



Werbers and Eshaghoffs Being Honored At Journal Dinner Dance December 16th



Martin and Bracha Werber

Temple Israel will honor two member-couples at its Annual Journal Dinner Dance, to be held Sunday, December 16, at 7 P.M. in the Grand Ballroom. Both couples have worked tirelessly in various capacities for the congregation and have served on the Board of Trustees.

Slated to be toasted are long-time members Bracha and Martin Werber and Joanna and David Eshaghoff. "I am thrilled we have the opportunity to recognize four members of our congregation who have each demonstrated love for our *kehillah* by their dedication and efforts to improve the synagogue for our membership," said Temple Israel President Alan Klinger. "I urge our members to show their appreciation for their hard work by attending the dinner dance and placing ads in the commemorative journal expressing their good wishes to the honorees."

A journal ad form is on page five of this issue of *The Voice*.

Bracha and Martin Werber

The Werbers moved to Great Neck during Sukkot, 1999, and found another home at Temple Israel.

Bracha Werber is a social worker (M.S.W.) and Jewish educator. She became active in the Parents' Association of the

Solomon Schechter School of Queens when her first child entered the school in 1978. She ultimately served as its president and as a member of the school's Board of Education and Board of Trustees for more than ten years.

As an outgrowth of her experiences at Schechter, Bracha pursued an M.A. in Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary, which she received in 1989. After her first year at JTS, she worked at the Melton Research Center at JTS on Bible curriculum for day schools and professional development for congregational schools. From 1984 to 1993, she was head counselor and Jewish programming director for three summers at the Cejwin Camps, and then seven summers at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires, as a teacher and program director.

While serving on the committee planning the establishment of the Solomon Schechter High School of Long Island, she was asked to become the founding principal of the school in 1994. After six years at the high school she returned to JTS to continue her studies.

From 2001-2005 Bracha was the found-



David and Joanna Eshaghoff

ing director of SAJES Principals' Leadership Institute, an innovative professional development program for congregational school principals for the Nassau, Suffolk and Queens educators, which was the forerunner of the HUC-JTS Leadership Institute for Congregational School Educators.

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So, There Was This Storm...

Sure, there was a hurricane, snow storm, loss of power, and little gas to be found. But, that didn't stop Temple Israel's daily *minyan*.

Minyan regulars organized a service at the home of Cheryl and Seth Moin, which had generator power. Subsequent services were held at the Youth House, which retained power. For a report on how the congregation's schools handled the storm, see page 4.



We're All Jews by Choice

By Rabbi Seth Adelson

EDITOR'S NOTE: However you define a Jew by choice, Rabbi Seth Adelson's moving High Holy Day sermon, has a strong message. This Guest Column contains excerpts from his sermon.

Goldie Cohen, an elderly Jewish woman from New York, goes to her travel agent. "I *vont* to go to India."

"Mrs. Cohen, why India? It's filthy, much hotter than New York, and very crowded."

"I *vont* to go to India."

"But it's a long journey, how will you manage? What will you eat? The food is

*I would be
personally thrilled
to help you
find your way.*

too hot and spicy for you. You can't drink the water or eat fresh fruit and vegetables. You'll get sick. And can you imagine the hospital, no Jewish doctors?"

"I *vont* to go to India."

The necessary arrangements are made, and off she goes. She arrives in India and, undeterred by the noise and crowds, makes her way to an ashram. There she joins the long line of people waiting for an audience with the guru. She is told that it will take at least three days of standing in line to see the guru.

"Dats OK," Goldie says.

Eventually she reaches the guru's entryway. There she is told firmly that she can only say three words.

"Fine," she says.

She is ushered into the inner sanctum where the guru is seated. As she approaches him, she is reminded: "Remember, just three words."

Unlike the other devotees, she does not prostrate at his feet. She stands directly in front of him, folds her arms on her chest, fixes her gaze on his, and says: "Shmuel, come home."

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FROM THE RABBI

Too Valuable to be Free

By Rabbi Howard Stecker

Is free Judaism a good idea? That's a question Gary Rosenblatt asked in a recent article in which he described the following reality: "The fact is that college students and Jews in their 20s are being showered with a variety of opportunities of engagement from a Jewish community deeply concerned about its future and believing that the best way to attract the next generation is to provide benefits at no cost." (*The Jewish Week*, October 16, 2012)

Rosenblatt has high praise for Birthright, which has subsidized ten-day trips to Israel for nearly 300,000 young people. Having read about the positive impact the trip has had on the Jewish identities of the participants, and having spoken personally with Temple Israel congregants who have gone, I fully agree.

I also agree with Rosenblatt's contention that those who attend the trip should pay something for the privilege. Recently, Birthright started asking participants to consider donating all or part of their trip deposit once they return home. So far,

twenty percent have agreed and the number is rising.

That's a good thing. Whatever suggestions we might have for the revitalization of Jewish institutions, one thing is certain. They cost money. And the sooner the generation of recent college graduates starts to contribute, however modestly, the sooner they will come to understand this.

*...free Judaism
is not
a good idea...*

I'm all for trying to provide the kinds of worthwhile experiences that will appeal to younger Jews. I think it's important, however, that we collaborate across generational lines to ensure that the most engaging programs emerge. I also think that we should ask younger Jews to provide some of the funding. By so doing, we take the

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Being Open Minded

By Alan Klinger

Open-mindedness—or rather the lack thereof—is much in the news these days. Partisans of one political party believe supporters of the other refuse even to consider their ideas; those of the other feel as strongly that the minds of their ideological opponents are just as firmly shut. The result, as evidenced by the recent presidential debates, all too often are people talking over, rather than to, each other.

We unfortunately have seen the same scenario emerge within our own religion. There have been too many incidents of one branch of Judaism, typically the ultra-Orthodox, refusing to recognize the legitimacy of others. Last year we saw a horrible example with members of a Haredi group spitting on an innocent young girl walking

*We need
to continue to make
our voices heard.*

to a yeshiva in Bet Shemesh. There, however, we could "console" ourselves with it being the action of a fringe group the actions of which were criticized by virtually all sectors.

Now, we have the recent arrest of Anat Hoffman for having the temerity to wear a *tallit* and utter the words of the Sh'ma at the Western Wall, and this with her being at the "women's section," not challenging the enforced segregation of the sexes that has been imposed there. (As we learned from one of our programs last year, men and women together liberated the Wall and this holy area during the Six-Day War. Somehow, their contributions were sufficient to allow them to touch the Wall and pray during that critical time.)

Several years ago, Susan and I visited the new center honoring the memory of Yitzhak Rabin, where we were fortunate to be able to spend some time with his daughter, Dahlia Rabin, who, after leaving the Knesset, became the steward of her father's dream in overseeing a facility dedicated to enhancing tolerance. She observed that her greatest concern for Israel was not the Arab-Israeli conflict, but the conflict between and among Jews. That concern is now exacerbated by the government, not a fringe group, taking the lead in enforcing a narrow prescription of what is acceptable

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IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences
to the families of:

IRWIN RUDICH

husband of Rose Rudich
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

SEYMOUR ORENSTEIN

husband of Sylvia Orenstein
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

LILLIAN BERNSTEIN

mother of Jeffrey Bernstein

ZAHAVA ROSENTHAL

mother of Yaron Rosenthal

BERNICE BERMAN

mother of Robert Berman

YEHOSHUA BOTESAZAN

father of Fred Botesazan
and Parviz Botesazan

May their memories be for a blessing.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Friday, November 16.....4:18 P.M.

Friday, November 23.....4:13 P.M.

DAILY MINYAN TIMES

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

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

Friday, Nov. 16 7:00 A.M. 6:30 P.M.

Friday, Nov. 23 7:00 A.M. 4:15 P.M.

Sat., Nov. 17 8:45 A.M. 4:00 P.M.

Sat., Nov. 24 8:45 A.M. 3:55 P.M.

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

Next Voice, Deadline

The next issue of The Voice, the Hanukkah issue, will be published on Thursday, November 29. The deadline for that issue is Friday, November 16.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

Nov.	15	Board of Trustees Meeting	7:30 P.M.
	15	Congregational General Meeting	8:30 P.M.
	16	Waxman High School and Youth House Family Friday Dinner	7:30 P.M.
	18	Religious School Kristallnacht Program	11:00 A.M.
	19	Joint Thanksgiving Service at the Great Neck Global Harmony House	7:30 P.M.
	25	Shalom Club Dinner	6:30 P.M.
	26	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 A.M.
	27	Am HaSefer: People of the Book Discussion Group - "The Crisis of Zionism"	8:15 P.M.
	30	Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Dinner For College Grads and Friends	7:30 P.M.
Dec.	4	TILL Course: Kabbalah and Hasidism - Mutual Influences and Current Trends	8:15 P.M.
	8	Erev Hanukkah	
	9 - 16	Hanukkah	
	11	TILL Course: Kabbalah and Hasidism - Mutual Influences and Current Trends	8:15 P.M.
	15	Empty Nesters Hanukkah Dinner	
	16	Journal Dinner Dance Honoring: Bracha and Martin Werber and Joanna and David Eshaghoff	7:00 P.M.

Great Neck Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Monday, November 19

7:30 P.M.

at Global Harmony House

46 South Middle Neck Road, Great Neck

Sponsored by
The Great Neck Clergy Association

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.

This issue's quote is from the first *brachah* recited during the *Shaharit* Service. In light of Hurricane Sandy, it seemed most appropriate. Send your favorite quote to the "The Voice," c/o Temple Israel.

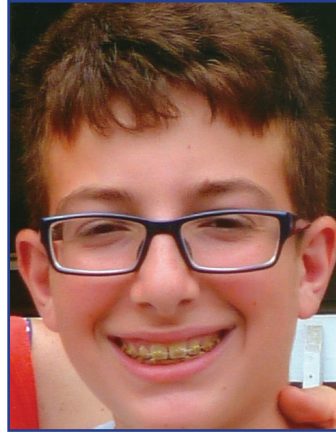
“ Praised are You Adonai our God,
who rules the universe,
creating light and fashioning darkness,
ordaining the order of all creation. ”

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



Benjamin Kadan

Benjamin Kadan was called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* on November 10. He is the son of Lisa and Martin Ghatani and Diana and Steve Kadan and has a brother, Jaxon, 8, and a sister, Leila, 4. Benjamin is an eighth grade honor student at Great Neck North Middle School. He enjoys playing baseball, volleyball and drawing. Benjamin has attended the Waxman High School and Youth House and plans to visit Israel with his family in the near future.



Solly Kasab

Solly Kasab celebrated his *Bar Mitzvah* on November 10. He is the son of Tina and Avraham Kasab and has three sisters, Odette, 23, Rachel, 22, and Joyce, 18. Solly is an eighth grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. He enjoys acting and playing chess. He also plays the drums in his school band. He is currently attending the Waxman High School and Youth House.



Victoria Sedgh

Victoria Sedgh will be called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah* on November 17. She is the daughter of Neda and Farid Sedgh and has two brothers, Daniel, 10, and Cyrus, 5, and a sister, Alexandra, 9. Victoria is an eighth grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. She enjoys reading and cooking, as well as playing tennis, soccer, running and biking. Victoria will continue her Jewish education through the *Rosh Hodesh* Circle at the Waxman High School.



Michael Dadi

Michael Dadi will celebrate his *Bar Mitzvah* on November 24. He is the son of Kitty and Haim Dadi and has an older brother, Adam, 22 and an older sister, Amy, 21. Michael is an eighth grade student at Great Neck North Middle School, where he works on the school yearbook and is a member of the stage crew for school play productions. He also plays the electric guitar and is currently attending the Waxman High School and Youth House.

FROM THE TEMPLE ISRAEL SCHOOLS



Sally Shamouilian

Sally Shamouilian will be called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah* on November 24. She is the daughter of Fariba Shamouilian and has two brothers, Michael, 18, and Sam, 17, and a sister, Michelle, 16. Sally is an eighth grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. She has a passion for animals and enjoys doing artwork. Sally will be attending the Waxman High School and Youth House and plans to visit Israel in the near future.

Kehillah After the Storm

By Rabbi Amy Roth, Director of Congregational Schools

In the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, and its accompanying power outages, cold temperatures, and displaced families within our community, Temple Israel was able to run all three school programs. Despite the fact that as of this writing power had not yet been restored to the main Temple Israel building, the Youth House (with heat and electricity) served as the site for the Beth HaGan pre-school, Religious School and Hebrew High School classes this past week.

Temple Israel became the first stop back to normal routine in the lives of our children. Beth HaGan children played, sang, ate, rode toy cars, and learned a lot in the makeshift setting of the Youth House. Beth HaGan Director Rachel Mathless and her team (most of whom suffered outages as well) transplanted the warm, nurturing atmosphere of the school to the Youth House.

Religious School children also had their Youth House experience. Despite the fact that public schools were still closed, the Religious School *kehillah*, or community, gathered in the Youth House. Their days began with communal *tefillah* and communal *shirah*, singing. In their classrooms they de-briefed about their experiences in the storm through age appropriate activities and discussions. As I walked from room to room, I was moved by how cathartic it became for everyone. Set in the emotionally secure environment of the school, surrounded by friends and teachers, children were able to “unpack” their experiences within a Jewish context.

The seventh through 12th grades were happy to come to their “home” at Temple Israel, the Waxman Youth House, to literally “plug-in,” resume their studies, and socialize and relax with peers, teachers and High School Director Danny Mishkin, over eggplant parmesan. In various other contexts, High School students discussed responses to Sandy, within a Jewish humanitarian framework. And, the Youth House became the venue for the collection of warm jackets, blankets, diapers and other supplies for those hard hit by the storm. Several teens were instrumental in the essential sorting of the donated goods. A few Temple Israel families, as well as Rabbi Stecker and Danny Mishkin, drove vanloads of supplies to Far Rockaway. The value of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, is one that is never

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Temple Israel of Great Neck

Journal Dinner Dance Sunday, December 16, 2012

Please support Temple Israel's Annual Journal, to be published in conjunction with the congregation's Dinner Dance, to be held on Sunday evening, December 16, 2012. *The honorees this year are Bracha and Marty Werber and Joanna and David Eshaghoff.* The purchase of an ad of \$900 or more, or the sale of \$1,800 in commercial ads, will entitle you to two complimentary tickets to the Dinner Dance.

ALL ADS ARE DUE BY MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, accompanied by a check made payable to Temple Israel of Great Neck, 108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023. Major credit cards are also accepted.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Credit Card Name _____ Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Questions? Please call the Temple Israel office at 516-482-7800.

Please check off your level of support

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Emerald (Inside Back Cover).....\$18,000.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter (Quarter Page).....\$360.00 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Page.....\$1,800.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Line Listing.....\$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze Page.....\$1,300.00 | |

PLACE AD COPY HERE and bring/send it to the Temple Israel office. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

For additional space, attach another page. **CAMERA READY ARTWORK should be e-mailed as a PDF FILE ONLY.**
NON-CAMERA READY AD COPY should be sent in MS WORD ONLY. Send all e-mails to: mstein@tign.org

Guest Column: We're All Jews by Choice

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Ladies and gentlemen, we are all Jews by choice.

Usually, that is a term reserved for those who were born into another faith and became Jewish. We often refer to converts to Judaism not as “converts,” but as “Jews by choice.” In Jewish tradition, a Jew is a Jew, whether born Jewish or not. A Jew by choice is first and foremost a Jew.

But the reality of today's marketplace of ideas is that we are ALL Jews by choice. We have all made the choice to be here today; we choose to celebrate *Pesach* with family, or light Hanukkah candles together, or to eat only kosher foods, or bring our children for *b'rit milah* or *bat mitzva*h.

The ability to opt for something different, to start over in a new place with a new identity, is the hallmark of the American character. Personal autonomy—individual choice—has always been placed at the top of our pile of values. We do not ask our children, “What do you need?” but rather, “What do you want?” We reinforce from birth that we have choices. (I'm not sure if this method always works out so well for parents, but that's the subject of a different sermon.)

Shmuel, the Jewish guru, chose something else. For whatever reason—perhaps he could not find that path within Judaism that led to spiritual satisfaction and so he found another option—he and others like him have left the fold for other pastures. But far more of our young people today are exercising their freedom of choice by simply opting out of Jewish life, not necessarily to become gurus in ashrams, but becoming what is increasingly known as “Just Jewish,” or not Jewish at all. A friend of mine from my Cornell days casually announced on Facebook that he was “no longer Jewish.” When I asked him if that meant that he had converted to another religious tradition, he told me that he had not. He had simply stopped practicing any Jewish rituals and disconnected himself from the faith of his parents.

And he is not alone. What is the fastest-growing religious tradition in America today, across all demographics? None.

I have been thinking about this quite a bit lately, because I think that we, those of us who are still committed, who are still invested in the traditional aspects of Jewish living, have to start making the case to ourselves about why Judaism is valuable. Why be Jewish? If we can answer that question for ourselves, we have a better chance of making the case to others for whom the inclination is to drop out.

Why be Jewish?

We need an answer to that question, one that we must share with our families and friends. I'm particularly concerned with our children who are in the parking lot, or at home on Facebook. I'm concerned that the

ultimate result of the freedom of choice that modernity highlights will be that Judaism will cease to play a role in the lives of its descendants. And I am particularly concerned about our Judaism, the open, non-judgmental, progressive, egalitarian practices that we represent here at Temple Israel. We are the inheritors of Rabbi Mordecai Waxman's principles of Tradition and Change, principles that I know many of us hold dear.

So the question should be asked and answered, re-asked and re-answered. Why be Jewish? And some of our children and grandchildren will no doubt find the answers not compelling enough, and will, like Shmuel and my college buddy, end their relationships with Judaism.

But some (and, I hope, many) will choose Judaism; will choose our open, tolerant approach to tradition. Just like we in this room have done.

I'd like to propose the following: What makes Judaism valuable today, and in an ongoing way are the Jewish values that we share. These shared values can be called the

*A Jew by choice
is first
and foremost
a Jew.*

Internal, the External, and the Holy.

- Internal: Judaism values learning and mandates critical thinking.
- External: Judaism encourages us to relate well to others.
- Holy: Judaism offers a glimpse of the Divine.

First, let's take a closer look at the internal: Judaism values learning and mandates critical thinking.

“Why do Jews always answer a question with a question?” How should they answer?

We are a people who ask questions, who challenge, who seek wisdom. And the critical thinking piece is essential. Unlike some other religious traditions, which urge followers to check their intellect at the door, Judaism encourages us to question, to argue, to disagree. There is never one answer in the Talmud; there is always a second opinion.

We are the original critical thinkers, and every single one of us can benefit from Judaism's rigorous pursuit of study, learning, and debate. That is the Internal reason to be Jewish.

Second, the external. Judaism requires us to relate well to others.

Treating your neighbor respectfully is not so easy. We live in a fundamentally selfish society, in which independence is prized above all else. We compete against each other

for resources, for access to good schools, good grades, good jobs, and good business deals. We learn from a young age that performance outweighs learning, that bringing in a good salary can sometimes justifiably conflict with being a dedicated parent.

But the Torah and Judaism ask us to re-examine those equations. *Ve'ahavta ile-reiakha kamokha*, love your neighbor as yourself (Lev. 19:18). Honor your parents, says the Torah, even when it might be inconvenient to you. Pay your employees a fair wage, says the Torah, even if it cuts into your own profits. If you find your enemy's ox suffering under a heavy load, says the Torah, you must help lift it up. Don't put a stumbling block in front of the blind; don't curse the deaf. From Pirquei Avot: *Al tifrosh min hatzibbur*, do not separate yourself from your community.

And that's another great reason to be Jewish, the external reason.

Third: Holiness. Judaism offers a glimpse of the Divine.

Last spring, we hosted the noted professor of Jewish education, Dr. Ron Wolfson. Dr. Wolfson's work is primarily to help synagogues become more welcoming. But he also reminds those of us who work in synagogues that we are not a business, whose bottom line is a dollar amount. Our bottom line is *Kedushah*, holiness. That is the one thing that you can get here at Temple Israel that you can't get at the gym, or the supermarket, or at Amazon.com.

Why do we maintain the rituals of our ancestors? Why do we read the Torah from beginning to end every year? Why do we offer classes and discussions on various topics in Jewish text and law and philosophy? Why do we recite the lengthy prayers in this *mahzor*? Because that is how we Jews get access to God. And let's face it: despite the growing secularism of American society and among American Jews, most of us still want some access to God. And the place to do that is here.

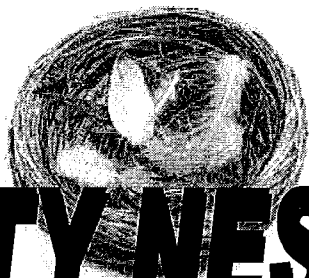
But we also stand for the *Kedushah*/holiness, that you can get outside this building. Why do we bless our children on Friday night? Because setting aside that holy moment with your kids, a pause from the insanity of the week reaffirms everything that is sacred about life.

Why do we give *tzedakkah*? Why does Temple Israel have a Chessed Connection, which goes out into the community to help people in need? Why does the Youth House feature a Mitzvah Corps, which brings 8th-graders to soup kitchens and retirement homes and the ACLD group-living home for disabled adults? Because there is nothing holier than reaching out your hand to others who have less.

Why do we sponsor the PJ Library program, which provides absolutely free Jewish children's books to kids in our com-

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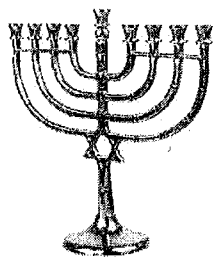
Please join the



EMPTY NESTERS

of Temple Israel of Great Neck

Celebrate the Festival of Lights together at our very first event!



A Progressive Hanukkah Dinner
Saturday, December 15, 2012
7:00 PM

~ See old friends ~ Make new friends~

Annual Dues: \$18/person

to be paid when you RSVP for dinner.

To join EMPTI and reserve your spot by November 18, 2012,
call Jodi in the Synagogue office at 482-7800 ext. 1105
or email to jengel@tign.org.

Progressive Dinner details will be given by November 26 to all signed up participants.

Werbers, Eshaghoffs Are Journal Dinner Dance Honorees

—Continued from front page

As a lay leader, she served as co-chair of Adult Education Committees at the Conservative Synagogue of Jamaica Estates and later at Temple Israel of Great Neck. From 2006 to 2008, she chaired the ReImagine Task Force at Temple Israel.

Starting in 2007, Bracha served a three-year term as the president of the Board of the Solomon Schechter School of Queens. More recently, she served on the United Synagogue Education Council, which set the course for a new vision for education in the Conservative Movement. She continues to serve on the Steering Committee of the Tri State Schechter Consortium; the Board of Trustees of the Solomon Schechter School of Queens; the Board of Trustees of the Schechter Day School Network; the Advisory Board of the Davidson School of Education at JTS and the Board of Trustees of Temple Israel.

Marty holds a B.A. from City College of New York and an M.A. from the New School of Social Research. He also studied for one year at the Machon L'madrebbei Chutz La'aretz in Jerusalem.

After his studies, he worked at CBS News for 12 years. He subsequently made a career in real estate management. Marty is the president of Werber Management and a partner at WNW Hospitality Group.

He has served as president of The Conservative Synagogue of Jamaica Estates. He also served as the president of the Jewish Laymen's Institute. At Temple Israel, he chaired the Ritual Committee for six years and served as a member of the Board of Directors. He has chaired the House Committee for the past two years.

Marty was a board member of the METNY Region of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism for 18 years. He is a past chair of the METNY Education Commission, during which time he helped

develop standards for the Schools of Excellence program, and criteria for student achievement recognition programs. He also chaired METNY's regional lecture series. He has served as the METNY liaison to the Synagogue Task Force and the Synergy Coordinating Committee of UJA-Federation. He also was a member of the Camp Ramah in the Berkshires Commission and has chaired its Facilities Committee.

Currently, he serves on the Jewish Education Project (formerly known as the New York Board of Jewish Education). He also serves on the Board of Mercaz USA, the Zionist organization of Conservative Judaism. He is on the Executive Committee of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and chairs the Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center Development Committee. Most recently, he chaired the Search Committee for a new executive director of the Fuchsberg Center.

The Werbers are extremely proud of their children, Chava and Craig, Benjamin and Heather, and Talia. The Werbers now have five "extraordinary" grandchildren, Lia, Nathaniel, Maya and Jacob—and a new grandson born this week.

Joanna and David Eshaghoff

Temple Israel has a special place in the hearts of Joanna and David Eshaghoff.

David was born in Tehran, Iran, and moved to San Jose, California, in 1979, during the Iranian revolution. He graduated from San Jose State University with a B.S. in marketing, and moved across the country to New York in 1998, where he soon met his future wife, Joanna.

Joanna—then Joanna Peykar—grew up in Brookville, where she belonged to Temple Beth Shalom, Roslyn. She attended New York University's Stern School of Business, and graduated with a B.S. in marketing in 1999. It was during her last year at NYU that she and her future husband met. They married in December, 2000 at Temple

Israel. That is when their journey together—as well as with Temple Israel—began.

In September 2003, their daughter, Hanna, arrived. They say she was lucky to be the first baby girl named by Rabbi Howard Stecker at Temple Israel. Two years later their son, Joseph, came along. His first experience on the *bimah* at Temple Israel, a week after he was born, was probably a bit stressful for him. (Fortunately, he doesn't remember it.) That year, Hanna started in the toddler program at the Beth HaGan camp and school, and that is when Temple Israel started to become a second home for the Eshaghoffs. Through Beth HaGan, they met some of those who are now their best friends.

In 2006, Joanna became Beth HaGan PTA president, a post she held for four years. During that time, both Hanna and Joey graduated from Beth HaGan and moved on to the Nitzanim Program in the Religious School. It was after the Temple fire in 2008 that she began to get involved with the greater Temple Israel community. During the pregnancy of her third child, Lea, she was elected to Temple Israel's Board of Trustees. In 2010, Joanna was a Simhat Torah honoree. It was during that service that she enjoyed reading from the Torah for the first time.

Shortly after their fourth child, Emma, was born, she began the planning of the Beth HaGan 50th Anniversary Celebration and fundraiser. "The event was a beautiful celebration," she said, "and included many generations of Beth HaGan alumni as well as current students." She also created and executed the recent Beth HaGan picket fence fundraiser to raise additional monies needed to renovate the school's playground. After designing the new playground with Beth HaGan Director Rachel Mathless, she proceeded to oversee the construction process.

David, a member of Temple Israel's House Committee, focuses on the evaluation and planning of building improvements. He assisted Joanna in the technical aspects of the playground renovation. David also serves as the treasurer of the Great Neck Police Athletic League.

He is the founder of Eshco Real Estate and Management, which provides full service asset management catering to commercial and multifamily properties.

Joanna serves on Temple Israel's Religious School Educational Vision Team, Communications Committee, Beth HaGan Focus Group, and Beth HaGan's PTA. She is also a Board member of SHAI, the Saddle Rock Elementary School PTA, and assists her husband with public relations for his firm.

The Eshaghoffs say they have marked many family *simchas* at Temple Israel, and are looking forward to celebrating many more with the congregation.

Too Valuable to be Free

—Continued from page 2

next generation more seriously, inviting them to help plan and support their own endeavors. I agree with Gary Rosenblatt that free Judaism is not a good idea, a concept that goes way back.

While Adam and Eve were given all manner of plants for food, God deposited them in the Garden of Eden "to work it and to guard it." Once they ate from the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, reality became even starker. "By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread," Adam was told.

God told Abraham that he and his de-

scendants would be given the land, yet the acquisition of the land required a covenant with God, one that imposed considerable responsibilities.

The Garden of Eden was not completely free, nor is the land that God promised. The lessons of work and responsibility were taught early on in our emergence as a family and as a nation.

Why wait to teach these lessons to our children and grandchildren? Their birthright, *our* birthright, is profound, engaging and uplifting. But it's not free. It's too valuable to be free.

The sooner they learn this, the better.

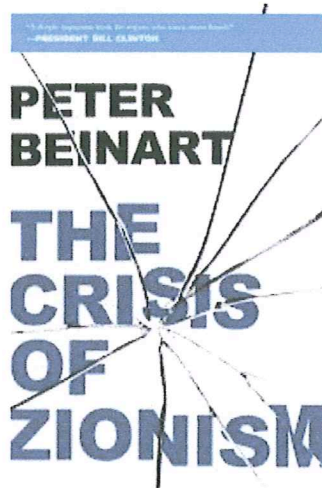


Temple Israel of Great Neck

Am HaSefer: People of the Book

Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Join us at 8:15 PM for Am HaSefer: People of the Book as we continue our discussion, which will be facilitated by Rabbi Stecker, of the controversial book:



If you would like to participate in the online discussion of this book, you may login through the Temple Israel website or go to <http://zionismcrisis.blogspot.com/>.

If you need help accessing the blog, a student from the Waxman High School & Youth House will visit you at your home and help you get set up. Contact Danny Mishkin at Dmishkin@tign.org.

For further information, call Jodi at the Temple office 482-7800, ext. 1105.



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Dr. Jack Moallem's
kindness, thoughtfulness
and dedication
Andrea Krimko

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Cooper, Dr. Madelyn
Gould, Fran and
Marc Langsner, and Lori
Oppenheimer

Joyce and Burton Weston
Drs. Rena and
Jonathan Horwitz

The marriage of Dr. Karen
Lewkowitz and Dr. Monte
Miller

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Weston

Scott Rothbaum, son of
Susan and Dr. Hal
Rothbaum, becoming a
Bar Mitzvah

Lucy Gerstein and
family

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Day honor

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The birth of Ruth Gluck
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Irving Aaron
Mickey and Allan
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Elise and Hon.
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Jean Rothbaum
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From Generation to Generation



Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

Solomon Roshgolin
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David Wolf
Rita Ortner
Edith Eisberg
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Weston
Lori and Paul
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Cooper, Dr. Madelyn
Gould, Fran and
Marc Langsner and
Lori Oppenheimer
Parvaneh and
Dr. Parviz
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Irving Aaron
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Irwin Thrope
Audrey and Eric
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Esther Kirschenbaum
Denise and Dr.
Sanford Ratner

**DANA SPECTOR KIMMEL
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RESTORATION FUND***In appreciation of:*

The new *machzor*
Randi Zuller

Rabbi Charry for reading
the *ketubah* at their wedding

Drs. Karen H.

Lewkowitz-Miller
and Monte Miller,

Hilana and Ariana

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Eleanor Askari,
Dr. Madelyn Gould, Fran
and Marc Langsner and
Lori Oppenheimer
Drs. Karen H.

Lewkowitz-Miller
and Monte Miller,
Hilana and Ariana

Simhat Torah honorees
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Cooper, Dr. Madelyn
Gould, Fran and
Marc Langsner and
Lori Oppenheimer
Cheryl Eisberg Moin
and Seth Moin

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William A. Lewkowitz
Dr. Karen H.
Lewkowitz-Miller
and family

Edith Eisberg
Drs. Karen H.
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and Monte Miller,
Hilana and Ariana

YAD B'YAD FUND*In memory of:*

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Walter Leavitt
Helen Leavitt Sholler
Fran Leavitt Froehlich
Rabbi Michael Tayvah
Dr. Edith and Peter
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USHERS FUND*In appreciation of:*

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giving her an *aliyah*
Toby M. Cohen

In memory of:

Bernard Silverstein
Nancy and Sidney
Freedman

Contribution:

Trudy Emanuel

Jews by Choice

—Continued from page 6

munity? Because the holiest thing a parent or grandparent can do is to teach our tradition to the next generation. (Call our office to sign up for PJ Library!)

Why be Jewish? Because Judaism offers a connection to God, moments of holiness.

Why be Jewish? Because Judaism offers a framework for living, a set of shared values that, if applied properly, will enable your inner spirituality by turning on your mind, will enhance your outer relationships, and will, once in a while, offer contact with God and *Kedushah*. Those of us who continue to be Jews-by-choice will draw on these offerings of Judaism, gaining inspiration as well as inspiring others.

Epilogue: A congregant came to me last week to tell me that she has found her path through Judaism at Temple Israel, but she had to work quite hard to seek it for herself. When he was here in May, Dr. Wolfson told the story of his having visited a synagogue, and upon arriving he found the front door locked. He looked around the building for a good twenty minutes, and when he finally found his way in and met with the rabbi, he was told, "Everybody knows you go in through the kitchen!"

Some of us are self-motivated seekers; others are not. If you can't find the kitchen door and you need an entry point to learn more, to participate more, to step up your relationship with the faith of your parents and grandparents, give me a call, shoot me an e-mail, friend me on Facebook, find me on Twitter, or whatever. I would be personally thrilled to help you find your way.

Being Open Minded

—Continued from page 2

in Judaism. We cannot allow such actions to go unchallenged. We here at Temple Israel are doing our part. Several weeks ago, women wearing *tallit* gathered at the synagogue for a photo to show their support for those in Israel who wish to exercise their right to exercise their Judaism in the manner they feel appropriate—that photo became part of a collective Women of the Wall celebration. More recently, we participated in a global flash mob gathering to protest the crackdown on Jewish pluralism in Israel. (You can catch our event, joined in by representatives from Beth-El and Lake Success congregations, on youtube.) We need to continue to make our voices heard.

The need for open-mindedness, however, is not confined to events in Israel. We need to be mindful of views here within

Kehillah After the Storm

—Continued from page 4

far from our consciousness.

There was joy, there was healing, there was *ruach* at the Youth House this week. The laughter of the Beth HaGan children at a puppet show, the sight of Religious School children dancing to music playing in the entrance of the Youth House, and the warmth of fellowship of teens are all key ingredients in the Temple Israel *kehillah*. Schools offer more than formal instruction: with this we all agree. The Temple Israel schools offer community and, with it, many different models of education.

our own synagogue community. TILL, our adult lifelong learning group, has recently opened a new program, Am HaSefer, with a discussion of Peter Beinart's controversial work, "The Crisis of Zionism." Strong feelings emerged at our launch of the program with a panel discussion about views of Zionism, joined in by comments from the audience. Whether you agree or not with Beinart's thesis—that the Israeli government's policies towards Arabs will lead to a growing disillusionment of America's Jewish young people, which will adversely affect their future support for Israel (I question characterization of "occupation")—the topic warrants consideration. Israel, for the foreseeable future, will need the support of the United States. If the next generation of American Jews does not support Israel with fervor, the chances of that lasting would be adversely affected. This is not to say that Beinart has it right—that college-aged Jews are abandoning Israel. Please join our on-line discussion of the work and share your thoughts on this important subject. (Anyone needing assistance should contact Rabbi Adelson or Becky Charry.)

In so doing, we should remember the teaching of Rabbi Elazar ben Shimon (Google is a wonderful place for learning), that harshness should be discouraged: "A person should always be soft like a reed and not hard like a cedar." Ta'anit 20a-20b.

We hope to learn from one another in a way that will foster community. We look forward to a spirited and respectful debate on the blog.

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Marc Katz, Editor

Associate Editors:

Rabbi Marim D. Charry, Paula Charry, Angela Jones, Ronnie Katz

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TEMPLE ISRAEL OF GREAT NECK

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D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Toledot

Saturday, November 17

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 succession on to Esau, Rebekah conspires 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.

Vayetze

Saturday, November 24

We follow the fortunes of Jacob as he leaves the land of Canaan to travel to the ancestral home in Mesopotamia, spends 20 years there and leaves to return to Canaan. In this portion, Jacob fleeing for his life, stops for a night at a place near the border and has a dream in which the angels ascend and descend a ladder to heaven. God confirms the blessing of Abraham for Jacob, and Jacob, upon awakening, names the place Beth El, the House of God. Arriving in Mesopotamia, Jacob encounters Rachel, his cousin, at a well and falls in love with her. He negotiates with his uncle, Laban, for Rachel's hand, is tricked by Laban, and then decides it is time to return home. He leaves with two wives, two concubines, 11 sons, one daughter and much livestock. These events show how Jacob begins to become worthy of the blessing he has been given and of being a successor to Abraham and Isaac.

*Worship at Temple Israel
This Week!*

SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, November 16

N'ranenah/Evening Service 6:30 P.M.
Waxman High School and Youth House Family Dinner 7:30 P.M.

Saturday, November 17

Morning Service 8:45 P.M.
Weekly Portion: *Toledot*; Genesis 25:19 – 28:9

Haftarah: Malachi 1:1 – 2:7

Sabbath Service Officers: Jackie Astrof and Dr. Parviz Khodadadian
Bat Mitzvah

VICTORIA SEDGH

daughter of Neda and Farid Sedgh

Machon Alone Family Service 10:30 A.M.
Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.
Mincha and *Ma'ariv* 4:00 P.M.
Haodalah 5:17 P.M.

Friday, November 23

Evening Service 4:15 P.M.

Saturday, November 24

Morning Service 8:45 P.M.
Weekly Portion: *Vayetze*; Genesis 28:10 – 32:3

Haftarah: Hosea 12:13 – 14:10

Sabbath Service Officers: Dr. Robert Panzer and Miriam Kobliner
B'nai Mitzvah

MICHAEL DADI

son of Kitty and Haim Dadi

SALLY SHAMOUILIAN

daughter of Fariba Shamouilian

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.
Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.
Mincha and *Ma'ariv* 3:55 P.M.
Haodalah 5:13 P.M.