



Discussion On Creative Approaches to 21st Century Judaism Features Controversial and Innovative Rabbis January 15th

First Female Orthodox Rabbi, Founder of New York's Romemu Joining Rabbi Stecker



Rabba Sara Hurwitz

By Marc Katz, Editor

Challenges facing the Jewish community will be discussed from three interesting approaches as part of a panel discussion at Temple Israel next Thursday, January 15.

Rabbi Howard Stecker will be joined by *Rabba* Sara Hurwitz, dean of Yeshivat Maharat, who is the first and only ordained Orthodox female rabbi, and Rabbi David Ingber, the founder and director of Romemu, a Manhattan congregation that identifies with the Jewish Renewal Movement. Rabbi Seth Adelson will serve as the program moderator.

Romemu seeks to integrate body, mind and soul in Jewish practice, according to their website. "Unabashedly eclectic, we engage in body practices like yoga, infuse traditional liturgy with the energy of ecstatic chant, and ground our practice with meditation and contemplation," their website says. "This is a Judaism that will ignite your spirit."

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Rabbi David Ingber

Temple Israel Players Dedicate a Backstage Plaque In Memory Of Their Co-Founder, Actor-Producer Stanley Goldfarb

Temple Israel Players members have dedicated a plaque in memory of one of the theatrical group's founders, Stanley Goldfarb, who passed away in November 2013.

The plaque, backstage in the Crystal Ballroom, reads: "To honor the memory of Stanley Goldfarb, original co-producer and outstanding actor of the Temple Israel Players. With great affection, we all miss you Stan."

The group, composed of congregants with a flare for the footlights, was founded by Mr. Goldfarb and one of the current producers, Eileen Putterman, 43 years ago. Since then The Temple Israel Players have brought scores of shows to the congregation. Productions involve a large number of congregants, both in acting roles and behind the scenes.

They are now in rehearsals for "Mame," which will open on Saturday evening, March 14, followed by a Sunday matinee performance on March 15. Among their past productions were "Fiddler On The Roof," "Milk and Honey," "Kiss Me Kate," "Oklahoma," "Annie Get Your Gun," and "South Pacific."

Mr. Goldfarb was a producer and had leading roles in most of the shows. Among his most memorable performances were a soft shoe skit he did with the late Jed Orenstein in "Guys and Dolls" and his major role in "The King and I."

"Stan loved the theater," Mrs. Putterman said. "He was a superb director and knew how to act very well, too."



Temple Israel Players Producers Mark Putter, Eileen Putterman and Ron Klempner, left to right, at the backstage plaque dedicated to the late Stanley Goldfarb. Other show producers are Carol Smolinsky and Lois Sazer.

Voice photo by Bob Lopatkin

Here, Your Vote Makes a Real Difference

By Martin Werber

EDITOR'S NOTE: An upcoming election—vital to the Conservative movement—needs your vote and support, as detailed in this Voice Guest Column by Martin Werber, a member of the Board of Mercaz USA.

From the comfort of your home, you will soon have the opportunity to determine how money raised by the Jewish community in America is spent to invest in the

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continuity of the Jewish people in Israel and in America. Your vote will determine how funds are divided among the various Jewish denominations and to what extent democracy and religious pluralism is encouraged in Israel.

It is an election most of us have never

heard of, and for an organization most of us are not aware of. And, I am encouraging you to vote for a party you did not know exists and a slate of the Conservative movement. You won't see any ads on TV for it, and yet this will be one of the most important votes you will cast in 2015.

It is election for the 37th World Zionist Organization Congress. And MERCAZ, the worldwide Zionist organization of the Conservative Movement, is running and needs your vote.

MERCAZ promotes and supports Zionist education and Israel programs within our movement. At the same time, MERCAZ represents the interests of Masorti (Conservative) Judaism in the World Zionist Organization (WZO) and in the Jewish Agency for Israel. Within those bodies, MERCAZ advocates for religious pluralism within Israel, is a force for funding the liberal re-

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FROM THE RABBI

Remembering Is Not About the Past

By Rabbi Howard Stecker

To a large extent, Jewish holidays are about remembering. We bear a collective memory of primal defeats and victories, using Passover to recall leaving ancient Egypt and Hanukkah to remind us of our conflict with ancient Greece.

However, not all remembering is created equal. We can remember in ways that enslave us to the past or we can remember in ways that enhance our ability to face the present.

I recently heard a lecture by Micha Goodman, a senior fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, which correlated both types of remembering with two seminal ancient Israelite leaders. King Josiah, who ruled over the Kingdom of Judah in the seventh century BCE, instituted a religious revival that reestablished the celebration of Passover after centuries of neglect. Unfortunately, he exercised radically poor judgment by attacking the King of Egypt while the latter was marching through Judean territory on his way to Assyria. According to Micha Goodman, King Josiah remembered the Passover story in

such a literal way that he believed that he needed to defeat the current Pharaoh as a way of fulfilling an ancient narrative. His myopic way of remembering cost him his life.

By contrast, Moses encouraged the generation about to enter the Promised Land to remember the experience of being strangers in Egypt so that they would be inclined to treat

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strangers with greater sensitivity and compassion. Moses's approach to remembering encouraged a generation who had not directly experienced slavery to bear a collective memory that would impact positively upon the society they were about to create in a new land.

For King Josiah, remembering was about literally fighting the battles of the past. For Moses, remembering was about

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Civil Discourse

By Alan Klinger

This past December 25th a number of Temple Israel couples travelled to the City Winery for a presentation of Christmas for the Jews, a now annual gathering of comics that touch on topics relevant to the Jewish experience. (An unsolicited plug for next year—the event was quite entertaining.) The MC of the evening was Joel Chasnoff, raised as a Conservative Jew, with the other comics having Orthodox and Reform backgrounds. Chasnoff began the evening explaining to the few non-Jews in attendance the difference between the three main branches of Judaism (having quipped that only Jews, being in a distinct

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minority worldwide, would further fracture themselves by denomination): the Orthodox believe in rules then spend much of their time looking for ways to get around them; the Reform take pride in not believing in any rules; and the Conservatives, and here he paused and then queried: "What do they believe in?" And, with better comic timing than can be written, added: "No, really, what do we believe in?" Though certainly not a novel question and one for which there are thoughtful responses (e.g., expositions on tradition and change), that inquiry sets the stage for a set of articles that appeared this past week that raise how, if at all, we are to address the controversial topic of inter-faith relationships.

The first article <<http://www.time-sofisrael.com/jewishworld>> centered on the resolution adopted at the recent international United Synagogue Youth convention where, among other items, the group voted to amend its standards of leadership, changing the provision that the organization leadership would "refrain from relationships which can be construed as inter-dating" to one of leadership "striv[ing] to model healthy Jewish dating choices. These include recognizing the importance of dating within the Jewish community and treating each person with the recognition that they were created *Betzelem Elohim* (in the image of God)." While some decried this change as giving in to interdating, others, including outgoing USY President Aaron Pluemer and United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism CEO Rabbi Steven Wernick (who will be visiting with us on

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IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences
to the families of:

NATHAN ADLER

husband of Clara Adler
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

NAHIDEH RAHIMI

mother of Mitra Souferian
and Roya Anvari

SYLVIA KRUGMAN

mother of Ellen Friedman Krasner

May their memories 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.
Friday, Jan. 9	7:00 A.M.	4:30 P.M.
Friday, Jan. 16	7:00 A.M.	6:30 P.M.
Sat., Jan. 10	9:00 A.M.	4:05 P.M.
Sat., Jan. 17	9:00 A.M.	4:15 P.M.
Sunday	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Friday, Jan. 9.....	4:27 P.M.
Friday, Jan. 16.....	4:34 P.M.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

Jan.	10	Niggun Circle, Led by Cantor Frieder	1:00 P.M.
	11	Family B'nai Mitzvah Workshop I with Rabbi Adelson	10:30 A.M.
	11	TILL Movie Presentation: "Omar, The Movie"	7:30 P.M.
	12	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 A.M.
	13	Adult Bat/Bar Mitzvah Information Session	8:15 P.M.
	15	TILL Discussion: "Creativity and Community" Featuring Rabbis Stecker, Hurwitz and Ingber,	8:15 P.M.
	17	Shabbat-Game-A-Palooza	4:00 P.M.
	18	Waxman High School and Youth House Holocaust Museum Trip	10:00 A.M.
	18	Community Martin Luther King Memorial Service	3:30 P.M.
	20	Sisterhood Discussion: "Jewish Values in Star Trek" Featuring Rabbi Charry	7:30 P.M.
	21	Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	25	Family B'nai Mitzvah Workshop II with Rabbi Adelson	10:30 A.M.
	25	EmpTI Nesters Book Talk	6:30 P.M.
	27	TILL Discussion: "War and Peace in Jewish Tradition"	8:15 P.M.
	29	Men's Club Meeting	7:30 P.M.
	30	Congregational Tu B'shvat Seder	7:30 P.M.
Feb.	1	Men's Club's World-Wide Wrap	11:00 A.M.
	4	Tu B'shvat	
	5	Beth HaGan Nursery School Science Fair	
	8	Family B'nai Mitzvah Workshop III with Cantor Frieder	9:30 A.M.
	8	PJ Library Storybook Theater Presents: "The Adventures of Mitzvah Man and Estie the Mensch"	3:00 P.M.
	8	TILL Movie Presentation	7:30 P.M.
	9	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 A.M.

New Adult Bat/Bar Mitzvah Class Forming

Make a comprehensive two-year commitment involving classes one night per week, including Hebrew reading and Jewish subjects including tefillah (prayer), Jewish laws and customs, theology, Israel, and holidays.
Classes begin in late January.

Information session
Tuesday, January 13, at 8:15 PM
in the Blue Room.

Sisterhood Presents

Jewish Values In Star Trek

Star Trek introduced millions of fans to Jewish values and ethical behavior. This program will boldly explore these values.

Guide: Rabbi Marim D. Charry
Tuesday, January 20 7:30 P.M.

Men, Women & Vulcans Welcome!

RSVP to Karen Ashkenase at 487-3048
or Laura Bardash at laurab44@optonline.net

Community-wide commemoration for Dr. Martin Luther King

Sunday, January 18 3:30 P.M.

St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church

under the leadership of Rev. Kathleen Edwards

Guest Speaker Reverend Natalie M. Fenimore
Minister for Lifespan Religious Education at the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock
"What Martin Luther King Would Say Today
— and What We Might Say to Him."

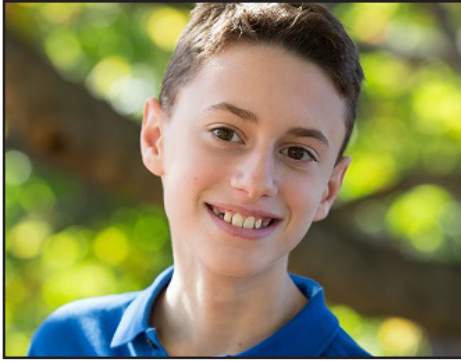
The EmpTI Nesters are reading and discussing "The Lemon Tree" by Sandy Tolan

with Rabbi Seth Adelson.
Later they will screen the movie.

First discussion: January 25 6:30 P.M.
Blue Room

For further information
contact Barbara Spun at <bbbspun@gmail.com>
RSVP by January 15 to <jengel@tign.org>

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



Richard Kanders

Richard Kanders will be celebrating his *Bar Mitzvah* on January 24. He is the son of Lauraine and Jonathan Kanders and has a sister, Chloe, 14. Richard is a seventh grade honor student at Great Neck South Middle School. He enjoys watching, playing and attending sporting events and attends Camp Greylock. He would like to visit Israel in the near future.

From the President: Civil Discourse

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the weekend of March 20), explained it as a more welcoming approach to the realities of present society where interfaith couples are in increasing number and the off-spring of those families could view the prior prohibition off-putting.

The second piece <http://forward.com/rabbi> focused on a proposal made by Rabbi Wesley Gardenswartz of the Conservative synagogue Temple Emanuel in Newton, Massachusetts, to the Rabbinic Assembly, the group that sets Conservative policies and standards, to allow Conservative rabbis to perform inter-faith marriages if the couple committed to a "Covenant to Raise Jewish Children." Within a matter of days Rabbi Gardenswartz withdrew the current proposal as unworkable (various issues were raised, ranging from treating people differently based upon intention to have children to whether this would threaten the core of Jewish existence), but some, like Rabbi Chuck Simon (who currently serves as executive director of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs and formerly was part of the Temple Israel staff and who spoke to our Board of Trustees on approaches to inter-faith relationships) believe these matters are squarely on the table. Rabbi Gardenswartz hasn't fully retreated: he has said that Temple Emanuel will treat an interfaith couple the same as others in his congregation though its clergy cannot officiate at an interfaith wedding. Rabbi Simon has presented on how the wise congregations have found ways to add to the roles the non-Jewish spouse can play in synagogue life. Others view these initiatives as dilutions that threaten the core of Judaism.

How these issues are navigated is certainly not easy. For that reason, for a number of years many have sought to sidestep these matters, for they are controversial and reasonable people can disagree as to what is appropriate. For some, as set forth in the articles, the issue is whether policy should move towards participants' choices; for others, the goal should be to move participants' choices towards accepted policy. We have started the discussion through programs sponsored by the synagogue led by our clergy. Others in lay leadership have attended seminars that seek to tackle these matters. The discussion should continue, for we as a movement do seem to be at a turning point. Maintaining numbers may not be the most critical element of our belief system, but the ramifications of current trends should be assessed. We should make these decisions, not have them made for us by avoidance. But to have the discussion requires tolerance for different viewpoints. There is no place for the type of vituperation seen in some of the early comments on the above topics. (To me, that USY leaders would spend a year studying such matters and debate them to 2:30 A.M. for a culminating vote is itself impressive.) With thanks to our clergy for their suggested references to temperamental teaching, let's consider these matters (along with others), but let's do so mindful of the paraphrased teaching of Ecclesiastes 9:17 that quiet words of some are more to be heeded than the shouts of others.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and spiritually fulfilling New Year.

Here, Your Vote Makes a Real Difference

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ligious movements (such as Reform and Conservative Judaism) in Israel and promotes Jewish education and continuity worldwide.

The last election was a number of years ago. At that time, enough Conservative Jews participated to enable Dr. David Breakstone to become the first Conservative Jew to become vice chairman of the World Zionist Organization. We were fortunate to have Dr. Breakstone as our guest at Temple Israel during *Shabbat* services on December 6. We learned how important it is to have someone in that position who is such an effective spokesman in promoting the values we hold dear.

How does this affect us directly?

A portion of the many millions of dollars raised by UJA Federation of New York, along with all of the other American Jewish federations, is annually allocated to Israel. Much of this money goes to the WZO

and its affiliate, the Jewish Agency, which distributes those funds. This is used for many important purposes to build Israel, strengthen Israeli society, and to foster the ties of Israelis with Jews around the world. To this end, the Jewish Agency funds Jewish education work and promotes love of Israel among world Jewry.

The Jewish Agency is trying to insure that there is a home for all kinds of Jews in Israel by actively promoting pluralism in Israel. Unlike Orthodox synagogues, which are funded by the Israeli government, Masorti/Conservative and Reform synagogues are entirely on their own. They are now able to get some help from the Jewish Agency. The Conservative movement's Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem gets aid that enables American Jews to deepen their connection to Judaism and Israel. The Conservative movement's Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center is given some assistance by the Jewish Agency to host USY kids, Conservative college students, and put up lone soldiers on *Shabbat* and vacations.

The apportionment of those monies is directly affected by the relative size of the delegations from each Zionist organization. Thus, the more Conservative Jews who register—and who vote for MERCAZ—the more MERCAZ delegates are elected, the more we can make a difference. Those votes translate into more money going to our movement in Israel and the more say we have in ensuring that the flow of money and the guiding philosophy of the Jewish Agency supports our concerns for pluralism in Israeli society.

We need you to make a difference. The upcoming election for the World Zionist Organization Congress is almost here. You can help MERCAZ increase the size of our delegation simply by registering with the American Zionist Movement, the US affiliate of the WZO, and then voting for MERCAZ delegates when you receive your ballot. Registering costs just \$10. You can register by going to www.MERCAZusa.org and clicking on "Register" or completing a mail-in registration. Registration begins on January 13 and ends April 30.

How much does your vote help? A lot! Less than four percent of American Conservative Jews participated in the last Zionist Congress elections. If we doubled that percentage, an additional 1.7 million dollars could be allocated to Conservative/Masorti institutions in Israel! This could go a long way to strengthen liberal Jewish life in Israel and the love of Israel among our children and grandchildren in America.

Register and exercise your right to vote in the upcoming Zionist Congress election! Let's join together to make a difference.

Congregation Thanks Sponsors of Kiddush

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

Contributions toward the *kiddush* on September 6 were made by Eleanor and Kaveh Askari in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Sophia, and Rhoda and Craig Smolow in honor of the baby naming of their granddaughter, Maya Taylor Koenig.

The congregational *kiddush* on September 13 was sponsored by Elana and Babak Mirjani in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Talia.

The congregational *kiddush* on September 20 was sponsored by Ellen Morris and Joseph Farber in honor of the baby naming of their granddaughter, Quinn Alessandra Farber.

The congregational *kiddush* on October 18 was sponsored by Jaime Heather and Adam Jason Salomon and Nancy and Eric Salomon in honor of the baby naming of the daughter and granddaughter, Liv Harper Salomon.

A contribution toward the *kiddush* on October 25 was made by Barbara and Harold Citron in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Ethan.

The congregational *kiddush* on November 1 was co-sponsored by Sherry and Samuel Husney in honor of the *Auf Ruf* of their daughter, Rachel, to Jonathan Saat, and Janet Esagoff Goldfarb and Roland Eshaghoff in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Juliet Shirin.

Contributions toward the *kiddush* on November 8 were made by Joanna and Steven Cronin in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Pellegria, and Carol and Steven Smolinsky in honor of the *Auf Ruf* of their son, Josh, and Emily Goldberg.

Contributions toward the *kiddush* on November 15 were made by Orly and Ebi Victory in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Nicole, and by Vivian Brash on the occasion of the *yahrzeit* of her father, Joseph Katz.

The congregational *kiddush* on November 22 was sponsored by Carol and Marc Seidenberg in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Jordan. Contributions toward the *kiddush* were made by Sandy Rosen at the end of the *sheloshim* period for her mother, Mildred Puro Pittman, and by Alfred Sedaghat and Fariba Lalehzar on the *yahrzeit* of his father, Mansour Sedaghat.

Maxine Vogel's In the Play!

Temple Israel member Maxine Vogel, who has had roles in many Temple Israel Players productions, is a part of the cast of "Mame." Her name was not included in the story about the play in the last issue of *The Voice*.

FROM THE WAXMAN HIGH SCHOOL AND YOUTH HOUSE

Adopting Holocaust Survivors

By Danny Mishkin

Temple Israel of Great Neck was the first synagogue youth program to participate in the amazing Adopt a Survivor Program <<http://adoptasurvivor.com/>>, and after a short hiatus the program is back! Twelve of our Youth House teens meet monthly to interview a survivor from the Holocaust with the intention of telling the survivor's story for generations to come.

The need for this program is great. Live eyewitness accounts are becoming less available and will not exist for future generations. The program was implemented to preserve the testimony via personal contact between a survivor and an "adopter" to carry the message to the future.

I complement our teens and the survivors who have the courage to educate. We plan to run this program annually, so that we can ensure that we follow the mantra "Never Forget."

Program founder Irving Roth states: "The objective of this program is to transfer the life experiences of a Holocaust survivor to an "adopter" by taking a joint journey through the life of the survivor. By this personal journey the adopter becomes one with the survivor, absorbing his life, spirit and soul. He will be able to represent the survivor and tell his story with accuracy and feeling to any audience for two or more generations."



Waxman High School students are "adopting" Holocaust survivors to learn about their experience, under the direction of Irving Roth, right, who developed the program.

Remembering Is Not About the Past

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facing the present more mindfully based on an appreciation of the past. Perhaps it is not coincidental that we refer to Moses, not Josiah, as "our teacher" par excellence.

How often do we enslave ourselves to the past by allowing ourselves to become mired in ancient battles? Some old enemies are still enemies, but not all. A myopic and hyper-literal approach to remembering enslaves us to the past, preventing us from assessing current realities properly. This can happen for nations and individuals alike. The person who cannot understand and move beyond the traumas of childhood and adolescent conflicts will have a hard time enjoying a healthy and productive adulthood.

The holiday of Hanukkah, which we recently enjoyed, can easily inspire a dogged commitment to righting past wrongs. We can see Greeks around every corner and regard secular life as an alien force to be defeated at all costs. That is the way of King Josiah.

Alternatively, Hanukkah can motivate us to fight religious persecution, whether directed toward us or toward others. Moreover, Hanukkah can serve as a reminder of the challenging goal of achieving the best synthesis of Jewish tradition and secular culture.

Some of our ancestors forfeited their identity as they adopted Greek culture entirely; others isolated themselves completely, foregoing even the positive aspects of Greek culture. A third group no doubt absorbed the best aspects of the surrounding culture while maintaining the essential aspects of Jewish tradition. This third group, as I see it, represent our true spiritual ancestors.

To remember Hanukkah in these ways is to remember in the style of *Moshe Rabbeinu*, Moses our teacher, to bring the past to bear on a thoughtful approach to current reality.

The past should not enslave us; it should empower us, nationally and personally. It urges us to try to remember the past in a way that would make Moses proud.

TEMPLE ISRAEL FUND*In memory of:*

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From Generation to Generation



Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

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Contribution:

On the end of the *sheloshim*
mourning period
Joy Scharfman

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YOUTH HOUSE FUND***In honor of:*

The marriage of Josh
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Anne Hosat
Jackie and Harold
Lamkey

Temple Israel Discussion On Creative Approaches To Judaism January 15th

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Rabbi Stecker said, "In many respects these speakers are pathfinders. We will discuss the challenges and needs facing American Jews today and how each of us is trying to address them." Rabbi Stecker said he met the speakers while attending the Hartman Institute in Jerusalem last summer and thought it would be valuable to bring them to Temple Israel. "I was simply impressed by them and what they are doing in the Jewish community."

He said he brought the idea for the discussion to TILL, the congregation's adult education program, which endorsed it. "I hope through this program people in the congregation and the community will get a broader sense of what is going on in the Jewish world beyond our denomination," Rabbi Stecker said.

"Rabbi Stecker is a pathfinder, too," said TILL Committee Chair Rebecca Friedman-Charry. "His innovations are harder for us to see because we're experiencing them directly. But his choice of sermon topics, his involvement with families and the way he's led our congregation to embrace its diversity are all ways he is helping to bring Judaism into the 21st century for our congregation."

Rabba Hurwitz is part of the rabbinic staff at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale. After study under the auspices of Rabbi Avi Weiss, she was ordained as a *rabba* (The feminized version of the word "rabbi," since the Orthodox Movement does not ordain female rabbis). She was named a "top pick" in the Forward 50 most influential Jewish

leaders and was listed among Newsweek's 50 most influential rabbis.

Rabbi Ingber, who grew up in Great Neck and belonged to an Orthodox synagogue in the community, has a distinctive approach to Torah, rabbinic teaching, and ritual practice. In 2004 he founded Romemu "to transform the way Judaism is practiced and experienced by infusing aspects of Eastern spiritual practices with traditional Orthodox influences," the organization's mission statement says. "Romemu attempts to engage the heart, mind and body in everything...helping us to foster greater levels of compassion.


"We believe that Judaism offers spiritual seekers and skeptics alike a path that celebrates our wholeness and provides practical, grounded ways to heal our brokenness," it continues. "We are committed to helping to birth a post-denominational Judaism that transcends ideologies and labels, that is joy-based and contemplative, ecstatic and reverential, connected to our tradition, yet open to truth wherever it is found."

Rabbi Stecker said that both of the speakers "are pushing the boundaries of Judaism by exploring innovative ways of making Judaism relevant in the 21st Century.

But is Temple Israel the proper venue for this discussion?

"We want to speak with those who are doing creative work within the Jewish community, regardless of their denominational identities," he said. "We should all be willing to learn from each other in order to help make Judaism more relevant and engaging to contemporary Jews of all backgrounds and ages."

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D'var Torah

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Shemot

Saturday, January 10

The book of Exodus begins in this portion and moves from the account of the history of a clan to the history of the Hebrew nation. A new king, who does not know Joseph, ascends the throne of Egypt and enslaves the Israelites. Moses is born to Israelite parents, but owing to a set of strange circumstances, he grows up in Pharaoh's palace as an Egyptian prince. He goes out to observe the Israelites at work and kills an Egyptian taskmaster for beating a slave. He is then forced to flee for his life to Midian where he marries and becomes a shepherd for his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. While tending his flock at Mt. Horeb (Sinai), Moses encounters God in a burning bush and is commissioned to return to Egypt and free his people. Accompanied by his brother, Aaron, he makes an appeal to Pharaoh that is totally rejected. Events are thus set in motion, which will lead to the Exodus and Moses' life-long task of bringing his people back to their land.

Vaera

Saturday, January 17

In this portion God reiterates His pledge to redeem His people from slavery and promises severe punishment for the Egyptian people. A contest then ensues between the will of Pharaoh. Moses and Aaron make another appeal to Pharaoh and in the process humiliate his magicians. The appeal, however, is again rejected. There follows the first seven of the ten plagues, which God must inflict on the Egyptians in order to achieve the release of the Israelites. The plagues of blood, frogs, lice, swarms of insects, pestilence, boils and hail (as well as locusts, darkness and the slaying of the first-born, which are related in the next portion) demonstrate God's ability to manipulate nature and to protect His people. Since a number of the plagues were directed against Egyptian divinities, also present here is the beginning of the war by the Israelites on polytheism.

College grads and friends are invited...

to a free *Kabbalat Shabbat* Service and Dinner on Friday, January 23, from 7:30 - 11 P.M. in the Blue Room. RSVP to 482-7800.

SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, January 9

Evening Service 4:30 P.M.

Saturday, January 10

Morning Service 9:00 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Shemot*; Exodus 1:1 - 6:1

Haftarah: Isaiah 27:6 - 28:13; 29:22 - 23

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Brian Zeitlin, Brent Greenspan, Diana Stein, and Leonard Seskin

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Niggun Circle 1:00 P.M.

Minhah 4:05 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 4:35 P.M.

Ma'ariv 5:13 P.M.

Minhah Bat Mitzvah 5:25 P.M.

RACHEL BREIDBART

daughter of Adina and Rory Breidbart

Havdalah 5:28 P.M.

Friday, January 16

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

Waxman Youth House Friday Family Dinner 7:30 P.M.

Saturday, January 17

Morning Service / *Shabbat* Morning Group *Aliyah* 9:00 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Vaera*; Exodus 6:2 - 9:35

Haftarah: Ezekiel 28:25 - 29:21

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Gary Noren, Toby Katz, Robert Lopatkin, and Eleanor Askari

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Shabbat Game-a-Palozza 4:00 P.M.

Minhah 4:15 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 4:45 P.M.

Ma'ariv 5:21 P.M.

Havdalah 5:36 P.M.