Rabbi Stecker a few weeks ago regarding his recent trip to Israel. The full comments can be read on his blog, "Torah for Our Day."

I spent a week in Israel with a terrific cohort of rabbis as part of the Rabbinic Leadership Initiative at the Hartman Institute. We learned, prayed, joked, sang, hiked and jogged together.

I want to share one incident that took place during the week that made a deep impression on me. Since we were in Israel during Rosh Hodesh, I went with some of my colleagues to join a service conducted by the Women of the Wall, a group of women who, for decades, have been gathering at the beginning of each Jewish month to pray at the *Kotel*.

At times the situation has become violent, as onlookers have thrown eggs, and even chairs, onto the group of women praying. A typical tactic that has been used in recent months is for some Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) Jews to gather nearby to try to drown out the prayers of Women of the Wall with their own singing.

right to study the sacred texts of Judaism and transmit them to successive generations, with the knowledge that transmission is a creative process and that each generation is called upon to add its layer of commentary. It offers a polarized Jewish community a vision of Judaism, characterized by intellectual vigor, *halachic* fervor and respect for religious pluralism.

We, the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, are a vital part of this concept. When Chancellor Finkelstein, in 1942, wondered whether National Women's League, as we were known then, could raise \$1,000 for the Seminary, we accepted his challenge and the Torah Fund campaign was born. With the knowledge that Torah represents learning and study, we chose the name to reflect our objectives, the development and maintenance of the Jewish Theological Seminary as the spiri-

—Continued on page 6

The morning that I was there, a few Haredi Jews slowly began to gather. The Women of the Wall and their supporters were singing and the Haredim started to sing as well. More Haredi Jews gathered and joined the singing. I wondered if, indeed, the

"Every soul in praise of God" ... cannot be drowned out.

Women of the Wall would be overpowered.

As the Women of the Wall reached the end of *Pesukei d'zimrah*, the introductory portion of the service, they started to sing the final words of Psalm 150: *Kol haneshama tehallel ya Hallelu-yah*. "Let every soul praise God."

The Haredi Jews were singing louder

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The Jewish Divide

By Alan Klinger

While February 14th may have been Valentine's Day (an occasion that likely receives little mention in this publication), that day's edition of *The Jewish Week* reflected little in the way of joy to the Jewish people.

With regard to interfaith relations, the main editorial focused on the Presbyterian Church's critique of Israeli policies and support of the BDC (boycott, divestment and sanctions) movement. That a seemingly mainstream denomination of American Protestantism can take such a stand should give pause to those that view BDC as a fringe concern. That church group is not alone. As

...within our own... there are stark differences of opinion...

referenced in the editorial, two European banks recently announced that they will boycott Israeli banks that operate in the "occupied territories." This, of course, follows the American Studies Association's vote to boycott Israeli universities. While perhaps not causing grave damage now, these events, coming on the heels of the recent Tom Friedman op-ed about a third intifada—this one aimed at isolating Israel internationally—do not paint a rosy picture for Israel's imminent future.

With regard to events within Israel, *The Jewish Week's* main news story reported looming financial difficulties at Hadassah Medical Center and speculated about years of possible mismanagement. Opinion pieces and letters in the issue continued the depiction of tension between the Haredi community and other segments of the Israeli population, with issues ranging from the Haredim's intolerance of non-Orthodox Jewry to the lack of their economic vitality.

With regard to the national arena, the paper continued stories regarding the strife between supporters of AIPAC and J Street. Issues dividing our community included the viability of a two-state solution in the Mideast, the role of settlements in any peace negotiation and the virtues of the newly proposed sanctions on Iran.

With regard to matters closer to home, the AIPAC/J Street divide enveloped the new de Blasio administration. As noted in *The Jewish Week*, some, including the rabbis of the Upper West Side's B'nai Jeshurun, criticized the new mayor for his alignment with AIPAC. The rabbis' stance then

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IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences to the families of:

ROBERT DUBOFSKY

husband of Betsy Dubofsky, brother of Simmy-Lou Atkins and esteemed member of Temple Israel

HELENE KAHN

sister of Leonard Kahn

NAT RUTKIN

father of Executive Vice President Zina Rutkin-Becker

May their memories be for a blessing.

MAZAL TOV TO . . .

- **Ronnie and Marc Katz** on the engagement of their son, Jacob, to Amanda Teitelman.
- **Joan Keppler** on the engagement of her granddaughter, Sara Maia, to Malkiel Nadel.
- **Eileen Zarin** on the birth of her grandson, Asher Dov Zarin.
- **Mersedeh and Farid Aminzadeh** on the birth of their daughter, Celine.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Friday, February 21.....5:18 P.M.
Friday, February 28..... 5:26 P.M.
Friday, March 7.....5:34 P.M.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

Feb.	25	Tradition and Change in the 21st Century: "Being Jewish and Green"	8:15 P.M.
	27	Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	28	Waxman High School Family Friday Night Dinner	7:30 P.M.
March	2	Family <i>B'nai Mitzvah</i> Workshop	9:30 A.M.
	2	Tradition and Change in the 21st Century: "Torah Guidance for the Modern Family"	10:30 A.M.
	2	TILL Movie Night: "No Place on Earth"	7:30 P.M.
	3-6	Beth HaGan Nursery School Book Fair	
	5	TILL Wine and Wisdom Program	
	6	Men's Club Meeting	7:30 P.M.
	8	<i>Shabbat</i> Talk: "Behind the Name: Our Families' Stories"	12:30 P.M.
	9	Israel Defense Forces Orchestra Concert	4:00 P.M.
	10	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 A.M.
	11	Sisterhood Brave New World Series and Luncheon Part II	Noon
	11	Tradition and Change in the 21st Century: "Sex, Relationships, and Single Jews"	8:15 P.M.
	15	Purim Service followed by a Congregational Celebration and Costume Contest for Adults and Children	6:45 P.M.
	16	Purim	
	16	Waxman High and Youth House Purim Carnival	9:30 A.M.
	16	EmptiNesters Purim Dinner and Sing-a-Long	6:00 P.M.
	16	Shalom Club Meeting	6:30 P.M.
	18	Tradition and Change in the 21st Century: "Interfaith Relationships"	8:15 P.M.
	20	Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	23	TILL Movie Night: "The Gate Keepers"	7:30 P.M.
	28	Men's Club <i>Shabbat</i> Service and Dinner	7:30 P.M.
	30	Blood Drive Sponsored by the Men's Club	8:30 A.M.
April	3	Beth HaGan Nursery School Parents Pre- <i>Pesah</i> Workshop	9:30 A.M.
	5	Temple Israel Players Performance of "Oklahoma"	
	6	Annual Rabbinic Dialogue at Temple Beth-El	9:00 A.M.

Temple Israel's Contemporary Issues Series Is Continuing With Talks Set On Environment, Sex, and Interfaith Relations

"Being Jewish and Green: Tradition's Wisdom About the Environment" will be the topic of the next in the series of discussions in the Temple Israel Lifelong Learning series "Tradition and Change in the 21st Century: Facing the New Challenges of Our Time."

The presentation, led by Temple Israel's own "house environmentalist," Rabbi Seth Adelson, will explore Jewish views on the environment, energy consumption, nuclear power, climate change, and food issues. The discussion will begin at 8:15 P.M. on Tuesday, February 25.

The program is part of a series based on the groundbreaking new book geared towards Conservative Judaism, "The Observant Life." The publication addresses many contemporary questions, with a nod to Rabbi Mordecai Waxman's work, "Tradition and Change."

The series continues on Sunday, March 2, at 10:30 A.M., when Rabbi Daniel Nevins, dean of the Jewish Theological Seminary Rabbinical School, presents a program titled "Torah Guidance for the Modern Family." His discussion is geared towards parents of children at home, parents of grown children, and for adult children with older parents. The talk will explore the best

way to transmit your values to your children honoring an aging parent, especially if they suffer from a debilitating illness, and modern Jewish guidance for relating to a child who has a non-Jewish spouse.

"Sex, Relationships, and Single Jews" will be the topic of the discussion on Tuesday, March 11, presented by Rabbi Jeremy Kalmanofsky of Congregation Anshe Chesed in New York City. He will

discuss sexuality, premarital sex, remaining single, sex after divorce, birth control, as well as the Conservative movement's openness towards assisted reproduction and adoption by those who are single.

Rabbi Howard Stecker will discuss "Interfaith Relations" in the final series presentation, on Tuesday, March 18. Rabbi Stecker will cover how to interact with other faiths and still be true to Judaism, while respecting others.

Temple Israel's Movie Nights: March 2 and 23

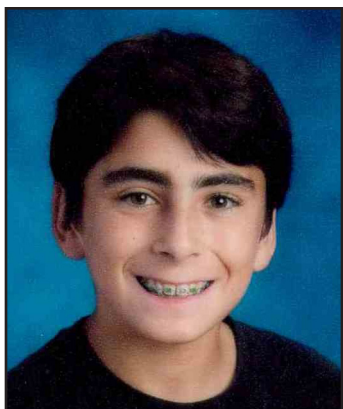
In 1948, 38 men, women and children slid down a hole in the ground to hide from the Nazis. The five Ukrainian families stayed in their underground cave for 511 days, surviving longer than anyone in recorded history. They emerged only at the war's end and their remarkable true story is told in the film "No Place On Earth," the next presentation in the congregation's Movie Night, Sunday March 2, at 7:30 P.M., moderated by Rabbi Howard Stecker.

The movies, complete with theater-type snacks, are presented in the Crystal Ballroom free of charge to Temple Israel members.

On March 23 the feature movie will be "The Gatekeepers," a documentary about Israel's war on terror, followed by an audience discussion moderated by Rabbi Seth Adelson. The presentation was originally scheduled for February 9, but was postponed due to one of the many snowstorms. In the film, six former heads of the Shin Bet, Israel's secret service, share their insights and reflect publicly on their actions and decisions. The film validates the reasons that each man individually and the six as a group came to reconsider their hard line positions and advocate a conciliatory approach toward their enemies based on a two-state solution.

"Instead of sitting at home," said film series chair Susan Wagner, "come and see a free great movie with friends and have an interesting conversation afterwards," she said.

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



Noah Hanover

Noah Hanover will be celebrating his *Bar Mitzvah* on March 1. He is the son of Susan and David Hanover and has a brother, Daniel, 16, and a sister, Sophia, 9. Noah is a seventh grade honor student at Great Neck North Middle School and enjoys playing basketball, tennis and the viola. Noah will be attending the Waxman High School and Youth House. He has visited Israel and plans to spend more time there with his family in the near future.



Yoel Hawa

Yoel Hawa will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* on March 8. He is the son of Shirley and Eli Hawa and has a sister, Leila, 9. Yoel is a seventh grade honor student at Great Neck North Middle School. He is on the Hidon HaTorah Team at the Temple Israel Religious School. Yoel has designed and built his own computer and is on his school Robotics and Mathletes teams. He also plays the viola in the school orchestra. Yoel also enjoys running, swimming and playing tennis. He plans to attend the Waxman High School.



Jonathan Kirshner

Jonathan Kirshner will be celebrating his *Bar Mitzvah* on March 15. He is the son of Malvina and Jeff Kirshner and has three older brothers, Joshua, 23, Mitchell, 20, and Henry, 16. Jonathan is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. He is on his school football, swimming and wrestling teams.



Eitan Hollander

Eitan Hollander will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* on March 15. He is the son of Karen and Roger Hollander and has three brothers, Ori, 8, Adam, 6, Elad, 3, and a sister, Alexandra, 3 months. Eitan is a seventh grade honor student at Great Neck North Middle School. He is a recipient of the Judaic Scholar Award and a member of the Hidon HaTorah Team at the Temple Israel Religious School. Eitan enjoys math and science as well as track, swimming, skiing and soccer. He plans to attend the Waxman High School and visit Israel in the near future.

FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Color War Rocks the School!

By Rabbi Amy Roth

During a particularly cold week in January, the warmth and spirit of the children of Temple Israel were palpable: Maccabiah 2014 was underway! While the rest of the world prepares for the Sochi Olympics, we were proud to host Olympics of our own; that is, Maccabiah, or Olympics, Jewish style.

Children were divided into teams (red, blue, yellow and green), and once bedecked in bandanas of their team color, they spent two intense days competing against one another.

The teams were cheering for *Kachol*, *Adom*, *Yarok* and *Tzavov* (blue, red, green and yellow in Hebrew) as they marched through the halls of Temple Israel. While playing "steal the pin," the children listened for their assigned number in Hebrew and ran to catch the plastic bowling pin from the other colors. They were excited that the Maccabiah included a foul shot competition, relay races ("who can find what belongs on the *Shabbat* table fastest"), and "task game," in which each team had a list of "tasks" that needed to be completed in the shortest period of time. They lined up in size order without speaking, did ten jumping jacks while counting in Hebrew, danced "Mayim" as a team, and created a human flag of Israel, among other things.

We also included a *mitzvah* component to the Maccabiah: the youngest children decorated *refuah sheleymah*, "get well soon" cards; and they all signed them, "From the children of Temple Israel." These cards will be laminated and our clergy will bring them on hospital visits.



The Religious School's Color Warriors

As with any Maccabiah-like event, the teams wrote songs and cheers and created customized banners. At our closing ceremonies, each team performed the song and cheer and showed its banner. While the judges were calculating scores in order to announce a winner, the children sang together with such electricity that the room seemed to rock! "Hinei Ma Tov," "Oseh Shalom," and "Ivdu et ha Shem" were among the hits that included clapping and stomping with *ruach* (spirit) as all voices were raised. This was truly a magical Temple Israel moment. At the end of it all, with all of the team spirit and enthusiastic competition, we were all one—all part of the Temple Israel family.

Now that we have created a new tradition, the big question is: when is Maccabiah going to be next year and how will we be able to replicate the surprise?

Observe Purim With Sisterhood Shalah Manot and Purim Cards

The joyful holiday of Purim is almost here. It commemorates 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 the holiday.

For many years, the Sisterhood 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 going nationwide. Sisterhood members will be mailing, instead of hand delivering, *Mishloach manot* packages to family and friends in Great Neck, as well as anywhere else in the United States.

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 still be ordered, but must be picked up at the Temple.

The deadline for package orders is Thursday, February 27. No orders can be accepted or changed after that date so that the proper quantities of items to be put into the packages can be obtained.

Help Prepare the Baskets

The baskets are being assembled in the Blue Room on Monday, March 3 beginning at 9:30 A.M. If you can spare any time during the morning, your assistance is needed. "We have a great time," said Iris Adler, chair of the project. "There is such a feeling of camaraderie and accomplishment." Call her at 482-4421 or e-mail her at <irisdadler13@gmail.com> if you can help.

Giving *tzedakah* is another aspect of Purim. Sisterhood can also help fulfill that *mitzvah*. They are offering beautiful Purim cards for only \$5 each, with the proceeds going to Yad B'Yad. Orders of five or more cards will even be mailed for you. Contact Stacey Bernstein at 773-4316 or e-mail her at <sbernst458@aol.com> to order cards.

Participants Needed for Second 'Shabbat of Men's Voices' May 9-10

Male members of Temple Israel ages 13-85 are being recruited to participate in the congregation's *Shabbat HaGever*, the second all-men conducted weekend of services, Friday, May 9 and Saturday, May 10.

"We will start by conducting *Mincha* on Friday evening and continue right through *Havdallah* on Saturday, concluding *Shabbat*," said Cantor Raphael Frieder.

He said he "will do whatever it takes to make participants sound professional with the parts they are doing." Training classes will start later this month and all men are welcome to participate.

The first *Shabbat HaGever*, or "Shabbat of Men's Voices," conducted three years ago, brought a large number of congregants together to lead the service. It was followed by an all-woman run service, called *Shabbat Kol Ishah*, or "Shabbat of Women's Voices," the following year and a service conducted by both men and women, called *Shabbat Koleinu*, "The Shabbat of Our Voices," last year. "And so, we are starting the cycle again," Cantor Frieder said.

"The service provides an opportunity for men to sing together, something that had never been done before at Temple Israel," he

said. "The first time I had a chance to hear men singing together at Temple Israel was very powerful. It really was very nice."

He said he would want participants to learn different parts of the service than they had done the first time "to give everyone an opportunity to expand their knowledge." Classes leading up to the service will include both communal and individual work, he explained. "Part of the class will cover learning congregational tunes and the other part will focus on the part each participant will lead."

Weekly classes will be held on Tuesdays at 8:15 P.M., following the evening *minyan*, through May, beginning February 25.

A steering committee, including Sam Husney, Robert Lopatkin, Robert Panzer and Howard Spun is coordinating the service.

"During the months of preparation for the service the group develops camaraderie," Cantor Frieder said. "We share some snacks, a bottle of Scotch, and we study and learn together."

To participate in the service, contact Howard Spun at 773-4116 or Cantor Frieder at 482-7800.

TEMPLE ISRAEL PURIM CELEBRATION Saturday Evening, March 15

Fun, Song & Costumes!

PRE-SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN FAMILY SERVICE

7:15 P.M. in the Crystal Ballroom

MEGILLAH READING

7:45 to 8:45 P.M. in the Sanctuary
Led by Rabbis Stecker and Adelson with participation by Waxman High School students, featuring a sing-a-long, video presentation and a costume contest for adults.

MINHAH, MA'ARIV & THE WHOLE MEGILLAH

6:45 P.M. in the Blue Room
Minhah, Ma'ariv and a full Megillah reading.
Cantor Frieder will lead the service with participation by Waxman High School students.

BRING A BOX OF RICE OR PASTA TO USE AS A GROGGER!

When the service is over, the "groggers" will be placed in a collection box to be donated to a local food pantry by Temple Israel's Chesed Connection.

Following the Service: Refreshments served and music provided by Cantor Frieder and the Temple Israel Band.

Shabbat Talk: The Name Says it All (Or does it?)

What is the meaning of your Jewish name? How are family names linked to our Jewish identity? Why have some families held on to their "Jewish-sounding" last names while other families have changed their name?

These and other name-related issues will be explored at a *Shabbat* Talk following services on Saturday, March 8. Temple Israel Vice President Dr. Madelyn Gould will moderate the discussion with a panel of six congregants whose family names tell interesting stories. Three of the panelists have changed their family name from "Jewish-sounding" to more culturally accepted last names, while another three have not. Dr. Gould said the *Shabbat* Talk would also explore when Jews first started using surnames and the Jewish meaning of some last names. The 45-minute program in the Blue Room will follow the *Shabbat kiddush*.

From the President: The Jewish Divide

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prompted its own rebuke from some in that congregation for splitting from the position of the Israeli government.

And, finally, with regard to the more particular matter of the fate of Conservative Judaism, Francine Klagsbrun's column, entitled "What Conservative Judaism Has To Offer," while intended to buttress our perspective in light of the Pew Report (written about previously here), in truth spoke more about what would be lost without us than it did advocate what we need do to re-establish our prominence.

(All in the issue, however, did not reflect difficulties—one of the front-page stories featured a touching remembrance of how concert promoter Sid Bernstein booked the Beatles into their first New York show at Carnegie Hall through their manager, fellow religionist Brian Epstein.)

The issues that divide the main Jewish movements are certainly complex. Indeed, within our own Conservative congregation, there are stark differences of opinion as to a two-state solution and settlement expansion. It would be naïve to think that all Jews readily will agree on such matters—that would not be in "our" DNA. But, the real danger here is that we will be, as one commentator warned, consumed by our differences. What we should work to, as a people, is a sense of perspective as to which items truly matter. All too often we seem drawn into disputes that, while important on some level, pale in importance when compared to the existential threat from Iran or the prospect of worldwide boycotts of Israel. Let's figure out how to work through our "internal" matters to position ourselves best to deal with true crises (perhaps food for thought for a Great Neck rabbinic dialogue). Your thoughts are welcome.

Guest Column: Our Commitment to the Seminary

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tual, academic and cultural center of the Conservative Movement. In 1942 we raised \$10,000, and last year, over \$2.5 million. To date, more than 10,000 wear our Benefactor Pin (a donation of \$180 plus), over 300 are members of our Patron's Society (gifts of \$1,200 plus) and over 500 bookshelves for a sum of \$2,000 each have been pledged to the library.

We have reached many milestones over the years. In 1976, we opened the Matilda Schechter Residence Hall for undergraduates. Two years later we refurbished Goldsmith Hall for married and graduate students. Later campaigns established dormitories at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles and the Neve Schechter residential and study facility in Israel. In 1990, we beautified and furnished the quadrangle and terraces of the New York campus. In 1992, a financial aid fund of \$1 million was established to make awards to students who demonstrate a financial need. In 1995,

after a four-year fund drive, we dedicated the Women's League Seminary Synagogue, converting the former library reading room into a sacred space that enhances the spiritual life of students and faculty.

Our next project was the upgrading of Torah Fund's first project—the Matilda Schechter Residence Hall, originally built in 1976—to meet the needs of the 21st century. In recent years we have established the Women's League Learning Center at the Kripke Tower and are currently hoping to add \$2 million towards our Scholarship Fund over and above the \$2.5 million of our basic campaign.

Money is what makes this all possible. As you can see, we have accomplished a great deal through the funds raised by the Torah Fund campaigns.

In that spirit, as we continue to work toward meeting the needs of the Seminary in this century, the Sisterhood of Temple Israel has pledged to raise \$18,000 (for the Seminary). With your help, we will reach our goal.

From the Rabbi: Every Soul

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and louder while the Women of the Wall and their male supporters kept singing *Kol haneshama tehalal ya*. I started to get a little emotional and a colleague of mine asked if I was OK. And I said to him, "The thing is that, ultimately, nothing can drown out *kol haneshtama tehalal ya*." Nothing can drown out each of our voices singing out in praise of God.

That moment of realization helped me to appreciate some other moments that I experienced during my time in Israel and how they might inspire the sacred work that we do right here at Temple Israel.

The next day, I took part in a beautiful *Shabbat* morning service at a synagogue founded by the Jews of Salonika, but currently embracing customs from places that include Greece, Morocco, Iraq and Iran.

I started to think how fortunate we are that here at Temple Israel we can embrace customs from throughout the Jewish world and, unlike the synagogue in Jerusalem, we extend full participation to women as well as men.

Kol haneshtama. Male and female, embracing the full range of our spiritual and cultural experience, "every soul in praise of God" cannot, and ought not, be drowned out. When our souls sing out at Temple Israel, they join a chorus of voices within and beyond the Jewish world. That surely deserves a Halleluyah!

SABBATH SERVICES

—Continued from back page

Friday, March 7

Evening Service	5:45 P.M.
<i>Shabbat HaMishpachah</i> Service and Dinner	6:00 P.M.

Saturday, March 8

Morning Service	8:45 A.M.
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Weekly Portion: *Vayikra*

Leviticus 1:1 - 5:26, *Haftarah*: Isaiah 43:21 - 44:23

Sabbath Service Officers: Keyvan Frouzan and Burton Weston

Bar Mitzvah

YOEL HAWA

son of Shirley and Eli Hawa

<i>Havurah</i> Service	10:00 A.M.
Junior Congregation	10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service	11:00 A.M.
<i>Minhah</i> and <i>Ma'ariv</i>	5:15 P.M.
<i>Havdalah</i>	6:35 P.M.

D'VAR TORAH

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Vayikra

Saturday, March 8

In this portion we begin the Book of Leviticus. The last chapters of Exodus detailed the construction of the *Mishkan*, the portable wilderness sanctuary, and the designation of the priests who were to serve in it. Leviticus constitutes an instruction manual for the priests, as well as setting forth rules to achieve personal holiness and the sanctification of human life. The reading describes five main types of sacrifices that were to be brought: the burnt offering, the meal offering, the peace offering, the sin offering and the guilt offering. For each type, details are provided on the circumstances under which it is to be brought, who brings it and of what it consists. The Hebrew word translated "sacrifice" or "offering" is *korban*, from the root k-r-v, "to draw near." The offerings were a means of drawing near to God and, in a sense, drawing Him near to the offerer. Although we no longer offer sacrifices in the way our ancestors did, the goal of the system, to move one to a more Godly life, is still to be pursued.

From Generation to Generation



Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

RABBI STECKER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of:

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New Singles Group Now Forming

Another new affinity group is forming at Temple Israel.

The group—for singles age 50 and over—joins the newly formed TI Bonds, for parents of young school-age children, the EmptiNesters, for parents of grown children who have "fled the nest," and College Grads and Friends, which meets regularly for Friday night dinners at Temple Israel.

The newest group, yet to be named, will have its initial planning meeting at a breakfast at Temple Israel on Sunday, March 9, at 10 A.M., according to Cindy Pross, an organizer of the group. "We will meet to organize, to plan, to hear ideas," she said. "I thought this would be a fun thing to do. I hope the group will build camaraderie among singles within the congregation."

She said the group might want to have Friday evening *Shabbat* dinners, movie nights, discussions, or day trips together. But, she welcomed single members of the congregation to bring their ideas and be part of the planning. Ms. Pross, a medical social worker and group therapist, can be reached to discuss the group by calling her at 498-9556 or e-mailing her at <cindypross15@yahoo.com>.

Congregation Thanks 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 December 7 was made by Susan and Dr. Arden Smith in honor of Dr. Smith chanting the Torah portion *Parashat Vayigash* on the 49th anniversary of his *Bar Mitzvah*.

The congregational *kiddush* on January 11 was sponsored by Regina and Shaun Ajodan in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Benjamin.


Contributions toward the *kiddush* on January 18 were made by Jacqueline and Hilbert Eshaghpour and Shohreh and Hillel Waxman in honor of the *Auf Ruf* of their children, Nicole Shamcy Eshaghpour, and Ariya Waxman.

DAILY MINYAN TIMES

Mon. & Thur.	6:45 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Tues. & Wed.	7:00 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Fri., Feb. 21	7:00 A.M.	5:30 P.M.
Fri., Feb. 28	7:00 A.M.	6:30 P.M.
Fri., March 7	7:00 A.M.	5:45 P.M.
Sat., Feb. 22	8:45 A.M.	5:00 P.M.
Sat., Mar. 1	8:45 A.M.	5:05 P.M.
Sat., Mar. 8	8:45 A.M.	5:15 P.M.
Sunday	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.

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D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Vayakhel

Saturday, February 22

In this portion we return to the account of the building of the *Mishkan*. It is significant that the original instructions call for building the furnishings before the structure, and the list begins with the Ark. This is meant to highlight the symbolic nature of the *Mishkan*: its purpose is to focus the people's attention constantly on the covenant with God. Here, however, we are told that Bezalel and the artisans built the structure before the furnishings in the proper practical order. Accordingly, we find that the tent, itself, was constructed with two chambers—the inner Holy of Holies and the outer Holy Place. Outside the tent was a courtyard constituting the third area of the *Mishkan*. The building of the furnishings is described in descending order of holiness. First came the Ark, to be put in the Holy of Holies. Next came the table, the *menorah* and the altar of incense, to be put in the Holy Place. Finally the altar of burnt offering and the laver are built, to be placed in the outer court. The descriptions of the actual building repeat exactly the instructions given in previous portions to indicate that the final product emerged precisely as God had designed it.

Pekude

Saturday, March 1

We conclude the account of the building of the *Mishkan* and the Book of Exodus with this portion. It is stressed repeatedly that each item was made precisely in accordance with God's instructions. The completed parts and appurtenances of the *Mishkan* are brought to Moses for his inspection. He approves the work and blesses it in a manner reminiscent of the Genesis account of the completion of God's creation. This reinforces a connection between the *Mishkan* and the Creation narrative, which has been apparent throughout these chapters. The connection suggests that the building of the *Mishkan* and the implementing of God's covenant with His people, a whole new order of history begins. This theme is further stressed by the account of the date on which the *Mishkan* is actually erected—the first of Nisan, New Year's day on the new calendar of freedom.

—Continued on page 6

SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, February 21

Evening Service 5:30 P.M.

Saturday, February 22

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Vayakhel*

Exodus 35:1 – 38:20

Haftarah: I Kings 7:40 – 50

Sabbath Service Officers: Dr. Edith Robbins and Marc Langsner

Bar Mitzvah

AARON GEULA

son of Rachel and Kiumarz Geula

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Minhah and *Ma'ariv* 5:00 P.M.

Havdalah 6:19 P.M.

Friday, February 28

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

Saturday, March 1 - *Shabbat Shekalim*

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Pekude*

Exodus 38:21 – 40:38, *Maftir*: Exodus 30:11 – 16

Haftarah: II Kings 12:1 – 17

Sabbath Service Officers: Joanna Eshaghoff and Steve Smolinsky

Bar Mitzvah

NOAH HANOVER

son of Susan and David Hanover

Shabbat Up Close and Personal 10:30 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Minhah and *Ma'ariv* 5:05 P.M.

Havdalah 6:27 P.M.

—Continued on page 6