

Journal Drive Now In Full Swing

Cantor Frieder Being Honored for 25 Years of Service

By Marc Katz

Temple Israel's annual journal campaign is now moving into full swing, as invitations for the congregation's dinner, dance and concert are about to arrive in the mailboxes of congregants. The journal, to be published in conjunction with the dinner dance honoring Cantor Raphael Frieder's 25th year with the congregation, is the synagogue's major fundraiser.

"The journal will give the congregation an opportunity to acknowledge Cantor Frieder for all he has done for Temple Israel for all these years," said Brent Greenspan who, along with his wife, Linda, and Susie and Hal Rothbaum, are heading up the journal drive.

The co-chairs are urging everyone to place a journal ad now—before the deadline—in support of the Cantor and Temple Israel. Businesses, too, are part of the Temple Israel family and can show their support of the congregation by placing ads. The journal will be presented to Cantor Frieder at the dinner dance, to be held June 5, and be given to guests at the gala to take home.

The publication is among the congregation's major sources of operating income. Funds raised through the journal offset Temple

Israel's operating budget. The journal gives everyone in the congregation a chance to go on record congratulating Cantor Frieder," Mrs. Rothbaum said. "In addition, we should be asking others outside the congregation for ads. We should approach people we do business with, stores we shop in, friends and neighbors. It is important to reach out to the community for support."

The purchase of an ad of \$900 or more or the sale of \$2,500 in commercial ads entitles the seller to two complimentary tickets to the dinner. A one-line professional or personal name listing in the journal is only \$120. A business card one-eighth size ad is \$180, a quarter-page ad is \$360, a half-page ad is \$520, and a full white page ad is \$900. A full-page ad will stand out in bronze for \$1,300, in silver for \$1,800, in gold for \$3,500, and in ruby for \$5,200. The inside front and back covers are \$18,000 each and the back cover is \$36,000.

Additional order forms are available from the synagogue office and are on the Temple Israel website, www.tign.org.

For further information about journal advertising call Marion Stein at 482-7800. For ad layout related questions call Marc Katz at 482-6551.

Temple Israel Players Are Preparing for the Big Show



Rehearsals are underway for the Temple Israel Players next production, *West Side Story*, being staged on Saturday evening, April 9 and Sunday afternoon, April 10. See the Guest Column on page 2 for messages by the show's producers.

Voice photos by Bob Lopatkin



On With The Show

A Voice Guest Column By The Players Producers

EDITOR'S NOTE: The producers of this year's Temple Israel Players production, West Side Story, speak of the rewarding process of putting on the show in this issue's Guest Column. By the way, be sure to mark your calendar for the show, on April 9 and 10.

By Mark Putter

My introduction to Temple Israel was through the Temple Israel Players back in 2001 (auditioning for the 2002 production of Fiddler on the Roof). Upon arrival, I was warmly greeted, and accepted into this established group without question. Within a few years of working with the Players, I joined the team of producers as a way to give back all that I received in those first few years. I have been a producer ever since, and this year have the pleasure of working alongside Eileen Putterman, Ron Klempner, Lois Sazer, and Debbie Volk.

Being a producer for the Temple Israel Players means sharing a special bond for an intense four months of each year, from selecting the vehicle for the group to perform, through auditions, casting,

rehearsing, and, of course, lots of emailing leading up to the performances. But the bonds between cast and crew members lasts throughout the year, as many of those involved with the Players are also deeply involved in other Temple related activities (on various committees, as well as on the Board of Trustees).

Being a producer allows me to give back to the Temple, and to share truly memorable experiences with those who have become a second family to me. As hard as the work can be (and at the same salary for more the last 15 years!), it has rewards that are far-reaching, and far lasting. I look forward to our final product this year, as we present what is arguably our most challenging production, West Side Story.

—Continued on page 7

Do I Love You?

From the Rabbi By Rabbi Howard Stecker

Can we trust ourselves to find an appropriate romantic partnership? What lessons about romance and marriage can we learn in books, Jewish and otherwise, and what is better learned by talking to those with experience?

Several weeks ago, my youth house class and I considered these questions and others as we explored Jewish sources about relationships and prepared to welcome two guests with significant experience in this area. In the end, we spent nearly an hour talking with Drs. Ellen and Milton Rosen, longtime

The Rosens, both retired college professors, were very comfortable speaking with the students. They responded forthrightly to questions about how they met, why they decided to marry and how they handle disagreements. One of my favorite exchanges was when they were asked if their marriage was arranged. Ellen, seldom at a loss for words, said, "Deranged, maybe. But definitely not arranged."

Ellen and Milt spoke about how important it is to like your spouse, which isn't necessarily the same as loving your spouse. They discussed the importance of giving your spouse space to pursue his or her goals, as when Milt supported Ellen's decision to work toward her doctorate. They candidly described how they manage their differing views on Judaism, how they balance their different personalities and how they support each

—Continued on page 6

Our Green Cantor

From the President

By Rob Panzer

This year marks Cantor Raphael Frieder's 25th year at Temple Israel, and plans for our annual journal dinner dance commemorating this silver jubilee are well underway.

In speaking with Cantor Frieder, he expressed an interest in commemorating this event in another way. As a Jewish environmentalist, he would like us to consider taking some steps to be more "green" at 108 Old Mill Road. Some things we can do right here in our sacred community: simple recycling, being more careful about what we use and how we use it, and consideration of being "greener" in our use of electricity.

I would propose, to start, developing a system for recycling glass and plastic. We've all seen empty bottles at kiddush or at synagogue functions that are just thrown out. If we had some recycling cans and a core of members who would be willing to be periodically responsible to take them to be recycled, we would be off to a good start. Bottles that are returned for their deposits could generate tzedakah, with all-in-the-family participation.

There are, of course, other things to consider such as the possibility of adding solar panels to the roof. There are

**...remember to
reserve the date
for the dinner dance
on Sunday, June 5.**

companies that will install and service solar units, as well as rebate some of the payments for electricity for non-profits. These are things we should be looking into. For those who are interested in participating in a Green Committee, please contact me, and remember to reserve the date for the dinner dance on Sunday, June 5. See you there!

As always, I can be reached at <robpanzer18@gmail.com>.

**...we can make mistakes
...but ultimately we
should trust ourselves.**

Temple Israel members who have been married for over 67 years.

In Memoriam

Temple Israel extends
condolences to the families of:

HANNA SHAPERO

mother of Murry Shapero

RUTH WEINER

mother of Ronald Weiner

NANCY STRONG

significant other of Paul Stessel

NASSER TORKAN

Father of Kouros Torkan, Hennie Scolnick
and Nazy Solomon

May their memories be for a blessing.

Candle Lighting Times

Friday, March 18 6:46 P.M.

Friday, March 25 6:54 P.M.

Daily Minyan Times

Mon. & Thurs.

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

Tues. & Wed.

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

Friday, Oct. 30

7:00 A.M. & 5:45 P.M.

Friday, Nov. 6

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

Saturday, Oct. 31

9:00 A.M. & 5:15 P.M.

Saturday, Nov. 7

9:00 A.M. & 4:10 P.M.

Sunday

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

Notice Anything Different?

After many years, The Voice is undergoing a redesign giving it a new, more contemporary look—and more use of color throughout. The remake is an ongoing project, so watch for more changes in the coming issues.

We'd like to know what you think, too. Send your comments to: The Voice, c/o Temple Israel of Great Neck, 108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023. And, keep reading!

—Marc Katz
Editor

Upcoming Events

March 19

"Shabbat Talk" with
Vigilant Firefighters 12:30 P.M.

March 20

Temple Israel Blood Drive Sponsored
by the Men's Club 8:30 A.M.
TILL Film Series Presents: "Gett" 7:00 P.M.

March 23

Erev Purim
Temple Israel Purim Celebration 6:30 P.M.

March 24

Purim

March 27

Benei Mitzvah Family Workshop 9:30 A.M.

March 31

Men's Club Meeting 7:30 P.M.

April 3

TILL and TI Bonds
Parenting Seminar 9:45 A.M.
Men's Club Yom HaShoah
Candle Packing 10:00 A.M.

April 5

Sisterhood Lunch and Read Club 12:00 P.M.

April 9

Temple Israel Players Performance of
West Side Story

April 10

TILL and TI Bonds
Parenting Seminar 9:45 A.M.
Benei Mitzvah Family Workshop 10:30 A.M.
Temple Israel Players performance of
West Side Story

April 11

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

April 12

Men's Club Scotch and Seder 7:00 P.M.

April 14

Board of Trustees Meeting 8:15 P.M.

April 15

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

April 17

Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs Dinner at
Crest Hollow Country Club 4:30 P.M.
Benei Mitzvah Family Workshop 10:30 A.M.
Pesah University 11:00 A.M.

April 22

Erev Pesah

April 23 - 30

Pesah

Men's Club Honoring Bill Blye and Students Hannah Gal and Josh Putter

Longtime Temple Israel member William Blye will be named the Men's Club's "Man of the Year" at the New York Metro Region of the Federation of Jewish Men's Club's 33rd Annual Chavaryim Kol Israel Annual Dinner, to be held Sunday, April 17. Being named the "Youths of the Year" are Waxman High School students Hannah Gal and Josh Putter.

The dinner will be held at the Crest Hollow Country Club, Woodbury, from 4:30-9:30 P.M., beginning with a cocktail hour and followed by a sit-down dinner and open bar. The cost of the evening is \$95 per person, payable in advance. All dinner reservations must be made on-line by April 8.

In addition, a journal is being published in coordination with the event. Ads are available in a wide range of sizes, with some including free dinner tickets. Ads must be placed by April 3. To place an ad, visit <wizadjournal.com/nymfjmc2016>. For further information about the dinner and journal ads, contact Dave Scherr at 487-1053 or <dsactuary@aol.com>.

Mr. Blye, along with his wife, Lottie, have been active participants in Temple Israel life for many years. Mr. Blye, a member of the congregation's Holocaust Remembrance Committee, has been a High Holy Days usher in the Grand Ballroom for many years.

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



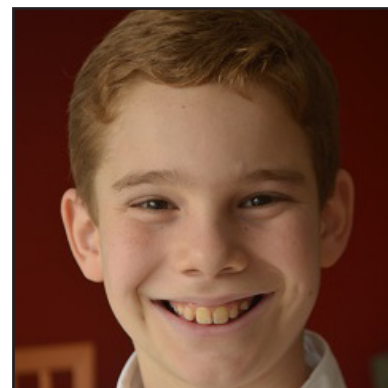
Emily Gal

Emily Elizabeth Gal will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah on March 26. She is the daughter of Laura and Robert Gal and has two sisters, Hannah, 16, and Sophia, 10, and a brother, Joshua, 15. Emily is a seventh grade student at Great Neck South Middle School where she is on the honor roll. She plays both travel soccer and basketball and also played on both the school soccer and volleyball teams. She is on the school basketball team. Emily is currently attending the Waxman High School and Youth House.



Jonathan Ajodan

Jonathan Ajodan will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on April 2. He is the son of Regina and Shaun Ajodan and has two sisters, Sara, 20, and Danielle, 17, and a brother, Benjamin, 15. Jonathan is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. Jonathan is currently attending the Waxman High School and Youth House. He has travelled to Israel and plans to visit again in the near future.



Matthew Bloom

Matthew Bloom will be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah on April 2. He is the son of Ronda and Andrew Bloom and the grandson of Temple Israel members Monica and Paul Bloom. Matthew has a brother, Ethan, 9. He is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. He enjoys playing soccer and lacrosse and is on his school soccer team as well as the Great Neck Soccer Club travel team. Matthew is currently attending the Waxman High School and Youth House and will be attending Camp Ramah in the Berkshires in the summer.

Temple Israel Members Giving Back to the Youth House

From The Waxman High School and Youth House By Danny Mishkin

In the last few months, Temple Israel members have shared their passions, skills and wisdom with the teens of the Waxman High School and Youth House—and it has made a great impact.

A few months ago Past President Manny Bardash came to the Youth House for help with a huge mailing for Hazilu, an organization serving the region's Jewish hungry and shut-in. At first our teens loved that they were meeting the father of Karen Bardash, their teacher in middle school. However, by the end of the session they felt connected to Manny's passion to help those in need. It's amazing for our teens to see that you don't have to be a Jewish professional to matter and make a difference. They saw how hard Manny wanted to work and realized Jewish life is passionate life.

Another Manny—Manny Alani—graced the Waxman Youth House with his presence to show us how to wrap tefillin. As stated earlier, it's one thing when a rabbi or educator comes to teach a lesson, because that's their job. When a member of the congregation takes time from their busy schedule to teach Jewish practice and tradition, then the students receive hidden lessons. Manny's patience and joy when showing seventh graders

to wrap tefillin is just as much a lesson as the actual wrapping.

Finally, our 10th-12th graders were having a lesson with Rabbi Stecker about sacred relationships and dating. Brilliantly, he

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Sharing Their Love Story

Temple Israel members Ellen and Milton Rosen, seated, shared the secrets of their 67-year love story with students at the Waxman High School.

Chag Purim Sameach, Happy Purim!

Hamantaschen: From a Pun to Hundreds of Varieties

By Rabbi Daniel Schweber

Before chocolate dominated the dessert table other things like poppy seeds held sway. In Germany during the Middle Ages there was a popular pastry made with rolled-out dough and filled with poppy seeds. The German word for this pastry is mohn taschen, literally “poppy pockets.”

German Jews soon got creative, perhaps after a few drinks on Purim, and noticed a similarity between the word mohn and Haman. This is especially the case because the Ashkenazi pronunciation of Haman is more like homon, with a short “o” sound. So the cookie was adopted as the Purim cookie, called hamantaschen.

Soon, more symbolism was attached to the cookie—again, perhaps after a round of drinks. MyJewishLearning.com writes: “The most common interpretation is that they resemble the three cornered hat worn by Haman. In Hebrew, the cookies are called ozney Haman, which means “Haman’s ears” and refers to the custom of cutting off a criminal’s ears before his execution.

A third idea suggests that each corner of a hamantaschen represents one of the ancestors of Judaism—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—whose “power” weakened Haman and gave strength to Esther to save the Jews (incidentally, tash in Hebrew means “weaken”).

One more thought is that because the German word tasche means “pouch” or “pocket,” the cookies could signify Haman’s pockets and the money he offered to the king for permission to kill the Jews.

Like many things, by making hamantaschen a symbol, they are no longer just simple poppy seed filled cookie pockets. There are literally hundreds of varieties of hamantaschen. The dough recipes vary greatly. There are doughs with yeast and others without. A friend of mine made gluten free and vegan hamantaschen. And, do not forget the fillings. The sky is the limit when it comes to possible fillings for hamantaschen. Besides the traditional poppy seed, apricot, prune and raspberry, you can use almost any fruit jam or pie filling. There is Nutella or Israeli chocolate spread. I’ve seen a recipe for hamantaschen filled with BBQ brisket! There are also like “mash-ups” like cannoli hamantaschen or Rice Krispie hamantaschen.

Some of us will embrace this expansion and others of us will prefer the traditional. The essence is the symbolism we now attach to this cookie. Haman is no longer here (yay), and Germans no longer eat mohn taschen in quantity. But we Jews are still here.

So, in celebration of Purim, find a dough recipe on the Internet and choose a few fillings and bake some hamantaschen. Next year we can debate whether one should fold or pinch the corners. And thank God for chocolate, as my daughters prefer chocolate dough hamantaschen filled with chocolate spread!

Please also come to the Megillah reading on March 23rd where we will be celebrating Purim—and, of course, be serving hamantaschen.

Come to a
Purim Celebration
at Temple Israel!
Wednesday, March 23
for an evening of fun,
song and costumes!

Following the Blue Room
and Sanctuary services,
there will be lots of
refreshments and music

Pre-School and Kindergarten Service

At 6:30 P.M. there will be a service for Pre-Schoolers, Kindergartners and their families in the Multipurpose Room. The service will be led by Morah Mojdeh and Morah Yve and will feature singing and stories followed by refreshments.

Megillah Reading

From 7-8 P.M. there will be a Megillah reading in the Sanctuary. The service will be led by Rabbis Stecker and Schweber, and will include participation by Waxman High School students, a sing-a-long, a video presentation, costume parade for children and costume contest for adults.

Minhah, Ma’ariv And The Whole Megillah!

Minhah, Ma’ariv and a full Megillah reading will start at 6:15 P.M. in the Blue Room. Cantor Frieder will lead the service, with participation by students from the Waxman High School. Bring a box of rice, macaroni and cheese or other 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 the Temple Israel Chesed Connection.

Temple Israel Museum Now Featuring Special Purim Exhibit

A beautiful collection of items relating to Purim is now on exhibit in the front case of the Temple Israel Museum.

An unusual miniature ivory and silver megillah case with scroll is from 19th century Ottoman Turkey. A rare gold megillah case from 19th century England is studded with paste "gems."

A silver gilt megillah case in the form of a Torah ark has a removable gilt megillah within. This piece is from Palestine ca. 1940. A large and elaborate silver megillah case with megillah is from 19th century middle Europe.

Several silver groggers include ones with silver letters that say "Megilat Esther," "Mordecai," "Esther" and "Haman." Another, from central Europe circa 1920, has an elaborate and pierced design. A rare miniature noisemaker in silver has a cherub with bow and arrow on top. It is from 18th century Germany.

On display are two Persian scribe sets, one brass and the other silver, with beautiful Hebrew inscriptions on them.

On the wall within the museum is a decorative Purim print made for display

in the home was printed by Abraham Schacter in Oradea, Romania, circa 1930. The Hebrew inscription reads: "From the beginning of Adar our joy is increased." The center depicts two fish facing each other with the Hebrew words, "Adar – The Sign of the Fishes."

Many other museum items feature the Purim theme. For further information about the museum and for hours, call the Temple Israel office at 482-7800.

Giving Back to the Youth House

Continued from page 4

thought whom better to teach this then a Temple Israel couple who have been married for more than 60 years. Thank you to Milton and Ellen Rosen for participating. When approached by Rabbi Stecker, Ellen's response was: "Can we be honest?"

It was so valuable for our teens to learn a real love story; not one that ends by riding off into the sunset, but one that ends with raising a family, going through ups and downs and overcoming real life issues.

Singles Connection

Free Event Planning Breakfast
Sunday, March 27 11 A.M.
For Details Call 524-7398

Do I Love You?

Continued from page 2

other in dealing with some of the most difficult challenges they face.

Writing more than half a century ago, Rabbi Eliyahu Dessler advised two of his students that people should not trust themselves to be able to find a suitable life partner. In his book, *Striving for Truth*, he wrote, "The simple truth is that when a man chooses a wife for himself he finds, once the first intoxication has worn off, that she is not at all as he thought and that he has made a great mistake." When I asked my students if Dessler's approach made sense to them, their consensus was that they understand his concern, but ultimately disagree with him. Of course we can make mistakes trying to identify an appropriate partner, but ultimately we should trust ourselves.

Our experience of exploring Jewish sources and speaking with a couple as thoughtful as the Rosens affirmed my belief that the most important issues we confront require education and trust. By that I mean that we should expose one another, especially younger people, to the wisdom that comes from experience and tradition and we should provide opportunity for reflection. In between the extremes of unbridled freedom and neurotic orchestration lies the path of education and trust.

Most important is that we model appropriate behavior when it comes to those aspects of life that matter most. While I suspect that my students will remember a number of the words that the Rosens shared with them, especially the funniest comments, I imagine the most powerful takeaway will be the image of two grey-haired people sitting side by side and listening attentively to one another after nearly 70 years.

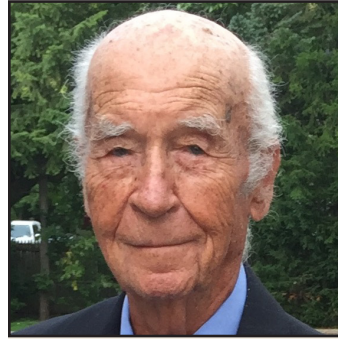
Model, engage, reflect and trust. What more authentically Jewish way is there to teach about love and life?



Manny Alani, at top of photo, showed Waxman High School students how to put on tefillin.

Men's Club Honoring Bill Blye, Hannah Gal, Josh Putter

—Continued from page 3
Originally from Germany, he escaped the Nazis and joined a small group of partisans who sabotaged the Nazis and fought German troops. He got to New York in 1946 and shortly after met Lottie, a Holocaust survivor from Leipzig. They were married in 1950 and just celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary.



William Blye

At Temple Israel he has delivered food to the Jewish needy with the Men's Club's Hatzilu project and has helped planned events with the Shoah Remembrance Committee. On April 7 he will

celebrate his 92nd birthday.

Youths of the Year

Throughout high school, Hannah Gal, the daughter of Drs. Laura and Robert Gal, has attended the Waxman Youth



Hannah Gal

House Spring Retreat, served as a madrich, attended USY on Wheels, led services, read Megilah and Torah, and surfed with the Sababa Surf Camp.

Josh Putter, the son of Dr.



Josh Putter

Ellen and Mark Putter, is an exceptional young man, according to Youth House Director Danny Mishkin. He said Josh is "a mature leader, very bright, and a true mensch."

On With The Show

—Continued from page 3

By Eileen Putterman

The Temple Israel Players 2016 musical production is West Side Story! It is a remarkable and rousing happening of the people, young and old, who lived on the West Side of New York City struggling for the control of "their streets." Gang wars were the theme of the day and many families knew poverty and passion only too well. The music is most beautiful, and we know that you too will feel the passion of this very intense tale. We all have been deeply touched by this story of newcomers to America, and feel within us the essence of the story, which so many of you have shared or learned about during your own lifetime. We bid you shalom, and thank you for attending the show.

By Ron Klempner

Early in Act I of West Side Story, Tony questions whether to remain a member of the Jets, the street gang he started with his buddy Riff. Riff pushes back: "Without a gang you're an orphan," he says. "With a gang, you walk in twos, threes, fours. And when your gang is the best, when you're a Jet, buddy boy, you're out in the sun and home free home!" Ok, so membership with the Temple Israel Players isn't quite the same as being in a street gang, though some may argue that our dancing is quite a lethal weapon. Still, the bond that the Players share and the connection we feel with each other, and ultimately with the audience that cares enough to come support us in our performance cannot be questioned.

I feel so incredibly fortunate to belong to a temple that offers so many diverse opportunities for our members to grow and spend time together. Like many others in our group, I enjoyed performing in shows in high school and college, but the further

away we move from school, the more entrenched we become in the obligations and responsibilities of our day-to-day lives. We begin to lose the sense of joy and freedom that comes from being on stage. The Players keep us young, take us out of our routines, and often move us out of comfort zone, to a better place where the risks may be high but the rewards immeasurable.

More so than the shows themselves—which I am so proud are of such high quality—I am pulled strongest to the Players by the camaraderie among the cast and crew, a wide swath of men and women and boys and girls literally of all ages.

By Debbie Volk

It had always been my dream to sing on stage. It wasn't until I learned about The Temple Israel Players that I actually had the chance to act upon my dream. Five years ago, with my young (then almost 7) and talented daughter by my side for courage, we both went to audition. And, the rest is history. I feel blessed to be able to fulfill a longtime dream each year, and as an even better bonus, to create lifelong memories with my daughter. What I did not expect to happen when I joined The Temple Israel Players five years ago was to find a new group of friends (who span so many generations) which act like an extended family. This year, I was honored to be named as a co-producer, as well. Being a co-producer has shown me how much work goes into the production each year, which has given me a newfound appreciation for my co-producers who have been doing it for many years. Seeing the show, especially a musical as challenging as West Side Story, come together has been a wonder to watch. I love being part of The Temple Israel Players, and look forward to many more years of being on stage and involved with making the magic happen.

Sabbath Services

Friday, March 18

N'Ranenah/Evening Service 6:30 P.M.
Adult Bat/Bar Mitzvah Dinner 7:30 P.M.

Saturday, March 19 *Shabbat Zakhor*

Morning Service 9:00 A.M.
Shabbat Morning Group Aliyah
Weekly Portion: Vayikra
Leviticus 1:1 - 5:26;
Deuteronomy 25:17 - 19
Haftarah: I Samuel 15:2 - 34
Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:
Brent Greenspan, Lori Oppenheimer,
Edie Robbins, Diana Stein, and Gail Zahler

Bat Mitzvah: Heather Nesenoff
daughter of Jacqueline and Ira Nesenoff
Bat Mitzvah: Jasmine Tabaroki
daughter of Michele and Farshad Tabaroki

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.
Firefighters "Shabbat Talk" 12:30 P.M.
Minhah 6:25 P.M.
Se'udah Shelishit 6:55 P.M.
Ma'ariv 7:32 P.M.
Havdalah 7:47 P.M.

Friday, March 25 *Shushan Purim*

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, March 26

Morning Service 9:00 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Tsav
Leviticus 6:1 - 8:36
Haftarah: Jeremiah 7:21 - 8:3; 9:22 - 23
Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:
Rebecca Sassouni, Dan Goldberger,
Andrea Katz, and Joyce Weston

Bat Mitzvah: Emily Gal
daughter of Laura and Robert Gal

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.
Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.
Niggun Circle with Cantor Frieder
following kiddush
Minhah 6:35 P.M.
Se'udah Shelishit 7:05 P.M.
Ma'ariv 7:40 P.M.
Havdalah 7:55 P.M.

Temple Israel of Great Neck

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D'var Torah

by Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Vayikra Saturday, March 19

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.

Tsav Saturday, March 26

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