



## *The Steckers: Looking Back at Ten Years at Temple Israel*

By Marc Katz, Editor

Deanna and Rabbi Howard Stecker see a very bright future for Temple Israel of Great Neck.

"The Great Neck community continues to crave a fully egalitarian approach to Judaism that reflects the best that Judaism and modernity have to offer," said Rabbi Stecker. "At Temple Israel we embrace both with equal passion."

As the congregation marks ten years under the Steckers' spiritual leadership, the couple looked back at their tenure with a sense of accomplishment and ahead to an exciting future. "Yes, we do have a very bright future at Temple Israel. We will not look like the Temple Israel of a generation ago, and we shouldn't," Rabbi Stecker added. "We must work hard to strengthen our synagogue as the place where Jews of all ages, from a variety of background, find both old and new ways to live meaningfully as American Jews."

The Steckers will be honored at the congregation's 49th Annual Dinner Dance, to be held Saturday evening, December 7, in the Grand Ballroom. "This will be an opportunity for the entire Temple Israel community to be able to come together to thank the Steckers for their efforts," said President Alan Klinger. "They have taken us to a new place as a congregation, and we all have reason to show our appreciation. I hope the entire congregation will participate."

A journal, being published in coordi-

nation with the dinner dance, will offer an opportunity for members of the congregation and the greater community to express personal messages to the Steckers in their ads. "You can tell of ways the Steckers have touched the lives of you and your family," said Dinner Dance Co-Chair Andrew Bloom. "Perhaps they played a significant role in a family lifecycle event. This journal will give everyone a way to express their personal appreciation."



Invitations and journal ad forms will be mailed to the congregation shortly. Journal ad prices start at only \$100. Advertisers placing a full page ad will receive two complimentary tickets to the dinner.

Steven Markowitz was president of Temple Israel from 2001-2003, the period of Rabbi Mordecai Waxman's retirement and passing, and the search and ultimate selection and hiring of Rabbi Stecker as the permanent senior rabbi of the congregation.

He noted how pleased he was with how things had worked out over the ten ensuing years. "I remember how ironic it was that for two years we literally searched all over the world for a new rabbi who could meet our standards and expectations, and how we wound up hiring someone from down the road. From his first sermon delivered to the congregation during the search period, and he and Deanna's interactions with the Board and membership,

we knew we had the right man for the job, and time has validated our choice."

Deanna and Rabbi Stecker moved to Great Neck with their three young sons, Joshua, Daniel, and Zachary, in December 2003. Rabbi Stecker had served the Jewish Community Center of West Hempstead, and for four years prior was the assistant rabbi at the Shelter Rock Jewish Center, Roslyn. Deanna is the coordinator of learning support at the Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan. Passionate about issues of special education in

the Jewish community, she has been involved in a number of aspects of Temple Israel life, particularly in the development of the synagogue's new website.

"This is a unique community because of its diversity and its degree of sophistication about Judaism and other matters," Rabbi Stecker said. "It is challenging in many ways."

But is it what the Steckers expected

—Continued on page 5

## How to Find Peace

By Rabbi Abraham B. Eckstein

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Rabbi Abraham B. Eckstein, the former Rabbi of the Little Neck Jewish Center, led one of the congregation's High Holy Day services. This Guest Column contains excerpts from his sermon.

How grateful and thankful we should be that we Jews have these High Holy Days, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Their advent compels us to stop our frenzied running to pause and reflect upon our lives. What did we accomplish this past year? Did we frivolously waste time? Do we look into our hearts and see the dark secrets and sins

### *Do any of us have debts we haven't paid?*

of the past year? Can we resolve to draw closer to God and to one another in this coming year?

If not for these holy days, many of us would never stop and examine the condition of our lives. We are just too busy.

The word, *shalom*, plays a critical role in our liturgy. Every Kaddish ends with *oseh shalom*, every *Amidah* ends with *oseh ha shalom*, every meal ends with *hashem yi varech et amo b'shalom*.

FROM THE RABBI

## Singing and Dancing Our Vision

By Rabbi Howard Stecker

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Rabbi Stecker's column did not appear in its entirety in all editions of the last issue of The Voice due to a printing error. The full text is in this issue.

I imagine that each of us could identify a number of highlights from the expansive range of holidays that we shared together over the past month. I would like to mention a few from Temple Israel's recent celebration of Simhat Torah, the day which Rabbi Yitz Greenberg describes as the "coda of joy" at the end of the fall cycle of Jewish holidays. More precisely, I want to reflect on the highlights that bring our vision to life.

On Simhat Torah night, following much joyous dancing, a large group of men, women and children gathered around one of our historic Iraqi Torahs as Simon Kashfi, a teen from our congregation, chanted passages from the final portion of the Torah. Everyone present had the opportunity to recite the blessings before and after he read each passage. At one point, I took a mental snapshot of him, pointing to the words and singing the melody while surrounded by so many of Temple Israel's children.

Over at the Youth House, Temple Israel

On these High Holy Days we pray not only for a year of *chaim*, life, but a year of *shalom*, peace.

Let us examine this simple word *shalom* and strive for *chaim shel shalom*, a life of peace. The first meaning of *shalom* is peace. We pray that God will bless us with peace.

But what manner of peace do we mean? There is the universal peace the prophet foretold. "Nations shall not lift up sword against one another, neither shall they learn war anymore." We need God's help to fashion such a world. He must open the hearts and eyes of the world's leaders so that they live in harmony.

But there is another *shalom* which God cannot control, whether there is *shalom* in our hearts and our homes and in our relationships. Peace only we can create. Only we can control what we say and what we don't say, what we do and what we don't do, whether we will erect walls or

—Continued on page 6

## Mitzvah Rewards

By Toby Katz

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Congregant Toby Katz relays a moving experience in this Voice Guest Column. President Alan Klinger's column will resume following his return from the United Synagogue convention.

Note: For this article, we're defining the word *mitzvah* in its broadest sense; including both "commandment" and "good deed."

Question: What is the reward for performing a *mitzvah*? Answer: The opportunity to perform another *mitzvah*.

On a recent Tuesday evening, we had eight people in attendance at the daily *minyan*. With the exception of Rabbi Adelson, each of us was either saying Kaddish or observing a *yahrzeit*. Without a *minyan*, we

### *If you can make any of the evening minyanim, please do so.*

### *It's a mitzvah!*

couldn't recite the Mourner's Kaddish.

The only other event in the building was the folk dancing class, so we sent a representative to ask for two volunteers to complete our *minyan*.

We explained to the dance class that seven people are saying Kaddish and completing the *minyan* would be a great *mitzvah*, enabling the seven of us to fulfill our obligation to our loved ones.

Two women volunteered to come. On the way, one of the women confided that she's Orthodox and has attended Orthodox *shuls* all of her life. As such, she was never counted when the *shul* needed a *minyan*. "It feels very, very strange to be counted in a *minyan*" she said.

After the service (with the requisite ten Jews, the seven of us were able to say *kaddish*), we thanked the two women volunteers and again expressed our gratitude to them for completing our *minyan*.

"You performed a true *mitzvah*," we told them. It was then that the woman who was never counted spoke up. She turned to us, beaming a big beautiful smile, and said: "for the first time in my life, I feel so empowered."

This is how change comes about; with a series of very small steps. Who performed the greater *mitzvah*? You decide!

Post Script: This year, we've been having trouble getting ten people for the evening *minyan*. If you can make any of the evening *minyanim*, please do so. It's a *mitzvah*!

## IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences  
to the families of:

### RUTH RICHARDS

mother of Judith Orenstein

### MOSHE KHODADADIAN

brother of Dr. Parviz Khodadadian  
and uncle of Moji Pourmoradi

### HAROLD LEVINE

esteemed member of Temple Israel

May their memory be for a blessing.

## DAILY MINYAN TIMES

Mon. & Thur.	6:45 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Tues. & Wed.	7:00 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Fri., Oct. 18	7:00 A.M.	6:00 P.M.
Fri., Oct. 25	7:00 A.M.	6:30 P.M.
Sat., Oct. 19	8:45 A.M.	5:35 P.M.
Sat., Oct. 25	8:45 A.M.	5:25 P.M.
Sunday	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.

## CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

*Kindle the Sabbath Lights!*

Friday, October 18.....	5:53 P.M.
Friday, October 25.....	5:43 P.M.

## MAZAL TOV TO . . .

- Carol and Steve Smolinsky on the engagement of their son, Josh, to Emily Goldberg.
- Dr. Lois and Gary Sazer on the engagement of their son, Keith, to Kate Thoman.
- Micky and Allan Greenblatt on the marriage of their granddaughter, Erica Greenblatt, to Chris Converso.
- Carol and Dr. Sheldon Rabin on the birth of their grandson, Jack Samuel Rabin.

## Next Voice Issue, Deadlines

The next issue of The Voice, the Hanukkah edition, will be published on Thursday, October 31. The deadline for that issue is Monday, October 21.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

Oct.	20	Shalom Club Meeting	6:30 P.M.
	21	Sisterhood Fall Luncheon	11:30 A.M.
	22	Beth HaGan Nursery School Book Fair	3:30 P.M.
	22	"Essentials Issues: Interfaith Marriage" Discussion led by Rabbis Stecker and Adelson	8:15 P.M.
	23-24	Beth HaGan Nursery School Book Fair	9:30 A.M.
	24	Men's Club Meeting	7:30 P.M.
	27	EmptiNesters Trip to the Hamptons	
	27	New Member Dinner	5:00 P.M.
	29	"Essentials Issues: Interfaith Marriage" Discussion led by Rabbis Stecker and Adelson	8:15 P.M.
Nov.	3	EmptiNesters "Conversations with Our Rabbis" on Interfaith Program	7:30 P.M.
	4	Congregational Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	5	Sisterhood Lunch and Read	Noon
	5	Waxman Youth House Israel Trip Information Session	5:30 P.M.
	5	"Essentials Issues: Interfaith Marriage" Discussion led by Rabbis Stecker and Adelson	8:15 P.M.
	7	Men's Club Meeting	7:30 P.M.
	9	Kristallnacht	

You are invited to

## SISTERHOOD'S ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON

Monday, October 21

at 11:30 A.M.

### Guest Speaker: Sarit Catz

Award winning radio and TV producer who serves as Director of the International Letter Writing Group at C.A.M.E.R.A. - the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America. C.A.M.E.R.A. monitors radio, TV and newspaper coverage of Israel and fights to correct biased or inaccurate reporting.

FREE for Paid-Up Sisterhood Members

Non-Members & Guests: \$5

RSVP a MUST

To reserve your place, call Karen Ashkenase at 516-487-3048

## 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 Amidah prayer. What's your favorite quote? Send it to The Voice, c/o Temple Israel, 108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023

*"You support the falling,  
heal the ailing, free the fettered.*

*You keep Your faith with those who sleep in dust.*

*Whose power can compare with Yours?"*



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



**Arielle Daskal**

Arielle Daskal will be celebrating her *Bat Mitzvah* on October 26. She is the daughter of Lisa and Oded Daskal and has three brothers, Matan, 25, Yonathan, 21, Daniel, 15, and a twin sister, Noa, 13. Arielle is an eighth grade student at Great Neck South Middle School. She enjoys playing the clarinet and is a member of her school swim, softball and travel soccer teams. Arielle is currently attending the Waxman High School. She has visited Israel many times with family and friends and had her *Bat Mitzvah* this past summer at the Kotel.



**Noa Daskal**

Noa Daskal will be called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah* on October 26. She is the daughter of Lisa and Oded Daskal and has three brothers, Matan, 25, Yonathan, 21, Daniel, 15, and a twin sister, Arielle, 13. Noa is an eighth grade student at Great Neck South Middle School. She enjoys playing the flute and is a member of her school softball and travel soccer teams. Noa is currently attending the Waxman High School and Youth House. She has visited Israel many times with family and friends and had her *Bat Mitzvah* this past summer at the Kotel.



**Hannah Nahavandi**

Hannah Nahavandi will be celebrating her *Bat Mitzvah* on November 2. She is the daughter of Ellen and Dr. Babak Nahavandi and has two sisters, Rebecca, 10, Jessica, 8, and a brother, Joshua, 2. Hannah is an eighth grade honor student at Great Neck North Middle School. She is an avid reader and enjoys playing the piano, writing stories, ice skating and playing tennis. She is currently attending the Waxman High School and plans to visit Israel with family in the near future.

**THE  
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## FROM BETH HAGAN NURSERY SCHOOL

### *Holidays and Shabbat at Beth HaGan*

By Rachel Mathless

The 2013-2014 school year has gotten off to a great start. Teachers have been hard at work with professional development offered by local childcare agencies to help them remain on the cutting edge of all that is new and good in early childhood education. Most of our toddlers have "separated" well and are enjoying the enriched curriculum and myriad of activities of our daily routine. The magnificent weather has given us a great opportunity to enjoy the beautiful outdoor playground and develop our large motor skills and expand social relationships.

We were sorry to miss preparing and celebrating Rosh Hashanah in school; we were determined to make it up for Sukkot. Every child at Beth HaGan made a lulav and etrog with which to celebrate the holiday as well as a model sukkah made from paper, cardboard, shoeboxes, cloth, twigs and recycled material.

Kudos to Amy Kalter and her committee for, once again, doing an incredible job with the sukkah decorating party. The sukkah looked lovely, the entertainment was great, the pizza delicious, the weather beautiful, and a good

time was had by all. We ate snacks and lunch in the sukkah and had our awesome celebration sing-along with the Rabbis in the sukkah. We danced and shook the lulav and etrog and recited the special holiday blessings.

Moving right along at a frenetic pace, every child made either a flag or a Torah to bring to synagogue to celebrate Simhat Torah. Many Beth HaGan children joined the services in sanctuary and enjoyed showing off their beautiful art work.

Our first of ten special entertainment guests of the year will be appearing on October 23. "WonderSpark Puppets" from Manhattan will perform "The Hidden Challah," an interactive mystery puppet show for the children. Other entertainers during the year include, Mr. Shabbos, Party Pets, Small Wonder Puppet Theatre, Loonie Louie, the Macarooni, Yitz the Great, and Kugel and Mrs. Moskowitz.

*Shabbat* is always a celebration at Beth HaGan beginning with a communal *oneg*, baking challah and a *Shabbat* party in the

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# The Steckers Look Back at Ten Years At Temple Israel

—Continued from front page before they moved to Great Neck?

"We expected the sophistication. The community is definitely more diverse than West Hempstead. And, we found the community very embracing of our family, too." Rabbi Stecker said.

"What is challenging is charting a course for so many people from diverse backgrounds across the generation span. There are many groups looking for stimulation, wanting to engage and be engaged. It is definitely demanding," he said. "But, it is a very fulfilling part of my rabbinate to make Judaism relevant to so many. I want people to understand that Judaism can improve the way they live their lives and also have a positive impact on the world.

"What I try to do is offer a non-judgmental approach: not 'where were you,' but 'it is nice to see you.' For Judaism to thrive in the 21st century, it has to be open and welcoming. It is also useful to break down barriers between different groups and to encourage a more relaxed, less formal atmosphere.

"We have made strides in education and in our *chesed* efforts, and we have an excellent professional staff working with impressive, highly committed laity," he said. "But, there is definitely a lot more we have to do. We have to reach out to engage more people with spiritual and social opportunities that make Judaism more personal and inviting. We have to continue to reimagine what it means to be relevant to the larger Jewish community by welcoming people in or going out to where the people are. We have sponsored events such as concerts in the park, Hanukkah parties open to the community, participation in New York's Israel Day Parade, discussions in people's homes, and the annual September 11th service at the Saddle Rock Bridge. We have to find new ways to demonstrate that we as a congregation have something to say about issues that affect the day-to-day reality of our membership and the larger community. We have to continue to find creative ways to elevate people's lives through Jewish learning and living."

The Steckers, just back from dropping their youngest son off at college, said they are now empty nesters. "It is amazing how quickly the years have gone by," Deanna said. "Great Neck has definitely become our home, and Temple Israel has truly become our congregation."



Inquisitive Beth HaGan students' eyes filled with wonder as they filled the Temple Israel sukkah.

## Holidays and Shabbat at Beth HaGan

—Continued from page 4

classroom. Please feel free to visit Friday mornings and join us to experience with the children the real meaning of the joy and peace of *Shabbat*. It's sure to boost your spirits and keep you humming all day.

The PTA continues to be a vibrant and vital auxiliary of Beth HaGan. Their dedication and contribution to the welfare of every student is invaluable. The Annual Book Fair is scheduled for October 22-24, and is a major fundraiser for us. It enables the PTA to distribute goody bags for all

the holidays and provide interesting and enriching programs for all children.

## 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*.

A contribution toward the *kiddush* on October 5 was made by Roya and Binesh (Joe) Shavolian in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Jordan.

## Singing and Dancing Our Vision

—Continued from page 2

The next morning, we honored six members of our congregation who have contributed talent and time to important efforts within and beyond our synagogue. I took mental snapshots of each of them surrounded by friends, loved ones and the entire Temple Israel family. I have mental recordings of one longstanding Temple Israel member chanting the special *Simhat Torah* prayers using an ancient Ashkenazi melody and another using an ancient Persian melody. I have mental recordings of men and women chanting from the Torah using melodies from Lithuania and Iraq.

Upon reflection, I believe that these highlights and others, captured in our collective mental snapshots and recordings from our *Simhat Torah* celebrations, speak volumes about our vision as a congregation. We believe that everyone, regardless of age, gender or cognitive capacity, should have equal access to the Torah. We believe that the variety of our aesthetic and melodic traditions need to be shared. We believe that being Jewish can be engaging and even fun.

Mostly, we believe that the words of the Torah ought to impact how we live our lives and treat other people. So we taught our teens the verse in Deuteronomy which commands us to share our holiday with the broader community. And then they brought that verse to life by extending a degree of hospitality to our guests that would make Abraham and Sarah proud.

*Etz hayim hee*. The Torah is a tree of life to those who grasp it. On *Simhat Torah*, in our unique Temple Israel way, we reminded one another just how true this is. As more and more people are invited to grasp the Torah in keeping with our vision, I'm confident that its branches will continue to support and enrich many lives in multiple ways.



# Voice Guest Column: How to Find Peace

—Continued from page 2

whether we tear them down, what thoughts we harbor in our hearts and what we cast away. That *shalom* is not in God's "Book of Peace." We are the authors of that *sefer ha shalom*, that "Book of Peace."

How can we author such a book? It is easier said than done. The secret lies in a second meaning of the word *shalom*. Using the same three letters but using different vowels, we come up with the word *shalem*. That word means whole, complete, not broken, without cracks or holes or damage.

To have *shalom* you need to be *shalem*, complete and not broken. Is there one person present today in this congregation whose heart is whole, without cracks or holes? Think of the cracks: the loss of a loved one, a divorce after decades of marriage, children estranged from parents, an elderly parent in a nursing home who does not recognize a daughter, a home where a husband and wife live together but do not love together, a brother's daughter is married and you receive no invitation, a baby is born with special needs—I could go on. We all have cracks in our hearts and have emotional scars. We are not whole, and therefore, we are not at peace.

Healing these cracks can be a difficult task. We need God's help in sending His healing. With time and support of caring loved ones our hearts can have the holes filled.

But the other way to mend the cracks is by doing *mitzvot*, by reaching out to others and focusing on the future we can smooth out the cracks. Consider all the good efforts that were brought about because some one had a broken heart: Mothers Against Drunk Driving, The Lusthaus Foundation, Amber Alert, Megan's Law. These, and many others, were born because someone had a death. That is where the idea originates for adopting good deeds or projects that improve the human condition. The holes in the hearts of the grieving family members have been filled by bringing light where there had been darkness.

If you yearn for *shalom* in your lives, we must have *shalem* by filling those cracks and holes.

Do you remember Captain Chesley Sullenberger who landed US Airways flight 1549 in the Hudson River with 155 on board? All were unscathed. He was a remarkable and skillful pilot to have performed so admirably in such a stressful moment.

In an interview with members of the press, he was asked how he was able to do the feat so professionally. "Weren't you agitated as you approached the river? To land successfully the wings had to be absolutely level or else a lower wing would snap in the water and cause the plane to overturn and sink. How could you do it knowing there were 155 lives at risk?"

Captain Sully's reply stunned every-

one. "My father died when I was 11 and my heart was broken. I idolized my father and for years I would go to sleep crying continuously. My whole high school experience saw me in great depression and sorrow.

When I graduated high school, I took an oath that whatever I did in life, I would never, ever commit an act that would bring sorrow to anyone else. No one should ever suffer the pain I had. You see, when I headed for the Hudson River, I gave no thoughts to the passengers. Rather, I thought of the 155 families that would be in pain for the rest of their lives. That gave me the strength to keep the wings level." Captain Sullenberger learned how to fill the cracks in his heart. He had become *shalem*, whole.

The word *shalem* can be turned into a verb in Hebrew by adding a *lamed*. We say *l'shalem*, which means to pay for something. Because when I pay for something I have received, the transaction is complete and we are at peace.

Do any of us have debts we haven't paid? I do not mean financial debts. I refer to how we are indebted to many others, and we never repaid them. To this day I feel guilty for not paying a debt of gratitude to three teachers who influenced me, molded me and changed me in a profound way. I never told them. I never told them how much I owed them. They had all passed on and I never paid them with a compliment, or a note, or a letter.

How many debts do we owe? To our parents who raised us, who were at our bedside when we were sick, who were supportive and giving, to whom we could turn for guidance. Did we ever really pay our debt to them? Husbands and wives who take each other for granted, do they pay their debt of gratitude? How often do we thank our husbands for their efforts to support the family? How often do we say how proud we are of him for the financial aid he gives to a needy family member? Do we thank our wives for maintaining a beautiful home and being a wonderful influence for the children? Do we pay our debts?

You notice the ushers scurrying about to insure that those who have the honor of opening the Ark are in place. Don't you think they would like to be sitting with their families? Did you ever thank them for their efforts? Don't you owe them?

What about all those employees who set up the chairs, who put all these prayer books in place, who are folding up the *tallitot* when we leave the service? Did you ever acknowledge our debt to them? Let me share with you a true story of how a debt was repaid after 30 years.

Queen Wilhemina of the Netherlands was born in 1880. She ascended the throne in 1898, married in 1901. Nine months after marrying she had a miscarriage. In 1902 she gave birth to a stillborn son. In 1906 another

pregnancy ended in miscarriage. Since she was an only child, if she had no heir the throne would pass to some distant cousin.

She traveled to the most prominent physicians of that day and they held out little hope. Undoubtedly she was extremely depressed, and she decided to take a brief vacation.

In 1908 she decided to go to Marienbad, which had a spa and mineral springs. She gave strict orders that she wanted to travel incognito. No one was to know who she was; she registered in the hotel under a false name. She didn't want receptions and state dinners.

Imagine her surprise when her train pulled into the station. About 600 people were cheering and waving handkerchiefs. She called in her aide and wanted to know why they had informed the government of her trip. The aide assured her that no one was informed of her plans. He set off to investigate and reported to the Queen that the cheering crowd was not for her, but rather for a holy man, the Rabbi of Munkatch, Hungary.

The queen made a quick decision. "Find this holy Rabbi and tell him I need to speak with him on an urgent matter. I will be in the park, on a bench outside the hotel at 4 p.m. tomorrow. Please have him meet me there and he must come alone."

Later the aide reported that all was arranged. The next afternoon she sat in the park, and saw the Rabbi approaching, but he had a young lad with him. When he sat she said she wanted no one present. The young man said, "Your majesty, I am his interpreter. He doesn't speak Dutch."

Queen Wilhemina poured out her heart. The Rabbi assured her she would have a child and the throne would be secure. He then got up and walked away. On April 30, 1909 she gave birth to Juliana. She got pregnant a few times later, but never had another child.

In 1938—30 years later—she received a letter written in Yiddish which said, "Your majesty, I was that young boy who translated the Rabbi's blessing in the park. I need your help. We need a visa to enter your country for safety. They are not granting visas. Can you help?" She immediately sent him a diplomat's visa, which got him and his family into the country. As she signed the papers she sighed, "Now I can pay my debt to the Rabbi."

My dear friends, we all have debts to pay. The visits we should have made and didn't, the thank you we should have sent and didn't, the offer to help we should have made but didn't.

If we pay, *l'shalem*, then we become *shalem*, whole and we can anticipate *shalom*.

Dear God, we have broken hearts. Help us to heal. May we discover new paths of service to fill up the holes and the cracks. May we acknowledge all the debts we have and may we then be granted peace. Amen.

**TEMPLE ISRAEL FUND**

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to Generation**



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# TEMPLE ISRAEL VOICE

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## D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

### Vayera

Saturday, October 19

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

### Hayyey Sarah

Saturday, October 26

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

Worship  
 at Temple Israel  
 This Shabbat!

## SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, October 18

Evening Service 6:00 P.M.

Saturday, October 19

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Vayera*; Genesis 18:1 – 22:24

*Haftarah*: II Kings 4:1 – 37

Sabbath Service Officers:

Eleanor Askari and Rebecca Friedman-Charry

*Bar Mitzvah*

BENJAMIN KOBLINER

son of Miriam and Dr. Kenneth Kobliner

*Shabbat HaMisparachah* 10:15 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

*Minhah* and *Ma'ariv* 5:35 P.M.

*Havdalah* 6:52 P.M.

Friday, October 25

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

Waxman High School Family Dinner 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, October 26

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Hayyey Sarah*; Genesis 23:1 - 25:18

*Haftarah*: I Kings 1:1 – 31

Sabbath Service Officers:

Dr. Robert Lopatkin and Lynn Weitzman

*B'not Mitzvah*

ARIELLE and NOA DASKAL

children of Lisa and Oded Daskal

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

*Minhah* and *Ma'ariv* 5:25 P.M.

*Havdalah* 6:42 P.M.