



Temple Israel Schools Holding Graduations



Above:

Waxman High School graduates celebrated the culmination of their years of study at all of Temple Israel's schools with High School Director Danny Mishkin, left, and long-time teacher Moji Pourmoradi. The graduates are Ari Panzer, second from left, and Ben Hoffman, right.

At Right:

Temple Israel's Religious School Hidon HaTorah Team competed against other regional congregation teams in METNY United Synagogue's Bible Contest. Representing the school were Sophia Askari, Michael Cohenmeh, Aaron Geula, Yoel Hawa, Eitan Hollander, and Joshua Rothbaum.



Temple Israel's Religious School and Waxman High School wrapped up the school year this week with ceremonies for students, parents and their families. The Beth HaGan Nursery School will end the school year with a graduation ceremony on June 12 and 13.

Religious School students were treated to a surprise slide show depicting highlights of the just concluded school year.

Recognized for their participation in the school's Hidon HaTorah Team were Vav students who participated against other New York area Conservative congregation teams in a Bible competition sponsored by United Synagogue. Members of the Temple Israel team were Sophia Askari, Michael Cohenmeh, Aaron Geula, Yoel Hawa, Eitan Hollander, and Joshua Rothbaum.

Sixth grade Religious School students moving on to studies at the Waxman High School include Benjamin Ajodan, Nicole Aminzadeh, Sophia Askari, Kayla Bakhshi, Ashley Chaman, Ethan Citron, Michael Cohenmeh, Pellegria Cronin, Juliet Eshaghoff, Brett Figelman, Aaron Geula, Noah Hanover, Yoel Hawa, Eitan Hollander, Daniel Itzkowitz, Jonathan Kirshner, Jacob Landerer, Limor Makhani, Talia Mirjani, Kayla Monahemi, Matthew Nabatkhorian, Chloe Noghreh, Jonathan Roofeh, Eric Rosenbaum, Joshua Rothbaum, Jonathan Rothbaum, Daniela Schwartz, Maya Tabaroki, Nicole Victory, Elliot Weissman, and Emma Young.

The highest honor Religious School students can receive is being named Judaic Scholars. It is an award presented by METNY, the New York division of United Synagogue, to Religious School students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, behavior, and class

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Celebrating Israel's 65th Birthday

—By Moji Pourmoradi

EDITOR'S NOTE: Temple Israel Israel Affairs Committee invites everyone to march behind the congregation's banner in the Israel Day Parade, as reported by Israel Parade Committee Chair Moji Pourmoradi in this Voice Guest Column.

Truth be told, I have never been a huge fan of science fiction. That being said, I often wish that I could be cloned sometimes to be in all the places that I want or need to be at,

*...we will once again
have the opportunity
to march and watch
the world's largest
gathering in
celebration of Israel...*

especially on the weekends. But sometimes I know exactly where I want to be and who I want to be with.

FROM THE RABBI

Jewish Reality Check

—By Rabbi Seth Adelson

"The day is short; the task is great... and the Master of the house urges on." (Avot 2:15)

As I write this, Cantor Frieder and I are attending the annual Cantors Assembly convention, this year at the fabulous Sheraton Meadowlands. Once a year, cantors from across the Conservative movement gather to share knowledge, companionship, and, of course, new tunes; I always come away from both the rabbinical and cantorial conventions with inspirational material that adds seasoning to my work in Great Neck.

This afternoon, I attended a session featuring Rabbi Kerry Olitzky of the Jewish Outreach Institute. Some in our community might know Rabbi Olitzky as the author of the How-To Handbook for Jewish Living, a resource that the Religious School has distributed to the Nitzanim Family Connection for two years now. He is perhaps best known of late for his work with JOI, whose primary goal is to help interfaith families raise Jewish children. His lecture was about lifecycle events for interfaith families, but he said two things that suggested a far wider concern for the Jewish world of the future.

Spring of 2013 marks the 65th anniversary of the modern State of Israel and the ongoing miracle of her existence. On Sunday, June 2, we will once again have the opportunity to march and watch the world's largest gathering in celebration of Israel at the Celebrate Israel Parade. That is where my family and I will be and nothing would make us happier than to once again be a part of the largest contingent from any Conservative synagogue in New York.

The parade is a chance for the New York Jewish community to show their pride and support. It is a fantastic event bringing together a diverse and festive group of people.

Temple Israel's Israel Affairs Committee will generously underwrite the cost of both the round trip coach bus transportation and the tee shirts for all registered participants.

First, he pointed out that Jewish involvement for many families outside of Orthodoxy is, as Rabbi Olitzky put it, episodic. That is, they might be involved Jewishly at key transitional points: birth,

*The key to maintaining
our people's connection
to God, Torah, and
Israel will be building
personal bonds through
new media
and direct contact.*

bar/bat mitzvah, marriage, and death. The continuous form of identification that has marked Jewish life for much of our history no longer applies for many of us.

The second item that caught my attention is that Jewish institutions will have to

—Continued on page 6

"Now more than ever, we have to instill the love of Israel in ourselves, our kids and our grandchildren," said Temple Israel Israel Affairs Committee Chair Lee Harounian. "What better way than by joining Temple Israel in this grand event, along with the whole family."

Every year, Celebrate Israel Parade organizers identify a theme. This year, the theme is "Picture Israel: The Art And Craft." Our Religious School and Waxman High School and Youth House students, as well as Gehelet students, have worked with art teacher Lisa Weinblatt to create a spectacular new banner bearing words and images to highlight this year's theme.

After many years of requesting an earlier start-off time, we finally got our wish this year. We will be one of the first groups marching down Fifth Avenue, which will finally give us, as marchers, a chance to be spectators as well. Buses will be leaving the Temple Israel parking lot at 9 A.M. sharp. If you will not be taking the bus, please meet us on Fifth Avenue, between 53rd and 54th Streets, by 10:15 A.M.

We each lead busy lives and have a variety of places we can choose to be at any given time. Surely, on the afternoon of Sunday, June 2, there will be no better place to be than in New York City to consecrate our own commitment to Israel, to model it for our children, our families, friends, Jews, non-Jews, and ultimately, to demonstrate it to a worldwide audience.

Please feel free to contact me for your tee shirt and bus reservations, as well as if you have any other questions regarding the parade—or any information about cloning and its possibility in our lifetime—at <mommymoiji@aol.com>.

Tornado Disaster Relief: Here's the Way to Help

In the wake of this week's tornadoes, here are some ways to help the people of Moore, Oklahoma:

- Make a donation to the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City.
- Donate blood.
- Family pets and animals are also severely impacted. Donate to the Central Oklahoma Humane Society or the Humane Society of the United States disaster relief funds.
- The Salvation Army and Oklahoma Disaster Relief are delivering food and disaster response to victims and are accepting financial help.
- Donate to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma.

Should you have any questions about disaster relief or need additional information, contact Temple Israel's Chesed Committee at <chesedtign@gmail.com>.

IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences
to the family of:

FRANCES ROGERS
esteemed member of Temple Israel

May her memory be for a blessing.

TEMPLE LITES . . .

Jackie Einstein Astrof has been named a "New Yorker of the Week" by NY1, New York City's cable news channel, for her efforts to promote Miles for Books, a youth program of the New York Road Runners. The project rewards children with books for their running achievements. The entire Astrof family is participating in the program. A YouTube video of her interview on NY1 can be seen at <http://youtube/HVNHLyZ-IXo>.

DAILY MINYAN TIMES

Attend the Daily Minyan!

Mon. & Thur.	6:45 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Tues. & Wed.	7:00 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Friday	7:00 A.M.	6:30 P.M.
Sat., May 25	8:45 A.M.	7:35 P.M.
Sat., June 1	8:45 A.M.	7:40 P.M.
Sunday	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Kindle the Sabbath Lights!

Friday, May 24.....	7:55 P.M.
Friday, May 31.....	8:01 P.M.

Congregational Meeting
Monday, June 3
8:15 P.M.

Crystal Ballroom

- Election of Officers
- Approval of Annual Budget
- School & Committee Reports

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

May	28	"Five Talmudic Texts You Really Should Know"	8:15 P.M.
	28	Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	30	Beth HaGan Truck Day	
	30	Beth HaGan Art Fair	5:30 P.M.
	30	Men's Club Spirit Tasting with Rabbi Adelson	7:30 P.M.
June	2	Celebrate Israel Parade in Manhattan	11:00 A.M.
	3	Congregational Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	9	Men's Club and Sisterhood's Bike, Hike and Picnic at Bethpage State Park	12:00 P.M.
	10	United Synagogue/METNY Dinner Honoring Marc Katz	6:00 P.M.
	12	Beth HaGan Graduation	9:30 A.M.
	13	Beth HaGan Graduation	11:00 A.M.
	13	Men's Club Meeting with guest speaker Jonathan Engel	7:30 P.M.
	14	Last Day of Beth HaGan Classes	
	16	Shalom Club Meeting	6:00 P.M.
	20	Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	24	Beth HaGan Summer Program Begins	
	24	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 A.M.

March with Temple Israel
Honor Our Country's Fallen Heroes
at the
GREAT NECK
MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



MONDAY, MAY 27
9:15 A.M. Sharp!

Starting point is the corner of
South Middle Neck Road and Schenck Avenue

Marchers are needed!

Call 482-7800 for further information

IN QUOTES

EDITOR'S NOTE: "In Quotes" calls attention to passages from Jewish prayers and writings frequently overlooked or said by rote, but profoundly written.

With the coming Salute to Israel Parade in mind, this issue's quote is taken from the Prayer for the State of Israel. Send your suggestions to The Voice, c/o the Temple Israel office.

“ Bless the State of Israel,
with its promise of redemption. ...
Bless the land with peace
and its inhabitation with lasting joy. ”

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

FROM THE WAXMAN HIGH SCHOOL

A Celebration of Teen Engagement

By Danny Mishkin



Aaron Hakimi

Aaron Hakimi will be celebrating his *Bar Mitzvah* on June 1. He is the son of Drs. Sharona and Robin Hakimi and has three sisters, Saba, 14, Kayla, 8, and Juliana, 5 months, and a brother Eric, 10. Aaron is a seventh grade honor student at Great Neck North Middle School. He is the recipient of the Judaic Scholar Award from the Temple Israel Religious School. Aaron is on his school tennis team. He also enjoys playing basketball and the guitar. He is in the gifted program at Long Island University and takes double advanced 9th grade algebra. Aaron plans to attend the Waxman High School in the fall. He will be visiting Israel this summer with his family and grandparents and will be celebrating his *Bar Mitzvah* in Jerusalem.



Adin Charasz

Adin Jonathan Charasz will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* on June 8. He is the son of Diana Rozenblum and has two brothers, Daniel, 15, and Nathaniel, 10. Adin is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. He is a participant in NYSSMA and in the All County Chorus. He enjoys playing football and Tae Kwon Do. Adin will be making his third trip to Israel this summer.

Sunday, May 19, was one of those special occasions that remind us why we set aside time to be part of a Jewish teen community. The evening was filled with delicious food, great friends, music played beautifully by teens Alana Farkas and Matthew Weinstein, an awards ceremony, and a moving graduation thanking two wonderful seniors for their contributions to our Waxman High School and Youth House community.

The evening created the vibe that comes from belonging to something meaningful. Inside jokes were told and everyone laughed. Stories were told and some shed a tear. Seniors were honored and wished well and we all felt sad and proud at the same time. Ben Hoffman and Ari Panzer are two incredible young men who will be missed in the Youth House community, and we should all be proud of the way they have helped us grow these past two years. Ben Hoffman has worked hard building our USY presence and helping other students find joy in being part of Youth House activities. Ari Panzer tirelessly works to improve all of our teen programming, especially our *tefilah* programs that are completely led by teens.

Thank you to all the teachers, teens and parents who made this year and event so special. This was a wonderful program, and our Youth House teens continue to make us proud.

Visiting Ashkelon

Zoe Oppenheimer, the daughter of Temple Israel members Lori and Peter Oppenheimer, recently visited Kehillat Netzach Israel, Temple Israel's sister congregation in Ashkelon, Israel. The Brandeis University student, spent this past semester studying in Israel. Members of Netzach Israel sent the photo at left, as well as their greetings to Temple Israel.



Congratulations, Graduates

Under this heading, the next issue of The Voice will publish the names of the daughters and sons of Temple Israel families who will be receiving college and postgraduate degrees. To be listed, parents of students should complete the form below and return it to The Voice, "Congratulations, Graduates," c/o the Temple Israel office, by May 31.

Name of Graduate: _____

Son/Daughter of: _____

College: _____

Degree: _____

Awards: _____



Scenes from 'The Fiddler'



The Temple Israel Players latest production of "Fiddler on the Roof" sold out both Crystal Ballroom performances late last month. This was the troupe's fourth production of the play and included a cast of more than 45 adults and children. Now the cast is saying: "wait 'til next year!"

Temple Israel Schools Holding Graduations

—Continued from front page

attendance, and who meet or exceed the Religious School's requirements for participation in services and Family Education programs. Named Judaic Scholars were Serena Askari, Sophia Askari, Jared Astrof, Zachary Astrof, Jeremy Bernstein, Rebecca Bernstein, Alec Blumberg, Amelia Blumberg, Michael Cohenmehr, Brett Figelman, Aliza Fine, Simona Fine, Emily Gal, Joshua Gal, Sophia Gal, Aaron Geula, Alexander Geula, Rena Geula, Charles Goodwin, Leila Hawa, Yoel Hawa, Eitan Hollander, Julia Hyman, Nathaniel Hyman, Roger Hyman, Katrina Itchkow, Barrett Kanfer, Eden Katz, Talia Katz, Kevin Khadavi, Benjamin Kobliner, Martin Lev, Aaron Newman, Samantha Parnes, Ari Picker, Jonathan Rothbaum, Joshua Rothbaum, Emma Sassouni, Leila Sassouni, Nancy Schoen, Daria Scolnick, Matthew Somekh, Amanda Volk, Brian Volk, Elie Weitzman, Sigal Weitzman, and Eric Yachbes.

Students who have continuously enrolled in the Religious School and have received Judaic Scholar recognition in at least four of the last five years are named to the Keter Torah Honor Society by METNY. Receiving this distinction were Simona Fine, Benjamin Kobliner, and Leila Sassouni.

Named to the Chai Club, for students who attend a minimum of 13 services and five Family Education Programs with a parent or grandparent, were Natalie Aminzadeh, Nicole Aminzadeh, Serena Askari, Sophia Askari, Jared Astrof, Zachary Astrof, Jeremy Bernstein, Rebecca Bernstein, Ethan Bloom, Matthew Bloom, Mitchell Bloom, Alec Blumberg, Amelia Blumberg, Michael Cohenmehr, Aliza Fine, Simona Fine, Emily Gal, Joshua Gal, Sophia Gal, Aaron Geula, Alexander Geula, Rena Geula, Eli Goldberger, Benjamin Goodwin, Charles Goodwin, Eli Goodwin, Julia Hyman, Nathaniel Hyman, Roger Hyman, Brett Itchkow, Katrina Itchkow, Eden Katz, Talia Katz, Justine Khadavi, Kevin Khadavi, Benjamin Kobliner, Joshua Kobliner, Sarah Kobliner, Gabriel Lefkowitz, Elizabeth Lev, Martin Lev, Karina Makhani, Limor Makhani, Emanuel Nysenbaum, Allison Parnes, Samantha Parnes, Ari Picker, Joshua Picker, Amanda Putter, Jonathan Rothbaum, Joshua Rothbaum, Emma Sassouni, Leila Sassouni, Nancy Schoen, Matthew Somekh, Maya Somekh, Chanel Tehrani, Kate Tehrani, Amanda Volk, Brian Volk, Elie Weitzman, and Sigal Weitzman.

Selected for The 13 Mitzvot Club, for students who attend a minimum of eight services and five Family Education programs with a parent or grandparent, were Brett Figelman, Leila Hawa, Yoel Hawa, Ava Hoffman, Eitan Hollander, Daniel Itzkowitz, Barrett Kanfer, Aaron Newman,

Daria Scolnick, Daniel Sedgh, Sophia Wotman, and Eric Yachbes.

Waxman High School

The Waxman High School recognized Benjamin Hoffman and Ari Panzer, two outstanding students who have completed their studies at the school and have attended all Temple Israel classes since entering the Beth HaGan Nursery School.

School Director Danny Mishkin had the highest praise for the two students. "Ben Hoffman is known for his big heart and great sense of humor," he said. "He always brings a joyous attitude to his Youth House activities."

He went on to compliment Ari Panzer. "He has been the leader of the Youth House student body for the past two years. He has dedicated himself to improving teen worship experiences. Our Youth House High Holy Day programs, teen *Pesach* service, and Youth House *Shabbatons* have been improved dramatically by his inspired leadership."

Students were awarded the following recognitions at the school's ceremony and dinner held last Sunday: Jacob Julius

Mentch Award, Jonah Klempner and Becca Marcus; Ben Ziegelbaum Memorial Award, Ben Hoffman and Jacob Mamiye; Chag Squad General, Simon Kashfi; Tikkun Olam Award, Alana Farkas and Sara Spector; Best Moment of the Year, Amy Pourmoradi and Rachel Pourmoradi; First Jewish Saint Award, Alex Putter; Girl Power Award, Megan Levy; Manly Men are Very Manly Award, Aaron Rastegar, Ethan Volk and Justine Rastegar; Student of the Year Award, Leah Klempner and Josh Putter; Youth House Member of the Year Award, Avir Waxman and Hannah Gal; The "EveryJew" Award, Mathew Weinstein; and the Milton Rosen Award, Ari Panzer.

Mr. Mishkin said he is looking forward to working with the school's students entering 11th grade next year. "Next year's class is fantastic," he said. "It is bigger and there are many dedicated, enthusiastic students. I've gotten to know them well during the past two years. I have high hopes that they will build more social programming and make the Youth House a place where teenagers will want to hang out."

From the Rabbi: Jewish Reality Check

—Continued from page 2

make the case for, "Why be Jewish?" You may recall that this was the topic of one of my High Holiday sermons last year; I think that it is the essential Jewish question of our time. Our grandparents needed synagogues to help them be Jewish; they never asked this question. Many younger Jews today will need to have that question answered for them, or they will never enter the synagogue in the first place.

As you might expect, these statements are unnerving for Jewish clergy. How will we continue to teach, to inspire, to counsel those who may not be convinced of Judaism's value to begin with, and even if they are, where will we find those Jews between episodes? What will this mean for synagogues like Temple Israel of Great Neck? What will it mean for the future of Judaism?

This is the new reality. For Jewish communities to function, they need Jews who are involved. The import of these two observations about contemporary life is that we need to reconsider our model. The rabbi, the cantor, and the Jewish educator of the future, if they are to reach anybody, will need to function in a non-traditional synagogue, one that uses many different means to reach people. Regular synagogue prayer services as well as Hebrew schools may play a lesser role in the Jewish community of the future. The key to maintain-

ing our people's connection to God, Torah, and Israel will be building personal bonds through new media and direct contact. A synagogue's success in doing so will be a function of that congregation's willingness to think outside the box of the past century and devise a plan for reaching those beyond the synagogue walls. This creative re-thinking will not be easy, but it will be necessary.

Congregation Thanks All 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*.

The congregational *kiddush* on April 27 was co-sponsored by Drs. Laura and Robert Gal in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Joshua and Mina and Alex Peykar in honor of the *Auf Ruf* of their son and daughter-in-law, Jonathan and Aviva Peykar. Contributions toward the *kiddush* fund were made by Fran and Marc Langsner in honor of the birth of their grandson, Grayson Max Bailyn, Joanna and David Eshaghoff in honor of the baby naming of their daughter, Emma, and Vivian Brash in memory of her mother, Camille Katz.

A contribution toward the *kiddush* on May 4 was made by Romina and Dr. Homayoun Sasson in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Jonathan David.

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AND YOUTH HOUSE FUND**

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**From Generation
to Generation**



**Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges
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TEMPLE ISRAEL OF GREAT NECK

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Web: www.TIGN.org

Published bi-weekly by Temple Israel of Great Neck, New York,
from mid-August to mid-June. Periodicals postage paid at Great Neck, NY.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Temple Israel Voice at address above.
Publication No. USPS 078-740. Subscription \$5.00 per annum.

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D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Beha'alotekha

Saturday, May 25

The march to the Promised Land finally begins in this portion. Among the last details dealt with at Sinai are preparation of the lamps of the menorah, dedication of the Levites to their duties, observance of Passover on the 14th day of the first month in the second year after the Exodus, and the making of two silver trumpets to be sounded as a signal to assemble, to break camp, or to take note of other special occasions. As soon as the people began their march, they began to complain. In response to Moses' cry for help, God instructs him to gather 70 elders to assist him in leading the people. Miriam and Aaron then challenge Moses' role as prophet. God vindicates Moses by punishing Miriam. These incidents of selfishness, even in the faith of God's miracles, set a pattern that becomes a prominent theme of Scripture—the struggle to raise man above himself.

Shelah

Saturday, June 1

In this portion, the Israelites approach the border of Canaan, and Moses sends 12 princes of the tribes to scout the land. Among them are Caleb and Joshua. The scout's mission is to investigate the natural properties of the land and evaluate the strength of its people. After 40 days, the scouts return bearing a single cluster of grapes so heavy that it takes two men to carry it on a pole between them. They report that the land is indeed bountiful, but it is inhabited by powerful people living in fortified cities. The scouts maintain that the Israelites are too weak to conquer the land, but Caleb and Joshua argue that if the people have faith in God and His promise, they will be able to overcome the inhabitants. The people accept the majority report, thus incurring God's wrath. He decrees that they will spend 40 years in the wilderness, until an entire generation dies out and a free generation grows up.

Worship at Temple Israel this Shabbat

SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, May 24

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.
Kabbalat Shabbat Service/Dinner For College Grads 7:30 P.M.

Saturday, May 25

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Beha'alotekha*; Numbers 8:1 – 12:16

Haftarah: Zehariah 2:14 – 4:7

Sabbath Service Officer: Rebecca Friedman-Charry

Bat Mitzvah

SIMONA FINE

daughter of Sheryl and Dr. Martin Fine

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Minhah and *Ma'ariv* 7:35 P.M.

Havdalah 8:56 P.M.

Friday, May 31

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, June 1

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Shelah*; Numbers 13:1 – 15:41

Haftarah: Joshua 2:1 – 24

Sabbath Service Officers: Dr. Parviz Khodadadian and Sam Husney

Bar Mitzvah

AARON HAKIMI

son of Drs. Sharona and Robin Hakimi

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* 7:40 P.M.

Havdalah 9:02 P.M.