



A Report From the Front Lines: Temple Israel's Sister Congregation In Israel Comes Under Fire

Temple Israel's sister Conservative congregation, Kehillat Netzach Israel, in Ashkelon, Israel, was on the front line of the incoming deluge of rocket attacks aimed at Israel from Gaza last week.

Located only a short distance from the hostile border, the congregation became a haven not only for their members, but also for the surrounding community, as explained in this first-

hand account from Rabbi Gustavo Surazski of Kehillat Netzach Israel:

Shalom to the friends of Kehillat Netzach Israel!

As I write this letter, announcements are being made concerning a cease fire, which is to take effect tonight. This, despite the fact that a siren went off not 15 minutes ago, and despite the fact that the sounds of war can still be heard and are shaking our buildings.

We pray that the cease fire will hold, and that this letter will just reflect another sad chapter in our history. Nevertheless, I wanted to share with you some of our experiences over the past week.

The multiple "safe areas" located at our Kehil-
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Temple Israel's sister congregation in Israel came under rocket fire last week. The congregation provides an air raid shelter for its nursery school children, above. The sign on the building reads: "A Protected Space." When members of Temple Israel visited the congregation this past summer, rabbis from both synagogues conferred, left. Temple Israel members posed outside of Kehillat Netzach Israel, right.

Photos by Mark Putter



The One Word Sermon

By Rabbi Abraham B. Eckstein

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each year, Rabbi Abraham B. Eckstein, the retired rabbi of the Little Neck Jewish Center, joins the Temple Israel clergy for the High Holy Days. This Voice Guest Column contains excerpts from his Yom Kippur sermon.

We live in a world in which adults also suffer from a diminished attention span. We no longer have the patience for lengthy expositions and discourses.

I remember going to doubleheaders, no longer available because the fans won't attend such long ball games. I remember when

*...may we love
with all our hearts,
for that is
the only way to love.*

the movies routinely presented a double feature plus the Three Stooges and a chapter of The Lone Ranger, no longer available because moviegoers won't sit that long.

This lack of *zitzfleish* is valid for sermon listeners. We want it concise, pithy and or-

FROM THE RABBI

Shabbat Thanksgiving

By Rabbi Seth Adelson

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rabbi Seth Adelson looked at what we have to be thankful for, as well as the prospects for peace in the Middle East, in his sermon on the *Shabbat* of Thanksgiving, last weekend. This Rabbi's Column contains excerpts from his sermon.

There are many things for which we should be thankful.

First, that we survived the devastation of Hurricane Sandy. Many of us were inconvenienced by the storm, and some of us had major damage to our homes. But by and large, this community was spared the devastation that parts of the South Shore of Long Island, Brooklyn, Staten Island, and New Jersey suffered. We should not forget, that there are now many in our region who lost everything.

Second, many members of this community have been forthcoming in helping others in need in the wake of the storm. That is what makes us a *kehillah kedoshah*, a holy congregation, and I applaud those of us who have taken the initiative to contribute in every way possible to relief efforts.

Third, that the Iron Dome defense

system in Israel was quite successful in shooting down rockets that were headed to residential areas. Some reports said that the success rate was near 90 percent.

Finally, that the cease-fire in Israel is (mostly) holding. This is very good news for

ganized. After the holidays when I speak to worshippers from another synagogue and inquire, "What did the rabbi speak about?" their replies are vague, inchoate and incomplete. "He spoke about Israel and Iran, the coming election or getting closer to God." So I plan to simplify matters about my subject. It is one word—*teshuvah*.

It is the pivotal and seminal word of these High Holy Days. The ten days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are called "The Ten Days of *Teshuvah*." The Sabbath between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is termed "The Sabbath of *Teshuvah*." We read the book of Jonah on Yom Kippur because its theme is *teshuvah*.

Teshuvah is usually translated as "repentance," a rather old-fashioned and limiting word. *Teshuvah* has three meanings, each one clarifying our approach to the true essence of these holy days.

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*We don't have to
like each other,
but we do need to talk.*

the members of our partner Conservative congregation in Ashkelon, Kehillat Netzah Yisrael, where life had more or less come to a standstill for eight days. It is also personally good news for me, since my son lives in Nes Tziyyonah, out of range of the Qassam rockets which make up the bulk of

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On Dedication

By Alan Klinger

Mesirut—dedication.

In this season of Thanksgiving, we pause first to express appreciation to those who have recently toiled so hard to assist others in the aftermath of super storm Sandy.

We thank the utility personnel who worked tirelessly to restore power to our area (in the face of what appears to be gross failings in preparation by those in charge). We thank those members who opened up their homes to others of our *kehillah* who had been forced out of theirs. We thank those congregants who participated in the efforts led by Waxman Youth House Director Danny Mishkin to bring needed clothing and other provisions to those

*...let's have
a
joyful evening.*

on the South Shore who were greatly victimized by the storm. We thank the many of you who have contributed to various relief funds to ease the plight of those who lost the most. And, last but certainly not least, we thank the members of our maintenance staff who showed up to work that first Tuesday morning, despite the absence of public transportation and the difficulties in driving. Their dedication to the safety of our building during this difficult period and meeting the needs of the synagogue throughout the year is indeed moving.

Looking beyond the storm, we also look forward to recognizing—and celebrating—two families who show their dedication to the synagogue in myriad ways, Bracha and Marty Werber and Joanna and David Eshaghoff, our dinner dance honorees.

The prior issue of the Voice described fully their efforts; for here, we note: Bracha's focus on improving our education programs; Marty's work in the areas of ritual and house matters; Joanna's concentration on improving the nursery school and the almost completed renovation of the playground; and David's expanding efforts to address building structural concerns. Three of the four have been or are currently trustees of the Temple. So much of synagogue work is performed by volunteers—please show your appreciation for four of our best by supporting the dinner and journal. Invitations should have been received—fill them out, get them to the office and let's have a joyful evening.

See photo of Temple Israel's maintenance crew, cleaning up after Hurricane Sandy, page 6.

IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences
to the families of:

RAHMATOLLAH VAHIDPOUR
father of Marjan Malekan

ELYHOO AMIRIAN
father of Parvaneh Khodadadian

CAROL SUE PURO
sister of Sandra Rosen

SALLY FUERTH
mother of Ronny Levine

JANE DESARITZ
esteemed member of Temple Israel

PENNY VOGEL
sister of Robert Hopp

May their memories be for a blessing.

MAZAL TOV TO . . .

- **Randi and Ezra Zelkin** on the birth of their son, Jordan Matthew.
- **Shadi and Dr. Michael Ohebshalom** on the birth of their son, Joseph Joshua.
- **Rachelle and Dr. Ebby Ohebshalom** on the birth of their grandson, Joseph Joshua Ohebshalom.
- **Bracha and Marty Werber** on the birth of their grandson, Joseph Hanbyul Werber.
- **Nancy and Larry Greengrass** on the marriage of their son, Seth, to Cara Band.

DAILY MINYAN TIMES

Mon. & Thurs.	6:45 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Tues. & Wed.	7:00 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Friday	7:00 A.M.	4:15 P.M.
Saturday	8:45 A.M.	3:50 P.M.
Sunday	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Friday, November 30.....	4:10 P.M.
Friday, December 7.....	4:09 P.M.
Friday, December 14.....	4:10 P.M.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

Dec.	4	TILL Course: Kabbalah and Hasidism - Mutual Influences and Current Trends	8:15 P.M.
	8	Erev Hanukkah	
	8	"Shabbat Talk"	12:45 P.M.
	9-16	Hanukkah	
	9	Congregational Hanukkah Party	5:00 P.M.
	11	Carnival/Fund-raiser to support the Sandy Relief efforts	
	11	Waxman High School and Youth House Hanukkah Family Program and Banquet	5:30 P.M.
	11	TILL Course: Kabbalah and Hasidism - Mutual Influences and Current Trends	8:15 P.M.
	15	Empty Nesters Hanukkah Progressive Dinner	7:00 P.M.
	16	Journal Dinner Dance	7:00 P.M.
	17	Sisterhood Luncheon	Noon
	18	TILL Course: Kabbalah and Hasidism - Mutual Influences and Current Trends	8:15 P.M.
	20	Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	22	Religious School Shabbat Game-a-Palooza	3:00 P.M.
Jan.	5	Shabbat Up Close and Personal	10:30 A.M.
	6	Waxman High School and Youth House USY Program	4:30 P.M.

You are invited to
an evening to rejoice in surviving the elements,
in the re-dedication to the future
and a celebration of Hanukkah

as we honor

**Bracha and Martin Werber
and**

Joanna and David Eshaghoff

at the Temple Israel 48th Annual
Journal Dinner Dance
Sunday Evening, December 16
at 7 P.M.

for reservations and to place journal ads, call 482-7800

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 a prayer for the State of Israel, in Siddur Sim Shalom. In light of the recent Mideast rocket attacks, it seemed most appropriate.

“ Bless the State of Israel...
Help them with Your good counsel.
Strengthen the hands of those
who defend our Holy Land. ”

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



Ariel Gold

Ariel Gold will be called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah* on December 1. She is the daughter of Nina Mogilnik and Leonard Gold and has two brothers, Sam, 18, and Noah, 16. Ariel is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. She is an All-County singer in her school's chorus, a member of her school's swim team, an avid artist as well as a dedicated environmentalist with a special interest in the oceans. Ariel is currently attending the Waxman High School. She has been to Israel to visit family and looks forward to returning.



Emily Citron

Emily Lauren Citron will be celebrating her *Bat Mitzvah* on December 8. She is the daughter of Barbara and Harold Citron and has a brother, Ethan, 11. Emily is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. She enjoys baking, reading, ice-skating and volleyball. Emily also attends Camp Ramah in the Berkshires and is currently attending the Waxman High School and Youth House. She traveled to Israel this past summer on the Temple Israel congregation trip.



Taylor Kaplan

Taylor Kaplan will be called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah* on December 15. She is the daughter of Anna and Darren Kaplan and has an older sister, Sarah, 14. Taylor is an eighth grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. She enjoys basketball, volleyball, field hockey and lacrosse.



Matthew Weinstein

Matthew Weinstein will be celebrating his *Bar Mitzvah* on December 22. He is the son of Maria and Dr. Michael Weinstein. Matthew is an eighth grade honor student at Great Neck North Middle School. He enjoys playing the violin and is a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society and the Gemini Youth Orchestra. Matthew is on the school cross-country track and field and swim teams. He is currently attending the Waxman High School and Youth House and plans to visit Israel with his family in the near future.

Kabbalah and Hasidism: Mutual Influences and Current Trends

**December 4, 11 & 18
8:15 P.M.**

**Taught by visiting scholar,
Zalman Rothschild**

This course, sponsored by TILL, will explore some of the ways in which Ba'al Shem Tov and subsequent Hasidic masters radically reinvented Jewish mysticism. Also to be explored are the differences among current branches of Hasidism, with respect to Kabbalah and other matters.

FROM THE BETH HAGAN NURSERY SCHOOL

New Venue, New Playground

By Rachel Mathless

In a world, which can change dramatically in a matter of a few hours, it's comforting to know how resilient and upbeat children can be. In the wake of Hurricane Sandy and in the absence of power in Temple Israel's main building, Beth HaGan relocated to the Waxman Youth House. The transition was practically seamless. A ball, a book, some play dough and a doll and we were in business. The parents were grateful for warmth and light and a return to routine for the children. We had a music program one day, a puppet show another and a spectacular *Oneg Shabbat* on Friday. We ran a school with a Kibbutz like atmosphere and all the children were so happy in their "new school."

We are so excited to announce the near completion of our new playground. A big thank you goes out to our very own Joanna Eshaghoff, who worked tirelessly to campaign for this project and to see it through

to fruition. We are planning a ribbon cutting ceremony to inaugurate the new playground. Much thanks goes to Amy Kalter, PTA president, who has spearheaded many fund-raising activities with funds, earmarked specifically for the playground. The new poured-in-place surface will be sand free. We also have a bicycle track for riding toys and a basketball court. Because we extended the playground, we will also have two areas dedicated only to sand play. The new colorful climber can accommodate 30 children at one time.

The highlight of the month was our Thanksgiving celebration. Cantor Frieder was our guest artist who accompanied the children on the keyboard as we paraded around in our Thanksgiving holiday-wear and enjoyed a sing-a-long.

We began our feast by discussing all the things for which we are thankful;

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CONGREGATIONAL HANUKKAH PARTY
Including a Carnival/Fundraiser run by the Waxman High School and Youth House to Support Sandy Relief Efforts

COME ONE, COME ALL!



Sunday, December 9, 2012
 5:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.
 Crystal Ballroom/Pine Room



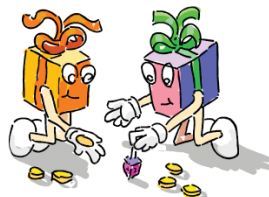
**Join us for
 FOOD, LATKES, &**

MUSIC, with our own Temple Israel Band, led by **Cantor Raphael Frieder**.

DANCING



STORYTELLING



HANUKKAH GELT

FUN ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

CANDLE LIGHTING



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EVERYONE IS INVITED! OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY!
 WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS!
 (Family education credit given if at least one parent attends!)

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 (516) 482-7800 • www.tign.org



Please RSVP to Susan in the Temple Office at 516-482-7800 by December 5, 2012.
 We need to know how much food to order for Hanukkah.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE # _____

OF ADULTS _____ # OF CHILDREN _____

The Clean-Up Crew

Hurricane Sandy did not stop Temple Israel's maintenance staff from coming to work to make sure the buildings and grounds were ready for the congregation.

Reporting to work immediately after the storm were, left to right, Lester Sierra, Patricia Montenegro, Dalton James, Basil Blackeller and Raul Orellana.

For further details on Temple Israel's storm recovery, see President Alan Klinger's column on page 2 of this issue of The Voice.



From the Rabbi: Shabbat Thanksgiving

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those coming from Gaza, but within range of the larger rockets like the Fajr-5 rockets supplied by Iran. (During the eight days of rockets, there was only one air-raid siren in Nes Tziyyonah; my son and his neighbors gathered in the stairwell, the safest part of their apartment building, until it passed, thankfully uneventfully.)

It is worth noting, by the way, that this is, in fact, the second cease-fire in 2012 brokered by the Egyptians. Back in March, after four days of less-intense rocket attacks and Israeli air strikes, a similar deal was struck. And here we are, eight months later, in the same place. And so, while we might be grateful for this lull, we should also fear the next shower of rockets and what will come from it. Because there will be more rockets, more sirens, more lives lost and disrupted; the only question is when.

Or, maybe there is a way to break this pattern.

In the summer of 2000, when I was working in Jerusalem as a music specialist for the Conservative movement's Ramah day camp, talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority broke down. Fatah Chairman Yasir Arafat rejected Prime Minister Ehud Barak's offer of a state that would include almost all of the West Bank and Gaza, plus control over Palestinian neighborhoods of Jerusalem. Immediately after, Arafat ordered the violent Intifada, and years of suicide bombings hardened Israeli resolve against peace talks. Israel decided that the PA was no partner for peace, and has not engaged seriously with them since.

In 2005, Israel pulled out of Gaza unilaterally.

In 2006, the Palestinian territories held free elections. Hamas won a majority of seats in Gaza, and soon after seized control over the Strip.

In 2008, after thousands of Qassam rockets had fallen on Sderot and other communities near Gaza, Israel launched a ground offensive, Operation Cast Lead, to demolish terrorist infrastructure in Gaza. There was a heavy toll of civilian and com-

batant lives. Rockets have continued to fall sporadically in the south of Israel, but in the intervening years Hamas has grown more powerful and more deadly.

And then came the events of the past week and a half. Meanwhile, PA President Mahmoud Abbas watches on the sidelines from the West Bank.

Over the past 12 years, our perspective has changed. Everybody has grown more and more pessimistic about the chances for peace. Current PM Netanyahu is far more interested in saber rattling over Iran than talking with anybody on the other side of the Green Line.

The only possible solution is the two-state solution. Israel and the PA, supported by all the major international players, must

*Everybody has grown
more and more
pessimistic about
the chances for peace.*

swallow their pride and sit down at the table and talk. All other outcomes are unsustainable; let me explain:

- Maintaining the status quo. Every few years, Israelis are shelled heavily, and then retaliate until the next cease-fire. Obviously, this cannot continue forever because each time the rockets fly, they are more accurate, more intense, with bigger payloads and longer ranges.

- The one-state solution. Israel annexes all the territories and grants citizenship to everybody in the territories. This is suicide. Israel will not be able to maintain itself as a democracy with a Jewish character when the largest political group is Palestinian.

- Unilateral withdrawals from parts of the West Bank. As many have pointed out, Israel's withdrawal from Gaza may have yielded an economic benefit for Israel by no longer requiring heavy military protection from the settlements in Gush Qatif, within the Gaza Strip. But whatever benefits reaped have been

negated by the thousands of rockets that have been launched by Gaza-based terrorists.

But the reason that the Gaza withdrawal did not have a positive effect on the region is because of its unilateral nature. Israel did not consult with anybody; no peacekeeping forces were installed; no structure was in place to make a smooth transition; no other governmental powers were there to support either side. This vacuum led to the rise of Hamas, and we all know how that has turned out.

I think about this a lot. And as far as I can tell, the only other possible path is the two-state solution. Those of us that balk at the idea of sitting down at the table with any Palestinian group should recall that we do not make peace with friends; we make peace with enemies. We don't have to like each other, but we do need to talk.

If Israel sits with Mahmoud Abbas and hammers out a peace agreement such that a Palestinian state is established in the West Bank, soon enough the economy will improve, employment will improve, Palestinians will be able to have some kind of normal life, and they will (as they have done in the past) go about their business and focus less energy on hating the Jews.

And what about Gaza, you ask? This is the important part. Hamas is not, at least right now, a partner for peace, because from where we sit right now it is unlikely that they will acknowledge Israel's right to exist.

We have to set aside the fear. We have to look above the comfort zone of "no" to get to "yes." We need to take bold steps. Cooperation right now between Israel and America and the PA on economic and security matters is at an all-time high. Now is the time, during this cease-fire, for Israel to look east to the West Bank, rather than south to Gaza, and reach out. It is time to work from a new perspective. Otherwise, it will all happen again, sooner and stronger and more deadly.

Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu ve'al kol Yisrael, ve-imru Amen. May the One who makes peace on high bring peace upon us and upon all Israel, and let us say Amen.

Temple Israel Members Organize a Great Neck Flashmob In Support of Jewish Pluralism In Israel

On Monday, October 22, at precisely 1 P.M., more than 50 men, women, and children from Temple Israel and nearby congregations took time out of their busy day to stand up for religious pluralism in Israel by joining in United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's "Global Sh'ma Flashmob." The participants united in order to give voice to their love of Israel and hope for its more inclusive recognition of Jewish practice.

The time line of social action leading up to the event was quite exciting and very 2012 Great Neck. United Synagogue—the international organization of Conservative Jewish congregations—created a Facebook page on the morning of Friday, October 19, to promote what was billed as the "Global Sh'ma Flashmob." Word spread on the Internet.

On Sunday afternoon, October 21, Temple Israel member Lori Oppenheimer heard about the opportunity and contacted Vice President Rebecca Yousefzadeh Sassouni, who immediately reached out to Senior Rabbi Howard Stecker and President Alan Klinger for their approval. Within hours, the Temple Israel staff mobilized to send a late-night weekend e-mail to the congregation asking for participation in the Flashmob.

Temple Israel Board member Dr. Zina Rutkin-Becker recognized the Flashmob as an opportunity to bring together synagogue communities in Great Neck. Due to her quick outreach and others' willingness to participate, the Flashmob included not only Rabbi Stecker and Director of Congregational Schools Rabbi Amy Roth, but also the clergy from Temple Beth-El and the Lake Success Jewish Center.

Rabbi Stecker welcomed his colleagues from Temple Beth-El, Senior Rabbis Tara and Meir Feldman, Associate Rabbi Devorah Marcus, and Cantor Lisa Hest, as well as Rabbi Michael Klayman of the Lake Success Jewish Center.

The crowd that assembled on short notice was noteworthy on many levels, as a cross section of Jewish individuals from Great Neck—male and female, young and old, Sephardi and Ashkenazi—all coming together in support of a common issue. The short but intense event boasted a robust rendering of "Sh'ma Yisrael" on the front steps of Temple Israel, as well as brief remarks by Rabbi Stecker and the other clergy.

"What occurred at the Kotel is a travesty of justice," Rabbi Stecker said. "It is the antithesis of righteousness. A woman should not have been arrested while singing 'Sh'ma Yisrael,' acknowledging the unity of God and the unity of Israel. She should have been encouraged to sing out, along with everyone else who was there."



The rabbis of three area congregations led a hora at the front steps of Temple Israel as supporters of religious pluralism in Israel applauded.



A large group of congregants from Temple Israel, Temple Beth-El and the Lake Success Jewish Center assembled, as a Flashmob on the front steps of Temple Israel, in support of Jewish pluralism in Israel.

The event culminated with a spontaneous and rousing rendition of "Am Yisrael Chai" ("The People of Israel Live") and a joyous hora in celebration of coming together as a community to participate in honor of a fervent love for Israel as the homeland for all Jews.

A video of the event is available on Temple Israel's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/TempleIsraelOfGreatNeck?fref=ts> and on Youtube.

United Synagogue had mobilized thousands of men and women across the world in hundreds of simultaneous Flashmobs, all

gathering to recite the "Sh'ma," to protest the recent arrest of Anat Hoffman, founder of Jerusalem-based Women of the Wall. It is a non-denominational group of Jewish women who gather at the Western Wall on the first day of every lunar month. Ms. Hoffman was arrested for leading a recitation of the "Sh'ma." She has been arrested many times before under current Israeli Supreme Court jurisprudence, which holds that the Western Wall is a gender-divided prayer space. Her latest arrest coincided with her participation in a prayer service held at the Wall by Hadassah in celebration of its centennial convention.

Report From the Front Lines: Temple Israel's Sister Congregation In Ashkelon Comes Under Fire

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lah permit us, during these difficult days, to open our doors to our members and to hold limited daily activities. Schools have been closed and it was not easy for the children to be at home for such a long period of time. Everyone—children and adults alike—were thirsty for routine, even during this time of war.

The children of the Kehillah, as well as other neighborhood children, have been coming to us since Monday for social and educational activities, led by a staff consisting of our own NOAM youth leaders, NOAM coordinators and graduates of NOAM programs. Volunteers from the Masorti Kibbutz Hannaton in the north of Israel and Mechinat Bina in Tel Aviv also came to help us. The sirens were still heard, in full force, but our children were in a safe place.

Sadly, we have enough safe areas in our Kehillah. Why sadly? Because these safe areas are a product of decades of being under siege.

On the eve of "Operation Cast Lead," in the year 2008, our Kehillah recruited contributions for building two fortified rooms within the property lines of our Kehillah. An underground bomb-shelter was built when the Kehillah was first built in the 1960s, and two sealed fortified rooms were built in the early 1990s, after the Gulf War, when we were threatened with gas attacks. One hundred and eighty children who come to Kehillat Netzach Israel on a daily basis to attend our Pre-School Program made these safety precautions mandatory. We cannot be complacent; we have to consider their safety as a primary consideration.

Even the neighborhood siren is located on the roof of our building. I am sad to say that our children have the "privilege" of being the first to know when a rocket is being fired in the direction of our neighborhood, Afridar, in the heart of the city of Ashkelon.

In one of these safe areas, adjoining the synagogue, we conducted services this past *Shabbat*. Two sirens were sounded during the prayers.

The first siren went off while the reader was reciting the blessing "Sim Shalom" ("Grant Peace") at the conclusion of the reader's repetition of the Amidah—a prayer that takes on extra significance under the circumstances.

The second siren also went off as if a sign from above. The *minyan* of people who had come to pray accompanied the Torah as it was being returned to the ark in the main synagogue. The reader had just concluded Psalm 29: "God will

grant strength to his people, God will bless his people with..." The last word, "peace," was cut off by the siren, but then completed within the safety of the shelter.

One of the decisions taken by the Kehillah when these shelters were put up was not to affix a *mezuzah* on the door posts. According to *halachah*, *mezuzot* are only affixed to permanent residences—not temporary

dwellings. We do not wish to look upon these bomb shelters as part of a "permanent" reality. God willing, these same spaces will be converted someday into classrooms for activities and not as a place to seek shelter from rockets. Only when this day comes, we will affix *mezuzot* as they should be. When that day comes, you are all invited.

May we hear of quieter times.

Guest Column: The One Word Sermon

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The first meaning of *teshuvah* is "regret." If I commit a wrong and wish to atone for it, I must first genuinely regret doing that act. There can be no *teshuvah* without regret.

So if I did something wrong, I must acknowledge it. I must be saddened because of the way I behaved. I must confess the error and pledge not to do it again.

If we sinned against God by not fulfilling his commandments or violating them, we must feel regret. The ritual of beating our breasts as we chant "*Al Heit*" is a visible expression of our regret for sinning. Our 24-hour fast signifies the intensity of our regret.

It seems to me that people have lost the ability to say, "I was wrong, please forgive me." When was the last time you heard anyone apologize for anything? I smirk when I read of politicians who want to "apologize" for what they said. Not that they lied, not that they said anything insulting—oh no!—they simply misspoke, whatever that means. Their public apology is usually phrased like this: If what I said offended someone and hurt their feelings, I apologize because that was not my intention. What an apology! Not that he said anything untruthful, but he apologizes for hurting someone's feelings. Not that he was wrong or has changed his position. He still believes what he said. He doesn't regret anything.

The first meaning of *teshuvah*, then, is to sincerely regret what we did or failed to do. Then we can become cleansed.

The second meaning of *teshuvah* is the second step in our becoming whole without the demoralizing misdeeds causing havoc on our soul and *neshamah*. *Teshuvah* means to turn around. You are heading in one direction, on a road that leads to shame, dishonor and disharmony. You realize this path will take you to spiritual catastrophe. You then turn around and head in a new direction, a road that leads to harmony and blessing. Are you familiar with the term *ba'al teshuvah*? It connotes someone who was not observant and then turned around and became a more observant Jew.

The third meaning of *teshuvah* is a reply to a question. You ask me a question, I respond, my *teshuvah*. Let me cite some well-known events, which called for a *teshuvah*. What is the first question and the first answer in the Torah? God asks, "Where is Abel, your brother?" Cain responds very callously, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

How do we answer the fundamental queries of life? We cannot provide a *teshuvah*, an answer, unless we ask a question. What have we made of our lives? What have we done with the gifts that God has given us? What have we done with the love, which we have received, from those dear to us? Have we set an example to our children of virtues that would inspire them to emulate us? Have we made the world better because we have been in it? Have we been worthy sons and daughters of our people? Are we our brother's keeper? Have our actions brought honor or embarrassment to our people?

We must provide a *teshuvah*. The answer is on our lips.

Please remember the operative word of these days, *teshuvah*. First we must repent and regret. We must admit our failures in the past and commit to the future. Do *teshuvah*. Secondly, we must turn around. We all know in our hearts if we must change directions. We know if the way we live now, our goals, need a new direction. Turn around and do *teshuvah*. Finally, ask yourself the hard questions about your lifestyle and your relationship with God and others. Then answer them with your *teshuvah*.

May this New Year be marked with *Teshuvah*. I offer this closing blessing.

May we break boundaries, tear down walls and build on the foundation of goodness inside us. May we reach out to each other rather than resist. May we practice gratitude for all we have rather than complain about our needs. May we share our talents and teach our children. And may we love with all our hearts, for that is the only way to love.

Amen.

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November 28, 2012

Dear Temple Israel Family:

We hope this letter finds you and your loved ones recovering from the aftermath of recent storms and restored by the Thanksgiving weekend. Even as we, here in Great Neck, continue to face varying difficulties, our extended family in Israel faces hardships of a different magnitude. We all hope that last week's cease fire agreement holds, but realize that the situation in Israel remains tenuous. We write to urge you to make a contribution to our synagogue's Israel Solidarity Fund, which will help provide support for our brothers and sisters in Israel.

Temple Israel of Great Neck and the Israel Affairs Committee has long recognized the importance of strengthening our connection to the people and State of Israel. The Synagogue actualized these connections in two important ways last year: establishment of the Israel Solidarity Fund, recognizing that support for Israel requires both commitment and capital; and initiation of a relationship with a particular Masorti kehillah in Ashkelon, Kehillat Netzach Israel.

Like our own, Kehillat Netzach Israel is a burgeoning Masorti (Conservative), multicultural, pluralistic, and egalitarian kehillah, boasting a pre-school, an after-school Tali school, a youth program, and a vibrant adult community. Until recently, our affiliation with our sister congregation was one of mutual visitation, shared correspondence between our students, exchanged gifts, and appreciation for all our commonalities. Netzach Israel has twice graciously hosted us, and we will continue to broaden and deepen our relationship.

Due to the escalation of rocket attacks in the region over the last couple weeks, our appreciation for Kehillat Netzach Israel, situated in Ashkelon in firing range from Gaza, became marked by abiding concern. News accounts did not capture the immediacy of the first-person accounts from Terri Davis, our lay liaison at Kehillat Netzach Israel who apprised us of the profound physical and emotional impact the situation had on her entire family. Schools and businesses were at a standstill. Members of Kehillat Netzach Israel spent days and nights in the shul's underground shelters, which they graciously opened to their neighbors.

Here in Great Neck, too, our families recently endured a period of darkness, powerlessness, and struggle for return to normalcy. In Ashkelon and Israel that struggle is even more acute. With your help, we can continue to utilize Israel Solidarity Fund contributions to fortify our extended family at Kehillat Netzach Israel, the Masorti movement, and Israel education here at our shul.

Very truly yours,

Rabbi Howard A. Stecker
Senior Rabbi

Alan M. Klinger
President

Hercel Harounian
Israel Affairs Committee Chair

TEMPLE ISRAEL FUND*In appreciation of:*

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

In honor of:

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Eleanor Askari, Ellen
Cooper, Dr. Madelyn
Gould, Fran and
Marc Langsner, and
Lori Oppenheimer
Joyce and Burton
Weston
Drs. Rena and
Jonathan Horwitz
The marriage of
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Dr. Monte Miller
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Scott Rothbaum, son of
Susan and Dr. Hal
Rothbaum, becoming a
Bar Mitzvah
Lucy Gerstein and
family
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Lori Oppenheimer
Laurie Berke-Weiss
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Ellen Cooper
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Receiving a High Holy
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Sandra Geller and
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The birth of Ruth Gluck
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Carol and Richard Winston

In memory of:

Beatrice Feder
Jane Dellis
Jean Rothbaum
Dr. Hal Rothbaum
Paul Rothbaum
Lucy Gerstein

From Generation to Generation



Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

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Rabbi Stecker's kindness
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Marylin and Dr. Allan
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Rabbi Stecker's
participation in the *Bar
Mitzvah* of their son,
Jordan
Brenda and Dr. Lance
Greiff

In memory of:

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In memory of:

Anna Berman
Irene Ashery

Congregation Thanks Kiddush Sponsors

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

Contributions toward the *kiddush* on September 29 were made by Rochelle and Ron Klempner in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Leah, and Lori and Maier Yeganeh in honor of the baby naming of their granddaughter, Brooke Suzette Hollander.

Contributions toward the *kiddush* on October 13 were made by Susan and Dr. Hal Rothbaum in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Scott, and Drs. Joy Steinfeld and Barry Shaktman in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Ethan.

The congregational *kiddush* on October 20 was sponsored by Brenda and Dr. Lance Greiff in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Jordan. A contribution toward the *kiddush* was made by Nancy and Larry Greengrass in honor of the *Auf Ruf* of their son, Seth, and Cara Band.

A contribution towards the *kiddush* on October 27 was made by Beth Stephens and Noah Smith in honor of the *B'nai Mitzvah* of their sons, Jesse and Rubin.

New Venue, New Playground

—Continued from page 4

that we must thank *Hashem* every day for all the good we enjoy. We dressed in full holiday regalia. Dozens of Thanksgiving projects came home—headaddresses, Native American vests, beaded necklaces, drums, Pilgrim costumes, pumpkin pie, edible Indian tee-pees, and totem poles and much, much more. Even more amazing was the scope of knowledge, which the children seemed to absorb—the reasons behind the journey to the New World, the struggle of the early settlers, the kindness of the Native Americans to the pilgrims, and the amazing addition to their vocabulary.

How exciting it is to see how much even the youngest toddlers learned. The children were able to process the events of the past week in the context of Thanksgiving, to be thankful we are all safe from the storm and that the support from our family and friends will always be there for us. We dined on succulent turkey, tangy cranberry sauce, corn, and of course, rice. A good time was had by all.

SABBATH SERVICES

—Continued from back page

Friday, December 14

Rosh Hodesh Tevet

Evening Service	4:15 P.M.
Shabbat Ha-Mishpachah Service and Dinner	6:00 P.M.

Saturday, December 15

Shabbat Hanukkah

Morning Service	8:45 A.M.
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Weekly Portion: Miketz

Genesis 41:1 – 44:17

Haftarah: Numbers 7:48 – 59; Zechariah 2:14 – 4:7

Sabbath Service Officers:

Steve Smolinsky and Dr. Madelyn Gould

Bat Mitzvah

TAYLOR KAPLAN

daughter of Anna and Darren Kaplan

<i>Machon</i> Alone Family Service	10:30 A.M.
Junior Congregation	10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service	11:00 A.M.
Mincha and <i>Ma'ariv</i>	3:50 P.M.
<i>Havdalah</i>	5:10 P.M.

D'VAR TORAH

—Continued from back page

interprets the dreams to mean that there will be seven years of plenty, followed by seven years of famine. Joseph advises Pharaoh to store up food during the years of plenty, as a reserve for the famine. Pharaoh designates Joseph to implement such a plan. When the famine comes, Jacob sends his sons to Egypt for food. By way of testing their character, Joseph, whom they don't recognize, although he recognizes them, puts his brothers through a series of tests involving their father and youngest brother, Benjamin. In these episodes we see the prediction of Joseph's dreams realized as God moves His plan inexorably forward through human agency.

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D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Vayishlah

Saturday, December 1

In this portion we conclude the independent stories about Jacob. In the remainder of the Book of Genesis his life is intertwined with the biography of Joseph. Jacob prepares to encounter Esau by dividing his camp as a safety precaution and sending a large gift of livestock to his brother. He wrestles all night with a mysterious assailant from whom he wrests a blessing at daybreak in the form of a change of name from Jacob to Israel. Following the successful meeting with Esau, Jacob travels on and settles down. His daughter, Dinah, is ravished by a local prince, and two of her brothers take fearful revenge. Other events serve to sever decisively the connection of the patriarchs with Mesopotamia. By the end of this portion, our focus is shifted from the lives of individuals to the emerging people of Israel.

Vayeshev

Saturday, December 8

The cycle of Joseph stories begins in this portion. Joseph, Jacob's favorite, angers his brothers by tattling and by recounting dreams in which he is clearly designated lord over his family. In retaliation, the brothers sell him into slavery and he is brought to Egypt. The story is interrupted at this point to recount an incident in the life of Judah. The narrative resumes with the account of Joseph's fortunes in Egypt. He is sold to a high official and becomes his major domo, but he runs afoul of his master's wife and is jailed. There, Joseph interprets the dreams of two fellow prisoners, Pharaoh's chief cup-bearer and chief baker. The cup-bearer is subsequently restored to his office, but he completely forgets about Joseph. The events of this story demonstrate the working out of God's carefully devised plan for His people and serve as the prelude to the drama of oppression and redemption, which is the heart of the Biblical narrative.

Miketz

Saturday, December 15

In this portion the Joseph narrative is continued after two years. Pharaoh has two dreams which no one can interpret. The cupbearer finally remembers Joseph, who is called from jail and

—Continued on page 11

SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, November 30

Evening Service 4:15 P.M.
Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Dinner 7:30 P.M.
For College Grads and Friends

Saturday, December 1

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.
Weekly Portion: Vayishlah; Genesis 32:4 – 36:43
Haftarah: Obadiah 1:1 – 21
Sabbath Service Officers: Gary Sazer and Andrew Bloom
Bat Mitzvah
ARIEL GOLD
daughter of Nina Mogilnik and Leonard Gold
Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.
Mincha and Ma'ariv 3:50 P.M.
Havdalah 5:10 P.M.

Friday, December 7

Evening Service 4:15 P.M.

Saturday, December 8 - Erev Hanukkah

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.
Weekly Portion: Vayeshev; Genesis 37:1 – 40:23
Haftarah: Amos 2:6 – 3:8
Sabbath Service Officers: Bracha Werber and Gary Sazer
Bat Mitzvah
EMILY CITRON
daughter of Barbara and Harold Citron

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.
Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.
"Shabbat Talk" 12:45 P.M.
Mincha and Ma'ariv 3:50 P.M.
Havdalah 4:09 P.M.

—Continued on page 11