



New Series Bringing Noted Authors to Temple Israel

Gina Nahai Speaking On November 4, Rabbi Tokayer On November 10



Author Gina Nahai

By Marc Katz, Editor

Best-selling author Gina Nahai will start off Temple Israel's new Author Series, sponsored by the congregation's adult education program, Temple Israel Lifelong Learning, or

TILL. She will discuss her just released book, "The Luminous Heart of Jonah S." on Tuesday, November 4, at 7:30 P.M. in the Sanctuary.

Rabbi Marvin Tokayer will discuss the work he has recently co-authored, "Pepper, Silk & Ivory," on Monday, November 10, at 8:15 P.M. In his book, released last month, he reveals the amazing stories of Jews who both benefitted from and contributed to the Far East, including the "uncrowned Jewish king of China," the indefatigable World War II refugees in Kobe, the baseball player who became an American spy in Japan, the Jew who served as Singapore's first prime minister, the amusing comedy of errors surrounding the Chinese Jews of Kaifeng, the extraordinary tale of the 16th century Marrano physician in India, Jewish contributors to Eastern music and the Jewish members of Mao Zedong's circle.

"TILL is bringing a fascinating series of noted Jewish authors to the congregation," said adult education chair Rebecca Friedman-Charry. "We will have the op-



Author Rabbi Marvin Tokayer

portunity to see and hear these authors up-close, interact with them, and receive answers to our questions about ideas they pose. It is a series not to be missed."

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TILL Is Planning a Selection of New Fall Adult Ed Programs

A wide selection of adult education opportunities is outlined in a new brochure available from Temple Israel. The pamphlet, called "Expand Your Jewish Horizons," is published by TILL, Temple Israel Lifelong Learning.

"TILL provides opportunities for all synagogue members to engage with Jewish teaching in a dynamic, inclusive and enjoyable environment," the brochure says in its introduction. "Events and classes are planned by members, for members, with input from our inspiring clergy. We have something for every age group..."

A featured program is "Creativity and Community," at 8:15 P.M. on January 15, which will explore creative responses to the challenges and needs of 21st Century American Jews. Rabbis Sara Hurwitz, David Ingber and Howard Stecker will discuss what synagogues should look like today, how a community can be constructed that will bring purpose to lives, how the Jewish community can reflect the many changes in society and which boundaries should be maintained and which should be reconsidered.

A series of programs with the Temple Israel clergy includes:

- "Did God Create the Universe? The Conflict Between Religion and Science" - The Torah says God created the universe. But, what about the Big Bang Theory? How does religion account for wonders in science, technology, and medicine? This course will look at classical Jewish approaches to the intersection of faith and science. Sessions will be held in members' homes on October 28, November 18, December 9 and January 6.
- "War and Peace in Jewish Tradition" - Rabbis Howard Stecker and Seth Adelson will read textual sources and discuss the thorny question of military engagement: under what circumstances may one defend oneself, when is a pre-emptive strike permitted, and how much force may be used? The fascinating discussion will meet on Tuesdays during the winter months.
- "Parenting with Jewish Values" - TI Bonds is co-sponsoring this discussion about Jewish parenting, including the advantages and challenges of raising children in Great Neck, as well as how to

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Giving Your Children What You Had With Your Support

By Rabbi Seth Adelson

By Alan Klinger

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Voice guest Column contains excerpts from Rabbi Seth Adelson's moving High Holy Day sermon.

Our people love questions. We love inquiry. You might argue that the entire enterprise of rabbinic Judaism is based on the asking of questions. For example: What does this mean? How do we do this? What does God want from us? How do we understand the Torah so that it is relevant to us, in this time and place?

The greatest mitzvah of parenthood is to let go.

The essential question of Yom Kippur is, "How can I be a better person?" But we might also broaden that question to the community to ask, "How can we be a better people?" Writ large, that latter question is multi-faceted. It could be about being part of and contributing to our community; it could be about Israel; it could be about how we interact with others.

It can also be about our children. What do we want them to learn? How can we as a community guide them so they grow up to be effective members of our community? This is a question, by the way, that transcends parenting

or grandparenting. Why do synagogues like Temple Israel subsidize their religious schools? Because we as Jews acknowledge that learning is the highest *mitzvah* of the lot, that more than anything else, it is our ancient custom of relaying our textual tradition from generation to generation that has maintained our people. Who are we without the next generation?

There are a few passages from Jewish text that tell us about raising children. The first is one with which most of us are familiar because it is found in the first paragraph of the *Shema* (Deut. 6:7): "You shall teach them to your children."

Now the word "them" here appears to refer to the text of the *Shema* itself, although it may very well imply the entire body of Jewish learning, beginning with the Torah and proceeding on to all the great works of the Jewish bookshelf—the Talmud, the *midrashim*, the centuries of commentary. This suggestion is reinforced by a statement in *Pirkei Avot* (5:23): "Yehuda ben Teima used to say: At the age of five, the study of Bible; at ten, the study of Mishnah; at 13, responsibility for the *mitzvot*; at 15, the study of Talmud..."

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FROM THE RABBI

Between the Dance Floor and Balcony

By Rabbi Howard Stecker

The past few weeks have been filled with the grandeur of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and the joy of Sukkot. We have spent a lot of time together as a community—praying together, confessing our wrongdoings together, eating together and catching up with family and friends. Following the holidays, we geared up for additional important gatherings, highlighted by the inspiring Great Neck Shabbat Project that brought together the Great Neck community as a whole.

Ron Heifetz, a scholar at the Harvard Kennedy School who specializes in leadership, uses the following metaphor to explain how we relate to the community in which we live. Sometimes we are on the dance floor, fully immersed in communal life. Perhaps we are literally dancing with the Torahs, enjoying a *Shabbat* dinner with the community or engaged in congregational singing.

Heifetz urges us to take some time to go

up on the balcony so that we can gain a different perspective. My take on this is that we need time alone to reflect on the experience of being with other people. This can occur during the events themselves, if we seize a

We need time alone to reflect on the experience of being with other people.

moment to step back and look on, or following the events as we consider their nature and impact in a more private setting.

On the balcony, we can evaluate the impact of the dance on us personally. We can determine if we want to dance differently next time—perhaps more vociferously or less so. We can consider whom to

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This column, by President Alan Klinger, contains excerpts from his Kol Nidre Appeal. Contributions can still be made by calling Temple Israel.

I start by expressing appreciation for your participation in last year's Kol Nidre appeal. Led by those on the poster boards outside, for the third consecutive year we crossed the \$600,000 threshold. For the reasons that will be laid out, I hope you'll agree as to the importance of, at the very least, meeting this level again because these funds form a major part of the synagogue's operating budget.

This is the fourth—and last—appeal I will be making to you. In thinking about how

We need to make sure that Jews see the value of Judaism.

to approach it this year, it struck me that we are facing a far different situation than in prior ones. We have in the past understandably looked to what was happening locally in our synagogue and community. This, of course, remains an important focus. But I think this year we need to look at the role of the synagogue in the context of what is also happening in the international and national arenas.

The world has changed. I remember Rabbi Waxman, years ago in his High Holiday sermon, forcefully positing that with Israel now a powerful entity and anti-Semitism being on the decline—especially in the United States—we were at risk of having the Jewish community splinter because there was no longer a unifying threat or concern to bind the Jewish people. Rabbi Waxman's thesis proved true on both ends: on one, Israel remained strong and Jews, particularly in America, thrived. On the other, we also saw increased polarization not only among the branches of Judaism, but also the start of a generational divide where not all, but many of the younger generation, having grown up where Israel's existence could seemingly be taken for granted, have become uncomfortable with that government's policies (the theme of the Beinart book many of us read together as a congregation).

But the events of the past several months have altered the world view. The war in Gaza showed Hamas better equipped militarily than many had thought. Who foresaw the numbers of rockets they had and the number of tunnels leading into Is-

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IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences
to the families of:

MELVILLE WEISER

esteemed member of Temple Israel

LESTER ZANDER

father of Stuart Zander

FRANCES SHERMAN

mother of Sherry Grodofsky

ARNOLD GOTTLIEB

father of Samuel Gottlieb

GRACE BARKAS

mother of Daryl Schulman

MILDRED PURO PITTMAN

mother of Sandy Rosen

ROBERT BRAUNSCHWEIG

husband of Evelyn Braunschweig,
father of Deborah and Martin Braunschweig
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

May their memories be for a blessing.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

Oct.	23-25	Great Neck <i>Shabbat</i> Project	
	26	Family <i>B'nai Mitzvah</i> Workshop II Led by Rabbi Adelson	10:30 A.M.
	28	TILL Program: "Did God Create the Universe? The Conflict Between Religion and Science"	8:15 P.M.
	30	Men's Club Meeting	7:30 P.M.
Nov.	2	Family <i>B'nai Mitzvah</i> Workshop III Led by Cantor Frieder	9:30 A.M.
	3	Congregational Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	4	Author Series Presentation with Gina Nahai	7:30 P.M.
	4	Waxman Youth House Midnight Run	
	9	Kristallnacht	
	9	Shalom Club Kristallnacht Commemoration	
	9	New Member Welcome Program	10:00 A.M.
	10	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 A.M.
	10	Author Series Presentation with Rabbi Marvin Tokayer	8:15 P.M.
	15	<i>Shabbat</i> Morning Group <i>Aliyah</i>	9:00 A.M.
	16	Men's Club Blood Drive	8:30 A.M.
	16	Shalom Club Dinner Meeting	6:00 P.M.
	17	"Heroes to Heroes" Program Sponsored by Sisterhood	Noon
	18	TILL Program: "Did God Create the Universe? The Conflict Between Religion and Science"	8:15 P.M.
	19	Temple Israel Players Pre-Show Cast Gathering	7:30 P.M.
	20	Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.

MAZAL TOV TO...

- Susan and Jonathan Tillem on the birth of their grandson, Jordan Kenneth Wolfson.
- Nancy and Manny Alani on the birth of their twin granddaughters, Livia and Noa Alani.
- Donna and Larry Ludwig on the birth of their granddaughter, Rachel Bina Ludwig-Brown.

DAILY MINYAN TIMES

Mon. & Thur.	6:45 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Tues. & Wed.	7:00 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Friday, Oct. 24	6:45 A.M.	6:00 P.M.
Friday, Oct. 31	7:00 A.M.	5:45 P.M.
Sat., Oct. 25	9:00 A.M.	5:20 P.M.
Sat., Nov. 1	9:00 A.M.	5:15 P.M.
Sunday	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Friday, Oct. 24.....	5:44 P.M.
Friday, Oct. 31.....	5:35 P.M.

Congregational Meeting

November 3 8:15 P.M.
Crystal Ballroom

Calling all...

- > Actors > Singers
- > Dancers > Set Designers
- > Set Builders

You are invited to a
Wine & Cheese Party
with the Temple Israel Players!
November 19 • 7:30 P.M.
Crystal Ballroom

Great Neck Shabbat Project

Schedule of Events October 23-25

Thursday, October 23 Knead Challah Together 7-10:30 P.M.

Challah Workshop at Leonard's Palazzo, 555 Northern Boulevard, Great Neck
Advance registration and fee. RSVP to greatneckshabbatproject@gmail.com. \$18 per family by check to: Temple Israel of Great Neck. Write "GN Shabbat Project" on check.

Friday, October 24 Welcome Shabbat Together

Oneg Shabbat Early childhood students and families in Multipurpose Room. 5 P.M.

Music, singing, dancing, snacks.

Community N'ranenah Evening Service in Crystal Ballroom, 6 P.M. Singing, dancing and *Shabbat ruach*.

Community Dinner in Grand Ballroom, 7:15 P.M. Babysitting available. 7-9 P.M.

Community Oneg at Great Neck Synagogue, 9:30 P.M. Complimentary dessert, coffee and inter-denominational *shiurim* (study sessions) led by community clergy, including Rabbis Stecker and Adelson.

Saturday, October 25 Pray, Play, Learn and Schmooze Together

Morning services in Sanctuary, 9 A.M. Congregational *kiddush* in Crystal Ballroom, Noon

"**Shabbat HaMishpahah, Camp-Style**" for Grades K-6 led by 5th and 6th grades

in Multipurpose Room, 10:15 A.M. Family *kiddish* in Multipurpose Room, Noon

*Babysitting Available 10 A.M.-Noon

Tot Shabbat for early childhood students with parents in Blue Room, 11 A.M.

Youth House for 7th-12th grades in Youth House, 10:30 A.M. Family *kiddish* in Multipurpose Room, Noon

"**Shabbat in the Park**" at Allenwood Park, Allenwood Road, 1-3 P.M. All ages welcome for non-competitive sports, yoga, learning, nature walk, board and card games, scavenger hunt. Rain location: Temple Israel

Youth House Community Basketball at Temple Beth-El, 7th-12th grades, 1-3 P.M.

"**Club Shabbat**" at Temple Israel, programs organized by Temple Israel arms, clubs and groups, 1-3 P.M.

Schmoozing, Board Games and Coffee for all ages in Youth House, 4-5 P.M.

Minhah in Multipurpose Room, 5 P.M.

Congregational Catered Dairy Meal (Se'udah Shelishit) in Crystal Ballroom, 5:30 P.M. RSVP necessary, no charge.

Ma'ariv in Crystal Ballroom, 6:29 P.M.

Congregational Havdalah in Crystal Ballroom, 6:42 P.M.

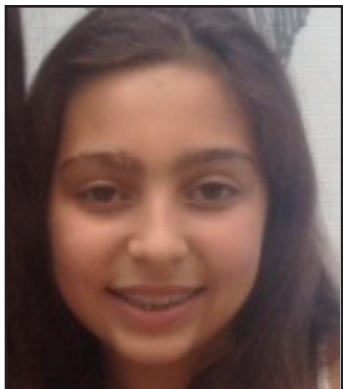
Community Havdalah and Motza'ei Shabbat Concert featuring renowned musician Sandy Shemuely and his band, at Great Neck North Middle School, 77 Polo Road, 8 P.M. Family seating on a first come-first serve basis, no charge.

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

FROM THE BETH HAGAN NURSERY SCHOOL

Age-Appropriate Judaism

By Rachel Mathless



Juliet Eshaghoff

Juliet Shirin Eshaghoff will be celebrating her *Bat Mitzvah* on November 1. She is the daughter of Janet Esagoff Goldfarb and Roland Eshaghoff and has three brothers, Samuel, 22, David, 20, and Cyrus, 15. Juliet is an eighth grade student at Great Neck North Middle School and enjoys gymnastics and baking. She plans to continue attending the Waxman High School and Youth House. Juliet and her family travel to Israel often and planned a trip this past summer, which was postponed. She is looking forward to another trip soon.



Pellegria Cronin

Pellegria Cronin will be called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah* on November 8. She is the daughter of Joanna and Steven Cronin and has two brothers, Jackson, 11, and Luke, 9. Pellegria is an eighth grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. She is a competitive ice skater and received the Bronze Medal in the 2012 National Showcase. She enjoys playing basketball, dancing, and singing at charity events. Pellegria plans to continue attending the Waxman High School and Youth House.

TILL Is Planning a Selection of New Fall Adult Education Programs, Talks

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encourage long-term Jewish values. The discussion will be held in the spring.

- "Shabbat Up Close and Personal: A Discussion-Based Service with Rabbi Seth Adelson" - For worshippers seeking more meaning from *tefillah*, this heavily abridged *Shabbat* service allows plenty of time for discussion. One theme is selected each session, such as gratitude, love, redemption, philosophy, and mysticism, and discussion revolves around how the theme is invoked in the *Shabbat* morning service. The class will meet on the first *Shabbat* of the month at 10:30 A.M. beginning in November.
- "Siddur Study" - Study passages from the *Shabbat* prayer book in an intimate setting with Rabbi Marim D. Charry monthly, before the Havurah service, at 9:30 A.M.
- "Torah and Tradition" - Study the Book of Ezekiel in depth with Rabbi Charry. The text will be read in English, accompanied by extensive discussion of the details of selected chapters. Knowledge of Hebrew is not required. The class meets on Wednesdays from 9:30-11 A.M.
- "Jews and the News" - Rabbi Stecker leads discussions based on the issues of the day, including local and international news of interest to the American Jewish community. The class meets on Tuesdays at 11 A.M. on November 4 and 18, December 2, January 13 and 27, and throughout the spring.

For a print copy of the TILL brochure, detailing these and other course selections, visit the Temple Israel office, or for an emailed version of the brochure call Kathy in the Temple Israel office, 482-7800.

The 2014-2015 school year has gotten off to a great start! We have a record enrollment and have hired three new teachers, rounding out our already superb staff. We spent several days involved on professional development, allowing us to remain on the cutting edge of "best practices" for early childhood education.

Beth HaGan students experienced the holidays in a very "hands-on" way this season. We made round challahs and shofars for Rosh Hashanah. Each class made creative, utilitarian honey dishes and centerpieces of bees and apples, which graced holiday tables all over Great Neck. We read many books about the holidays and about forgiveness.

We truly enjoyed the PTA sponsored Succah decorating party, which took place *erev* Succot. We enjoyed the beautiful decoration each day of *Chol Hamoed*. We ate lunch and snacks in the Succah. We danced and shook the lulav and etrog. We had a special sing-along with our rabbis in honor of Simchat Torah and we marched around with our original, creative flags and handmade Torahs.

We had our first entertainer visit during Sukkot. Yaacov from Small Wonder Puppet Theatre presented three mini-puppet shows which delighted all the children. There are seven other special events planned for the school year.

Now that the holidays are over, we are turning to the study of fall, autumn colors, Thanksgiving, preparation for winter, and hibernation. All classes have begun their exploration of the *parsha* and corresponding projects. Every class enjoyed the story of creation, and each group displayed their knowledge in a unique and visually beautiful way. It is amazing how many different ways Beth HaGan teachers can build an ark! We learned about kosher and non-kosher animals as well as how Noah and his family organized and orchestrated their survival for the duration of the flood. We will continue with *Parshat Hashavuh* whenever possible. Teachers are able to present even the most difficult concepts in an age-appropriate manner and the children look forward to this special Bible Story Time.

Friday continues to be a magical time at Beth HaGan. From the moment the fresh dough is brought into school until the last child leaves, the spirit of *Shabbat* transcends into our building, inspiring and exciting, and permeating the environment, bombarding the senses. Come join us and experience the joy.



Beth HaGan Seals learned about Sukkot in the Temple Israel sukkah.

**RABBI STECKER'S
DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In appreciation of:

Rabbi Stecker's part in the *bris* of his grandson, Morris Lazer Weitzman
Howard Weitzman
Rabbi Stecker's help with Daniel's *Bar Mitzvah*
Audrey and Eric Itzkowitz
Rabbi Stecker's comfort during a time of mourning
Varda and Alan Solomon
Rabbi Stecker's thoughtful kindness
Roberta Harounian
Rabbi Stecker's support and for officiating at the funeral of Edward Horowitz
Helene and Kenneth Horowitz
Beverly Horowitz
Morah Ronnie Katz and Tot *Shabbat*
Nicole and Gary Mazer
Rabbi Stecker's kindness
Grayce Falow
Rabbi Stecker's Rosh Hashanah sermon
Maxine Vogel
Rabbi Stecker's kindness and thoughtfulness, and for officiating at the funeral for Paul Burstein
Carol Burstein and family

In honor of:

Rachel Dicker, daughter of Barbara and Daniel Dicker, graduating from Middlebury College
Elaine Silberglait
The baby naming of Juliet Brooks
The Brooks Family
Toby Katz for receiving the Woman's League for Conservative Judaism's "Woman of Achievement Award"
The marriage of Aviva Panzer, daughter of Ofra and Robert Panzer, and Abraham Katz, son of Barbara and Henry Katz
New Board members Veronica Bisek Lurvey, Sima Taid, Toby Katz, Mark Putter and Susan Brustein
Rebecca and Sassan Sassouni
Her special birthday
Lorraine Weissbach
Their 64th wedding anniversary
Janice and David Epstein
Shavuot
Jacqueline and Bert Eshaghpour
The *bris* of Morris Lazer Alexa and Matthew Weitzman
Carrying the Torah on *Shabbat*
Leslie Kahn

From Generation to Generation



Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

In memory of:

Jack Peck
Larry Sisserman
Jean and Michael Becker and family
Rouhoullah Monasebian
Shahnaz Goldman
Harold Horowitz
Daryl B. Schulman
H. Bert Mack
David Mack
Annette Fischer
Louis Fischer
Murray Zahler
Gail Zahler
Mitchell Brucker, M.D.
Karen R. Covitt
Abraham Damast
Donald Damast
Rose and Morris Danzig
Arthur Anderman
William Pincus
Jillian Pincus
Louis Trebatch
Mae Trebatch
Elaine Silberglait
Martin Ikenson
Maxine Vogel
Jerome Goldstein
Eileen Putterman
Miriam Teitelbaum
Marilyn Rogers
Gloria and Harold Rabinowitz
Murray Hysen
Arlene Hysen
George Rudin
Sondra and David Mack
Jack Sahn
Thelma Sahn
Ruth Adise
Pepi and Stuart Stein
Josephine P. Laitman
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Trudy Schwartz
Sharyn Kranzler
Madelyn Gould
Lillian Brucker
Karen R. Covitt
Harry Horowitz
Maxine Vogel
Joseph Oberstein
Irene T. Wachter-Kahn
Jerome Smolinsky
Shahnaz and Neil Goldman
Bruce Pernick
Charlotte Fainblatt
Paul Burstein
Carol Burstein

Warren Rodnick
Diane and Nessim Levy

For the recovery of:

Kenneth M. Leff
Jeff Fleit

Contributions:

Charles Dimston
The Damaghi family

**CANTOR FRIEDER'S
DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In appreciation of:

Cantor Frieder's participation in the funeral of their father and husband
Helene and Kenneth Horowitz
Beverly Horowitz
Cantor Frieder's work with their children
The Tefillah Enrichment Class
Cantor Frieder's help with preparing their son, Daniel, for his *Bar Mitzvah*
Audrey and Eric Itzkowitz

In honor of:

Cantor Frieder
The Frankel family

**RABBI ADELSON'S
DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In appreciation of:

Being invited to be part of the *Shabbat* Morning Group *Aliyah* for her birthday
Renee Kimelman
Rabbi Adelson for attending and assisting with their grandson's *bris*
Madelyn and Robert Gould
Rabbi Adelson for officiating at their wedding
Brooke R. Peltz and Toby M. Cohen
Rabbi Adelson for officiating at their son's wedding
Sandra R. Geller and Evan Cooper
Rabbi Adelson for officiating at the funeral for Samuel Dyckman
The Dyckman and Lefkowitz families

Rabbi Adelson for officiating at their *Auf Ruf*
Christine Ryan and Theodore Hertzberg
Rabbi Adelson for his warmth and kindness during an unusual situation
Randi Barron

In honor of:

The marriage of Howard Langsner, son of Fran and Marc Langsner, to Lisa Friedman
The marriage of Abraham Katz, son of Barbara and Henry Katz, to Aviva Panzer, daughter of Ofra and Robert Panzer
Jeffrey Fleit

For the recovery of:

Ronnie Katz
Jean and Michael S. Becker

In memory of:

Anita Freudman
Paul Freudman
Warren Rodnick
Sonya and Bernard Desatnick

Contributions

Charles Dimston
The Temple Israel
EmptiNesters

**WAXMAN HIGH SCHOOL AND
YOUTH HOUSE FUND**

In appreciation of:

Sherry Husney's and Daniel Mishkin's help in preparing their son, Daniel, for his *Bar Mitzvah*
Audrey and Eric Itzkowitz

In honor of:

The birth of William Gould, grandson of Madelyn and Robert Gould
The marriage of Aviva Panzer, daughter of Ofra and Robert Panzer, and Abraham Katz, son of Barbara and Henry Katz
The baby naming of Mika Ahava Lalezarian, granddaughter of Flora and Frank Lalezarian
The marriage of Howard Langsner, son of Fran and Marc Langsner, to Lisa Friedman
The birth of Ari Jonah Bloom, grandson of Monika and Paul Bloom
Daniella Golian becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*
Parvenah and Parviz Khodadadian
Their son, Jacob, graduating from George Washington University with honors
Audrey and Eric Itzkowitz

From the President: With Your Support...

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rael with the risk of kidnappings and killings? Yes, Israel defended herself, but the issue of proportionality became a controversial—and dividing—point. (At the risk of becoming too political, the tally would look quite different if you compared the number of rockets launched by Hamas with those launched by Israel, for the fact that Hamas' firings proved unsuccessful does not negate their harmful intent.) Israel's security should not, any longer, be taken for granted.

Nor can we now view anti-Semitism as a thing of the past. While many initially made the point that challenging the policies of the State of Israel did not mean you were necessarily anti-Semitic, by this point, believe most concede that the reaction of people in many countries in Europe, in the United States, and even in New York, with shouts of death to the Jews or vandalizing Jewish houses of worship or places of business, marks a resurgence of anti-Semitism.

So, we are now faced with an array of challenges—the security of Israel (with Iran lurking in the background), the rise of anti-Semitism, a decline in institutional Jewish life and a developing divide between generations as to the policies of Israel and the role of religion. That being said, what is the relevance to this Kol Nidre appeal? I believe the relevance is that, to address these challenges, we need to focus on “renewal,” so that people see meaning and purpose in living Jewish lives. We need to make sure that Jews see the value of Judaism, of Jewish ethical teachings and Jewish culture. This starts with the synagogue, as a building block for knowledge. It continues with the synagogue as a building block for connections. For in this way we can demonstrate what our religion and its teachings has to offer—in sum, the value of Jewish identity. This should be our response to those who question the relevance of Judaism generally and the synagogue in particular.

The question then reduces to how the synagogue—and here we turn to Temple Israel—accomplishes this. You do that by having as many portals of entry as you can, to attract and retain people. For some, the attraction will be through prayer. We have worked this year to Re-Imagine our prayer service to make it more meaningful and participatory for today's population, while retaining the core of our tradition and practice.

For some, the connection will be through adult educational programs. We have worked to broaden the range of speakers, including this year bringing in the editor of the Forward, bringing in a lawyer specializing on the recovery of art stolen in the Nazi era, and bringing in professors speaking on Jewish *halakhic* guidance for the 21st century family and on the implications of the Pew Report mentioned earlier. We have continued a film

series depicting issues of life in Israel. For this coming year, we have plans for speakers from the USCJ, the ADL, and prominent rabbis from innovative synagogues to share their thoughts, with additional speakers in the works, and a new series of films.

For others, it will be through connections to Israel. This past year we had, once again, the largest Conservative delegation in the Celebrate Israel Parade; we sent a large contingent to the recent UN rally in support of Israel; in the midst of the Gaza conflict we raised money for Israeli organizations, including our sister congregation in Ashkelon, through an emergency appeal. This past year, with the assistance of synagogue members, we also sponsored a successful Youth House trip to the Czech Republic and Israel. Plans are in the works for a family trip to Israel this summer in which Rabbi Stecker will participate. This is all to strengthen connections.

For others, the attraction is about friends. Our affinity groups, the Shalom Club, the EmptiNesters and TI Bonds continue to thrive, with the Shalom Club recently celebrating its 52nd birthday; EmptiNesters having dozens of congregants participate in a fall retreat led by Rabbi Adelson addressing the whys and hows of continuing Jewish life in this next phase of life; and TI Bonds, those with children still at home, having events ranging from a health and wellness program featuring yoga and breathing exercises, to a festive barbecue

(that might not have been as healthy).

We continue to strengthen the school offerings for our children, improving the course of study and adding extracurricular programs ranging from a Religious School choir with Cantor Frieder, to *tikkun olam* type options for our high school youth. We recently offered a presentation for those college-bound on how to handle the Palestinian situation when dealing with occurrences on campus.

In sum, we are not one of those congregations at risk of going out of business. We are blessed with talented clergy and staff. But, we face the same challenges detailed in the Pew Report. We also, and this is not news to you, feel the pressure of the changing demographics of Great Neck. That is why we need your support—including tonight, financial—to maintain and expand the programs and activities we offer so that we can provide effective “services,” both in the religious and secular sense, to our congregation. All these programs and activities cost money, and the results of the Kol Nidre Appeal go directly to support the operating expenses of the *shul*. We want to make sure that Temple Israel is here, as a bulwark for a strong Conservative, egalitarian approach to Judaism, for many years to come. I am pleased to report that virtually every member of the Board of Trustees has already pledged to support this appeal. Please join us to make sure that we can provide what is needed to maintain our Jewish way of life.

Series Bringing Noted Authors to Temple Israel

—Continued from front page

Books will be available for purchase and signing by the authors at both events.

Ms. Nahai, the award-winning Iranian author, columnist, and professor, has had her novels translated into 18 languages. Her work has been selected among the “Best Books of the Year” by the Los Angeles Times and Chicago Tribune. She is a frequent lecturer on the politics of pre- and post-revolutionary Iran. Her new novel asks the question: “What do you gain—and lose—when you shed one culture in favor of another?” Going from Tehran to Los Angeles, it is a sweeping saga that tells the story of an Iranian Jewish family tormented for decades. The story explores the history of the Los Angeles Iranian Jewish community.

The presentation, chaired by TILL member Neda Sedgh, is co-sponsored by SHAI, the Sephardic Heritage Alliance.

Rabbi Tokayer: November 10

After his ordination as a rabbi, Marvin Tokayer served as the United States Air Force chaplain in Japan. Upon discharge, he returned to Tokyo to serve for eight years as the rabbi for the Jewish community of Japan. He wrote 20 books in Japanese, including several bestsellers, discovered literally the last of the Chinese Jews, located a long-lost Jewish cemetery in Nagasaki, contributed to the Encyclopedia Judaica, acted as a bridge for many travelers between East and West, served the needs of his congregation, and became spellbound by the threads of a story which he began piecing together. After his time in Japan, he founded and led the Cherry Lane Minyan, a Great Neck congregation that he led for 14 years.

In a review of Rabbi Tokayer's new book, Amazon said: “...we tend to assume that Jewish history is to be found in the Middle East, Europe, North Africa, and the Americas—but not in the Far East. ‘Pepper, Silk & Ivory’ has discovered that missing page, revealing the amazing stories of Jews who both benefitted from and contributed to the Far East. Consummate story teller Marvin Tokayer, Lifetime Honorary Rabbi of Japan's Jewish community, draws on a lifetime of personal experiences and a wealth of knowledge as he...weaves together the characters and history of the Jews of the Far East into this fascinating book.”

The presentation, chaired by Ms. Charry, is co-sponsored by the Shalom Club.

For further information about the Author Series, call the Temple Israel office, 482-7800.

Guest Column: Giving Your Children What You Had

—Continued from page 2

A congregant of mine at my last position, before I came to Great Neck, told me the following: "Parenting is about learning to let go. We cannot always be there for our children. We teach them our values, we fill them with useful information, and then we leave them alone. We cannot always be there to hover over them in case they fall or make a mistake."

We have to be careful, ladies and gentlemen, not to let our love stifle our children. Teach them to swim; don't be there with the life jacket, the noodle, the pole and the canoe. We have to give them independence. That is what raising the next generation is all about.

I was chatting over this sermon idea with Rabbi Eckstein a few weeks ago, and he said something to me which I never would have come up with myself, but I think works so well here. He pointed out to me that parents will often say that they want to give their children what they didn't have growing up. But what we should say instead is, "I want to give them what I did have."

Your parents may not have been able to give you a Lexus or a Caribbean vacation. But what did they give you? Was it love? Was it decent, but not fancy, home-cooked food? Was it their time? Was it an emphasis on the importance of family? Was it a love of reading, or of helping the neighbor in need, or of singing or building things in the garage or digging in the garden or playing in the great outdoors?

Was it punishment when you misbehaved? Was it shame?

Was it Judaism? Did they bring you to the synagogue, on the High Holidays? On *Shabbat*? Was it a love of the Divine, of things unseen?

Was it a sense of purpose, of belonging? Was it the drive to succeed?

Dr. Wendy Mogel is an author who does marvelously what each of us should do: she uses the texts of Jewish tradition to teach us about our lives today. In particular, she has written books on parenting that see children and their behavior through the lens of ancient Jewish texts. In her book, "The Blessing of a Skinned Knee," she points to a classic statement of Jewish law, from the so-called "Holiness Code" of Leviticus (19:14): Do not put a stumbling block in front of the blind. (This is one of those classic passages that simply cries out for interpretation. Rashi tells us that this can refer to anybody

who is blind in a certain way, not necessarily one who cannot physically see).

But Dr. Mogel uses this passage to refer to our children, and in doing so I think that she sums up all of this quite nicely:

"Keeping too close an eye on our children is a stumbling block. If they don't have the chance to be bad, they can't choose to be good. If they don't have the chance to fail, they can't learn. And if they aren't allowed to face scary situations, they'll grow up to be frightened of life's simplest challenges."

Our next generation is indeed precious; they will carry our body of learning, practice and values into the future. But we cannot treat them like they are precious. We have to teach them to swim. We have to give them the independence that they need to flourish.

The greatest *mitzvah* of parenthood is to let go. Don't give your children what you didn't have; give them what you did have.

Between the Dance Floor and Balcony

—Continued from page 2

invite to the dance, or how the dance itself might look different.

As with many things in life, proper balance generally yields the most satisfying outcome. Too little balcony and our participation may become rote. Too little dance floor and we may miss out on feeling part of the action.

We are not the first ones to straddle participation and contemplation. As we read recently in the Torah, Moses took time out from being with the Israelites to seek insight from God regarding the purpose of his overall mission. "Show me your essence," he asked God in an ultimate balcony moment.

With the fall holiday season behind us and a full year of Temple Israel activities ahead, I invite each of us to increase our commitment to the dance floor as well as the balcony.

Based on my own experience with our community, I am confident that time spent in both places will increase our appetite for the dance.

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D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Noah

Saturday, October 25

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 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—after a generation—to Abraham.

Lekh-Lekha

Saturday, November 1

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.

SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, October 24 - Rosh Hodesh Heshvan

Community N'ranenah / Evening Service 6:00 P.M.

Saturday, October 25 - Rosh Hodesh Heshvan

Morning Service 9:00 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Noah

Genesis 6:9-11:32; Numbers 28:9-15 *Haftarah*: Isaiah 66:1 – 24; 66:23

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters: Andy Katz,

Zina Rutkin-Becker, Ofra Panzer, Irene Tannenholtz-Marcus

Bar Mitzvah: ETHAN CITRON

son of Barbara and Harold Citron

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Minhah 5:00 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 5:30 P.M.

Ma'ariv 6:29 P.M.

Havdalah 6:42 P.M.

Friday, October 31

Evening Service 5:45 P.M.

Saturday, November 1

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:

Madelyn Gould, Rachel Geula, Keyvan Frouzan, Laura Gal

Bat Mitzvah: JULIET ESHAGHOFF

daughter of Janet Esagoff Goldfarb and Roland Eshaghoff

Shabbat Up Close and Personal 10:30 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Minhah 5:15 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 5:45 P.M.

Ma'ariv 6:19 P.M.

Havdalah 6:34 P.M.