



Museum Featuring Exhibit on Jewish Wedding Items

Receives New Donation

“Weddings and The Family” is the current exhibit in the front case of the Temple Israel Museum.

An unusual 19th century Russian silver marriage belt has oval sections with alternate “*Mazel Tov*” and “*Siman Tov*” in niello. A pair of silver gilt marriage cups set with cabochon agates from Germany (ca. 1900) are engraved in Hebrew around the lip of each cup. Another pair of silver marriage cups from late 19th century Victorian England is engraved with vignettes and the words “*Mazel Tov*” in Hebrew. A marriage cup in an original leather case has an enamel scene of a marriage ceremony.

A rare and important French pewter circa 1820 redemption (*pidyon ha-ben*) plate shows Aaron wearing the breastplate, the Holy Ark with cherubim, the sacrificial altar, a menorah, and the Hebrew inscription: “Aaron the High Priest.” A large pair of silver *tefillin* cases from Germany, circa 1900, is beautifully embossed with animals and Hebrew phrases. A small child’s silver Kiddush cup from Austria-Hungary is dated 1919, and was usually given as a gift on the occasion of a *bris*.

These are just some of the pieces currently on view. The museum staff invites the congregation to come by to see the rest. For an appointment to visit the museum, call 482-7800.

The museum staff also thanks curator Charlotte Zavon for the gift of the beautiful enameled *mezzuzah* for the entrance doorpost, which was affixed by Rabbi Marim D. Charry.

Religious School and Waxman High School Mark Achievements at End of School Year

By Elisabeth Frankel Reed

Two big celebrations at Temple Israel marked the week leading up to Shavuot as both Religious School and Waxman High School students completed another year of studies.

On May 19, students who attend Religious School classes on Sunday and Tuesday performed songs and danced with their classmates and teachers. On May 20, students in the Monday and Wednesday classes had their opportunity to perform.

Students continuing their studies in the Waxman High School next fall include Alexandra Ahdoot, Jonathan Ajodan, Ryan Aminzadeh, Jared Astrof, Kyle Bakhshi, Matthew Bloom, Amelia Blumberg, Jackson Cronin, Brandon Delafraz, Hanna Eshaghoff, Matthew Farkas, Aliza Fine, Reid Fleishman, Emily Gal, Alexander Geula, Eli Goldberger, Eli Goodwin, Benjamin Goodwin, Emily Greiff, Jordan Harouche, Michael Kahen, and Barrett Kanfer.

Also Kevin Khadavi, Joshua Kobliner, Sarah Kobliner, Charles Linden, Ari Lissack, Jake Mehdyzadeh, Joy Moalemi, Rebecca Nahavandi, Jack Nathan, Heather Nesennoff, Alexis Noghreh, Noah Orlevich, Samantha Parnes, Ari Picker, Alexandra Pour, Dayna Pourmoradi, Alexander Schwartz, Alexandra Sedgh, Dylan Solomon, Jasmine Tabaroki, Isaac Turofsky, Lauren Victory, Jaden Weisser, Elie Weitzman, and Noah Young.

All classes were commended by Director of Congregational Schools Rabbi Amy Roth for their many *tikun olam* projects during the course of the school year, from performing

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Nathaniel Hyman and Emma Sassouni, students in the Temple Israel Religious School, were joined by Director of Congregational Schools Rabbi Amy Roth at the United Synagogue METNY Keter Torah program, held recently at the Lake Success Jewish Center. Rabbi Howard Stecker was also present to congratulate the students. They were enrolled in the Keter Torah Honor Society along with students from ten other Long Island synagogue schools.

Discussing a 'Painful Hope'

By Zina Rutkin-Becker

EDITOR'S NOTE: Temple Israel Vice President Zina Rutkin-Becker is the driving force behind bringing a fascinating program about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to the congregation. She describes it in this Voice Guest Column.

Something different is coming to Temple Israel on June 2. At 8:15 P.M., following the evening *minyan*, we will be hosting a most unusual twosome: Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger, an Orthodox rabbi and teacher, and Ali Abu Awwad, a leading Palestinian activist who promotes non-violent resis-

*I am convinced
that we will create
a better world.*

tance. These two men, from vastly different backgrounds, have formed an organization called "Roots: The Palestinian-Israeli Grassroots Initiative for Understanding, Non-Violence, and Transformation." Their program will describe how this unlikely partnership came to be.

The "Roots" project began as an idealistic vision to form a bridge between

neighbors who rarely meet. "Roots" does not naively believe that these meetings will resolve the complex and seemingly entrenched Israel-Palestine conflict in the near future, nor do the individuals involved disguise their profound differences and disagreements with one another. Nevertheless, the participants are united in their determination to break down the walls of fear and mistrust and extend themselves beyond their own comfort zones in order to try to relate to those on the "other side" of the conflict. The potential for the type of soul-searching that can occur in this context is captured in the following description by a Roots participant this past summer, which was, as we know, a very trying time for those working toward peaceful coexistence:

This was the most hope-inspiring place I have been present at in recent times. People whose beliefs are so different, even

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FROM THE RABBI

Our Approach in Israel and Great Neck

By Rabbi Howard Stecker

Four Israeli children with autism were all ready to celebrate becoming *B'nei Mitzvah* at the local Masorti (Conservative) synagogue. Their preparation was part of a decades-old program initiated and supervised by the Masorti movement to train children with special needs for *Bar* and *Bat Mitzvah*. Sadly, the mayor of their town effectively cancelled the *B'nei Mitzvah* ceremony by forbidding the teachers in the local school from attending the Masorti service with the students they'd helped to prepare.

The families of these children were devastated, finding themselves suddenly deprived of an opportunity to commemorate this important milestone. The mother of one of the children told the Jerusalem Post: "It's unthinkable that in 2015 there can be a fight between Jewish denominations and politicians, and that autistic children are stuck in the middle."

For the last several months, we've been encouraging members of our congregation to support Masorti (Conservative) Judaism in Israel by voting for Mercas in the World

Zionist Organization election. Though the vote took place roughly a month ago, the need to support Masorti remains as strong as ever.

Masorti Judaism in Israel, like Conservative Judaism in the United States,

*We advocate through
our words,
our deeds and our
financial support.*

supports the full participation of men and women and recognizes the value of an evolving approach to our tradition. Our congregation has been supporting Masorti Judaism for years, most recently by partnering with Netzach Israel, a Masorti synagogue in Ashkelon.

I can't urge you strongly enough to support our approach to Judaism in Israel

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Reflections

By Alan Klinger

For this, my final column as synagogue president, I'd like to take us both backwards and forwards.

Four years ago I set out in my early columns the areas I hoped we'd concentrate on to continue the work of my predecessors Richie Kestenbaum, and those who came before to make the synagogue experience more meaningful for our congregants. In reviewing those columns (assisted by Susan's Dinner Dance gift of a compilation of Voice issues), we set out to assess our schools and adult ed programs, examine the nature of our prayer services, improve our use of technology, address the needs of our building, and increase the overall level of participation in our activities. I believe we've made good progress on most.

*We benefit from a
diverse congregation...*

Our Youth House had, at that point, just been stabilized by the yeoman work of Rabbi Adelson. With the hiring of Danny Mishkin as Youth House director we've seen significant gains in attendance and an increasing diversity of programs. *Tikkun Olam* activities are embraced and trips to Israel and New Orleans have sparked genuine enthusiasm from teens, not an easy group to reach. At one point, there had been discussion whether the Youth House could survive, but those days are behind us. The subsequent hiring of Rabbi Amy Roth as congregational education director with Religious School responsibility has added coherence to our programs. Bringing her substantial experience from Camp Ramah, Rabbi Roth has succeeded in engaging students and families in promoting the joy of Jewish learning.

Not content to stand pat on the improvements produced by our prior ReImagine Education Committee, we formed a group headed by Bracha Werber to assess the results of that initiative and strengthened it through that effort. We also sought to broaden the educational offerings for our adult members, led over the years by Becky Charry and Susan Wagner, which included starting an Israeli film series and offering congregational book readings (including Professor Peter Beinart's controversial work, "The Crisis of Zionism," which produced an exceptional panel discussion).

Rabbi Stecker introduced us to Rabbi David Ingber, leader of the innovative

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IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences
to the family of:

STEVEN OBERSTEIN
brother of Irene Wachter Kahn

May his memory be for a blessing.

Men's Club Meeting Topic: Great Neck and Temple Israel History

Great Neck history, as well as the history of Temple Israel, will be the topic of a special meeting of the Men's Club next month featuring a presentation by members of the Great Neck Historical Society.

The program, on Thursday, June 11, in the Crystal Ballroom, will trace the community from its earliest days to World War II. The Temple Israel history presentation will tell of the congregation's founders, who were unhappy with the form of services conducted at Great Neck's only synagogue, Temple Beth-El. They organized and purchased a house on Preston Road to serve as Temple Israel's first home. They later purchased the property on Old Mill Road, and through several expansions brought the congregation to the facility it now has.

Pictures will be shown and members of the Historical Society will be available to answer questions. The Men's Club meeting, free and open to the congregation, begins at 7:30 P.M. with a pizza and salad dinner. The program begins at 8:15 P.M.

Mazal Tov To . . .

- **Ruthe and Ronald Golden** on the engagement of their daughter, Lauren Hillary, to Stanley Ben Boscoff.
- **Sharon and Franklin Horowitz** on the engagement of their daughter, Stefanie, to Drew Greenfeld.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Friday, May 29.....7:59 P.M.
Friday, June 5.....8:04 P.M.
Friday, June 12.....8:09 P.M.

DAILY MINYAN TIMES

Mon. & Thur.	6:45 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Tues. & Wed.	7:00 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Friday	7:00 A.M.	6:30 P.M.
Sat., May 30	9:00 A.M.	7:40 P.M.
Sat., June 6	9:00 A.M.	7:45 P.M.
Sat., June 13	9:00 A.M.	7:50 P.M.
Sunday	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.

Temple Israel Summer Hours

The Temple Israel office will be open on May 31 and all Sundays in June from 9 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. and closed all Sundays in July.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

May	31	Celebrate Israel Parade in New York City	
June	1	Congregational Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	2	Beth HaGan Nursery School Truck Day	
	2	Sisterhood's Lunch and Read Club	Noon
	2	"Painful Hope" Presentation Sponsored by TILL	8:15 P.M.
	3	Temple Israel Players DVD Viewing of "Mame" Followed by Dinner	7:00 P.M.
	7	Temple Israel Tag Sale	10:00 A.M.
	7	Singles Connection of Temple Israel Planning Breakfast Meeting	11:00 A.M.
	8	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 A.M.
	9	Beth HaGan Nursery School Graduation	9:30 A.M.
	10	Last Day of Beth HaGan Nursery School	
	11	Men's Club Meeting - Topic: Great Neck and Temple Israel History	7:30 P.M.
	13	<i>Niggun</i> Circle led by Cantor Frieder Following <i>Kiddush</i>	
	14	Na' Aleh Women's Ensemble Tribute to Israel Concert	3:00 P.M.
	14	Singles Connection of Temple Israel Program "Why You Need K.I.S.S. From Your Lawyer"	4:00 P.M.
	15-19	Beth HaGan Transition Week	
	16	Farewell to Rabbi Adelson BBQ	6:00 P.M.
	18	Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	22	Beth HaGan Summer Program Begins	
	25	Men's Club Beer Tasting with Rabbi Adelson	7:30 P.M.
	28	Shalom Club Meeting and Dinner	6:30 P.M.

Congregational Membership Meeting & Election of Officers

Monday, June 1 • 8:15 P.M.

- Vote On Operating Budget for Next Fiscal Year
- Vote On Proposed New By-Laws
- Vote On Nominated Board Members & Officers:

President:

Robert Panzer

Vice Presidents:

Daniel Goldberger

Madelyn Gould

Brent Greenspan

Seth Horowitz

Robert Lopatkin

Zina Rutkin-Becker

Rebecca Yousefzadeh Sassouni

*Say Farewell to Rabbi Adelson
& Judy, Hannah & Zev as they prepare to leave Temple Israel
at a BBQ In their Honor
Tuesday, June 16 6-8 P.M.*

\$18 for adults, no charge for children
Reservations Are Required: 482-7800

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



Emma Sassouni

Emma Sassouni will be celebrating her *Bat Mitzvah* on June 6. She is the daughter of Rebecca and Sassan Sassouni and has two sisters, Sophia, 18, and Leila, 14, and a brother, Cyrus, 18. Emma is a seventh grade honor student at Great Neck North Middle School. She is a recipient of the METNY Keter Torah Award. Emma is a musician, athlete, avid reader, mathematician and chef. Emma will continue to attend the Waxman High School and Youth House. She has visited Israel and plans to return this summer.



Sophie Rokhsar

Sophie Rokhsar will be called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah* on June 13. She is the daughter of Yas and Arman Rokhsar and has two brothers, Ryan, 11, and Benjamin, 7. Sophie is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. She received an honorable mention at the North Hempstead Video Competition. Sophie enjoys art and swimming. She will be attending the Waxman High School. She regularly performs *mitzvot*, such as working with the Eliya School for the Blind in Israel. Sophie has visited Israel and plans on returning in the near future.



David Oginski

David Oginski will be celebrating his *Bar Mitzvah* on June 20. He is the son of Wendy Fried Oginski and Gerald Oginski and has a brother, Joseph, 23, and two sisters, Shari, 21, and Mia, 16. David is a seventh grade student at Great Neck South Middle School. He is one of the captains of the Great Neck South Rebels Lacrosse Team. David is also a member of the Alert Fire Department Juniors and an avid participant in krav maga, a form of Israeli martial arts. In honor of his *Bar Mitzvah*, he plans to visit Israel this summer.

From the President: Reflections

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Romemu congregation, and Rabba Sara Hurwitz, the first officially ordained *rabba* in Orthodox Judaism, for a panel discussion on different approaches to worship. We also engaged diverse speakers like NYU Professor Jonathan Haidt on the intuitive foundations of morality for a past Shavuot lecture, Rabbi Steven Wernick, head of United Synagogue, on the state of our Conservative movement and, more recently, for a Waxman Memorial *Shabbat*, AJC Director of Interreligious and Intergroup Relations Rabbi Noam Marans, on Jewish-Catholic relations 50 years after Nostra Aetate along with current non-Jewish religions' attitudes towards Israel.

To consider the nature of our prayer services, borrowing from the above education inquiry, we formed a ReImagine Tefillah Committee, headed by Ritual Committee Co-Chairs Brent Greenspan and Sherry Husney, and comprised of our clergy and other members of the congregation. We studied the structure of the prayer service, discussed what was required and what was discretionary, and examined experimentation of other congregations, all within the prism of what would be appropriate for our congregation. Through that, we have made our prayer services more participatory, with additional *kavanot* and more variety to melody, all in a bit more streamlined fashion. We also will be looking at some changes to programming for the upcoming High Holidays to better meet the needs of our congregation. Change in this area is never easy and we owe appreciation to our clergy and those who participated for that recognition and their efforts.

With regard to technology, we have now at least reached into the 21st Century. Through the efforts of our new Communications Committee, led by VP Dan Goldberger and Sam Husney, we have improved our website (the work of which started with Jose Nebro), entered the world of Facebook and Twitter and are working with longtime (and dedicated)

Voice Editor Marc Katz to re-fashion it to meet contemporary needs.

With regard to the building, we did see the re-opening of our third floor with the use of Room Aleph (or, as known to some, room 301).

Our House Committee, led successively by Marty Werber and now Keyvan Frouzan, assisted by our dedicated maintenance staff, have done a great job keeping the building functioning but, candidly, more needs to be done. Plans are underway for a hoped-for capital campaign that would greatly assist this endeavor. We are, however, further along in strengthening the security of our building with members Joe Farber, Alan Itchkow, Edie Robbins and Toby Katz, among others, working with Executive Director Leon Silverberg to assess needs, secure a Homeland Security grant and then oversee implementation of its provisions. We will shortly have completed reinforcement of the first floor windows to render them shatterproof, possess enhanced video surveillance capability both inside and outside our premises, and installed a fob-type control for access to the building when our security guards are not present. We know that access control will lead to some inconvenience to members coming "off hours" but, as the Board of Trustees previously determined, it is unfortunately a function of our times. While our security staff members, led by Jerry White, are excellent and an integral part of the Temple Israel family, we simply can't afford to have around-the-clock supervision. Enhanced technology will help us meet today's needs.

We have spoken often of the desire to have more portals of entry for synagogue participation. The creation of new affinity groups has been one of the most promising developments of the past several years. With our support of EmptiNesters, TI Bonds, monthly post-college grad *Shabbat* dinners and the Singles Connection for the more mature (40-plus) crowd, we have fostered the growth of different groups within our overall community. We are glad that

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Reflections

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these entities have joined the ranks of the Men's Club, Sisterhood and Shalom Club as places where like-interested people can gather to share their Jewish experience. There are, of course, times we want the entire congregation to be together, but that doesn't displace the value of themed groups to strengthen our synagogue.

We also have sought to give voice to individual congregants by surveying members on issues ranging from High Holy Day services to methods of communication. Also significant in according "voice" was the advent of personnel reviews of our clergy. While some initially questioned the propriety of clergy reviews, we explained that they have become "best practice" in the non-profit world and, indeed, were recommended by United Synagogue. We started with former Vice Presidents Alise Kreditor and Cheryl Moin taking responsibility for those of Rabbi Adelson and Cantor Frieder, respectively, and then continued with a committee of Vice President Maddy Gould, Larry Greengrass and Sam Husney to undertake that of Rabbi Stecker. They were performed under United Synagogue guidelines with true professionalism and, in speaking for the executive committees involved, to significant positive effect. While the improvement attained was of course important (who among us wouldn't benefit from constructive comments), it also is beneficial for members of the congregation to have a voice in the actions of the clergy who lead them.

All this, however, is prologue to what is to come. Rather than focus on my personal thoughts, I want to share with the congregation the observations of Jewish Theological Seminary Chancellor Arnold Eisen, provided at our recent Board of Trustees meeting. We had asked Chancellor Eisen to speak to our synagogue leadership on his view of today's challenges. Using his brilliant essay "Conservative Judaism Today and Tomorrow" as a backdrop, Chancellor Eisen conveyed the essential thought that Conservative Judaism must respond creatively to the massive transformation of our lives—that it can't simply remain the way it has been in the past. The challenge is to accomplish change while identifying what must stay the same for us to be faithful to our Judaism. But on one aspect the Chancellor was clear (and, I believe, consistent with recent approaches at Temple Israel): we must foster "community." His essay maintains "Conservative communities must be more than synagogues, and our synagogues must offer more than worship." At the meeting he was quite direct, arguing that without community we would not succeed in our endeavors. In a firm statement for the head of the Seminary, he maintained that we cannot make prayer our

Beth HaGan Students 'Look' for Miss Nelson!



Students and teachers outdid themselves at this year's Beth HaGan Literacy Art Fair, held earlier this month in the Crystal Ballroom. The exhibits, which were artistic, personal and communal interpretation of favorite books and classics, were visually compelling and contextually brilliant, according to school Director Rachel Mathless. "Each child was able to create a representation of a book as it related to him or her. The children were delighted with their 'masterpieces' and were proud to show these to family and friends." Beth HaGan's Dolphins Class, four-year-old students, depicted "Miss Nelson Is Missing," the story by Harry Allard and illustrated by James Marshall for their class art project, above.

primary focus, for that won't work in 21st Century America. To his mind, we should think of ourselves as a "people" and respond more broadly to the needs of a people, not ignoring Torah and prayer (For him, Torah is the center of Jewish life and he is a regular member of a Havurah-type service.) but linking it with other aspects of life. Chancellor Eisen encouraged experimentation with prayer within the bounds of what would be acceptable to a particular congregation (as an example, he spoke to the power of music and offered utilizing instruments as an example of some congregations using them, others not feeling comfortable with it). His goal is for prayer to be less rote and more spiritual. He did not seem to favor one particular approach over another, but sought recognition that we can't go on as if everything is just fine with prayer services. The chancellor also encouraged an inclusive sense of community, taking into account how we approach issues of interfaith families and gender rights and affiliation. He recognized that Jewish law contains prohibitions on certain action—he is against Conservative rabbis performing interfaith marriages—but argued there are ways to work better in the context of today's realities. In sum, he believes that, with thought and effort, we cannot only survive, but thrive.

I, too, am optimistic about Temple Israel. Yes, we continue to have some now modest membership loss. But we have, I believe, a broader core of groups of different ages committed to the synagogue, people

willing to make synagogue activity in the broad sense a priority in their lives. As I attended meetings with other synagogue leaders over the past several years, that is not universally present. We are well on our way to establishing the "kehillah" that the chancellor finds so important. Time and again, Susan and I heard from friends outside the synagogue who attended the recent Dinner Dance about the incredibly warm feeling they experienced that evening, how people seemed to truly care about each other, a feeling not evident at all places. We know this to be true, but in our self-examination and legitimate concern for the future we don't always remember it. We benefit from a diverse congregation, knowledgeable in worship and committed to learning and social action. We should be proud of that. And, it doesn't happen by accident. Whether it is the powerful oratory of Rabbi Stecker, the enchanting *chazzanut* of Cantor Frieder, the embracing personal outreach of Rabbi Adelson (who will be greatly missed)—all effective teachers in their own right—or the skilled financial oversight in these challenging times of committee chair Sue Lopatkin or the enterprise management of Leon Silverberg, all contribute to the success of this venture.

I am glad to have been a part of this endeavor, thank those who have expressed their appreciation for my service and wish Rob Panzer all the support that people have shown me. *Shalom.*

Congregation Thanks Its Kiddush Sponsors

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

A contribution toward the *kiddush* on April 25 was made by Esther and Lawrence Katz in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Talia.

The congregational *kiddush* on May 2 was sponsored by the Shabbat *Koleinu* participants in honor of leading services.

Contributions toward the *kiddush* on May 9 were made by Marjan and Shahram Taied in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Benjamin, and by Vivian Brash in memory of her mother, Camille Katz.

Contributions toward the *kiddush* on May 16 were made by Sharon and Larry Bernstein in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Jeremy, and by Kathrin Zelouf in memory of her husband, Yousef Zelouf.

Our Approach in Israel and Great Neck

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as well as in our own congregation. Last month, over 50 men and women led every aspect of our services over *Shabbat Koleinu*, an entire Shabbat dedicated to the participation of members of our community. In her *D'var Torah*, Moji Pourmoradi emphasized the unique elements of our community, focusing on our diversity and on our equal engagement of men and women.

Zionist elections and financial support, local and international, can often seem mundane and we may doubt either the importance of the cause or the significance of our own ability to help. I believe without reservation that the cause of Masorti and Conservative Judaism is crucial and that whatever help we can provide is worthwhile. If we don't support ourselves, no one else will.

Four Israeli families have found themselves in what one Jewish leader called "*simcha limbo*." Hopefully, in response to

Guest Column: Discussing a 'Painful Hope'

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contradictory, and nonetheless, refusing to be enemies, to hate and to live in fear. People who are living the conflict in the most intimate ways—losing their loved ones and living with great difficulty for the sake of their values and their connection to this Land—from both sides. And with all that, they are agreeing to see the other side. Agreeing to recognize the others' rights to their beliefs. Agreeing to be next to one other, without agreeing. Agreeing not to agree. This was what moved me more than anything else. It was said there, "We are not conducting here the solution to the conflict. We are in the conflict. But according to how we succeed in managing the conflict between us—during the conflict—thus we will succeed in managing a solution to the conflict, when the time will come."

Noa Ilay-Shilo (Gush Etzion, July 15, 2014)

Following these profound words, I would like to add a personal note. Flash

back to early June 1967. I have a vivid recollection of going door-to-door in my Brooklyn neighborhood, passionately collecting money for Israel. We were so fearful, as a community, that the heated situation (now known as the "Six Day War" but we could not know that then), would herald the demise of the beloved Jewish state that our people had worked so hard and lost so much for.

Soon thereafter, like many young people, I took my first trip to Israel as a participant on a teen tour sponsored by the Jewish Agency. Teenagers are an impressionable lot, and I can practically hear, see, taste and smell the experience as it jumps out of my youthful journal, in which I chronicled everything back then. One day, in bold capital letters scrolled across the page, I had written the following: "THERE ARE SO MANY ARABS HERE!! WHY DIDN'T ANYONE TELL US?"

We all have nodal moments in our lives—times when, as we reflect back, we can identify as being critical junctures, eye-openers, turning points—and this was one of mine. Since that moment almost half a century ago, I have believed with all my heart in two principles: the importance of understanding multiple perspectives, and the need to strive for openness and honesty (within the realm of developmental appropriateness) with young people. Both of these ideas have shaped my life choices.

Currently, as a psychologist working for decades with families in extreme conflict, I cannot stress enough the power of compassion and empathy to move us forward. When we can truly learn to listen and hear one another in the face of strong disagreement—within our homes, our extended families, our communities, and stretching all the way out to strangers with whom we share this tiny, diverse planet—then I am convinced that we will create a better world.

We Jews have a long-standing tradition wherein we pray for and await peace. Yet, we also have a strong tradition of social activism, which compels us, borrowing an expression from Abraham Joshua Heschel, to "pray with our feet." In this spirit, I have always found the words from John F. Kennedy's inaugural address to be a useful life guideline: "Here on earth, God's work must truly be our own." I believe that a large part of the "work" of partnering with God involves cultivating compassion toward others on the only planet we know of that has been ceded to our care.

Please join us on June 2. It promises to be an illuminating evening in which I imagine we will have an opportunity to learn as well as to add our own individual and collective "painful hopes" to the conversation.

Congratulations, Grads!

The following students, children of Temple Israel members, are marking their college graduations, as submitted to The Voice:

- **Jennifer Gillman**, daughter of Ilana and Eugene Gillman, NYU School of Medicine, with a dual degree M.D. and a Masters of Science in Clinical Investigation. She is an AOA scholar and presented her research at the Radiological Society of North America. She will be doing her internship at Lenox Hill Hospital and her residency in Radiology at the University of Pennsylvania.
- **Samuel Dicker**, son of Barbara and Daniel Dicker, Cornell Veterinary School.
- **Noor Nicole Taied**, daughter of Marjan and Shahram Taied, Stern College for Women—Yeshiva University. Bachelors of Arts and Biology and Associate of Arts in Judaic Studies. Magna Cum Laude and Dean's List with honors.

Religious School and Waxman High School Mark Student Achievements at End-of-Year Celebrations

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at the Atria during Hanukkah and Purim, to raising an impressive \$2,650 during a Lag B'omer celebration to help those affected by the earthquake in Nepal. The event ended with the traditional slide show that looked back over the events of the past year.

A number of students were honored for outstanding participation in services and family education programs. Among those in the 13 Mitzvot Club were Natalie Aminzadeh, Sophia Aminzadeh, Jared Astrof, Zachary Astrof, Alec Blumberg, Amelia Blumberg, Alexis Dorf, Zachary Dorf, Emily Gal, Sophia Gal, Elliot Ganjian, Julia Hyman, Nathaniel Hyman, Eden Katz, Talia Katz, Justin Khadavi, Matthew Nysenbaum, Ilan Rastagar, Amanda Putter, Brandon Etan Reed, Brian Scheidt, Harry Scheidt, Noah Scheidt, Nancy Schoen, Maya Somekh, Matthew Somekh, Amanda Volk, Elie Weitzman, and Sigal Weitzman.

Recognized for participation in the Chai Club were Hannah Adelson, Serena Askari, Sophia Askari, Rebecca Bernstein, Abigail Bernstein, Jeremy Bernstein, Ethan Bloom, Matthew Bloom, Mitchell Bloom, Raphaella Covitt, Aliza Fine, Alexander Geula, Rena Geula, Daniel Goldberg, Ava Hoffman, Kylie Hoffman, Elizabeth Lev, Martin Lev, Emanuel Nysenbaum, Allison Parnes, Samantha Parnes, Ari Picker, Joshua Picker, Emma Sassouni, Eric Yachbes, and Olivia Yachbes.

Students named Judaic Scholars by the METNY district of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism in recognition of their outstanding academic achievement, behavior and attendance were Natalie Aminzadeh, Serena Askari, Jared Astrof, Zachary Astrof, Rebecca Bernstein, Ethan Bloom, Matthew Bloom (Bet class), Mitchell Bloom, Alec Blumberg, Amelia Blumberg, Raphaella Covitt, Aliza Fine, Sophia Gal, Alexander Geula, Rena Geula, Nathaniel Hyman, Eden Katz, Elizabeth Lev, Eli Newman, Emanuel Nysenbaum, Samantha Parnes, Allison Parnes, Amanda Putter, Brian Scheidt, Maya Somekh, Emma Sassouni, Nancy Schoen, Nathan Tamari, Jessica Tamari, Ari Vladimir, Amanda Volk, Elie Weitzman and Sigal Weitzman.

Two students, Emma Sassouni and Nathaniel Hyman, were

recipients of the Keter Torah Honor Society award for being continuously enrolled in the school from grades two through seven and Judaic scholars for at least four of the last five years.

Waxman High School Graduation

The May 19 celebration at the Waxman High School and Youth House included a catered dinner, flowers, speeches, gifts and individual recognition of student achievements.

Long-time teacher Moji Pourmoradi presented selected books to each student and explained why she had chosen them. Youth House Director Danny Mishkin spoke in detail about what made each graduate unique and presented them with the following awards: Milton Rosen Jewish Identity Award, Amy Pourmoradi; Student of the Year, Simon Kashfi; Ben Ziegelbaum Memorial Award, Neeka Gilardian; Naomi Shemer Award for Writing, Brittany Chadi; Youth of the Year, Brittney Gilardian; Golda Meir Award, Sara Spector; Jacob Julius Mench Award, Ethan Volk; Ruach Award, Amanda Piroozian; N'shama Award, Elena Schwartz; Hannah Szenes, Alana Farkas; and Ner Tamid Award, Nicelette Ashkenazie.

Although the ceremony was heavily focused on the nature of the individual students, the similarity of the sentiments expressed by each of them was striking. Their connection to the school had not only made the graduates feel more a part of the Temple Israel community, but also filled them with a sense of Jewish identity that they will carry with them as they move forward with their lives. Some students even noted that their whole concept of Judaism was changed by the character building and *tikun olam* that they performed during their time at the Youth House.

It was a night of reflection, culminating when Rabbi Seth Adelson, recipient of a "Lighting a Spark Award" at the ceremony, spoke about the importance of the graduates' connection to the Youth House and of Jewish learning in general. He capped the celebration with a challenge for each of the graduates being honored to not rest on their current achievements, but to continue to study Torah and expand their knowledge of Judaism in the future.

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SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, May 29

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.

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Saturday, May 30

Morning Service 9:00 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Naso*

Numbers 4:21 - 7:89

Haftarah: Judges 13:2 - 25

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Rachel Geula, Ellen Birnbaum,

Deanna Stecker and Robert Panzer

B'nai Mitzvah

JACOB FELIX LURVEY

son of Veronica Bisek Lurvey and Jonathan Lurvey

SAM SILBERG

son of Robin Bernstein Silberg and Stuart Silberg

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Minhah 7:40 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 8:10 P.M.

Ma'ariv 8:45 P.M.

Havdalah 9:00 P.M.

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Friday, June 5

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.

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Saturday, June 6

Morning Service 9:00 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Beha'alotekha*

Numbers 8:1 - 12:16

Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14 - 4:7

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Madelyn Gould, Susan Brustein and Mark Birnbaum

Bat Mitzvah

EMMA SASSOUNI

daughter of Rebecca and Sassan Sassouni

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Minhah 7:45 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 8:15 P.M.

Ma'ariv 8:50 P.M.

Havdalah 9:05 P.M.

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Friday, June 12

Evening Service Led by TEP 6:30 P.M.

TEP Dinner 7:30 P.M.

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Saturday, June 13

Morning Service 9:00 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Shelah*

Numbers 13:1 - 15:41

Haftarah: Joshua 2:1 - 24

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Seth Horowitz, Burton Weston,

Sima Taeid and Ofra Panzer

Bat Mitzvah

SOPHIE ROKHSAR

daughter of Yas and Arman Rokhsar

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Niggun Circle with Cantor Frieder following *Kiddush*

Minhah 7:50 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 8:20 P.M.

Ma'ariv 8:54 P.M.

Havdalah 9:09 P.M.