



12 Temple Israel Adult Bar and Bat Mitzvah Students Concluding Years of Jewish Study



Temple Israel's latest Adult *Bar* and *Bat Mitzvah* class was all smiles recently as they rehearsed for their big day. They are, left to right in front, Veronica Lurvey Bisek, Sima Taeid, Wendy Carnel, and Shari Benmen; middle row, Judy Greenstein and Anne Hirsh; back row, Dalia Naim, Guity Rokhsar, Arlene Levine, Gail Zahler, and Sassan Sassouni. *Voice photo by Dr. Jack Levine*

Cantors' Concert at Temple Israel Nov. 10

Temple Israel Cantor Raphael Frieder will spearhead a free cantors' concert, titled "From Tel Aviv to Long Island," to be held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, November 10, beginning at 7:30 P.M. The concert is being held to benefit Hatzilu, the organization founded by Temple Israel members to help the Jewish needy.

The concert will feature "Four Israeli cantors on a musical journey," according to Cantor Frieder. They are Magda Fishman of North Shore Synagogue, Syosset; Ofer Barnoy of Temple Beth Sholom, Roslyn; and Yosef Karavani of The Old Westbury Hebrew Congregation; in addition to Cantor Frieder.

Musical selections will range from Israeli to Chassidic to Chazanut favorites, "with visits to Broadway and the opera," according to Cantor Frieder.

Mezzo-soprano Magda Fishman is known to blend both traditional and contemporary styles. Her repertoire includes Israeli songs, jazz, liturgical masterpieces, musical theater and her own compositions. She served in the Israeli Army Orchestra as a vocal soloist and trumpet player and has performed extensively in Israel and Europe, the U.S. and Canada. Her CD, "Magda and Shorashim," was released on CDBaby and iTunes.

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By Marc Katz, Editor

Concluding more than two years of intensive study, 12 adult Temple Israel *Bar* and *Bat Mitzvah* students will mark their accomplishment by conducting the *Shabbat* service on November 9.

"This is truly a remarkable accomplishment," said Rabbi Seth Adelson who, along with Rabbi Howard Stecker, Cantor Raphael Frieder, and Hebrew tutor Sherry Husney, guided the class through their studies.

"It is very meaningful to me to see adults become engaged in Jewish study," Rabbi Adelson said. "It is a special pleasure. Too often, we relegate Jewish learning to children, but Judaism expects that learning will be a lifelong experience."

The congregation's latest class includes Shari (Shifran) Benmen, Veronica Lurvey Bisek, Wendy Carnel, Judy Greenstein, Anne Hirsh, Arlene Levine, Dalia Naim, Guity Rokhsar, Sassan Sassouni, Taraneh Shirazi, Sima Taeid, and Gail Zahler.

The class will celebrate their milestone with a *Shabbat* dinner with their immediate families on Friday evening, November 8. On Saturday, the class will break into small groups to lead the service, including chanting from the Torah and Haftarah. Veronica Lurvey Bisek and Arlene Levine will present the *D'var Torah* and other members of the group will introduce the Haftarah and Torah reading. The congregation is invited to celebrate with the students at a *kiddush* following the *Shabbat* service.

Each of the students will express their feelings on completing their study in personal statements, to be published in a brochure in coordination with the service.

The class followed a two-year curriculum created by the Melton Center for Jewish Education, designed for adult *B'nei Mitzvah*. It includes extensive Torah and Haftarah study, in addition to discussion

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Nurturing Our Dreams

By Rabbi Howard Stecker

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rabbi Stecker's Kol Nidre sermon—in which he urges us to follow our dream—is excerpted in this Voice Guest Column. What's your dream?

In 1951, the poet, Langston Hughes wrote a poem that he called "Harlem." You may well have read it or heard it, and on this sacred Kol Nidre night, as Yom Kippur begins, I want to reflect on the meaning of this day by sharing the poet's words:

What happens to a dream deferred?
Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore—
And then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over—
like a syrupy sweet?
Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.
Or does it explode?

Langston Hughes was reflecting the experience of African Americans, whose dreams of equal opportunity were frustrat-

ed again and again, deferred into the indeterminate future.

But the poem gained wide recognition because it's so universal.

God knows, the Jewish people have

*How are
our dreams doing?
What are we afraid of?
What's holding us back?*

had dreams deferred for centuries. The poet, Yehuda Halevi, wrote from Spain that while his heart is in the East, his body is in the furthest reaches of the West. For centuries, we dreamed of a return to Israel. And for centuries, going back at least as far as the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah, we dreamed

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FROM THE RABBI

A Spiritual Welcoming

By Rabbi Seth Adelson

Among the ideas found within medieval Jewish thought, and particularly highlighted by early Hasidic thinkers, is that our approach to serving God is divided between the corporeal world (*gashmiyyut*) and the spiritual (*ruhaniyyut*). That is, we engage with the Divine not only through pursuits of the heart and mind, like

*Judaism is not
a 'religion,'
but rather a way of life.*

tefillah (prayer), but also through physical activities: how we eat, how we behave with respect to others, how we move our bodies during prayer, and so forth.

I recall being taught over and over when I was in Hebrew school that Judaism is not a "religion," but rather a way of life. The distinction is as follows: "religion" is something you do on weekends at your synagogue or church or mosque, but Judaism in its ideal form infuses every

aspect of our life; it gives us a framework for living and a sense of holiness that does not evaporate when you leave through the synagogue doors.

Synagogue membership has the potential to suggest "religion"—that is, it's associated with the *gashmiyyut* of a place, a building (and a building fund), and once you assign a religious tradition to a particular place it leaves open the question of connection when you are not in that place. But membership in a *kehilla kedosha*, a holy community, includes not only a place to come for services and to send the kids to religious school, but also opportunities for growth in our engagement with God, in our relationships with Judaism, with our family and friends, and with ourselves. At the center of all of these relationships is, of course, the Torah.

To connect the *ruhaniyyut* and *gashmiyyut* here, to draw together the physical and spiritual as we move onward in our Jewish journeys, the Membership Committee of Temple Israel, along with

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About Us

By Alan Klinger

Much has been written about the decline of Conservative Judaism as a movement. And the numbers are stark. As you may have read, the respected Pew Research Center recently conducted a survey on the state of American Jewry and its report is sobering: whereas in 1990 American Jews identifying themselves as part of the Conservative movement numbered 39 percent, the figure now has dropped to 18 percent. The figure for Jews under the age of 35 was found to be even lower, 11 percent.

Part of the report that garnered much attention was the statistics on the rate of inter-marriage, with the claim that inter-marriage among non-Orthodox Jews was

*...our movement
believes that for it to
succeed, new ways
should at least be
considered...*

as high as 70 percent. While some thought the number misleading for it included Jews who were not affiliated with any of the respective movements (with the consequent thought that affiliation would lessen the occurrence), there was no disagreement that the rate was ever-increasing—a twist on the otherwise positive notion of Jews being more accepted in this generation than those prior. Lower numbers with more inter-faith marriages (with resulting questions as to what religion, if any, would children be raised), hardly augurs well.

This was the backdrop for the Centennial Celebration of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, held in Baltimore on October 11-15, attended by Susan and myself, the Werbers, the Charrys, Ofra Panzer and, for part, Rabbis Stecker and Adelson. While some attending bemoaned Pew's negative cast on the Convention, promoted by the organizers as "The Conversation of the Century," I and many others, found it the perfect foil for the discussion, for it highlighted the theme heard time and again that the movement must adapt if it is to survive.

Rabbi Steven Wernick, USCJ's CEO, laid it out succinctly: the movement is at a crossroads. Rabbi Wernick pointed to the need to re-engage with people, that "regular" will no longer suffice. Relying on the

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IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences
to the families of:

DR. ALAN RACHLEFF
esteemed member of Temple Israel

MEYER TEITELBAUM
husband of Miriam Teitelbaum

May their memory be for a blessing.

MAZAL TOV TO . . .

• **Rebecca and Dr. Malcolm Phillips** on the engagement of their son, Scott, to Brittany Katz.

• **Ronny and Robert Levine** on the birth of their granddaughter, Shoshana Marni Wein.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Kindle the Sabbath Lights!

Friday, November 1.....5:34 P.M.

Friday, November 8.....4:26 P.M.

Friday, November 15.....4:19 P.M.

DAILY MINYAN TIMES

Attend the Daily Minyan!

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

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

Fri., Nov. 1 7:00 A.M. 5:45 P.M.

Fri., Nov. 8 & 15 7:00 A.M. 4:30 P.M.

Sat., Nov. 2 8:45 A.M. 5:15 P.M.

Sat., Nov. 9 8:45 A.M. 4:05 P.M.

Sat., Nov. 16 8:45 A.M. 4:00 P.M.

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

Next Voice Issues, Deadlines

The next issue of The Voice, the Hanukkah issue, will be published in three weeks, on Thursday, November 21. The deadline for that issue is Friday, November 8.

The following issue will be published on Thursday, December 5. The deadline for that issue is Friday, November 22.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

Nov.	3	EmptiNesters "Conversations with Our Rabbis" Program on Inter marriage	10:30 A.M.
	4	Congregational Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	5	Sisterhood "Lunch and Read" Program	Noon
	5	Waxman Youth House Israel Trip Information Session	5:30 P.M.
	5	"Essentials Issues: Interfaith Marriage" Discussion with Rabbis Stecker and Adelson	8:15 P.M.
	7	Men's Club Meeting	7:30 P.M.
	9	Kristallnacht	
	9	Adult Bat/Bar Mitzvah Ceremony and kiddush	8:45 A.M.
	10	Men's Club Blood Drive	8:30 A.M.
	10	"From Tel Aviv to Long Island" Concert Featuring Cantor Raphael Frieder and Guest Cantors	7:30 P.M.
	12	EmptiNesters "Conversations with Our Rabbis" Program on Inter marriage	7:30 P.M.
	12	Sisterhood Discussion on Cyber Danger	8:00 P.M.
	16	Temple Israel Bonds "Night Out"	8:00 P.M.
	17	Shalom Club Meeting	6:30 P.M.
	18	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 A.M.
	21	Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.

The Temple Israel Sisterhood Presents

What the FBI Wants You to Know

About Internet Safety

a special evening with

Special Agent Danielle Messineo

Long Island Child Exploitation Task Force

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Tuesday, November 12 • 8 P.M.

**A discussion of the latest developments
in cyber security**

- Latest technologies/newest dangers
- Protect your children and grandchildren
- Protect yourself
- Look for the warning signs of trouble

RSVP to Karen Ashkenase at 487-3048

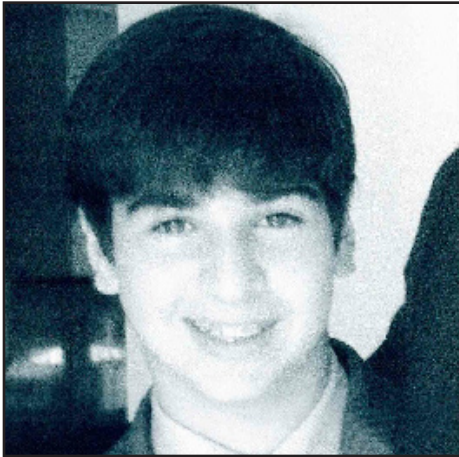
IN QUOTES

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, from the Torah Service, makes reference to the Torah. What's your favorite quote? Send it to The Voice, c/o Temple Israel, 108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023

*“ It is a tree of life
for those who grasp it,
and all who uphold it are blessed. ”*

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



Aaron Harouche

Aaron Harouche will be celebrating his *Bar Mitzvah* on November 16. He is the son of Jodi and David Harouche and has two brothers, Noah, 14, and Jordan, 10. Aaron is an eighth grade honor student at Great Neck South Middle School. He enjoys playing basketball, football and lacrosse as well as skateboarding. Aaron is currently attending the Waxman High School.

Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Students Conclude Years Of Study In November

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topics in Judaism. Students study the various parts of the *Shabbat* service, the meaning and structure of *tefillah*, discussions about God, Israel, Jewish holidays, and Jewish law, as well as a wide range of other topics. Cantor Frieder led study of the Torah and Haftarah reading and Sherry Husney helped the students study Hebrew.

"It is great when you do this as an adult," said one student in the class, Veronica Lurvey Bisek. "As an adult you bring life experiences to the class. In addition, it is a great way to meet different Jewish cultures."

She said that for the past 13 years she was busily at work as a lawyer. "Then I took a sabbatical to stay at home with my children, but I found I couldn't keep up with their Jewish studies. By participating in this class I was on the same plane as my children and was able to have stimulating discussions with them."

Not only the students seem to be aglow about their milestone, but their teachers seem to be marveling about the achievement, too. "For me to have a role in the accomplishments of all of these students has truly been a special pleasure," Rabbi Adelson said.

FROM THE WAXMAN HIGH SCHOOL AND YOUTH HOUSE

Why Your Teen Should Travel with Us

By Danny Mishkin

Imagine celebrating one *Shabbat* in Prague and the next in Jerusalem!

This is the Youth House trip during February Break. For a long time, Europe was a hub of prosperity for the Jewish community. There are synagogues that still exist from before World War II, and they have an important story to tell. While traveling we will learn valuable lessons from our past, and see some sites that remind us how fragile Jewish life can be.

After a short plane ride, we will be in our Jewish present and future. Israel is the only country where there is a Jewish majority, and it is the place where celebrating Jewish life includes trips to the market, hiking, swimming, and speaking the language!

The most important component of our trip is that we will be together! Traveling on such an emotional trip creates memories and relationships that last a lifetime. We are so lucky to have the best possible staff to guide this important journey. Moji Pourmoradi, Rabbi Adelson, Diana Ziskin and I are invested in this community, and that is why this trip does not end after ten days. We are committed to building community, and making sure that there are trip reunions and ongoing gatherings for participants. After this trip your child will belong to a close knit group of friends and teachers. This is the amazing impact of traveling with the Youth House. See you there!

Information Session for this trip has been changed to November 12 at 7:30 P.M. in the Youth House.

General Trip Schedule: Three days and three nights in Prague. 6 Days and 6 Nights in Israel!

- Depart Wednesday, February 12 at 4:30 P.M.
- Return Sunday, February 23 at 3:30 P.M.

Cost of the Trip:

- Students enrolled in any Youth House program will attend the trip for \$2,200*
- Students not enrolled in the Youth House will pay \$3,200
- All students are required to raise \$400 towards their participation in the trip. We will be providing fundraising tips and techniques in pre-trip training sessions.

Additional financial assistance may be available for Temple Israel members. Please contact me for additional information at 482-7800.

*Space is limited to receive a subsidy made possible by the Khorshad Dina Harounian Israel Education Fund.

Temple Israel Bonds Night Out Saturday Evening, November 16

8 P.M. Crystal Ballroom

A fabulous night out with drinks, desserts & karaoke

\$30 per person - dress: casual chic
...for adults only

TI Bonds is a fun, new social group
geared for parents of school-aged children at Temple Israel

RSVP with payment by November 11
by check payable to Temple Israel
(indicate for TI Bonds "Night Out")

or by credit card
and send/bring to the Temple Israel office/att.: Jodi



Journal Dinner Dance, Saturday, December 7, 2013

Please join us in honoring **Deanna and Rabbi Howard Stecker** by sharing a personal greeting acknowledging their first decade of inspirational leadership. Support Temple Israel’s Annual Journal, to be published in conjunction with the congregation’s Dinner Dance, to be held on Saturday, December 7, 2013. The purchase of an ad of \$900 or more, or the sale of \$1,800 in commercial ads, will entitle you to two complimentary tickets to the Dinner Dance.

ALL ADS ARE DUE BY MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH, accompanied by a check made payable to Temple Israel of Great Neck, 108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023. Major credit cards are also accepted.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Expiration _____

Credit Card Name: _____ Date: _____

Credit Card #: _____

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

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

Voice Guest Column: Nurturing Our Dreams

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of a world untarnished by violence and bloodshed, where nation would not lift up sword against nation.

And each one of us has dreams that were formed, perhaps early on in our lives, about who we'd become and what sort of people we would share our lives with, and what kind of impact we would make on the world.

Not only are these dreams sometimes deferred, we may even have the experience of a huge gap between our dreams and reality. Think of the now-famous words from the Broadway Musical, "Les Mis," sung by a woman whose fortune turned quickly and precipitously. "I had a dream that life would be so different than this hell I'm living."

Or, perhaps, we may feel that things are good enough, but they could be better. Or that we could be using our time and resources more effectively.

When there's space between our dreams and our reality, a few things can happen.

We can obsess over our frustration to the point where we grow bitter towards everyone around us.

Or we can give up on the dreams altogether. Turn

'em off like a light switch, with a nod to the guys from "The Book of Mormon."

But there's another option that I want to explore. A very Jewish option. And that is, we check in with our dreams.

We ask ourselves, from time to time, if there is enough harmony between how we dream that things should be and how they actually are. And we make adjustments, if need be.

To my mind, that is what Yom Kippur is all about. Reminding ourselves of our dreams and asking ourselves, what happened to them? And what should happen to them? What is? And what should be?

We can do that all year long, to be sure, but on this day, which starts tonight and continues until tomorrow evening, the drama, the music and the community help us along.

So I want to ask us tonight: How are our dreams doing? Have they been fulfilled in whole or in part? Have they been deferred? Ignored? Defeated by circumstance or dulled by sheer exhaustion? Are they in danger of exploding?

Jews are dreamers. We're not the only dreamers, but dreams are hardwired into our national identity. And there's always been tension between our dreams and our reality.

On his way to finding a wife, our forefather, Jacob, falls asleep and dreams of the connection between heaven and

earth. Behold, a ladder was standing on the ground but it reached into the heavens.

Far away from the land that God promised his grandfather, Abraham, Jacob finds not one wife, but two, and two concubines. The years go by, he has 12 sons and one daughter and the complexities of life take over.

He competes with his conniving father-in-law over who can produce more sheep. And one night he has a dream about sheep mating with each other, which gives him an idea of how to surpass his father-in-law in business.

He wakes up from that dream and God says to him, "It's time to go back home to the land of your father Isaac and grandfather Abraham." One of my teachers taught me, years ago, that the reason God told him to go back home is because Jacob's dreams were deflated. You used to dream about connecting heaven and earth, God says, and now you dream about how to get more sheep?

*How many of us look around and realize,
whatever stage of life we're in,
that we lost sight of our dreams...*

Sometimes our dreams are deferred. Sometimes they are forgotten. Sometimes we get so caught up in the day-to-day that our dreams themselves get downgraded. We neglect the dream about heaven and earth and we start dreaming about sheep.

What gets in the way? What delays, destroys and deflates our dreams? And how can we keep them alive?

During Yom Kippur, we confess to the sin of *tim'hon levav*, confusion. Nothing wrong with confusion, unless it erodes the dream.

We can't allow confusion to derail us.

Sometimes exhaustion gets in the way. The exhaustion of earning a living, raising children, managing life's challenges, just wears us down.

As I did on Rosh Hashanah, I want to quote "Rabbi" Paul Simon. A man walks down the street and says, "why am I soft in the middle? Why am I soft in the middle? The rest of my life is so hard."

How many of us look around and realize, whatever stage of life we're in, that we lost sight of our dreams—whatever they might be—the dream that we'd write a book, or learn a craft, or volunteer to help someone who needs help, or support an important organization.

I have multiple examples of people in our congregation who take steps to follow their dreams no matter how exhausted or busy they might be.

There is a woman in our congregation

who in the past several years pursued, in earnest, her lifelong dream of writing children's books.

There is a man in our congregation, a physician, who joined a team of medical experts in Haiti to bring urgently needed medical care to an impoverished population, something he'd been wanting to do for some time.

There is a woman in our congregation who has volunteered untold hours for many years at the Great Neck Senior Center, coordinating events and doing important outreach. And I owe her a phone call after the holidays to arrange to do a program with her.

There are over a dozen men and women who will celebrate *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah* as adults on November 9 in our sanctuary, surrounded by family and friends. I invite you to come to share this occasion and to show them your appreciation.

There are numerous men and women who have achieved much success professionally and who have determined that they are going to invest the gifts that God has given them into helping the community.

So following long days at the office, they host events for charitable organizations and inspire their colleagues and friends to do their share.

Exhaustion may defer our dreams—sometimes things have to wait—but we shouldn't let it extinguish our dreams.

Lastly, fear can get in the way. Fear of the reprisal if we take a strong stand, fear of what people will think, fear of whether or not we'll be up to the task, fear of potential dangers involved.

I have a colleague who has achondroplasia, a form of dwarfism. Her whole life, she's had people make comments to her and about her.

She had several dreams. She dreamed of becoming a rabbi. She dreamed of getting married. And she dreamed of having children.

She studied for the rabbinate at the Jewish Theological Seminary, where she was ordained, and has been teaching Judaic Studies and coordinating events at Jewish High School since her ordination.

She met and married a wonderful, loving man. And, though pregnancy carried additional risks for her, last year she had a baby boy and my son, one of her students, attended the *bris* of her son.

She has had numerous humiliating encounters in her life and they persist. Someone who attended rabbinical school with her told me that when they would

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Cantors' Concert At Temple Israel Nov. 10

—Continued from front page

Born in Tel Aviv, Cantor Barnoy emigrated to the United States in 1977. As a child, he appeared in cantorial programs with his father on stage and television. In 2009 he was invited to appear in concert with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in Israel's most prestigious concert hall, the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv. He is now in his tenth year at Temple Beth Shalom.

As a young boy in Herzliyah, Israel, Cantor Karavani recalls reading Torah for the congregation in the synagogue his grandfather founded. He attended the Amit Yeshiva, where he was encouraged to perform by Temple Israel High Holy Days Cantor Mordecai Sobol, the choir leader. He was chosen for the Rabbinical Choir of the IDF, allowing him to continue his passion for Jewish music while serving his country. Following a successful career spanning several continents, he became the cantor of The Old Westbury Hebrew Congregation, his current position.

Cantor Frieder has served at Temple Israel for 22 years. He has toured extensively, performing in Israel, Europe and throughout the United States. He has appeared at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris and Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium, in addition to the Temple Israel *bimah*. In June 2009, Cantor Frieder participated in a historic concert at the Warsaw Opera House, where he performed the world premier of Charles Fox's "Lament and Prayer," written especially for the occasion. The composition is based on the note that Pope John Paul II put in the Western Wall during his visit to Israel in 2000.

Further information about the concert is available by calling the program chair, Manny Bardash, at 466-4297, or the Temple Israel office, 482-7800.

Many Volunteers Help Make High Holy Days Work at Temple Israel

The High Holy Days were made more enjoyable for the entire congregation through the efforts of many volunteer members of the Men's Club, who assisted the office with preparations.

Seats were labeled in all venues thanks to the efforts of Sam Husney, Abe Sheffy, David Scherr, Steve Smolinsky, Dr. Charles Adler, Robert Aizer, William Blye, Jerry Hirsh, Seth Moin, Marc Katz, and Dr. Robert Lopatkin. They were assisted by office staffer Jodi Engel.

All seats received a contribution card on Kol Nidre through the efforts of Sam Husney, Jeffrey Fleit, Marc Langsner, and Abe Sheffy.

EmptiNesters Topic: Intermarriage Hitting Home



Temple Israel's EmptiNesters met for the first of three discussion sessions with the congregation's clergy to explore the topic "How to Handle Intermarriage When It Hits Home." More than 35 people attended for a lively 90-minute discussion. The group is meeting in the intimate settings of congregants' homes. Watch for details about the next session, to be announced shortly.

Temple Israel's Chesed Committee
along with the
Tikkun Alliance of the North Shore

is holding their
Fifth Annual Winter Collection

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Warm a Heart!

Donate new or clean gently used
coats, scarves, hats, mittens, gloves and winter clothing

Also needed sealed food items including:

canned tuna fish	packaged nuts
canned salmon	breakfast cereal
canned fruit	cereal bars
fruit juices	granola bars
cooking oil in plastic bottles	crackers
rice	cookies
pasta	peanut butter in plastic jars
tomato sauce	fruit jams and jellies
packaged dried fruit	eyeglasses

Bring items to the Temple Israel lobby bins through November 10

For further information contact: chesedtign@gmail.com

Save the Date
Congregational Meeting

Monday, November 4
8:15 P.M. Crystal Ballroom

- Reports to the congregation
- Selection of Nominating Committee Members
- Answers to your questions

You are invited to
N'Ranenah

A service full of song & joy
Friday, November 8
6:30 P.M. Crystal Ballroom

Jews In the News

*A lively discussion of current events
with Rabbi Howard Stecker*

Tuesday, November 12
11 A.M. Blue Room

D'VAR TORAH

—Continued from back page

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.

SABBATH SERVICES

—Continued from back page

Saturday, November 16

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Vayishlah*
Genesis 32:4 - 36:43

Haftarah: Obadiah 1:1 - 21

Sabbath Service Officers: Jackie Astrof and Shahram Delafraz
Bar Mitzvah

AARON HAROUCHE

Son of Jodi and David Harouche

Shabbat HaMishpahah Bonim 10:30 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Minhah and *Ma'ariv* 4:00 P.M.

Havdalah 5:18 P.M.

From the President: About Us

—Continued from page 2

three pillars of tradition, *kehillah* (a spiritual community) and renewal (of Vision), Rabbi Wernick urged the attendees (who numbered more than 1,000 over the five-day span) to consider how we attract the next generation of Jews. Jewish Theological Seminary Chancellor Arnold Eisen continued the theme. He argued that we can no longer take for granted that people will join synagogues and urged that we undertake bold strategies to stretch the boundaries so that we better reach people, all the while recognizing the fundamental principles that guide us.

Ron Wolfson, who served as a scholar-in-residence with us a year ago, spoke to "relational" Judaism, where we concentrate not so much on our institution, but on developing stronger ties with our members. Many speakers focused on Judaism not being confined to the four walls of the synagogue but of creating groups, like we have with EmptiNesters and TI Bonds (joining the well-established Shalom Club) that bring people together in different fashion, often functioning outside the building, in ways that may be more attractive to members (or prospective members) who are not drawn to our traditional religious services or more formal programs.

With regard to prayer, it was noteworthy that various of the *Shabbat* prayer services offered by USCJ departed from the traditional and even included one led by Rabbi David Ingber, founder and spiritual leader of

TEMPLE LITES...

• **Paula Charry, Dr. Renee Fleischer, Hermine Plotnick, and Dr. Ellen Rosen**, part of the Na'aleh Women's Ensemble, will perform in the group's annual Winter Concert, this year being held at Temple Israel's Crystal Ballroom on Sunday, November 17, at 3 P.M. The performance will feature "liturgical, ethnic, and folk music of the Jewish people." Tickets are \$18. For further information about the concert, contact Dr. Rosen at 482-7480 or Dr. Fleischer at 466-8428.

Romemu, a congregation which has received significant attention of late. (That USCJ would invite Rabbi Ingber, not of the Conservative movement, spoke volumes as to its belief that new approaches should be explored). While it needs to be recognized that not everything that might work in Manhattan would work in Great Neck, the point should not be lost that our movement believes that for it (and us) to succeed new ways should at least be considered—a process underway here with our Tefillah ReImagine Committee. As Rabbi Ingber articulated, the goal should be to reach people in their "kishkas" if we want to attract and retain them in our community.

Balancing against the negative projection of the Pew Report was the fascinating scholarship and insights of the leaders of our movement—professors and clergy—who spoke on issues ranging from the process for modifying Jewish law, to the proper place for spirituality, to new approaches to Jewish education. More mundane topics of synagogue finance and technology were covered, as well. (Time even was slotted for fun, with a musical performance by Neshama Carlebach and Josh Nelson, and a concert of leading cantors, featuring among them Magda Fishman and Randy Herman, who are well-known to our congregation.) Yet perhaps one of the most fascinating parts of the experience were the discussions had among synagogue leaders as to what challenges they are facing and how they were responding. We are by no means alone in confronting how to draw more people to our midst, and these conversations underscored many of the advantages we have. But, as discussed before, the changing demographics of Great Neck are an issue.

It is my hope that through the learning that started at the Convention, imparted to the broader congregation through our various committees and programs, we can, working with our Clergy collectively craft a meaningful response to the issues raised by the Pew Report to allow Temple Israel to flourish for many years to come.

Spiritual Welcoming

—Continued from page 2

the clergy and the Executive Committee, recently hosted a special welcoming ceremony for new members of our *kehilla kedosha*, the second time we have performed such a ritual. These new members were people who had joined within the past year, and we invited them into our community by singing together, by chanting *tehillim*, by sharing stories of our Jewish journeys with each other, and concluded by gathering on the *bimah* in the Sanctuary and giving to each new member a *sefer Torah* to hold, literally, as Cantor Frieder chanted a special *berakha* for setting out on the path of a deepening spiritual relationship with our tradition.

The idea is to lessen the association of membership with the details of forms, bills, and lengthy e-mails, but rather to connect joining a community with personal growth. By actually taking hold of the Torah, we were physically demonstrating the power of the line that we sing every time we put the Torah away: "*Etz hayyim hee lamahazikim bah*," "It is a tree of life for those who grasp it." We brought together the *ruhaniyyut* of our ancient, holy texts and the *gashmiyyut* of feeling the literal weightiness of those words.

The power of this ceremony, a recent innovation at Temple Israel, lies in its ability to bring people together for a holy purpose, to forge new relationships, and to guide these new members of our *kehilla kedosha* in beginning a new chapter in their Jewish journeys. And isn't that what the ideal Jewish ritual should do? As we have welcomed these new members into our community, may we go from strength to strength as we continue to build our community and help all of our members pursue their own Jewish journeys.

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*.

The congregational *kiddush* on October 12 was sponsored by Beth and Larry Farkas in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Lauren.

The congregational *kiddush* on October 19 was co-sponsored by Miriam and Dr. Kenneth Koblner in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Benjamin, and Drs. Zina and Robert Rutkin-Becker in honor of the *Auf Ruf* of their daughter, Ariela, and Harris Goldman. A contribution toward the *kiddush* was made by Natalie and Rabi Amirian and Nahid and Paul Maroof in honor of the birth of their son and grandson.

The Temple Israel EmptiNesters

are discussing
INTERMARRIAGE

part of their series:
"Conversations
with Our Rabbis"

Sunday
November 3
10:30 A.M.

Tuesday
November 12
7:30 P.M.

for reservations
and further details
contact Carol Smolinsky
773-4309

Give Blood!

Partipate in the
Men's Club's
Semi-Annual
Blood Drive

Next Sunday
November 10
8:30 A.M.-1 P.M.
Crystal Ballroom

For information
call Dr. Charles I. Adler
482-4421

Nurturing Our Dreams

—Continued from page 6

cross the street together in New York City, occasionally someone would yell out, "Oh my God, a midget!"

She is a marvelous teacher and an outstanding mentor to her students, and I know that she has inspired them to overcome inertia and fear in pursuit of their own dreams.

What are we afraid of? What's holding us back? Do we think we are too young or too old or too middle-aged, are we too stuck, too concerned with the funny looks we'll get? If we're fearful of what others think, I want to ask, what right does someone else have to defer our legitimate dreams? Whether they are holding us back or we are holding ourselves back or both, we can't let fear get in the way.

Our task, especially on Yom Kippur, is to examine all of the dreams that have been deferred and deflated through confusion, exhaustion and fear. True, we don't feed our bodies today, but maybe that will help us concentrate on feeding our souls, on preparing for a better tomorrow.

What do we need to do so that tomorrow we can come closer to realizing our profound dreams, not the ones about more sheep, more this, more that, but the ones that link heaven and earth like Jacob's first dream?

What do we need to do to reconnect with those dreams and to dedicate ourselves to bringing them about?

Let this space, this community, these hours, remind us of our legitimate, aspirational, transformational dreams and give us the strength to work toward them.

Tomorrow, we'll be at the table. We'll invite the company. And the meal will be sweeter, because today we dared to acknowledge and pursue our dreams.

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Monika Bloom
The marriage of Vivienne
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Janette Meyrowitz
Arielle and Noa Daskal,
daughters of Lisa and
Oded Daskal, and
granddaughters of Carole
and Arthur Anderman,
becoming *B'not Mitzvah*
Mitch Koepfel and
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Rose Rudich
William Ungar
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Linda Emanuel

From Generation to Generation



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Shari Benmen
Rabbi Adelson for
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Bess Goldring

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Celebration of life
Joan Schussheim

Contribution:

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Arlene Levine becoming a
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Jack, Barry, Diane,
Evan and Seth Levine

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Dr. Lois and Gary
Sazer

**CANTOR FRIEDER'S
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Celebrating the holiday in
Cantor Frieder's Sukkah
Susan and Dr. Cyrus
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In honor of:

Celebration of life
Joan Schussheim
Sassan Sassouni and his
classmates in the 2013
Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class
Rebecca and Sassan
Sassouni

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The engagement of Rachel
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to Jonathan Saat
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and Steve Smolinsky, to
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In appreciation of:

Rabbi Stecker's kindness at the baby naming of their granddaughter, Harlan, and the bris of their grandson, Atticus Susan and Sidney Krugman

Rabbi Stecker for his help in preparing her for her *Bat Mitzvah* Shari Benmen

In honor of:

The Sassouni, Yousefzadeh and Grunin families
The baby naming of Daria Rafaella and Olivia Michal Grunin

Nora, Avi, Daria and Olivia Grunin
A celebration of life Joan Schussheim

**From Generation
to Generation**



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D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Toledot

Saturday, November 2

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

Vayetse

Saturday, November 9

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

Vayishlah

Saturday, November 16

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

—Continued on page 8

SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, November 1

Evening Service 5:45 P.M.

•

Saturday, November 2

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Toledot*

Genesis 25:19 – 28:9

Haftarah: I Samuel 20:18 – 42

Sabbath Service Officers: Andrew Bloom and Rachel Geula

Bat Mitzvah

HANNAH NAHAVANDI

daughter of Ellen and Dr. Babak Nahavandi

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

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Minhah and *Ma'ariv* 5:15 P.M.

Havdalah 6:33 P.M.

•

Friday, November 8

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

•

Saturday, November 9

Kristallnacht

Morning Service / Adult *B'nai Mitzvah* 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Vayetse*

Genesis 28:10 – 32:3

Haftarah: Hosea 12:13 – 14:10

Sabbath Service Officers: Joanna Eshaghoff and Ofra Panzer

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Minhah and *Ma'ariv* 4:05 P.M.

Havdalah 5:25 P.M.

•

Friday, November 15

Evening Service 4:30 P.M.

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