

## New Ritual Calendar Dedicated In Memory of Rita and Lou Emanuel

by Marc Katz, Editor

Rita and Lou Emanuel—very engaged members of Temple Israel dating back to the earliest days of the congregation—were remembered by their children recently at a ceremony in the Chapel during the dedication of a luach, a ritual calendar, a gift of the Emanuel children.

The ritual calendar, donated in memory of the Emanuels, shows all special prayers recited during the Jewish year in addition to indicating the Torah portion for the week and the counting of the omer, according to Rabbi Howard Stecker. He said it is “a unique, beautiful and artistic form that is extremely useful. It is an elegant way to depict the contours of the Jewish year.”

The large wooden piece was designed by noted Judaic artist Alex Gruss of Studio Gruss of Brooklyn, known for their synagogue Judaic works made of wood. The selection of the piece was coordinated by Rabbi Stecker, and congregants Martin Werber and Sherry Husney, both former chairs of the Ritual Committee.

For almost 50 years Mr. Emanuel served on the Ritual Committee, visiting grieving families on behalf of Temple Israel. In addition, during that time, he served as the congregation's gabbai—giving aliyot to members attending services—well into his 80s. In recognition of his long record of service to the congregation, Mr. Emanuel was named “Head Gabbai.” In addition, a Torah cover was purchased by Temple Israel in his memory.

Mrs. Emanuel, a key member of the Sisterhood, also twice served as president of the Sharon Chapter of Hadassah and held a variety of positions on the Nassau County Hadassah Board.

The Emanuels received much satisfaction when they were selected as the congregation's dinner dance honorees. It is not that we are being honored, they said at the time, but that

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Rita and Lou Emanuel, above, whose family donated a ritual calendar, at left, in their memory for use in the Chapel.

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## Remembering Shimon Peres

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**A Voice Guest Column** by Rabbi Steven Wernick

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rabbi Steven Wernick, the CEO of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, was invited by the Israeli government to join other world Jewish leaders in attending President Shimon Peres' funeral just before Rosh Hashanah. "I was proud and humbled to represent North American Masorti/Conservative Jewry, the largest constituency of Masorti/Conservative Jews the world over," said Rabbi Wernick. He shares his reflections on the experience in this Voice Guest Column.

When Shimon Peres was 11 his parents brought him to Palestine. He recalled his farewell with his grandfather who studied in the renowned Volozhin Yeshiva until he was murdered by the Nazis: "We went to the train station before making aliyah in 1934. It was very moving. My grandfather stood next to me, wrapped in thought and not saying a word. He hugged me and came up to me before we parted, saying: 'My child, be a Jew.' This was his will and testament. It wasn't just words. He wanted me to conduct myself as a Jew. I still hear it everywhere I go."

Peres's life became the story of the State of Israel and a realization of the Mahzor's

vision: L'shanah haba'ah biYerushalyim.

On July 16, 2014 I was part of a delegation of Jewish leaders who met with Peres in the President's residence.

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President Peres greeted us and was his typical optimistic self. I was moved by his reflection on how he remained so hopeful. He reminisced about the

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## Are We Trying Hard Enough?

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**From the Rabbi** by Rabbi Howard A. Stecker

EDITOR'S NOTE: This column contains excerpts from Rabbi Stecker's moving High Holy Day sermon.

The morning back in high school that I took the SAT's, I packed my "number 2" pencils and was about to leave the house when my mother said to me, "Remember. All you can do is the best you can do."

She said that to me numerous times as I was growing up. Before tests. Before I went onstage to act in a show. She may even have said it on my wedding day!

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**...not every situation  
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we can do.'**

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All you can do is the best you can do.

Sometimes the comment made me more nervous, though overall it was helpful to hear. I think my mother said it because she wanted me to understand that the most important measure of my success should be internal, the knowledge that I'd done my best.

However, with enormous respect for my mother, may she rest in peace, I'm going to begin my comments by modifying hers a bit and encouraging us to evaluate ourselves in what I believe is a more effective way.

Truth is, not every situation calls for "the best we can do."

When our kids were growing up and we would get dinner ready, we realized it didn't have to be our best. It just had to be reasonably nutritious and something they would eat. We knew we could do "better," but with all of the other competing priorities, we chose not to. We didn't aspire to be Wolfgang Puck while we were making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for their school lunches.

When we cleaned up at the end of the day we realized we didn't have to do our best. We just had to make sure it was

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## Holy Days Review

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**From the President**

by Rob Panzer

Having just concluded our High Holy Day season, I would like to take a moment to look back on all that went on.

Rosh Hashanah seemed to proceed as smoothly as we could have hoped. There were a few who expressed their dislike of our open seating policy on the second day, and the usual issues with rooms being too cold or too hot, sometimes hearing both from the same person.

Yom Kippur went smoothly as well. Our speaker for the annual Jack Stein Memorial Symposium, Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO and national director of the ADL, gave a fascinating presentation to a packed Sanctuary. There were some who felt that Mr. Greenblatt was a controversial choice, and there was significant pressure brought to change the program. Rabbi Stecker and I, as well as the rest of our leadership, were steadfast in keeping the program as planned. When it concluded, many of those who were in opposition thanked us for going through with it. Temple Israel is a place where differing points of view are welcomed.

Sukkot followed, with weather better than we could have hoped for this late in the year, and we concluded with Simchat Torah and our well-deserving honorees, Nadine and

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**...Temple Israel is a place  
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David Feingold, Toby Katz, and Neda Sedgh.

There was a common theme that emerged through the holidays: that Temple Israel is a place where all are welcome to find the power of Judaism to enhance their lives.

We thank all those who contributed to our Kol Nidre Appeal to help fund this vision. There is still time to make or add to your Kol Nidre contribution, so please contact the office.

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## In Memoriam

Temple Israel extends  
condolences to the families of:

### **CHARLES SYLVAN DAUN**

father of Dana Daun Zuller

### **SHIRLEY WARREN**

mother of Jack Warren  
and sister of Mickey Greenblatt

### **ROSALINDE LIEBOWITZ**

wife of Paul Liebowitz  
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

### **JOSEPH KLEIN**

father of Andrew Klein

### **SHARON KOVACS GRUER**

wife of Dr. George Kovacs,  
mother of Talia, Aline, Gavi and Eli  
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

### **STANLEY SILVERSTEIN**

husband of Raine Silverstein  
and father of Nina Miner, Renee Dabah,  
Flori Silverstein and Ami Reines  
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

### **ANITA RUDO**

mother of Barbara Citron

### **VALENTINE NAZARIAN WOLLY**

sister of Rachelle Ferri Ohebshalom

### **GEORGE YEHUDA NAIM**

brother of Mark Naim  
and Samy Naim

*May their memories be for a blessing.*

## Membership Meeting Nov. 7

A General Membership Meeting of the congregation will be held on Monday, November 7, at 8:30 P.M. in the Crystal Ballroom.

Committee reports will be given at the meeting and two members of the congregation will be elected to the Nominating Committee.

Only members in good standing with respect to dues and fees are eligible to vote. Members unable to attend can pick up a proxy ballot from the synagogue office before the meeting.

## Upcoming Events

### **November 6**

Temple Israel Shredding  
Fundraising Event 10:00 A.M.  
B'nei Mitzvah Family Workshop 10:30 A.M.  
Gilbert and Sullivan Yiddish Light Opera:  
Der Yiddisher Mikado at  
Temple Beth-El 2:00 P.M.  
Concert Featuring Cantor Frieder to  
Benefit Meir Panim at Temple  
Beth Sholom 5:30 P.M.

### **November 7**

Congregational Meeting 8:30 P.M.  
Waxman Youth House Midnight Run

### **November 9**

Mah Jongg (Intermediate) 7:00 P.M.

### **November 13**

Men's Club Trip to a Jets Game 8:30 A.M.

"Fifty Shades of Talmud: What the First  
Rabbis Had to Say About You Know  
What" Featuring Author Maggie  
Anton 8:15 P.M.

### **November 14**

Sisterhood Luncheon Meeting Noon

### **November 17**

Board of Trustees Meeting 8:15 P.M.

### **November 19**

Youth House Sababa Shabbat 10:30 A.M.

### **November 20**

Men's Club Blood Drive 8:30 A.M.

B'nei Mitzvah Family Workshop 10:30 A.M.

### **December 12**

Sisterhood Board Meeting 10:00 A.M.

### **December 15**

Board of Trustees Meeting 8:15 P.M.

## Temple Israel Holocaust Survivor Recalling Horror of Kristallnacht

A Temple Israel member will discuss how his family survived the Holocaust in a conversation with Rabbi Daniel Schweber on Saturday, November 12. The presentation, Temple Israel's commemoration of Kristallnacht, is part of a series of "Shabbat Talks" held regularly following Sabbath services in the Blue Room.

Fred Einstein, who wrote a book on his family history to share with his children and grandchildren, said his family applied for a visa before Kristallnacht at the urging of a gentile friend who told them to leave the country while they still could. Dr. Einstein will discuss his family's long, rich Jewish history, family life before and after fleeing Germany, and what he considers the lessons learned from this experience. He has not told his family's story of fleeing Germany publicly before.

"His first-hand account personalizes the experiences of a family we know well," said Lori Oppenheimer, chair of the Temple Israel Shoah Remembrance Committee and organizer of the presentation. She said "the story that Dr. Einstein will relate is fascinating for all to hear."

Kristallnacht, translated from the German as "The Night of Broken Glass," took place on November 9, 1938. Nazi thugs

smashed the glass storefronts of Jewish-owned businesses and the windows of synagogues and homes, as well as burned and tore down these buildings and ransacked them throughout Germany and Austria. Jewish men over 16 were sent to concentration camps, all a harbinger of the even greater horror to come during the Holocaust.



Kristallnacht Speaker Fred Einstein

## Candle Lighting Times

**Friday, November 4** 5:30 P.M.

**Friday, November 11** 4:23 P.M.

**Friday, November 18** 4:17 P.M.

**Friday, November 25** 4:12 P.M.

**Friday, December 2** 4:10 P.M.



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

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### Lexi Pour

Lexi Leah Pour will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah on November 19. She is the daughter of Romina and David Pour and has two brothers, Oliver, 16, and Max, 8, and a sister, Claudia, 11. Lexi is an eighth grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. She is currently on the school swim team and was on the track team last year. Lexi enjoys swimming, reading and playing the piano. She visited Israel with her family in 2013 for Oliver's Bar Mitzvah and plans to visit again in the near future.



### Dayna Pourmoradi

Dayna Talia Pourmoradi will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on November 26. She is the daughter of Moji and Omid Pourmoradi and has three sisters, Amy, 19, Rachel, 17, and Layla 9. Dayna is an eighth grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. She enjoys tennis and track. Dayna will be attending the Waxman High School and Youth House where her mother is her teacher. She celebrated her Bat Mitzvah in Jerusalem with her family, her grandparents, Rabbi Stecker and Cantor Frieder this summer.



### Jordan Harouche

Jordan Harouche will be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah on December 3. He is the son of Jodi and David Harouche and has two brothers, Noah, 17, and Aaron, 16. Jordan is an eighth grade student at Great Neck South Middle School. He enjoys playing soccer and lacrosse, as well as skateboarding. Jordan is currently attending the Waxman High School and Youth House.

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## Beth HaGan Is Off to a Busy Schedule

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### From Beth HaGan Nursery School by Rachel Mathless

We're off to a great start at Beth HaGan with a record enrollment and a waiting list of students.

We have been very lucky that the holidays came so late in the season. We were able to do so many lovely projects and explore in depth the customs and practices for all the chagim. We learned about the Shofar and what it represents, we all made our own representation of a shofar, New Year wishes and resolutions, honey pots, and holiday centerpieces. We remembered to say sorry to our friends and resolved to do better. Our beautiful Sukkot adorned the school corridors, and we've shaken the lulav and etrog all through the holiday. The weather cooperated and all the children were able to eat lunch in the sukkah. Our Simchat Torah/Oneg Shabbat took place with Rabbi Stecker and Rabbi Schweber. We danced Hakafot with our Torahs and flags.

In honor of Simchat Torah we had a wonderful puppet show. We were entertained with the stories of friendship and brotherhood from the Torah.

We have been revamping and expanding our curriculum to keep on the cutting edge of best practices in early childhood education. Teachers have had extensive workshops dealing with emergent curriculum, and appropriate authentic sensory experiences. Moderately discernible differences may be seen in the documentation and artifacts that come home. Of course, we continue to work on identity formation and the impact of Jewish rituals and practices upon it.

Now that the Jewish holiday season is coming to a close, we look forward to fall, with all of its activities. We will begin studies on weather changes and how they affect our lives. We will begin a year-long project on planting. Each class will choose what to germinate and plant their choices in indoor planters until spring, when we will inaugurate our Beth HaGan outdoor garden. Children will learn to care for their plants and chart their growth. We are excited about this new experience for our children.

Please feel free to visit Beth HaGan any Friday and join our Oneg Shabbat.

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## Mazal Tov To...

**Ilana and Eugene Gillman**

on the marriage of their son, Jeffrey,  
to Rachel Tzapp.

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## Daily Minyan Times

**Friday, November 4**

7:00 A.M. 5:40 P.M.

**Friday, November 11**

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

**Friday, November 18**

7:00 A.M. 4:20 P.M.

**Friday, November 25 & December 2**

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

**Sundays, November 6, 13, 20, 27  
& December 4**

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

**Mondays, November 7, 14, 21, 28 &  
December 5**

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

**Thursday, November 10, 17  
& December 1 & 8**

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

**Tuesdays, November 8, 15, 22, 29  
& December 6**

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

**Wednesday, November 9, 16, 23, 30  
& December 7**

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

**Thursday, November 24 (Thanksgiving)**

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

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## Congregation Thanks Its Kiddush Sponsors

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

The congregational kiddush on June 11 was co-sponsored by Shohreh and Hillel Waxman in honor of the baby naming of their granddaughter, Chloe Miriam Ruth Waxman, and, the Kol Ishah class in celebration of their service participation.

A contribution toward the kiddush on June 13 (second day of Shavuot) was made by Rebecca Yousefzadeh Sassouni to mark the yearzeit of her grandmother, Malek Broukhim Yousefzadeh.

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## Ask the Rabbi: The Jewish Way of Death

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**A New Voice Feature** by Rabbi Daniel Schweber

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

Question: Judaism has some unique burial customs. Can you explain the meaning of some of them.

Discussion: Genesis 2:7 describes how God formed humankind from the dust of the earth and breathed life into the nostrils of the first humans. We are all mortal so there will come a time when God will take back our life breath. God will take our souls and leave our bodies motionless and decomposing back to dust. "From dust we came and to dust we will go." Ecclesiastes 3:20

Our bodies are holy vessels for the soul, and for God's breath. Even after death we must give the utmost respect and honor to the body. That is why Jewish tradition holds the burial of a body in

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**...Jewish tradition holds  
the burial of a body in  
high esteem.**

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high esteem. Below is the briefest of explanations of a few customs. Please ask Rabbi Stecker or Rabbi Schweber if you have any questions. You can also look at <http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/death-mourning/>

Plain Casket, Washing, Shrouds: We cannot take our wealth into our graves. Judaism holds that death is the great equalizer. Every human body is treated the same way. Therefore, it is a custom to bury a person in a plain casket often made of pine. It is tradition to ritually wash the body and then dress the body in white shrouds.

Levaya - Escorting: The Hebrew word for a funeral is levaya which means escorting. We honor the person's body and their memory by escorting them to their final resting place. However, we do so with a heavy heart. Therefore, it is



custom to escort slowly and deliberately. Some pause—seven times.

K'vura - Burial: Just as Abraham buried his wife Sarah himself, and Isaac and Ishmael buried Abraham, it is incumbent on the immediate family to bury their loved ones. However, it is a mitzvah for anyone who wishes to participate in the burial. Two customs associated with filling the grave are that as each person begins shovelling they use the convex (backwards) side of the shovel for a shovel or two. Then the shovel is turned around and the person can shovel as much as they wish. The second custom is to not to pass the shovel hand to hand, but to replace it in the earth for the next participant. While burial is a great value in Judaism, we do so with a heavy heart and these two customs are symbolic delay gestures.

When the burial is complete, the service is concluded with the close family reciting the Mourners' Kaddish for the first time. The next obligation is to offer comfort to the close family members. Two parallel rows are formed by the participants, creating an aisle for the bereaved to pass through on their way from the grave site. As the mourners walk through this corridor of consolation, the community offers the traditional prayer of condolence, "HaMakom y'nachem etkhem b'tokh sh'ar aveilei Tzion v'Yrushalayim."—"May God comfort you among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem."

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## Guest Column: Remembering Shimon Peres

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early days of the State, when Israel had very little: no water, no weapons, no friends, no agriculture, less than 700,000 people, and more. He told us about David Ben Gurion inviting him to work in the Hagannah (the precursor to the Israel Defense Force) in 1947 where, he noted, they had no desk for him. So, he sat at the desk of the chief of staff, where he happened upon a letter from someone who was invited to be the chief of staff, but understanding Israel's situation, declined. Why did this individual decline the invitation to serve? Because, at that time, Israel had only 6 million cartridges of bullets and during those times of war it was estimated they would go through one million a day—and this person did not want to be chief of staff of the Hagannah for only six days!

I realized that Peres was an optimist because, 66 years later, Israel has 8 million people, a solid economy, an incomparable military, good friends and allies like the United States, and most importantly, a strong and resilient people. He was fond of reminding us the people innovate and make the land, not the other way around. He was asked what is his greatest accomplishment. His answer: “what I will do tomorrow.” It was always a privilege to be in his presence, and more so then because it was one week from the end of his term.

Peres's legacy, as President Bill Clinton said at his funeral, is “tomorrow.” And that tomorrow is already being lived in the hi-tech park recently dedicated in his name, where people are “working to break the mental and material chains” that limit us. Peres, he said, “knew what he was doing by being overly optimistic and dreaming.” He was giving us inspiration for what was possible: L'shanah haba'ah biYerushalayim.

Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu called President Peres one of the “greatest men of Israel; one of the greatest men of the world.” He, like many noted, made a “monumental contribution to defend Israel for generations, while at the same time worked for peace.”

Peres built Israel defense industries,

negotiated arms agreements with France, Germany and later the U.S., built Dimona and Israel's nuclear program and much more. Israel's qualitative military edge is a result of Peres's brilliance. Yet, in his later years, he became a staunch advocate for peace, with the Oslo Accords likely to be his defining moment—for better or worse.

In speaking about his late night conversations, or debates, with Peres, Netanyahu reminded us that Peres saw peace as necessary for security and saw security as necessary for peace. And then the Prime Minister said something that struck me. “With the passage of time I have come to realize that we are both right.” I

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**Peres saw peace  
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do not believe that such a realization will necessarily lead to a change in policy, but as a long-time observer of Israeli politics, this was the first time I have heard such a statement from the Prime Minister and it had a profound impact on me.

Netanyahu also shared with us that President Peres had donated his eyes to those who need them. The visionary is still looking forward.

And finally, President Obama spoke about how “justice and hope are at the heart of the Zionist idea.” How “Peres's life is the story of the State of Israel. The story of the Jewish people in the last century that was made possible by the founding generation.” How “faith and moral vision can triumph” over all. The President spoke about how Peres's contributions are so fundamental that they can easily be overlooked. “He was,” Obama said, “a bold statesman who believed that we could harness reason and service to common cause. That what Israel lacks in natural resources it makes up for in brain power.” Peres, and those who founded the State of Israel, Obama said, “planted not just flags, but the seeds of democracy, the ability to pursue a better world. To have the capacity to do what's right.”

The President spoke about the enduring shared values of Israel and the United States, values that seek to see the other in their shared story, “reflected in the story of a nation.” Peres “believed in us,” he concluded, “even when we doubted.”

L'shanah haba'ah biYerushalayim—Israel is a miracle come true. And Shimon Peres was the last of a generation that made that ancient vision become a reality.

May Shimon Peres's memory be for a blessing and inspiration for all of us to continue to work to fulfill his vision.

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## Honoring Rita and Lou Emanuel

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in a small way we are able to help raise needed funds for Temple Israel.

The Emanuel children, Paula, Trudy, Linda, and David, all celebrated numerous milestone events at Temple Israel. Paula, for example, the oldest of the Emanuel children, was one of the first babies named at Temple Israel. She attended the congregation's schools and was married at Temple Israel almost 50 years ago. Her daughter, Ilene, had her baby naming at Temple Israel and her son, Gregory, had his auf ruf at the congregation. In addition, Paula taught in the Beth HaGan Nursery School for 21 years. She is now retired and living in Florida. Two of the Emanuel children, David and Linda, are members of the congregation.

“Our family milestones have all revolved around this beautiful congregation which has grown over the years to be so prominent,” Trudy said at the dedication. “It has been an honor for our family to participate in this development.”

Mr. Werber called the dedication of the luach a perfect tribute to Mr. Emanuel. “For so many years Lou served as our gabbai, our congregation's guide. And now this beautiful tribute to Lou will serve forever as a guide to worshippers in the Chapel.”



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# From the Rabbi: Are We Trying Hard Enough?

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neat enough and we determined what neat enough was.

On arguably the holiest day of the year, when we're supposed to take a look at ourselves, and a look at the world, and ask appropriate self-reflective questions about how we relate to the world, I propose the following question that we can ask today, and all year long, about multiple situations.

Are we trying hard enough?

In each realm of our lives—the mundane and the unusual, the individual and the societal—are we trying hard enough?

Though the answer to this question may vary from person to person, I want to offer a framework and some guidance,

Regarding all the things in our lives that are non-essential, I hope that we can say, “we are trying hard enough.” Not our best, we freely admit, but enough given limited energy and resources. Because we have to save our energy for the things that are essential.

There are situations that call for our best and usually, in my experience, we give them our best. But we just evaluate ourselves too harshly, especially when the situations are beyond our ultimate control.

I recently had a conversation with a group of people who are helping provide medical support for their aging parents. One observed that she constantly feels like she's not doing enough – no matter how much time she spends at the hospital, no matter how much time she spends interfacing with health care professionals, she feels like she isn't doing enough.

This realm—the realm of “we do our best and still things aren't as we hoped”—is a big realm. As tempting as it is to blame ourselves, that's probably not the healthiest course of action.

We may feel this way about medical realities we cannot change. We may feel this way about profound challenges that our children face that we cannot fix or even appreciably improve. We may feel this way about a professional or personal situation that we apply ourselves to assiduously and due to circumstances beyond our control, things don't turn out the way we wish.

I hope we can give ourselves the blessing of “I'm trying as hard as I can” when we are juggling more than we can handle, when we do not, or cannot, acquire all the information we need, when all of our efforts cannot reverse a negative situation.

And then there are areas where we probably should try harder than we're actually trying.

Are we trying hard enough to ensure that a generation that is emerging into adulthood has the tools to respond appropriately to Holocaust denial? To unabashed anti-Semitism? To unjustified, demonizing criticism of Israel?

Again and again I've said that we need to pursue “high resolution,” an awareness of detail, not just broad strokes, so that we, and our children, and their children, all generations—can assess what's being said on social media and on college campuses and in other settings as well—to distinguish between justified and unjustified criticism and to know how to respond to both.

And the question can be applied to a variety of important issues that help to shape the kind of society that we want ourselves and our loved ones to inhabit. Today, of all days, we should be asking these questions.

Are we trying hard enough to ensure that we, our children and grandchildren, understand and fulfill the Jewish mandate to ensure justice for all people—regardless of religion or race or sexuality or gender?

Are we trying hard enough to convey, midor l'dor—from one generation to the next – that Judaism demands that we protect ourselves and also reach out to others? That we defend our rights—to practice freely throughout the globe, to have a Jewish state—and that we defend the rights of others?

Are we trying hard enough to convey, midor l'dor—that a person's value comes from having been created in God's image—not from color, not from wealth, not from appearance. How often do we tell children how beautiful and handsome they are and does the ratio of these comments to comments about their kindness and integrity reflect the self-assessment and the priorities that we want them to have?

Are we trying hard enough to convey, midor l'dor—that sexuality should be regarded as a gift that can help to foster excitement and intimacy and connection, not as a vehicle for exerting dominance or asserting ego, that “locker room talk” or any other phrase, no matter who uses it, cannot be used to exonerate degradation or assault, accomplished or intended?

Maybe we are trying hard enough, maybe we aren't. Maybe we're each doing better in some areas than others.

But we need to ask ourselves, are we trying hard enough, and if the answer is no, or even not quite, then we have to talk to each other—rabbis and teachers and participants in the life of this community—about how to succeed in these crucial areas.

In our high school program here we are having conversations about how Judaism urges us to live with confidence and responsibility, respect for self and respect for others. The conversations take place in age appropriate ways before high school and they need to continue long after high school.

There is so much more work for us to do to ensure that Temple Israel is a place where everyone feels welcome to experience the power of Judaism to bring blessing to our lives and to our

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# From Generation to Generation

## Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

### TEMPLE ISRAEL FUND

In appreciation of:

Receiving a High Holy Day  
aliyah  
Harry King

In honor of:

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Maggie and Daniel  
Goldberger, becoming a  
Bar Mitzvah  
Sherry and Samuel  
Husney  
The marriage of  
Mitchell Koepfel and  
Madelaine Senter  
Geraldine and Henry  
Schweb  
Noelle and Robert  
Parket

In memory of:

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Eva Yarett  
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Jack Weinberger

Estelle Baskowitz  
Bobette Bergstein  
Louis Szanto  
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Shala Pourmoradi  
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Seymour Cohn  
Daryl Schulman and family

### WAXMAN HIGH SCHOOL AND YOUTH HOUSE FUND

In honor of:

Eli Goldberger, son of  
Maggie and  
Daniel Goldberger,  
becoming a Bar Mitzvah  
Madelyn and Robert  
Gould  
Avery Harris becoming a  
Bar Mitzvah  
Mickey and Allan  
Greenblatt

### CANTOR FRIEDER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of:

Van Frankel's willingness  
and ability to lead the  
unveiling of Irwin Josephs  
Joe Josephs  
Cantor Frieder for officiating  
at the wedding of  
Mitchell Koepfel and  
Madelaine Senter  
Mitchell Koepfel and  
Madelaine Senter

In honor of:

The anniversary of the  
Bar Mitzvah of  
Michael Cohenmehr  
Mitra Rebecca  
Harounian  
The Auf Ruf of their  
daughter, Stefanie Horowitz,  
and Drew Greenfeld  
Sharon and Frank  
Horowitz

### YAD B'YAD FUND

In memory of:

Siegfried Bachenheimer  
Bunny North



# From Generation to Generation

Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

## TORAH FUND

In honor of:

The marriage of Mitchell Koeppel and Madelaine Senter

Joyce and George Miller

The marriage of her granddaughter, Karen Ellen Cooper

In memory of:

Bernard Miller

Monte Miller

Contributions:

Betty Lager

Bunny North

Charlotte Zavon

## PRAYER BOOK FUND

In honor of:

The marriage of Mitchell Koeppel and Madelaine Senter

Joyce and George Miller

The marriage of their son, Matthew, to

Alysa Glucksman

Elissa and Joel Schiff

George Abrahams' special birthday

Mitchell Koeppel

In memory of:

The birthday of their daughter, Lauren Beth Cindy and Harold Soshnick

Mildred Kleinhaus

Barbara Choit

Rabbi Simon L. Eckstein

Mitchell and Madelaine

Koeppel

## USHERS FUND

In memory of:

Nourollah Sassouni

Manijeh and Jack Moallem

Barbara Lurvey

Harry Bernstein

Keyvan Frouzan

Rabbi Simon Eckstein

Barbara Lurvey

Manijeh and Jack Moallem

Rabbi Simon Eckstein

Nancy and Sidney

Freedman

## RABBI STECKER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of:

Rabbi Stecker speaking at the memorial service for Fred Schwartz and being a part of his life

Allyne Schwartz

Rabbi Stecker for all he has done for the Katelansky family following the passing of

Irving Katelansky

The Katelansky family

Rabbi Stecker for

officiating at the marriage of

Mitchell Koeppel and

Madelaine Senter

Mitchell Koeppel and

Madelaine Senter

Rabbi Stecker's support

since the passing of her

father, Henry Levy

Stacy Yafeh

In memory of:

Michael Kanefsky

Roberta and Herbert

Selzer

Anonymous

Esther and Alan Greif

Rose Danzig

Morris Danzig

Danzig Charitable Trust

Harry J. Bernstein

Nourollah Sassouni

Jackie and Joshua

Astrof

Michael Silverstein

Stanley Silverstein

Contributions:

Tinna and Jeffrey Phillips

The Damaghi Family

## RABBI SCHWEBER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of:

Rabbi Schweber for officiating at the funeral of his mother, Rose Unger

Joseph Unger

Rabbi Schweber's support since the passing of her

father, Henry Levy

Stacy Yafeh

## SHALOM CLUB LIBRARY FUND

In memory of:

Louis Goldstein

Eileen Putterman

## ISRAEL SOLIDARITY FUND

In appreciation of:

Rabbi Stecker for his support of the Rosh Hodesh Circle and the Sassouni, Neissani and Khorshad families during their time of loss

Rebecca and Sassan

Sassouni

Receiving a High Holy Day honor

Renee and Martin

Kimelman

In honor of:

Michael Sloyer's 36th

anniversary with

Temple Israel

Rebecca and Sassan

Sassouni

In memory of:

Harry J. Bernstein

Nourollah Sassouni

Jackie and Joshua Astrof

## LIBRARY FUND

For the recovery of:

Bernard Ettinger

Mickey and Allan Greenblatt

In honor of:

Irene and Fred Einstein

Eva Yarett

In memory of:

Dick Newman

Mickey and Allan

Greenblatt

Martin H. Berman

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David Lupkin

Stanley Lupkin

Sha Moallem

Sali Yahid

Jack Moallem

Dorothy Sendrowitz

Judith Litner

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Contribution:

Steven Goldstein and

Debra Kaufman

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## PASTORAL FUND

In appreciation of:

The Pastoral Committee's support

Ellen and Martin

Domnitch

## SAMUEL BARON MUSIC FUND

In memory of:

Brocha Kreditor

Marlene Kreditor

## Men's Club Volunteers Helped High Holy Days Go Smoothly

Appreciation is expressed to members of the Men's Club who volunteered their time and effort to label seats for the High Holy Days. They included: Robert Aizer, Charles Adler, Harold Citron, Jack Guberman, Sam Husney, Marty Kanefsky, Ken Kobliner, David Scherr, Abe Sheffy, Steve Smolinsky, and Howard Spun.

In addition, the congregation is indebted to the Men's Club members who distributed Kol Nidre pledge cards: Ashley Nemiroff, Abe Sheffey, Seth Moin, Ken Kobliner, David Scherr, Marc Langsner, and Rob Panzer.

## D'var Torah

—Continued from back page

harmony of all creation is gone. This change is symbolized by the permission given to mankind to eat meat, albeit with the prohibition of eating the blood. God establishes the rainbow as a sign of His promise that the earth will never again be destroyed by flood. The account of the Tower of Babel shows how that unity is shattered by mankind's pride. God's plan is again thwarted, but this time He responds by narrowing His focus to one segment of mankind, which will be the instrument of achieving His purpose. The reading concludes with an account of the line of Noah's son, Shem, which brings us—in the tenth generation—to Abraham.

**Lekh-Lekha** Saturday, November 12

We meet Abraham, who, at 75, leaves his home in Mesopotamia at God's command, and travels to Canaan with his wife, Sarah, and his nephew, Lot, to become the father of a great nation in this portion. Abraham meets a number of challenges which test his faith in God and his resourcefulness. He has a son with Hagar, Sarah's handmaid, since Sarah appears to be barren. He also enters into covenant (b'rit) with God which is symbolized by circumcision (b'rit milah), thus laying the ground for the development of the Jewish people and its special relationship to God.

**Vayera** Saturday, November 19

In this portion, Abraham is informed by angels that he and Sarah will have a son and that the wicked cities of Sodom (where Lot lives) and Gomorrah are to be destroyed, Abraham argues with God about justice and God agrees to spare the cities if there are at least ten righteous men among them. Lot turns out to be the only righteous man and the cities are destroyed, but Lot and his families are saved. Sarah gives birth to the long-awaited son, Isaac, and demands that Abraham expel Hagar and her son, Ishmael. God further tests Abraham's faith through the near-sacrifice of Isaac. These incidents serve to illustrate Abraham's expanding concept of God and also reveal his human failings.

**Hayyey Sarah** Saturday, November 26

We conclude the cycle of Abraham and Sarah stories, Sarah dies at the age of 127, and Abraham purchases a burial site, the Cave of Machpelah in Hebron, from the local Hittite inhabitants, in this portion. This cave becomes the burial place for the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their wives, Sarah, Rebekah and Leah. As Abraham faces the prospect of his own death, he arranges a marriage for Isaac by sending his chief servant back to the family homeland to negotiate for the hand of a family member. When the servant returns with Rebekah, Isaac installs her in Sarah's tent and marries her, and in their love he finds comfort after his mother's death. Thus, God's plan of history unfolds through a series of commonplace and natural events.

**Toledot** Saturday, December 3

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

## Sabbath Services

—Continued from back page

**Friday, November 25**

Evening Service 4:15 P.M.

**Saturday, November 26**

Morning Service 9:00 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Hayyey Sarah

Genesis 23:1 – 25:18

Haftarah: I Kings 1:1 – 51

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Daniel Goldberger, Andi Katz,  
Sima Taeid, Patty Schneider,  
and Ellen Birnbaum

Bat Mitzvah: Dayna Pourmoradi,  
daughter of Moji and Omid Pourmoradi

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Afternoon Service 3:50 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 4:20 P.M.

Evening Service 4:57 P.M.

Havdalah 5:12 P.M.

**Friday, December 2**

Evening Service 4:15 P.M.

**Saturday, December 3**

Morning Service 9:00 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Toledot

Genesis 25:19 – 28:9

Haftarah: Malachi 1:1 – 2:7

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Madelyn Gould, Jackie Astrof,  
Deanna Stecker, Gail Zahler,  
and Brent Greenspan

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

"Unlocking Tefila" 10:30 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Afternoon Service 3:50 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 4:20 P.M.

Evening Service 4:55 P.M.

Havdalah 5:10 P.M.

*Worship at Temple Israel This Week!*

## Are We Trying Hard Enough?

—Continued from page 7

world. We just won a grant to increase accessibility to our Sanctuary. Through the effort of a very dedicated committee, Temple Israel is working to make our facility more and more accessible.

There's so much more work for all of us to do to ensure that our synagogue is a place where we value and protect ourselves and where we value and protect others. So much more work for all of us to do to ensure that what we do here raises up sparks of holiness midor l'dor, from one generation to another, that will have an impact far beyond us.

We will spend much time this day banging our chests and reciting long lists of sins. I want to suggest the following. Take a moment and ask yourself a few questions based on what I've shared.

What are the things that don't require my best performance because they're not essential? Am I giving them too much attention? Can I lighten up my performance?

What are the things that require my heart and soul and I'm giving my heart and soul, but still they're not working out how I'd like because of factors beyond my control?

Can I lighten up on my self-evaluation?

And lastly—what are the things I know to be important, but I'm not yet trying as hard as I should. And what can I do, and how can I gain the resources, and with whom can I partner—so I can do these things more effectively?

And now that my sermon is almost over, I imagine my mother saying, "Interesting. Did you do the best you can do?"

And I say, "Ma—didn't you hear? I refined the question to 'Are you trying hard enough?'"

And then she says, "Interesting. So—did you do the best you can do?" And my answer is: Mom—little by little, I'm trying. And we're trying. Hard enough. To do our best.

## High Holy Day Review

—Continued from page 2

None of this would have been possible without the extraordinary efforts of our office staff, our maintenance staff and our security team. We are grateful for their hard work and thoughtfulness. We would also like to thank those who helped label chairs, place Kol Nidre appeal cards and usher in each of our venues.

## Fifty Shades of Talmud:

### What the First Rabbis Had to Say About You-Know-What

Author Maggie Anton reveals how Jewish tradition is more progressive in many respects, and more bawdy, than one might think.

November 13 • 8:15 P.M.

## Send a College Care Package to Students From Temple Israel

For details call  
Brenda at 482-2787

## Men's Club Blood Drive

Sunday, November 20

8:30 A.M.-1 P.M.

Crystal Ballroom  
For further information  
contact Charles Adler  
at [ciadler.ca@gmail.com](mailto:ciadler.ca@gmail.com)



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## D'var Torah

by Rabbi Marim D. Charry

**Noah** Saturday, November 5

In this portion we read of the destruction of the world by the great flood and the re-creation of the world. By the tenth generation after Adam, human evil has sunk to such depths that God can no longer tolerate it and the world must be purged of its corruption. Noah and his family alone of all mankind are saved along with seven pairs (male and female) of all clean animals and one pair of unclean animals found on earth. The description of the flood is in many respects a reversal of the process of creation. When the waters subside and the occupants of the ark emerge on dry land, the narrative parallels the creation story. Noah is portrayed as a second Adam, but the world after the flood is a significantly different place. Although Noah's sons become the progenitors of a world full of people, the complete

—Continued on page 10

### Temple Israel of Great Neck

## Voice

Marc Katz, Editor

**Associate Editors:**

Paula Charry, Angela Jones,  
Ronnie Katz, Rabbi Daniel Schweber

**Photographers:**

Robert Lopatkin, Ofra Panzer

**TEMPLE ISRAEL OF GREAT NECK**

108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023  
P: 516.482.7800 | F: 516.482.7352  
info@tign.org | www.tign.org

Temple Israel Voice (USPS # 078-740) is published monthly by Temple Israel of Great Neck at 108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023. Periodicals postage paid at Great Neck, NY 11021.

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

Temple Israel Voice, 108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023  
Subscription \$5.00 per annum

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## Sabbath Services

### Friday, November 4

Evening Service 5:40 P.M.

### Saturday, November 5

Morning Service 9:00 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Noah

Genesis 6:9 – 11:32

Haftarah: Isaiah 54:1 – 55:5

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Gail Zahler, Seth Horowitz,  
Leonard Seskin,  
and Deanna Stecker

Bar Mitzvah: Ryan Aminzadeh,

son of Mersedeh and Farid Aminzadeh

Bar Mitzvah: Ilan G.,

son of Mar and Jonathan

“Unlocking Tefila” 10:30 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Afternoon Service 5:10 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 5:40 P.M.

Evening Service 6:14 P.M.

Havdalah 6:29 P.M.

### Friday, November 11

Evening Service 4:30 P.M.

### Saturday, November 12

Morning Service 9:00 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Lekh-Lekha

Genesis 12:1 – 17:27

Haftarah: Isaiah 40:27 – 41:16

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Rebecca Sassouni, Toby Katz,  
Mark and Ellen Birnbaum,  
and Andi Katz

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Afternoon Service 4:05 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 4:35 P.M.

Evening Service 5:07 P.M.

Havdalah 5:22 P.M.

### Friday, November 18

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

### Saturday, November 19

Morning Service/Shabbat Morning

Group Aliyah 9:00 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Vayera

Genesis 18:1 – 22:24

Haftarah: II Kings 4:1 – 37

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Neda Sedgh, Burton Weston,  
Brent Greenspan, Alise Kreditor,  
and Joyce Weston

Bat Mitzvah: Lexi Pour,

daughter of Romina and David Pour

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Afternoon Service 3:55 P.M.

Niggun Circle with Cantor Frieder

following kiddush

Se'udah Shelishit 4:25 P.M.

Evening Service 5:01 P.M.

Havdalah 5:16 P.M.

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