



## The Dinner Dance In Pictures



Outgoing Temple Israel President Alan Klinger and his wife, Susan Wagner, were presented with a gift from the congregation at the Dinner Dance depicting the logo for the event and the theme of inclusiveness “under one tent,” a hallmark of President Klinger’s administration. The original work of art is by Temple Israel member Eleanor



Past presidents of the congregation joined outgoing Temple Israel President Alan Klinger, third from right, and his wife, Susan Wagner, on the *bimah* during the Dinner Dance program. They are, left to right, Mickey Putterman, Eileen Putterman, George Abrahams, Steven Markowitz, and Richard Kestenbaum.

## Rabbi Adelson Is Accepting a New Rabbinic Position

By Marc Katz, Editor

After eight years of endearing himself to members of Temple Israel, Associate Rabbi Seth Adelson has announced plans to leave to become the rabbi of Congregation Beth Shalom, an almost 100-year old synagogue in Pittsburgh.

“I’m very torn about leaving,” Rabbi Adelson said while reflecting on his tenure at Temple Israel. “I’ve enjoyed my time here very much and have made some wonderful friends. Temple Israel is a really hard place to leave.”

Rabbi Adelson came to Temple Israel in 2007, having just been ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary. Three years earlier he graduated from the Seminary as a cantor. Before deciding on a career in the clergy, he had worked as a chemical engineer for more than five years. Prior to coming to Temple Israel, Rabbi Adelson served for four years as the cantor at the Conservative Synagogue of Fifth Avenue in Manhattan.

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Rabbi Seth Adelson

## The Search for a New Assistant Rabbi

By Andrew Bloom

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** A Temple Israel Assistant Rabbi Search Committee is currently interviewing candidates for the position in the congregation. Andrew Bloom, a member of the committee, reports on their progress in this Voice Guest Column.

When I was a child, I never considered the mechanics of hiring a Rabbi. In fact, I must have believed that rabbis were either appointed by some higher authority (who, I'm not quite sure) or were beamed into place Star Trek style (although I'm not sure from where). After serving as a member of our Assistant Rabbi Search Committee for the past

*we often expect  
a rabbi to be all things  
to all people.*

few months, I can now assure you that the process is different than I believed as a child.

It was an honor to be asked to serve on our search committee. It was a greater honor to be part of the efficient, inclusive, respectful and practical manner in which Rabbi Stecker and Temple Israel Vice President Daniel

Goldberger led the group. This was a model for how synagogue committees should operate. The balance of the committee members included Shahram (Mike) Delafraz, Rachel Geula, Bracha Werber, and Burton Weston—with President Alan Klinger participating in most of our discussions and meetings. The committee's composition was designed to be reflective of our *kehillah*, so that the candidates could have a small window into our synagogue and so we would be in a position to identify candidates who could fulfill the needs of as many congregants (and prospective congregants) as possible.

Obviously, a rabbinic job is anything but standard, as we often expect a rabbi to be all things to all people. In our diverse and complex community the challenges are uncountable, so to find the best match we ran the candidates through a rigorous process.

—Continued on page 5

FROM THE RABBI

## To Susan and Alan

By Rabbi Howard Stecker

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Rabbi Stecker toasted Susan Wagner and Alan Klinger during the Temple Israel Dinner Dance honoring them last week. This column contains excerpts from his comments.

Tonight is our chance to celebrate the unique contributions that Alan and Susan have made to our congregation and to affirm our synagogue's essential mission. Fortunately, the two matters are profoundly interconnected.

Alan and Susan have brought intelligent, thoughtful leadership to this congregation for many years, Alan has contributed deep commitment and keen managerial skills to his service to the synagogue in multiple capacities, most recently as our president. Always at the forefront of Alan's leadership is a desire to help all of us to position our synagogue to meet contemporary challenges most successfully.

In her many roles over the years, including co-chair of our Ritual Committee and Lifelong Learning program, Susan has applied considerable administrative expertise and a deep passion for Jewish learning, cultivated at home and in day school

during her youth and, most recently, at the Jewish Theological Seminary where she received a Masters Degree.

It's been deeply gratifying for me to have two members of the congregation who

*...Alan and Susan ask  
us questions that help  
to refine our mission.*

each bring sophistication and commitment to our important work here together.

Rather than enumerate every idea and program that the Klingers have brought to Temple Israel, I want to take a moment to focus on the meta-contribution that they made, the aspect of their leadership that has really made a difference to our community.

Alan and Susan, each in his or her

—Continued on page 6

## Reflections

By Alan Klinger

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Journal Dinner Dance honoree Alan Klinger, the congregation's outgoing president, addressed attendees last Sunday, at the event honoring him, thanking them for their support. This column contains excerpts from his comments.

For those who read the President's Column in The Voice, you've seen that I share the view that synagogues like ours are at a crossroads, for Jewish and synagogue life in 21st Century America has changed. "Institutions" of many types, including religious ones, are not favored. Synagogue membership is no longer automatic, as it was for most families 50 years ago. We learned from last year's Pew Report that the fastest growing segment of Jews is the "nones," those with no affiliation. And, for those who

*What makes Temple  
Israel special  
is our mix —  
a mix of generations, a  
mix of politics  
and a mix of Ashkenasi  
and Sephardi cultures.*

want to affiliate Jewishly, there are choices today beyond the synagogue. People can experience their Judaism on-line, in ad hoc groupings, or through organizations such as Chabad, which are funded far differently than the traditional membership model.

How then should synagogues like Temple Israel respond? To be able to attract and retain members, we must show greater relevance. That is the goal that we at Temple Israel collectively have pursued. I'm proud to have been a part of the endeavor. We have recognized that one size doesn't fit all, that we should offer different portals of entry to the synagogue.

We have worked to revitalized our prayer serves to make them more meaningful and participatory. We have expanded our adult educational offerings and added affinity groups to foster a family-type community.

That sense of "belonging" is, I believe, the antidote to the perceived problem of being relevant. Much has been written lately about "Relational Judaism." Here, the principle should be: "it's about the people."

—Continued on page 6

## IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences  
to the families of:

**SYBIL GOTTLIEB**  
sister of Charlotte Zavon

**JACK CHERNOFF**  
father of Randy Navo

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May their memories be for a blessing.

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Tues. & Wed.	7:00 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Friday	7:00 A.M.	6:30 P.M.
Sat., May 2	9:00 A.M.	7:15 P.M.
Sat., May 9	9:00 A.M.	7:20 P.M.
Sunday	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.

## CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

*Kindle the Sabbath Lights!*

Friday, May 1.....	7:33 P.M.
Friday, May 8.....	7:40 P.M.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

May	3	Family B'nai Mitzvah Workshop led by Rabbi Adelson	10:30 A.M.
	3	EmpTI Nesters Book Talk	6:30 P.M.
	4	Sisterhood Film Presentation: "The 9 Lives of Theodore Roosevelt"	Noon
	5	Sisterhood' "Lunch and Read Club"	Noon
	7	Lag B'Omer	
	8-9	Rabbi Mordecai Waxman Memorial Weekend	
	8	Rabbi Mordecai Waxman Memorial Dinner with Guest Speaker Rabbi Noam E. Marans	7:30 P.M.
	9	Shabbat Talk with Rabbi Noam E. Marans	12:30 P.M.
	10	New Member Ceremony	10:00 A.M.
	10	Family B'nai Mitzvah Workshop led by Rabbi Adelson	10:30 A.M.
	14	Beth HaGan Nursery School Art Fair	
	15-16	Shalom Club Shabbaton Weekend	
	15-16	Vav Family Retreat Weekend	
	16	Niggun Circle led by Cantor Frieder Following Kiddush	
	17	Family B'nai Mitzvah Workshop led by Cantor Freider	9:30 A.M.
	17	Singles Connection of Temple Israel Program: "Learn How to Create a Best Date Ever"	11:00 A.M.
	17	Film Presentation: "A Voice Among the Silent"	7:00 P.M.
	18	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 A.M.
	18	Board of Trustees Meeting at the JTS	6:00 P.M.
	19	Last Day of Religious School for Sunday / Tuesday Classes	
	19	Last Day of Waxman High School and Youth House	
	20	Last Day of Religious School for Monday / Wednesday Classes	
	23	Tikkun Leyl Shavuot	
	24-25	Shavuot	
	28	Men's Club Beer Tasting with Rabbi Adelson	7:30 P.M.

*Sisterhood Presents:*

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

FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

# Celebrating the Year in Pictures

By Rabbi Amy Roth



### Benjamin Taied

Benjamin Jordan Taied will be celebrating his *Bar Mitzvah* on May 9. He is the son of Marjan and Shahram Taied and has a sister, Noor, 21, and a brother, Joseph, 16. Benjamin is a seventh grade honor student at Great Neck North Middle School. He is on the school tennis team and enjoys playing basketball and soccer. Benjamin also plays the violin and participates in NYSSMA. He plans to visit Israel in the near future.



### Jeremy Bernstein

Jeremy Bernstein will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* on May 16. He is the son of Sharon and Larry Bernstein and has two sisters, Rebecca, 10, and Abigail, 6. Jeremy is a fourth generation member of Temple Israel. His grandparents are Susan and Dr. Cyrus Kahn and Maxine and Terry Bernstein and his great-grandparents are Sylvia and the late Herbert Rieders. He is a seventh grade honor student at Great Neck North Middle School. Jeremy has been selected for several years as a cellist in the All-County Orchestra and performed in the Young Ensembles Concert of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. He also has been a recipient for several years of the Judaic Scholar Award from the Temple Israel Religious School. Jeremy plans to visit Israel in August.

Recently, when I was in a *Hay* (fifth grade) class, the teacher was showing the students some photos of their pre-Rosh Hashanah *tashlich* activity when they had taken a walk to a body of water in order to learn in a hands-on way about the ritual of “tossing our sins into the water.” The teacher then showed them several other photos of various events and activities during the year, at which point one of the girls said, “Wow—this has been the best year here so far!”

One way we record experiences is through photographs; they help to solidify memories. When we take photos documenting our experiences in the Religious School, we are, in fact, documenting our Jewish year. Just as we like to re-visit our vacations through viewing our photos, we can all look, remember and smile at the various learning experiences that shaped our year here at Temple Israel. We celebrate our year at our closing Festival (May 19 and May 20) with a slide show depicting our year of learning and experiencing Jewish life.

Many of our most memorable events are yet to come: this month is one of celebrations throughout the school. After learning about the various traditions and rituals involved in the Jewish life cycle, the *Hay* children will bring several highlights to life. On Sunday, April 26, the Religious School was the site of a wedding, *simchat bat/brit milah* and *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*: all in one room and within the same hour! This is a highlight of the fifth grade year and parents and relatives enjoy it as well.

*Vav* children also celebrated the year of learning Jewish history and social studies through the *Vav* Heritage Fair on April 26. Through interviewing relatives about their “stories,” and displaying important family artifacts, they internalize the importance of learning about our history, Jewish heritage and their place in the Jewish world.

We continue our celebrations in May, as the *Gimmel* children receive their own *sid-durim*, and demonstrate how well they can lead the service. Please join us for *Shacharit* on May 3 at 9:30 A.M., as the *Gimmel* children lead us in prayer. This is a marvelous culminating event for a year of learning and experiencing the vibrancy of the Jewish calendar, along with further developing *tefilah* literacy.

And on May 10, yet another photo-op when we celebrate with our second graders and families, as they complete a year of learning Torah, holidays, *tefilah* and Hebrew reading. The *Bet* Consecration is at 11 A.M. that day—come to sing with our children as they celebrate the joy of Jewish learning!

As we review our year in pictures, be they the actual photographs that adorn our halls or the pictures that we hold in our minds, we re-live our many shared experiences here. There are so many reasons to celebrate Jewish learning this spring. I hope that you will visit the school or join us in one (or all) of our celebrations. As we sing and pray together, we further create Jewish memories that become snapshots in our minds.



A Religious School class makes Jewish learning fun.

# Search for a New Assistant Rabbi

—Continued from page 2

We had the opportunity to review more than 25 resumes. From there we scheduled opportunities to interview three experienced candidates as well as 13 graduating seniors from the Rabbinical Schools of the Jewish Theological Seminary and American Jewish University. After the initial interviews we narrowed the field to identify our short list of seven top candidates for week-end long callbacks. These call back interviews generally followed the same formula. We invited the candidates to a family *Shabbat* dinner with the committee; join *Shabbat* services and deliver a sermon; lead afternoon *davening* and a study session; teach in the Religious School; and, lastly, have a follow-up Sunday morning brunch interview and idea exchange with the committee.

Although we can only hire one of the applicants, collectively we have been impressed—our decision was clearly not going to be easy.

While many nights and weekends were dedicated to the effort, I have come out of this process refreshed and encouraged. First, because we've had the good fortune of meeting many interesting, thoughtful and talented community-minded spiritual leaders. Secondly, by the passion that our synagogue membership has embraced the importance of this search. We ended up with a short list of seven different but outstanding call back candidates. Each would be complementary to our synagogue.

Literally and figuratively, Rabbi Adelson is leaving large shoes to fill, but each of our prospective hires have the skills and drive to be successful at Temple Israel no matter what their shoe size is.

On a side note, while I was honored to have the opportunity to contribute to this effort, I am saddened by the reality that Rabbi Adelson, Judy, Hannah and Zev have decided it is time to begin their next chapter. However, I am equally excited for the congregants in Rabbi Adelson's next pulpit, who will all benefit from his skill, knowledge and guidance. Ronda, Matthew, Ethan and I join the rest of the Temple Israel family in wishing the Adelsons all the best—*be-hatslacha!*

The committee's work is coming to a close and we expect to announce and introduce Rabbi Adelson's successor shortly.

## Next Voice, Deadline

The next issue of *The Voice*, the Shavuot issue, will be published on Friday, May 15. The deadline for that issue is Monday, May 4.

## A Jewish Sing-Along



Raising funds for Temple Israel was not only painless—it was fun! A large crowd gathered recently for karaoke, dinner, drinks a raffle, and auction at a new Great Neck lounge, Rimon, all in support of Temple Israel.

The fun-fundraiser was organized by Jackie Einstein Astroff, Rachel Geula, Ron Klempner, Robert Lopatkin, Susan Lopatkin, Cheryl Eisberg Moin, Rebecca Yousefzadeh Sassouni, Sassan Sassouni, and Diana Stein.

*Voice photos by Bob Lopatkin*



# Rabbi Adelson Is Accepting a New Position In Pittsburgh

—Continued from front page

“When I came to Temple Israel I had no idea what to expect,” he said. “Looking back, I feel like I made the position my own and provided what the congregation needed from me.”

During his tenure, Rabbi Adelson was an integral part of many aspects of Temple Israel life. In addition to frequently leading worship services and at times serving as the cantor, he taught in all of the Temple Israel schools; led youth trips to Israel; led youth services; participated in the Project Re-Imagine process; helped to create the Nitzanim Family Connection and the now-annual Vav Family Retreat; helped more than 100 children prepare *divrei Torah* for their *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah*; worked with a number of adult *Bar* and *Bat Mitzvah* classes; and wrote frequent columns for *The Voice* as well as his blog, “The Modern Rabbi.” He was in frequent demand by Temple Israel arms and organizations as a featured speaker and was a regular participant in Men’s Club meetings, leading annual bev-

## To Susan and Alan

—Continued from page 2

own way, have led by performing the quintessentially Jewish act of asking questions. We just asked the iconic “Four Questions” a few weeks ago and that’s just one manifestation of a tradition that requires deep inquiry at every turn.

Again and again, Alan and Susan ask us questions that help to refine our mission.

Alan has consistently asked questions about relevance. How do we respond to changing realities in the Jewish community that include a diminished commitment to organized religion and a rise in inter-dating and intermarriage? How do we ensure that everything we do as a synagogue is responsive to people’s current needs and interests, however wide and vast they may be?

Susan has engaged many of us in conversation about Jewish identity, asking questions that include, what is the basis for people’s interest and commitment? Is it theological? Sociological? These questions have influenced the discussions and programs that Susan has introduced at Temple Israel as well as in her work with UJA.

All of these questions and others help us clarify our work as a synagogue, a place where we find community with one another, where we experience the impact that Judaism can have on our lives and on our world.

Alan and Susan: We hope to be inspired by your commitment, your leadership, and your provocative questions for many years to come.

*Mazal tov and l’hayim!*

erage tastings in addition to sharing knowledge about Judaism.

He and his wife, Judy, have two children, Hannah and Zev.

Rabbi Adelson said “the opportunity to carry on traditions with the congregation started by Rabbi Waxman was a very special opportunity. Temple Israel is unique because of its ethnic diversity, commitment to a progressive approach to Judaism, robust egalitarianism, and a very talented clergy and membership. All this helped me greatly to prepare for my next congregation. I learned so much.”

He said Temple Israel helped prepare him to work with a large, diverse congregation, to have interactions with students of all ages, and to modulate his rabbinic voice for various ages and circumstances. “Temple Israel was a wonderful place to train

because I was exposed to everything in the congregation. I feel as though I crafted my own voice here.”

Congregation Beth Shalom, with 550 member families, is known as an anchor for Squirrel Hill, a neighborhood near downtown Pittsburgh. As one of the oldest and most established synagogues in the region, it has a strong history and tradition of lay involvement. Rabbi Adelson said he has met many members of his new congregation, including some relatives of Temple Israel members. He starts in his new position on August 10.

Details of a farewell event for Rabbi Adelson will be announced soon.

“I am amazed at how fast my years at Temple Israel went,” he said. “I have so many wonderful memories of this congregation.”

## From the President: Reflections

—Continued from page 2

People join and stay if they feel this is their home. That should be the goal for synagogues today, and it is our goal here.

Some have questioned why all the effort for a synagogue? The answer, for me, is that Judaism has much to offer in guiding people to meaningful lives, to have a sense of justice, fairness and compassion. Do you have to be Jewish to care about others, to have a moral compass? Obviously not, but I believe the ethical framework established by our teachings, where we seek to promote justice and social responsibility, points us in the right direction. Our Conservative movement promotes questioning; it encourages people to explore, all with a genuine respect for the past. Rabbi Waxman’s seminal work “Tradition and Change” continues to lay out a framework that evolves with the times: our challenge is to strike the proper balance in what we preserve and what we alter.

Rabbi Wernick, head of United Synagogue, recently spent *Shabbat* with us, and spoke to the challenges for Judaism and our movement. One point he made resonated with me greatly: we feel too bound by rules. Rabbi Wernick wasn’t saying ignore all rules. Rather, he was encouraging us to examine our practices and to decide what to retain and what to modify to meet the needs of today’s generation and future ones.

We at Temple Israel are well positioned to meet that challenge. We are blessed with clergy and a professional staff who are skilled and work well together. We have lay leaders on our Executive Committee and Board of Trustees that add great value. Whether in securing Homeland grants to enhance the security of our building, re-

vamping the approach to our website and social media or caring for an aging building, our lay leaders, with Executive Director Leon Silverberg, are moving us forward.

But we didn’t start on an empty slate. This is our 50th Dinner Dance—the golden one. The first one, held in 1943 (yes, that’s more than 50 years ago, but apparently we didn’t have one each year) was a smaller affair at the Hotel Astor, where the dinner ticket cost was \$6.60—times have changed. Tonight, we have more than 300 people in attendance. How did we get here? Plainly, we owe much to Rabbi Waxman, our former rabbi of 55 years and a leader of the movement. And, of course, our current clergy, Rabbis Stecker and Adelson, and Cantor Frieder. Our Nominating Committee has put forth Rob Panzer to be our next president. He, too, will benefit from the talent of our clergy and the support of lay leadership.

Besides our image of “gold,” we have a substantive theme tonight of inclusion. What makes Temple Israel special is our mix—a mix of generations, a mix of politics and a mix of Ashkenasi and Sephardi cultures. It was heart-warming to see our Religious School children escorting survivors down this center aisle at Wednesday night’s Yom HaShoah observance. It is stimulating to hear discussions of AIPAC and J-Street. And, it is enriching to share different traditions of prayer, of trope and of traditional foods. Where else would I have experienced the pleasure of eating gondi, the Persian meatballs, at a *Shabbat* dinner? Short of Jerusalem, I doubt there is a place as diverse as Temple Israel. This diversity will be our strength as we move forward as a congregation.

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**From Generation  
to Generation**



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## D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

### Alhare Mot/Kedoshim

Saturday, May 2

We conclude the laws of ritual purity and begin the section known as the Holiness Code in this double portion. The reading opens with a description of the ritual of Yom Kippur. This ritual, with its distinctive rites of riddance, including the symbolic transferal of the transgressions of the Israelites and their priests onto a goat (the scapegoat) which is driven into the wilderness, never to return, is the climax of the laws of purification. In the Torah, Yom Kippur is an annual ritual of purification of the *Mishkan* (sanctuary). In later Judaism however, the emphasis shifts to atonement for the sins of the people. The laws of the Holiness Code serve to implement the idea that the Israelite people are collectively obligated to seek to achieve holiness in order to be like God, who is holy. The Code begins with the consideration of the family and details forbidden sexual unions. It continues with a body of religious and secular laws, including matters pertaining to agriculture, testimony, social ethics and certain rituals connected with sacrifice. Whereas purity and impurity pertain to states of being, holiness has to do with interpersonal relationships and modes of behavior.

### Emor

Saturday, May 9

In this portion, the Holiness Code continues with a group of laws that are to take effect when the Israelites enter the Promised Land. The people will be permitted to work the land for six years, but the seventh year is to be a sabbatical year of complete rest for the land. In order to provide sufficient food, God promises that the crop of the sixth year will yield enough for three years. Further, after seven cycles of seven years, the 50th year is to be a Jubilee—a year of release for the land and all of its inhabitants. There follow a series of laws concerning redemption of land and persons. The basic principle of land redemption is that all land belongs to God, and human owners possess it only as land holding. It is not the owner's right to dispose of as they wish, and it cannot be permanently alienated. As for persons, if one had to indenture himself to work off debt, he was not to be abused and was to be redeemed as quickly as possible. The portion ends with a prohibition against idolatry and an admonition to keep God's Sabbaths.

## SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, May 1

Evening Service / *Shabbat Koleinu* 6:30 P.M.  
*Shabbat Koleinu* Dinner 7:30 P.M.

Saturday, May 2

Morning Service / *Shabbat Koleinu* 9:00 A.M.  
Weekly Portion: *Alhare-Mot/Kedoshim*; Leviticus 16:1 - 20:27

*Haftarah*: Amos 9:7 - 15

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Edith Robbins, Robert Lopatkin, Leonard Schultz and Deanna Stecker  
Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.  
Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.  
*Minhah* 7:15 P.M.  
*Ma'ariv* 8:19 P.M.  
*Havdalah* 8:34 P.M.

Friday, May 8

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.  
Rabbi Mordecai Waxman Memorial Program and Dinner 7:30 P.M.

Saturday, May 9

Morning Service 9:00 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Emor*; Leviticus 21:1 - 24:23

*Haftarah*: Ezekiel 44:15 - 31

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Andrew Bloom, Diana Stein and Gail Zahler

*Bar Mitzvah*

BENJAMIN JORDAN TAIED  
son of Marjan and Shahram Taied

*Havurah* Service 10:00 A.M.  
*Shabbat HaMishpachah* 10:15 A.M.  
Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.  
*Shabbat* Talk with Rabbi Noam E. Marans 12:30 P.M.  
*Minhah* 7:20 P.M.  
*Ma'ariv* 8:26 P.M.  
*Havdalah* 8:41 P.M.