



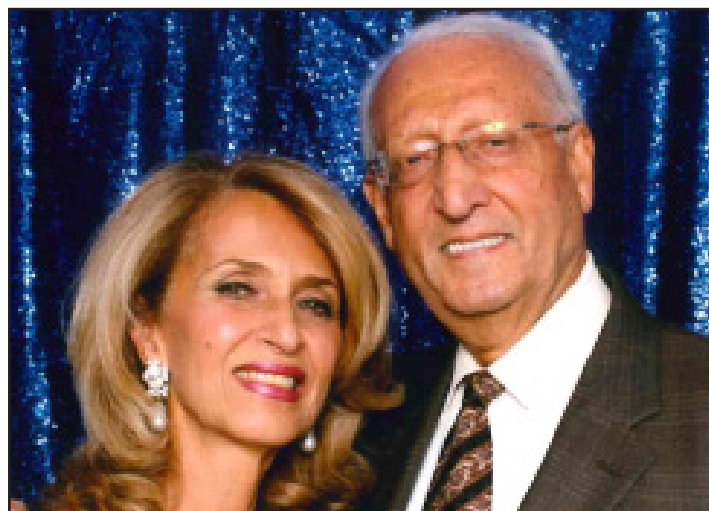
Manny Bardash



Van Frankel



Lila Bernstein-Schoen and Alexander Schoen



Rachelle and Ebby Ohebshalom

## Six Congregants Receiving Honors On Simhat Torah

Temple Israel's highest religious recognition will be presented to six members of the congregation when they are called to the bimah to participate in the Simhat Torah observances on Friday, October 13.

Selected to be honored at the service, which begins at 9 A.M., are Lila Bernstein-Schoen and Alexander Schoen, Hatan v'Kallat Torah, who will be called to the reading of the concluding verses of the Book of Deuteronomy; Rachelle and Ebby Ohebshalom, Hattan v'Kallat Bereishit, who will be called to the reading of the opening verses of Genesis; and Manny Bardash and Van Frankel, Hatanei Maftir, who will be called upon to chant the Haftarah from the Book of Joshua.

Immediately following the service the congregation is invited to greet the honorees at a kiddush in their honor.

### Lila Bernstein-Schoen and Alexander Schoen

Lila Bernstein-Schoen and Alexander Schoen have been active members of the congregation since 2005. Mrs. Schoen has served on the Finance Committee, Strategic Planning Steering Committee, and was a member of the 2015-2017 B'nai Mitzvah cohort. Mr. Schoen, the chair of the House Committee, was also a member of the Nominating Committee and the inaugural Sulam Program for congregational leadership. He has long been active working behind the scenes for the Temple Israel Players.

Mrs. Bernstein-Schoen is the vice president supplier management for Morgan Stanley. Mr. Schoen is the director of sponsored programs at NYU Winthrop Hospital. He was the inaugural member of the Mincha minyan at his workplace.

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# Sustaining Our Jewish Way of Life

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## A Voice Guest Column by Arden Smith

EDITOR'S NOTE: Arden Smith is a former trustee of Temple Israel and a past president of the Men's Club. He chaired the congregation's Kol Nidre Appeal since its inception 23 years ago. He is a member of the Advisory Board of The Center for Jewish Studies at Queens College.

In a great wine making town in Eastern Europe (or Northern Iran near the Caspian Sea) word came that the grand rebbe (the chachum gadol) was coming to the town the following year. The town's elders decided to collect the best of each vintner's production every week before the Sabbath. They fashioned a great vat and a sturdy set of steps leading to the top of the vat. Each week every vintner would pour a goatskin flask-full of his wine into the vat.

One "reb yid," whose name is not important and whose wine wasn't the best nor the worst, decided that he could fill his skin with water and no one would know.

At the end of the year, the grand rebbe came. He ascended the steps with a

crystal goblet created for the occasion; he scooped the goblet into the vat and held the glass high over his head for all to see. And there gleaming in the sun was a crystal clear glass of water. There

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**...every contribution counts  
...we need your help!**

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must have been quite a few "yidlach" whose names were "not important."

We are a very large congregation. It is often too easy to feel like we can get lost in the crowd: "nobody will know the difference," "my contribution won't make a difference." Well...every contribution counts and every contribution helps, and all of the contributions add up.

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# Holding On and Letting Go

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## From the Rabbi by Rabbi Howard Stecker

The Tibetan Buddhists have a tradition that involves the painstaking creation of an intricate sand sculpture, known as a mandala. After the sculpture is created, often over a period of days or even weeks, it is quickly destroyed in a systematic fashion. The ritual of destruction dramatically demonstrates a central Buddhist notion regarding the impermanence of the physical world.

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**...how we can influence  
one another without  
becoming insufferable.**

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A few weeks ago I conducted a brief online experiment. I looked up the phrase "letting go" together with the word "Buddhism." In doing so, I discovered pages of entries devoted to teachings of the Buddha and his followers about the transience of life and how clinging to certain realities can be the source of so much misery.

I then looked up "letting go" and "Judaism." There were only a few entries, one of which was a sermon entitled "Holding On and Letting Go." Judaism overall recognizes the value of the physical world, but encourages us to keep proper perspective.

As we enter further into the New Year, I offer three suggestions as to how we can influence one another without becoming insufferable. How we can strike an appropriate balance between holding on and letting go.

When we seek to influence someone, whether a family member, a friend or a co-worker, we should find means that are palatable and pleasant. To the extent that we avoid hounding them, to the extent that we use humor, to the extent that we are prepared to accept other people's efforts to influence us, we are more likely to discover that those we seek to influence are amenable to our efforts. We need to let

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# High Holy Days

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## From the President

by Rob Panzer

With the end of summer near, it is time to turn our attention to the High Holy Days season. We are fortunate this year to have our returning group of clergy. The rabbinical team is, of course, led by Senior Rabbi Howard Stecker, ably assisted by Associate Rabbi Daniel Schweber, Rabbi Marim Charry, and Rabbi Abraham B. Eckstein. Our cantorial team is led by Cantor Raphael Frieder, with Cantor Mordechai Sobol returning for his 26th year at Temple Israel, and Cantor Joseph Gole for his third year.

There are an array of children's services as well as a Community Yizkor

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**There is much to do  
and much to participate in  
at Temple Israel.**

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Service. Please check the Voice or the website for details and schedules.

Once again, for security reasons, tickets are not being mailed. We ask that each household come to the Temple Israel office to pick up their tickets, as some seem to get lost in the mail each year. Not everything we send is a bill!

Our annual Jack Stein Memorial Symposium, held during the afternoon on Yom Kippur, will feature Jacqueline Murekatete, a survivor of the genocide in Rwanda, speaking on "The Reality Of Hatred and Our Obligations." It should make for a very interesting presentation.

By this time everyone should have received the invitation to our Annual Gala, celebrating our first 75 years and looking forward to our next 75. Our journal is a place to put pictures and tell your story of your time at Temple Israel. Please consider taking a page and joining us at the event on October 28.

There is much to do and much to participate in at Temple Israel. My family and I wish everyone a happy, healthy, and meaningful High Holy Days season.

## In Memoriam

Temple Israel extends condolences to the family of:

**WILLIAM MONAT**

father of Margaret Linell

*May his memory be for a blessing.*

## Candle Lighting Times

**Friday, September 29 (Kol Nidre)**

6:24 P.M.

**Wednesday, October 4 (Erev Sukkot)**

6:15 P.M.

**Thursday, October 5 (Sukkot – Day 1)**

7:14 P.M.

**Friday, October 6 (Sukkot – Day 2)**

6:12 P.M.

**Wednesday, October 11**

6:04 P.M.

**Thursday, October 12**

**(Shemini Atzeret/Leil Simhat Torah)**

7:02 P.M.

**Friday, October 13 (Simhat Torah)**

6:01 P.M.

**Friday, October 20**

5:50 P.M.

**Friday, October 27**

5:40 P.M.

**Friday, November 3**

4:32 P.M.

## Upcoming Events

**September 29**

Kol Nidre

**September 30**

Yom Kippur

Break-the-Fast 7:30 P.M.

Sponsored by the Men's Club

**October 2-4**

Sisterhood Decorates the Temple Israel Sukkah 10:00 A.M.

**October 4**

Erev Sukkot

Sukkot Service and Dinner 6:30 P.M.

**October 5-11**

Sukkot

**October 7**

Light Lunch at Sarah and 1:00 P.M.

Rabbi Daniel Schweber's Home

Dessert at Deanna and 1:30 P.M.

Rabbi Howard Stecker's Home

**October 8**

Community Sukkot Celebration 6:00 P.M.

**October 10**

Israeli Falafel Reception in 7:00 P.M.

Cantor Frieder's Sukkah

**October 11**

Hoshanah Rabbah

**October 12**

Shemini Atzeret

**October 13**

Simhat Torah

**October 15**

Men's Club Opening Breakfast: 9:00 A.M.

County Executive Candidates Debate

Shalom Club Meeting 6:00 P.M.

**October 16**

Sisterhood Board Meeting 10:00 A.M.

**October 19**

Board of Trustees Meeting 8:15 P.M.

**October 26**

Men's Club Meeting 7:30 P.M.

**October 28**

Temple Israel's 75th Anniversary Gala

**October 29**

Jets vs. the 8:30 A.M.

Atlanta Falcons Game

Sponsored by the Men's Club

**November 4**

Celebration of the 9:00 A.M.

60th Anniversary of

Rabbi Abraham Eckstein's

Ordination

Shabbat Talk 12:45 P.M.

## Journal Dinner Dance To Tell 'The Story of Temple Israel'

Temple Israel's 75th Anniversary Gala on Saturday evening, October 28 promises to be an evening of fun.

There will be great music and dancing. There will be an eight-piece band playing music and dance sets of the hits from the 40s through the 80s, to today. There will be a fabulous sit-down dinner catered by Lederman and a video weaving together congregants' stories to illustrate the variety of experiences and beauty of the Temple Israel experience.

"During the evening you will be receiving a copy of the Gala Journal to take home with you," said Veronica Lurvey, who is leading a committee planning the Journal. "It is our hope that this journal will serve as a trip down memory lane, enhancing the celebration for all of us by sharing the personal memories and experiences of all congregants. We encourage everyone to share stories, photos, and memories that highlight what Temple Israel means to them. Ads can share photos from weddings, B'nei Mitzvot, auf rufs, or other simchas—or perhaps you would like to write about a special moment when the community helped you find peace during times of hardship or sorrow. Share memories about lectures, programs or classes and the friendship formed at Temple Israel.

"When individual stories come together in a meaningful way, a community is born," she said. "Our Temple Israel community

is a mosaic of tradition, history and evolution that fits together beautifully, and that is why we have chosen the mosaic as our 75th anniversary logo. This Journal will be very special because it will be a memory book that will enable us to leave a lasting legacy. This Dinner Dance will kick off a year in which we will have the opportunity to look back on our 75 years and explore our history, as we look forward to a vibrant future."

In order to help write the history of Temple Israel, the Dinner Dance Committee has collected boxes of papers, journals, newspaper clippings, photos and other printed materials hidden away for many years. These yellowed and aged documents are the printed records of the congregation's history. They contain fascinating information about the people and events that have helped shape Temple Israel. A group of volunteers are reviewing the documents to create a timeline of the congregation's history for the Journal.

"As important as this historical material is, it can never tell the full story of Temple Israel," Ms. Lurvey said. "We need you to help tell that story for now and for our future generations.

This year's journal is a celebration of who we are. It is a celebration of our community, chronicled by everyone, one page at a time. This year we celebrate our commitment to the strengthening of our Jewish community, to our diversity, to our traditions, and to our transformation."

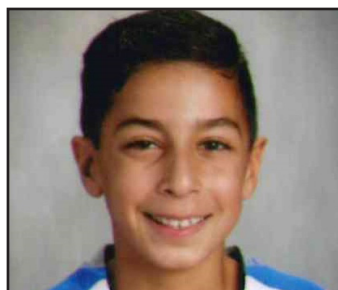


# B'nai/B'not Mitzvah In Our Temple Israel Family



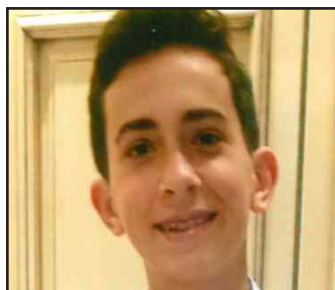
## **Sophia Hanover**

Sophia Hanover will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on October 7. She is the daughter of Susan and David Hanover and has two brothers, Daniel, 20, and Noah, 16. Sophia is an eighth grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. She enjoys dancing and is a member of her school basketball and volleyball teams. She plans to attend the Waxman High School and Youth House. Sophia visits her grandparents and cousins in Israel annually.



## **Aaron Ohebshalom**

Aaron Ohebshalom will be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah on October 14. He is the son of Shadi and Michael Ohebshalom and grandson of congregants Rachelle and Ebby Ohebshalom. He has two sisters, Maya, 10, and Talia, 9, and a brother, Joseph, 4. Aaron is an eighth grade student at Great Neck North Middle School and is the recipient of the Dare to Care Act of Kindness Award and is a member of the Great Neck baseball and travel basketball teams. Aaron and his family plan to visit Israel next June.



## **Jacob Turofsky**

Jacob Logan Turofsky will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on October 21. He is the son of Deborah and Benjamin Turofsky and has two brothers, Isaac, 14, and Lucas, 10, and a sister, Lilianna, 5. Jacob is an eighth grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. He plays the guitar, and enjoys playing soccer, volleyball and swimming and is on his school's swim team. Jacob plans to visit Israel in the near future with his family.



## **Harry Scheidt**

Harry Scheidt will be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah on October 21. He is the son of Joni and Peter Scheidt and has two brothers, Noah, 10, and Brian, 9. Harry is an eighth grade student at Great Neck North Middle School and is on his school football, track and travel teams. Harry hopes to visit Israel in the near future.

## **Mazal Tov To . . .**

### **Linda and Brent Greenspan**

on the engagement of their son, Brandon, to Leah Bloom.

### **Elise and Richard Kestenbaum**

on the marriage of their son, Scott, to Lindsey Cohen.

### **Ossie Mogilnik and Douglas Spector**

on the marriage of their son, Daniel, to Stephanie Weinberg.

### **Elissa and Joel Schiff**

on the marriage of their son, Daniel, to Lilly Sweet.

### **Andrea and Howard Krimko**

on the birth of their granddaughter, Dalva Krimko.

### **Helen Davis**

on the marriage of her granddaughter, Blaire Konner, to Robert Greenblatt.

### **Leslie and Arnold Gussin**

on the birth of their granddaughter, Billie Adelaide Smetana.



## **Ashley Hedvat**

Ashley Hedvat will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on October 28. She is the daughter of Katrin and Faramarz (Frankie) Hedvat and has two sisters, Alexis, 15, and Chloe, 11. Ashley is an eighth grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. She is a member of the school field hockey team. She plans to visit Israel next summer.



## **Evan Lipp**

Evan Lipp will be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah on November 4. He is the son of Sharona and Alan Lipp and has a sister, Mikaela, 14, and a brother, Zachary, 11. Evan is an eighth grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. Evan hopes to visit Israel in the near future.



## **Maya Somekh**

Maya Somekh will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on November 4. She is the daughter of Isabel and Ramin Somekh and has a brother, Matthew, 15. Maya is an eighth grade student at Great Neck North Middle School and is the recipient of a NYSSMA award for piano. Maya practices martial arts and has a high green belt. Maya will continue attending the Waxman High School following her Bat Mitzvah. She has visited Israel in the past, and plans on returning in the near future.

# Sukkot, Simhat Torah and Shabbat Services

## Wednesday, October 4 - Leil Sukkot

Evening Services 6:30 P.M.  
 Followed by a Congregational Dinner in the Sukkah 7:00 P.M.

## Thursday, October 5 - First Day of Sukkot

Shaharit Morning Service 8:45 A.M.  
 First Mourner's Kaddish 9:25 A.M.  
 Torah Reading: Leviticus 22:26 - 23:44  
 Maftir: Numbers 29:12-16  
 Haftarah: Zechariah 14:1-21

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.  
 Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.  
 Evening Services 6:25 P.M.

## Friday, October 6 - Second Day of Sukkot

Shaharit Morning Service 8:45 A.M.  
 First Mourner's Kaddish 9:25 A.M.  
 Torah Reading: Leviticus 22:26 - 23:44  
 Maftir: Numbers 29:12-16  
 Haftarah: I Kings 8:2-21

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.  
 Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.  
 Shabbat Evening Services 6:15 P.M.

## Saturday, October 7 - Shabbat Hol Hamo'ed Sukkot

Shaharit Morning Service 8:45 A.M.  
 First Mourner's Kaddish 9:25 A.M.  
 Torah Reading: Exodus 33:12 - 34:26  
 Maftir: Numbers 29:17-22  
 Haftarah: Ezekiel 38:18 - 39:16

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters: Brent Greenspan,  
 Susan Lopatkin, Diana Stein, Madelyn Gould and Joyce Weston

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.  
 Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.  
 Afternoon Services 5:50 P.M.  
 Se'udah Shelishit 6:20 P.M.  
 Evening Services 6:55 P.M.  
 Havdalah 7:10 P.M.

## Sunday, October 8 - Hol Hamo'ed Sukkot

Morning Services 8:15 A.M.

Torah Reading: Numbers 29:20-28

Community Sukkot Celebration  
 beginning with a catered dinner 6:00 P.M.  
 Evening Services 8:00 P.M.

## Monday, October 9 and Tuesday, October 10

Hol Hamo'ed Sukkot  
 Morning Services 6:30 A.M.

Monday Torah Reading: Numbers 29:23-31  
 Tuesday Torah Reading: Numbers 29:26-34

Evening Services 8:00 P.M.

## Wednesday, October 11 - Hoshanah Rabbah

Morning Services 6:15 A.M.

Torah Reading: Numbers 29:26 - 34

Leil Shemini Atzeret

Evening Services 6:15 P.M.

## Thursday, October 12 - Shemini Atzeret

Early Morning Service 6:30 A.M.

Shaharit Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

First Mourner's Kaddish 9:25 A.M.

Torah Reading: Deuteronomy 14:22 - 16:17

Maftir: Numbers 29:35 - 30:1

Haftarah: I Kings 8:54 - 66

Yizkor Memorial Services - Dedication of Memorial Plaques

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Leil Simhat Torah

Evening Services and Hakafot in the Sanctuary 6:00 P.M.

for school-age children, teens and adults

Celebration in the Crystal Ballroom 6:00 P.M.

for pre-school and kindergarten children and their families

## Daily Minyan Times

### Friday, Sept. 29 (Kol Nidre)

7:00 A.M. 3:00 P.M.

### Friday, Oct. 20 (Rosh Hodesh Heshvan)

6:45 A.M. 6:00 P.M.

### Friday, Oct. 27

7:00 A.M. 5:45 P.M.

### Friday, Nov. 3

7:00 A.M. 4:40 P.M.

### Sunday

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

### Monday, Oct. 2, 16, 23, 30 & Nov. 6

6:45 A.M. 8:00 P.M.

### Monday, Oct. 9 & Tuesday, Oct. 10

(Hol Hamo'ed Sukkot)

6:30 A.M. 8:00 P.M.

### Tuesday, Oct. 3, 17, 24, 31 & Nov. 7

7:00 A.M. 8:00 P.M.

### Wednesday, Oct. 4 (Erev Sukkot)

7:00 A.M. 6:30 P.M.

### Wednesday, Oct. 11

(Hosha'na Rabbah/Leil Shemini Atzeret)

6:15 A.M. 6:15 P.M.

### Wednesday, Oct. 18, 25 & Nov. 1, 8

7:00 A.M. 8:00 P.M.

### Thursday, Oct. 19, 26 & Nov. 2, 9

6:45 A.M. 8:00 P.M.

# Six Congregants Receiving Honors On Simhat Torah

—Continued from front page

The Schoens have a daughter, Nancy, 12, who attended the Beth HaGan Nursery School and the Temple Israel Religious School, and is now a student at the Waxman High School. She has performed with the Temple Israel Players for the past four years.

## Rachelle and Ebby Ohebshalom

Rachelle and Ebby Ohebshalom came to the United States from their native Iran. Mr. Ohebshalom recalls an uncle advising him that “Iran is not a good place for Jewish people to be.” After completing his medical training in Frankfurt, Germany, he settled in Forest Hills in 1964. Mrs. Ohebshalom came to the United States from Iran in 1951. After the couple’s marriage at the Forest Hills Jewish Center they moved to Great Neck. They joined Temple Israel in 1972.

The couple comes to services almost every Shabbat and have become major supporters of Temple Israel. “If we are asked to help the congregation, we do it,” Mr. Ohebshalom said. They are also supporters of the Iranian American Jewish Federation, Friends of the Israel Defense Forces, the Sephardic Heritage Alliance, and Congregation Beth Hadassah.

Mr. Ohebshalom, a physician, did his internship at Mary Immaculate Hospital and was a psychiatry resident at Creedmore Psychiatric Center. Since 1969 he has been in private practice. Mrs. Ohebshalom attended Queens College, where she majored in early childhood education.

The Ohebshaloms have four children, Vida, David, Michael, and Michelle, all of whom attended congregation schools, became B’nei Mitzvah at Temple Israel, and most were married at the synagogue, as well. They have 15 grandchildren, including one who will mark his Bar Mitzvah at Temple Israel next month. Mr. and Mrs. Ohebshalom said they “have found another home and another family at Temple Israel. We are very happy to be members.”

## Sustaining Our Jewish Way of Life

—Continued from page 2

And, we need your help! Our Kol Nidre Campaign is counted on to help pay for the day-to-day operating expenses of our synagogue. Our Kol Nidre Campaign is not for the future; it is to help us pay our bills now!

We have a large and aging physical plant that is costly to run. We have a large payroll (professional, administrative, educational and maintenance) that we have to meet—families count on us for their livelihoods. We have a large school, where tuition alone does not cover our operational expenses. We have a huge fixed overhead. But, all of that overhead is OK. It is what a synagogue like ours should have in order to serve its diverse membership and properly deliver the many services that our congregation both deserves and has come to expect. Temple Israel is here to serve you: your religious, social, cultural, and spiritual needs, but it costs money and the bills have to be paid.

If you have been generous to us in the past, we thank you and we ask you to continue. If you have never contributed to the Kol Nidre Appeal, we ask you to think of the cost of dinner at a local restaurant when you go out with your family. Please at least “have dinner with us” now. We need your help! Every contribution counts and makes a difference!

## Van Frankel and Manny Bardash

Van Frankel and Manny Bardash are founders of the Hatzilu Rescue Organization, which brings food and other assistance to the Jewish poor in the New York area. In recognition of their efforts for the organization for more than 40 years they have been named Simhat Torah honorees.

Van Frankel’s parents, Charles and Constance, z’l, joined Temple Israel in 1951. He attended the congregation’s Religious School, became a Bar Mitzvah at Temple Israel, and was married in the synagogue. He is a former member of the Board of Trustees, former chair of the Temple Israel Pastoral Committee, and has served as a pastoral care captain for 30 years. He has assisted with Midnight Run and served as an educator for the Temple Israel Hebrew Literacy Program. For many years he has served as a High Holy Days usher in the Grand Ballroom. He is a past president of the Men’s Club and has performed with the Temple Israel Players for the past 13 years.

His concern for pastoral care extends beyond the congregation. He is a member of the Pastoral Care Advisory Board of the Northwell Hospital Network and a member of the Angel Core Committee for the Long Island Hospice Care Network. He served as a dialysis chaplain for the Beth Israel Medical Center and has served as a clinical pastoral care chaplain for the past nine years.

Mr. Frankel and his wife, Laurie, have a son, Daniel, who has regularly had leading roles with the Temple Israel Players. His sister, Sherry Modlin, and her family are also members of the congregation.

Manny Bardash served as president of Temple Israel from 1993-1995. He had previously served as vice president and on the Board of Trustees. In the 1970s he served as treasurer and then president of the Men’s Club.

Mr. Bardash played a key role in Hatzilu opening a social center in Brownsville, Brooklyn, to help the elderly Jewish community in the area. Today, he and Mr. Frankel regularly deliver hot kosher meals to Jews in need in the Great Neck area. This month they delivered meals to 14 families in need in the community. “It’s amazing to see how appreciative these people are,” he said. He has served on the Hatzilu Board of Directors since 1975.

Mr. Bardash designed and installed Temple Israel’s automated yahrzeit boards, was a founder of the Shoah Committee along with Steven Markowitz, and chaired a popular dinner lecture series for the congregation in the 1970s. He is most proud of the role he played as chair of the Jubilee Weekend celebrating Rabbi Mordecai Waxman’s 50th year with the congregation.

He worked for 25 years as an engineering supervisor for Lake Success-based Sperry, which later became Unisys and then Lockheed Martin. He is a member of the Save the Steppingstones Lighthouse Committee and the Great Neck Sailing Club. His wife, Laura, has served as the president and corresponding secretary of the Sisterhood. She currently oversees the Temple Israel gift shop. They have two married children, Karen and David, and six grandchildren.



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# Ask the Rabbi: Seeing Stars on Sukkot

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By Rabbi Daniel Schweber

**Question:** Why is it a requirement to build the roof of the sukkah such that we can see the stars?

**Discussion:** We are taught in Leviticus 23 that we are to dwell in sukkot for seven days so that we know that Israel dwelled in sukkot while in the wilderness for 40 years. The Torah does not define what a sukkah is. Inherited tradition and rabbinic commentary fill in the blanks for us.

In summary, a sukkah is a form of shelter. Minimally, it must have two complete walls and a fractional third wall. Its roof is made out of cut branches and greenery. As a shelter, a sukkah

must provide at least 51 percent shade from the sun. A sukkah is not a tent. A tent has a complete roof that shelters from rain; a sukkah must be open enough to allow rainfall in.

Some commentaries also add that the roof should be open enough to see the larger stars at night. We then need other commentaries to explain why we should be able to see the stars.

Rabbi Joseph Teomim, a 17th century Galician, writes that seeing the stars



reminds us of God's sovereignty. After spending the High Holy Days praising God's sovereignty we can witness it out in the world. Another explanation is that we are supposed to think about God's promise to Abraham to make his descendants as numerous as the stars.

Adding the requirement to see that stars makes most sense in Israel. When the Jews lived in warm and dry Israel they would sleep out in the sukkah. Living in the often cold and wet northeast US, we are exempt from sleeping in the sukkah. We are also plagued with a lot of light pollution living in such a populated area. Many of us have rarely, if ever, seen a night sky unencumbered by light pollution. On a clear night, in a darker spot, we can perhaps see the bright stars of the Big Dipper and Orion's belt, but our majestic view is most definitely dimmed. The sukkah is still a beautiful place to be, as long as it is not raining. But not to see the stars.

That is, until this Sukkot at Temple Israel! We will have a planetarium set up during our communal Sukkot celebration on Sunday, October 8. After the 6 P.M. dinner, our children through grade six will have an opportunity to learn about the stars in the galaxy and the solar system centered around our own star, the sun. No guarantees, but maybe the grown-ups can sneak a peek inside the planetarium, too.

With or without stars, the holiday of Sukkot is about rejoicing in God's presence and having gratitude for God's gifts in this world. You are all invited to join us for the many events and services during the holiday. Wishing you all a Chag Sameach!

## Holding On and Letting Go

—Continued from page 2

go of whatever obsessive approaches we might have to conveying our point of view.

We would do well to respect other people's independence. Those we seek to influence need the latitude to chart their own journeys. Advice is one thing, but it should be given graciously and with full recognition that we have no right to coerce. We need to let go of the dual need to control others and to control outcomes.

We must accept in the end that we will not always get what we want. Often, especially regarding the lives of people we live with, we need to learn to recalibrate. We need to let go of certain expectations when it becomes clear that they are not viable.

During these weeks of the Jewish calendar, we read the stories in the Torah about the final years of the life of Moses. I believe we can take solace and direction from these stories. Moses often lost patience with the people. However, particularly toward the end of his life, he explored creative new ways to get his message across, including poetic songs and visual reminders. He came to understand that he would need to trust his people to interpret God's laws and ultimately, to forge their own understanding. He grew to accept, if unhappily, that he would not enter the land with his people and he learned to recalibrate the content and format of his message.

With Moses's example as a guide, we can learn to hold on and to let go. To hold on to our vision, but to let go of our need to control how it's internalized and implemented. To hold on to our overall hopes for the future, but to let go of our need to control each and every outcome.

With enormous respect for the symbolic power of the Buddhist mandala, I propose an artistic symbol that strikes me as more authentically Jewish. I'll offer the playful hypothesis that it may be no coincidence, given the legacy of our Biblical teacher, that it's called a mosaic.

The mosaic contains multiple parts and can be created in collaboration, over generations, a lasting legacy that can evolve over time.

I wish all of us a productive year of holding on and letting go, inspiring and empowering one another to contribute to a lasting mosaic, one beautiful tile at a time.

# Shoah Committee Begins Year with Breakfast for Survivors, Supporters

## *Marking Kristallnacht Sunday, November 5th*



Members and friends of the Temple Israel Shoah Remembrance Committee gathered at an opening breakfast meeting earlier this month to kick off a new year of programming.

Committee Chair Lori Oppenheimer welcomed the large number of participants and introduced Cantor Raphael Frieder to lead the group in singing Hinei Ma Tov and Shehecheyanu, to celebrate the blessing of being together. Mrs. Oppenheimer recapped the main programs from the past year. She also spoke about an upcoming program to commemorate Kristallnacht on Sunday, November 5, at 7 P.M. featuring Dr. Mordecai Paldiel, former director of the Righteous Among Nations at Yad Vashem, who will discuss his recent book, "Saving One's Own: Jewish Rescuers during the Holocaust." Former



Shoah Committee Chair Jack Levine spoke about the rejuvenation of the Shoah Committee. In closing remarks, Rabbi Schweber shared some learning from the coming week's Torah portion.

Everyone enthusiastically greeted long-time members of the congregation and the Committee, Shoah survivors Lottie and Bill Blye and Shoah survivor Rachel Hersonsky. Other survivors in attendance included Fred Einstein, Eva Ebin, Vera Eden, Fanny Narotzky, and Edith Weinberger.

Members of the congregation interested in learning more about the Shoah Committee can contact Mrs. Oppenheimer at [shoahcommitteeign@gmail.com](mailto:shoahcommitteeign@gmail.com) or 448-2084.

**Voice photos**  
by Ofra Panzer





# From Generation to Generation

## Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

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In honor of:

The marriage of her granddaughter, Blaire Konner, to Robert Greenblatt  
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Harold Soshnick

### RABBI SCHWEBER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of:

Rabbi Schweber's support and leading funeral services for his wife, Gerri Berkman  
Mark Berkman  
Rabbi Schweber for saying kaddish for Avrum (Albert) Abikzer  
Paula Abikzer  
Rabbi Schweber for his help in preparing their son, Reuben, for his Bar Mitzvah  
Debbie and Pedram  
Doustan

In honor of:

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### RABBI STECKER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of:

Rabbi Stecker's efforts on behalf of the Temple family  
Charles Dimston

In honor of:

Their grandson, Reuben Doustan, becoming a Bar Mitzvah  
Karen and Donald Ashkenase

For the recovery of:

Morgan Handsman  
Linda Handsman

Contribution:

Wishing Rabbi Stecker and everyone at Temple Israel a healthy and happy Rosh Hashanah  
The Damaghi family

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Milly Papilsky  
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Rabbi Charry for officiating at the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Reuben  
Debbie and Pedram  
Doustan

# The Religious School Year Begins

**From the Temple Israel Religious School** by Rabbi Amy Roth

Sha, Sha, Sha, Shana Tova!

As we welcomed back our returning children, and greeted our new Religious School children, the start to our school year was punctuated with sweetness and spunk.

As we all know, the timing of the Jewish holidays always evokes comments “the holidays are early, the holidays are late.” We started the year with apples and honey, and will eventually work our way through snacks and lulav and etrog in the sukkah, and dancing with the Torah in anticipation of Simchat Torah. Chants of “Sha sha sha shana tova!” echoed through the halls of our education wing, as we all wished one another a sweet, good year.

As we begin to greet the new month of Heshvan, we look forward to the “routine” of Rosh Hodesh hagigot (celebrations), hadashot me-avar (Vav children presenting “A Moment in Jewish History”), tzedakah counting, hallway Hebrew and, yes, the magic that actually goes on inside the classrooms. We welcome these days of learning and relationship building.

And yet, even amid our routine, we look ahead to some new innovations in our program. We are kicking off something new: our “Adon Olam” Competition! Children in Gimmel through Vav will be encouraged to put Adon Olam to different tunes and compete monthly for a chance to perform and teach their tune to the entire Religious School community. Stay tuned to experience the creativity and ingenuity of our children!

Once again, Temple Israel is partnering with the Sid Jacobson JCC in working to bring Israel into our young people’s lives in a real, relatable way. The “shinshinim” are young Israelis, who are performing a year of service to the Jewish community prior to their national service in the IDF. Last year, thanks to the generosity of the Israel Affairs Committee, we participated in this effort and our children loved our shinshinim!

Once again, thanks to the Temple Israel Israel Affairs Committee, we are fortunate enough to have two different young “shinshinim” as part of our program. Eden Elfasi comes every Tuesday to the Religious School, where she will be running Israeli-themed games and activities. Children of all ages will have the opportunity to meet her, play and “hang out” with her. Guy Landa comes every Thursday, is part of our dynamic seventh grade “Mensch Makers” team (with our own Avi Siegel), and brings Israel to our seventh graders in a fun, experiential way. They are two vibrant, energetic young Israelis, and are quickly becoming part of our Temple Israel mishpacha. You are most welcome to stop by on a Tuesday or Thursday (in the Youth House) to meet them! Incidentally, the JCC is still looking for host homes for our shinshinim. Speak to me if you would like to know what this entails.

We know that this will be an enriching year—one where we will all learn many things, and in a variety of ways. We look forward to sharing the further adventures of the Temple Israel Religious School with you during the course of the year.



Religious School students seem happy to be back to school!

## Sabbath Services

—Continued from back page

Havurah Service	10:00 A.M.
Shabbat HaMishpachah	10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service	11:00 A.M.

Afternoon Service	5:20 P.M.
Se'udah Shelishit	5:50 P.M.
Evening Service	6:24 P.M.
Bar Mitzvah Owen Roubeni son of Alexandra and Daniel Roubeni	
Havdalah	6:39 P.M.

### Friday, November 3

Evening Services	4:40 P.M.
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### Saturday, November 4

Shaharit Morning Service	8:45 A.M.
Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Rabbi Abraham Eckstein's Ordination	
First Mourner's Kaddish	9:25 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Vayera  
Genesis 18:1 – 22:24  
Haftarah: II Kings 4:1 - 37

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:  
Ezra Kassin, Barbara Levy, Mark Putter,  
Susan Brustein, and Deanna Stecker

Bat Mitzvah: Maya Somekh  
daughter of Isabel and Ramin Somekh  
Bar Mitzvah: Evan Lipp  
son of Sharona and Alan Lipp

Junior Congregation	10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service	11:00 A.M.
Shabbat Talk	12:45 P.M.

Afternoon Service	4:10 P.M.
Se'udah Shelishit	4:40 P.M.
Evening Service	5:15 P.M.
Havdalah	5:30 P.M.

## Congregation Thanks Kiddush Sponsors

A contribution toward the kiddush on August 19 was made by Gil Berookhim in memory of his father, Nejatollah Berookhim.

Contributions toward the kiddush on August 26 were made by Sherly and David Aminzadeh in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Natalie, and Carol and Steve Smolinsky in honor of the baby naming of their granddaughter, Maya Smolinsky.

## D'var Torah

—Continued from back page

### **Noah** **Saturday, October 21**

In this portion we read of the destruction of the world by the great flood and the recreation 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 a 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 generation—to Abraham.

### **Lekh-Lekha** **Saturday, October 28**

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.

### **Vayera** **Saturday, November 4**

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.

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# D'var Torah

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by Rabbi Marim D. Charry

## Bereshit Saturday, October 14

We begin the reading of the Torah anew in this portion. The creation of the world is described in two accounts. The first account focuses on the creation of all the elements of the physical universe, including humanity, and comes to a climax with the establishment of a day of rest. The second account focuses on the creation of humanity and comes to a climax with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. As a result of transgressing, a strict prohibition on eating of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, Adam and Eve are banished from the Garden. God proclaims that henceforth they will get their food by hard toil and women will bear children in pain. Adam and Eve have two sons, Cain and Abel, who become a farmer and a shepherd, respectively. As a result of anger when God accepts Abel's offering, but not his own, Cain kills his brother. Adam and Eve have a third son, Seth, from whom Noah ascends.

—Continued on page 11

### Temple Israel of Great Neck

## Voice

Marc Katz, Editor

#### Associate Editors:

Paula Charry, Angela Jones, Ronnie Katz,  
Marion Stein, Rabbi Daniel Schweber

#### Photographers:

Robert Lopatkin, Ofra Panzer

#### TEMPLE ISRAEL OF GREAT NECK

108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023  
P: 516.482.7800 | F: 516.482.7352  
info@tign.org | www.tign.org

Temple Israel Voice (USPS # 078-740) is published monthly by Temple Israel of Great Neck at 108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023. Periodicals postage paid at Great Neck, NY 11021.

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

Temple Israel Voice, 108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023  
Subscription \$5.00 per annum

#### TEMPLE ISRAEL STAFF

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## Sabbath Services

**Friday, October 13** - Simhat Torah  
Evening Services 6:00 P.M.

**Saturday, October 14**  
Shaharit Morning Service 8:45 A.M.  
First Mourner's Kaddish 9:25 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Bereshit  
Genesis 1:1 – 6:8  
Haftarah: Isaiah 42:5 – 43:10

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:  
Jerrold Schlessel, Alise Kreditor,  
Robert Lopatkin, and Jeffrey Fleit

Bar Mitzvah: Aaron Ohebshalom  
son of Shadi and Michael Ohebshalom

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.  
Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.  
Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.  
Afternoon Service 5:40 P.M.  
Se'udah Shelishit 6:10 P.M.  
Evening Service 6:44 P.M.  
Havdalah 6:59 P.M.

**Friday, October 20** - Rosh Hodesh Heshvan  
Evening Services 6:00 P.M.

**Saturday, October 21**  
Rosh Hodesh Heshvan  
Shaharit Morning Service/Shabbat  
Morning Group Aliyah 8:45 A.M.  
First Mourner's Kaddish 9:25 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:  
Marjorie Hoffman, Deborah Volk,  
Andi Katz, Hal Rothbaum and Brent  
Greenspan

Bar Mitzvah: Harry Scheidt  
son of Joni and Peter Scheidt  
Bar Mitzvah: Jacob Turofsky  
son of Deborah and Benjamin Turofsky  
Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.  
Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.  
Niggun Circle following kiddush

Afternoon Service 5:30 P.M.  
Se'udah Shelishit 6:00 P.M.  
Evening Service 6:34 P.M.  
Havdalah 6:49 P.M.

**Friday, October 27**  
N'Ranarah/Evening Services 6:30 P.M.

**Saturday, October 28**  
Shaharit Morning Service 8:45 A.M.  
First Mourner's Kaddish 9:25 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Lekh-Lekha  
Genesis 12:1 – 17:27  
Haftarah: Isaiah 40:27 – 41:16

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:  
Jacqueline Harounian, Sima Taeid,  
Rebecca Friedman-Charry, Deanna  
Stecker and Debra Bykoff

Bat Mitzvah: Ashley Hedvat  
daughter of Katrin and Faramarz Hedvat

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