

Temple Israel Schools Holding Year-End Ceremonies *Waxman High School Is Graduating 11 Students*

by Marc Katz, Editor
Temple Israel's three schools—the Waxman High School, Religious School and Beth HaGan Nursery School—are winding down their academic activities for the year, with closing ceremonies now taking place.

Eleven Waxman High seniors are completing their religious education at Temple Israel and making plans to move on to college life. “Our seniors came to graduation not only beaming with joy, but with the willingness to confirm their role in Judaism,” said school Director Avi Siegel. “They recalled when they were in seventh grade and becoming a *B'nai Mitzvah* meant that they were a Jewish adult. Now, however, as they are becoming social adults, they are better prepared to make an emotional and intellectual commitment to Judaism.”

The graduates include Katie Berman, Emily Citron, Josh Gal, Clara Goldberger, Charlie Goodwin, Roger Hyman, Talia Levy, Jordan Shaolian, Jon Sasson, Leila Sassouni, and Brian Volk.

“It is incredibly humbling to be witness to a profound group of young adults closing a chapter in their lives,” the Waxman High School Director said. “Each moment we spend together creates another diamond that enriches the lives of everyone who is near it. As we bring Youth House 5778 to a close, it is with wide eyes and open arms that



Proud parents joined some of the Waxman High School Class of 2018 at graduation ceremonies.

we look to embrace what our next year has in store. I welcome all to come and share in our holy moments together.”

Religious School

Closing ceremonies were held late last month by the Religious School, where 33 sixth graders were presented with Waxman Youth House tee shirts by current high school students. They immediately put the shirts on, symbolically showing that they are taking the next step in their religious education.

The ceremonies in the Crystal Ballroom included lots of singing and dancing, and a slide show depicting the school year in pictures. The school halls were also covered with photos showing student activities during the past year.

The sixth graders include Cecilia Albin, Serena Askari, Ethan Bloom, Alec Blumberg, Dylan Chaman, Skyler Damaghi, Ethan Dayani, Alexis Dorf, Rena Geula, Jonah Haghani, Chloe Hedvat, Sophia Hendizadeh, Zachary Hyman, Raphael Kermani, Justine Khadavi, Nicole Kiaei,

Lauren Kohanim, Benjamin Landerer, Zachary Lipp, Sean Manesh, Aaron Mashieh, Cayla Mirjani, Emily Noghrei, Sarah Ostrow, Joshua Picker, Jacob Rastegar, Noah Scheidt, Jacob Shirazi, Elliot Tabaroki, Valeri Tabaroki, Alexander Victory, Sigal Weitzman, and Tyler Zargari.

The school also presented Judaic Scholar awards to Sam Bagon, Noah Becker, Abigail Bernstein, Raphaella Covitt, Max Covitt, Jonathan Ganjian, Elliot Ganjian, Rena Geula, Daniel Goldberg, Shoshanna Goody, Alex Gottlieb, Ezra Juceam, Lily Kase, Aaron Kassin, Elliot Kassin, Ariel Kermani, Shira Khoda, Riley Kurpiel, Elizabeth Matalon, Jacqueline Matalon, Solomon Matalon, Julia Reed, Brandon Reed, Alexandra Schweber, Natalie Schweber, Jessica Tamari, Olivia Yachbes, Molly Zeitlin, Brayden Zeitlin, and Sigal Weitzman.

Beth HaGan Nursery School

Students at the Beth HaGan Nursery School will celebrate the 70th

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A Shalom Club Farewell

A Voice Guest Column by Eileen Putterman

EDITOR'S NOTE: Eileen Putterman closes a chapter of Temple Israel history, as the Shalom Club holds its final meeting later this month. She reflects on the group's activities during the past 55 years in this Voice Guest Column.

It's been 55 years, but I can still see Rabbi Waxman seated at the head of our dining room table bringing a bowl of nuts of all varieties closer to him, noshing and smiling—as we made our way toward becoming the Shalom Club of Temple Israel. Having Rabbi Waxman with us as an influence was pure magic, and still is!

We are now in our 55th year, and made the difficult but necessary decision to end the Shalom Club.

We arrived in Temple Israel of Great Neck over half a century ago. We arrived together as new members of the synagogue, recently married, with two young children in tow while being somewhat unaware that this

number would grow. We did have some experience with temple groups as we had already experienced starting the Young Married Set at the Rego Park Jewish Center. From that experience, our group thrived in its new surroundings, and members bounded and nurtured a generation of congregational leadership. Couples included Barbara and Stan Goldfarb, Ellen and Milton Rosen, Renee and Elliot Fleischer, Alex and Audrey Rothstein, Naomi and Sol Schulman, Bela and Mel Schoenfeld, Betty and Irving Lager, Estelle Chotan, and several others.

Some members actually became presidents of Temple Israel! Who you might ask? William Ungar, Mordecai Gabriel, Alan Greenblatt, and, of
—Continued on page 11

Metrics Aren't Enough

From the Rabbi by Rabbi Howard Stecker

Our stationary bicycle that I try to ride a few times a week provides all kinds of metrics to let you know how you're doing. While you're puffing away, you know how quickly you're going, how much distance you've traveled, how much resistance you are working against.

The bike also lets you know how well you're doing in relation to other people. And since it seems to know everyone's age, I can tell if I'm pulling ahead of younger people or if older people are pulling ahead of me.

Ah, metrics. They impact so many realms. How many patients does a doctor see? How do a teacher's students fare on standardized tests? When people evaluate synagogues, they often ask about how many people attend services or events.

Metrics can be useful, but they have their limits. They don't tell you how well a doctor diagnoses patients or how

creatively a teacher meets the needs of individual students.

In the realm of Jewish life, conventional metrics often ignore questions about impact, like: "How does the synagogue help people to face their lives with greater direction and purpose?" "How many attend" is an important question to ask, but

How do you measure joy?

so is, "How did an event, or an interaction, or years of being part of a synagogue community, affect a single person's life?"

Judaism from Biblical times to the present has recognized the importance of metrics. Have you performed certain *mitzvot*? Or, even more specifically, have you eaten a certain quantity of matzah or offered a particular sequence of prayers?
—Continued on page 6

Staying Current

From the President by Rob Panzer

METNY, the regional division of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, recently held its annual Spring meeting. Attendees from Temple Israel were Vice-Presidents Brent Greenspan and Burton Weston, Membership Chair Ofra Panzer, and myself. Brent presented a workshop describing Temple Israel's

The focus of the meeting was the book "Next Generation Judaism"

use of the "Minyan App" as well as the taxi service that can be used by our members to attend our daily *minyan*.

The focus of the meeting was the book "Next Generation Judaism," written by Rabbi Mike Uram. Rabbi Uram is the executive director of the Penn Hillel, where he has experimented with methods to increase Jewish participation in different kinds of activities that are not the standard at most Hillels or other Jewish organizations. It describes new ways of looking at membership and involvement, changing the status from transactional interactions to relational ones.

For those who are interested, the book is relatively short as well as an easy read. It can't possibly answer all the questions we may have about the future, but it does help us to understand the changes that are occurring in the Jewish world that present challenges to any organization.

We will be purchasing copies of the book to distribute to our Board of Trustees to further our efforts in making sure that Temple Israel stays current and forward looking.

As always, I can be reached at Robpanzer18@gmail.com

Next Voice, Deadline

The next issue of The Voice, the July issue, will be published on July 12. The deadline for that issue is June 19.

In Memoriam

Temple Israel extends condolences to the family of:

ROBERT PARKET

husband of Noelle Parket and esteemed member of Temple Israel

May his memory be for a blessing.

Temple Lites...

- **Donald Ashkenase** was re-elected to another three-year term on the Great Neck Board of Education. Mr. Ashkenase, the longest serving member of the five-person board, was first elected to the position in the early 1980s.
- **Janet Nina Esagoff, Rachel Rokhsar and Rebecca Yousefzadeh Sassouni** were among 400 attorneys who received the Nassau County Bar Association 2018 Access to Justice Pro Bono Recognition for providing the largest number of pro bono hours of legal service to Nassau County residents during the past year.

Membership Meeting to Vote on Budget, Elect New Board Members

A Temple Israel membership meeting on June 4 will feature the election of two new members of the Board of Trustees, the re-election of seven members, and the vote on the proposed operating budget for the coming year.

The Board of Trustees has approved a recommendation of the Executive Committee that membership dues and Religious School tuition not be raised this year.

Nominated for a first three-year term on the Board of Trustees are Desiree Rastegar and Lila Bernstein Schoen. Nominated for a second three-year term are Harold Citron, Adam Covitt, Jeffrey Fleit, Jacqueline Harounian, Moji Pourmoradi, and Neda Sedgh.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Burton Weston, included Adam Covitt, Andrea Katz, Ronald Klempner, Robert Lopatkin, and Jerrold Schlessel.

Members must be in good standing to vote at the meeting, which begins at 8:15 p.m.

Upcoming Events at Temple Israel

| | | | |
|--|------------------------|---|-----------|
| June 3 Celebrate Israel Parade in Manhattan | 11:00 A.M. | June 15 Evening Service at Steppingstone Park | 6:30 p.m. |
| June 4 Congregational Meeting | 8:15 P.M. | June 18-22 Beth HaGan Nursery School Transition Week | |
| June 5 Sisterhood's "Lunch and Read" Men's Club Executive Board Meeting | Noon 7:00 P.M. | June 21 Board of Trustees Meeting | 8:15 P.M. |
| June 11 Sisterhood Board Meeting | 10:00 A.M. | June 25 First Day of Beth HaGan Summer Program | |
| June 12 Beth HaGan Nursery School Graduation New Member Welcome Ceremony and Dinner | 9:30 A.M. 5:30 P.M. | June 28 Men's Club Texas Hold'em and Backgammon Night | 7:30 P.M. |
| June 13 Last Day of Beth HaGan Nursery School | | July 19 Board of Trustees Meeting | 8:15 P.M. |
| | | July 22 Tish'ah Be'Av | |

CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE

ISRAEL @ 70

*& you are Sababa
(you are awesome)*

Sunday, June 3, 2018

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

(Rain or Shine)

5th Avenue in NYC from 57th Street to 74th Street

Stand in witness of the miracle and in support of the modern State of Israel.

★ **March with Temple Israel of Great Neck**

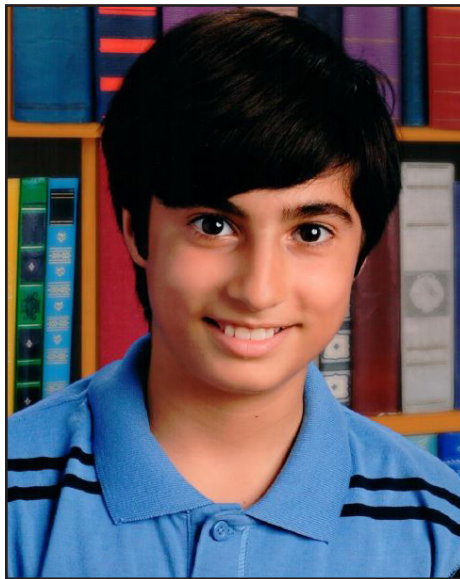
★ **Spectators Welcome**

★ **Bring Your Kids & Grandkids**

**Tee shirts & round trip bus transportation
provided by the TIGN Israel Solidarity Fund.
Advance registration is encouraged.**

*For more information, please contact: Jacqueline Harounian at
jacquelineharounian@gmail.com*

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



Bradley Delafraz

Bradley Delafraz will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* on June 9. He is the son of Sima and Hamid Delafraz and has a brother, Brandon, 14. Bradley is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. Bradley enjoys the outdoors, hiking, water skiing, and playing basketball. He plans to visit Israel in the near future.

Congratulations, Temple Israel College Grads!

The following Temple Israel members have a child who have earned a college degree, as submitted to the Voice.

Congratulations, Grad!

- **Evan Oppenheimer**, son of Lori and Peter Oppenheimer: Hamilton College, B.A.

Mazal Tov To . . .

Rebecca and Malcolm Phillips
on the birth of their grandson,
Jayce Eli Katz Phillips.

Kathrin Zelouf on the birth
of her grandson, Skylar Gray Zelouf.



Religious School Torah Troupe Readers

Religious School Torah Troupe readers have an opportunity to read from the Torah on Shabbat once a month. During April, above, the readers were Elliot Tabaroki, Abby Bernstein, Elliot Ganjian, Sophia Sanieoff, Brandon Reed, and Jessica Tamari. During May the readers, below, were Alexandra Schweber, Natalia Schweber, Shira Khoda, Ava Faraz, Riley Kurpiel, Elliot Kassin, Noah Becker, and Ben Landerer. (not pictured: Kayla Kahen)



Temple Israel Schools Hold Year-End Ceremonies

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anniversary of the State of Israel at their graduation ceremony on June 12. They will show off what they have learned about Israel by singing and dancing.

Two classes will receive diplomas from school Director Rachel Mathless and hear presentations by Rabbi Howard Stecker and Temple Israel President Rob Panzer. They will receive gifts from the Parents' Association following musical presentations by music teacher Irene Okner.

The graduating Butterflies class, taught by Morah Miriam, Morah Elizabeth and Morah Nahid, includes: Aryeh Aghelian, Mason Charkhy, Tirran Cohen, Chelsea Gangian, Mikael Ghasabian, Zachary Ghaytanchi, Aaron Ilyadzhanov, Benica Javidnia, Julian Kamali, Isabelle Kashani, Sascha Mazloumi, Shiloh Mehdizadeh, Adelial Moghadasian, Joshua Rad, Eva Shirazi, Jake Soleimani, and Celia Zadka.

Graduates in Morah Connie's and Morah Hilda's Dolphins class include: Moshe Abrams, Cole Bakhsh, Charlotte DallaCorte, Samuel Feingold, Ethan Feintuch, Noah Hakimian, Jill Hamra, Sophia Kashani, Elora Kohansieh, Joseph Lahijani, Abigail Rad, Adelle Shenhav, Jack Steinberg, and Jonah Yaghoubi.

Ken Leff Appears In 25th Temple Israel Players Production



Kenneth M. Leff was surprised, during rehearsals for the most recent Temple Israel Players production, when he was feted for appearing in 25 consecutive shows.

by Marc Katz

Kenneth M. Leff, who has appeared in more productions by the Temple Israel Players than almost any member of the congregation's theatrical troupe, was recently celebrated for his record of 25 consecutive show appearances.

Just before the last production, the cast of the show surprised him with a cake that said: "Mazal Tov Ken On 25 Years with the Temple Israel Players."

But, he wasn't always "a natural" on stage. One day following Shabbat services 25 years ago, he recalled recently, he ran into one of the show producers, Eileen Putterman, who told him of an upcoming cast call.

"Wild horses couldn't drag me up on stage," he told her. "I never did acting before in my life."

But she insisted, and guaranteed him a part and a good time. "I didn't know what to expect," he said, "but tried out and found the group of seasoned performers to be very welcoming."

Over the years he has performed many roles, but said his favorites were Harry the Horse in "Guys and Dolls," the Lieutenant Shrank in "West Side Story" and, most recently, Maurice in "Beauty and the Beast."

"I never asked for a particular part," he said while reflecting on his many roles. "I'm just happy to be in a show with such talented, welcoming people."

He said he knows newcomers who join the Temple Israel Players will feel just as welcome as he was made to feel. "And, the snacks at rehearsals and camaraderie are great, too," he said. "I'm ready for the next show."

Congregation Thanks Many Sponsors of the Shabbat Kiddush

A contribution towards the kiddush on October 7 was made by Susan and David Hanover in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Sophia.

A contribution towards the kiddush on October 14 was made by Shadi and Michael Ohebshalom in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Aaron.

A contribution towards the kiddush on October 21 was made by Dr. Joni and Peter Scheidt in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Harry.

A contribution towards the kiddush on October 28 was made by Katrin and Famaraz (Frankie) Hedvat in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Ashley.

The congregational kiddush on November 4 was sponsored by Sharona and Alan Lipp in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Evan. Contributions toward the Kiddush Fund were made by Isabel and Ramin Somekh in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Maya, and Rabbi Abraham B. Eckstein in honor of the 60th anniversary of his ordination.

Contributions toward the kiddush on November 11 were made by Elana Mourtil and John Becker in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Samantha Leah, Dalida and Roozbeh Khezri in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Jamie, and Vivian Brash in memory of her father, Joseph Katz.

The congregational kiddush on November 18 was sponsored by Elise and Richard Kestenbaum in honor of the *Auf Ruf* of their son, Jonathan, and Lindsay Kriger. A contribution

towards the Kiddush Fund was made by Alfred Sedaghat in memory of his father, Mansour Sedaghat.

A contribution towards the kiddush on November 25 was made by Jackie Einstein Astrof and Josh Astrof in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Zachary.

The congregational kiddush on December 2 was co-sponsored by the Tot Shabbat Families in honor of Ronnie Katz for leading the Tot Shabbat Service for almost 30 years and the Goldfeder Family in honor of Ed Goldfeder's 90th birthday. A contribution towards the Kiddush Fund was made by Farsima and Nader Dayani in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Angelina.

Contributions toward the kiddush on December 9 were made by Parnaz and Mehran Kohanim in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Dylan, and Sharon and David Ohebshalom in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Adam.

The congregational kiddush on December 16 was sponsored by Ellen and Mark Putter in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Amanda.

A contribution towards the kiddush on December 23 was made by Susan and Arden Smith in honor of Dr. Smith chanting Parashat Vayiggash in commemoration of the 53rd anniversary of his *Bar Mitzvah*.

The congregational kiddush on January 6 was sponsored by Ellen and Babak Nahavandi in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Jessica.

From the Rabbi: Metrics Aren't Enough

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But I would argue that the key values set out in our tradition transcend measurement, and that's the point. We are created in God's image. How do you quantify that? We are to love God with our hearts and souls. Should this be a competition? We are to be joyous on the festivals and to serve God joyfully even on ordinary days. How do you measure joy?

What makes us most divine, and most human, ultimately defies metrics. To help us evaluate the success of our most profound endeavors more effectively, I recommend that we push back against the emphasis on metrics.

Of course we want many people to attend the programs that we offer. This year we hosted hundreds of teens for an awesome USY Shabbaton, hundreds came to a phenomenal concert celebrating Israel's 70th anniversary, and over 600 people attended an outstanding program several weeks ago featuring New York Times journalist Bret Stephens and

ADL CEO and National Director Jonathan Greenblatt. That's all commendable and it shows that we are offering programs that have a wide appeal.

But the deeper measure of success is found in the ways that individual teens have become more involved since the Shabbaton, in the spirit that each person who attended the concert brought to their personal celebration of Israel, in the ways in which people's outlooks on current issues were impacted by the insightful conversation that took place between two major thought leaders.

Moreover, we should value the intimate gatherings, planned and spontaneous, that take place all the time through our synagogue. They include small teen gatherings, adult bar/bat mitzvah classes, Temple Israel Players rehearsals, the lively political conversations that erupt at the kiddush, the lasting friendships that are formed all the time.

We need to ask questions about

"how many," but we also need to ask questions about "how deeply." Within our Temple Israel community, how deeply do we feel our connection to one another, to our tradition, to our creator?

The best bike rides I have are not necessarily the ones where I get the highest score or push ahead of the people who are a few years younger than I am. They occur when I am in synch with the music, when I am feeling good about myself and grateful to be moving forward altogether. At these moments, I don't care if an octogenarian forges ahead of me. Let him or her enjoy the moment as well.

There's one more question we should be asking and that is, how different. How different do we feel in the moment, after the service, while offering food and clothing to the homeless, as a result of being in conversation with people we love and respect? This is a question that transcends metrics, and it may be the most important question of all.

Sabbath Services

—Continued from back page

Friday, June 22

Evening Services 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, June 23

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

Weekly Portion: *Hukat*
Number 19:1 – 22:1
Haftarah: Judges 11:1 – 33

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:
Neda Sedgh, Daniel Goldberger,
Patty Schneider and Jeffrey Fleit

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.
Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.
Afternoon Service 7:50 P.M.
Evening Service 8:56 P.M.
Havdalah 9:12 P.M.

Friday, June 29

Evening Services 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, June 30

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

Weekly Portion: *Balak*
Numbers 22:2 – 25:9
Haftarah: Micah 5:6 – 6:8

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:
Susan Lopatkin, Jeffrey Fleit,
Lori Oppenheimer, Andi Katz, and
Joyce Weston

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.
Afternoon Service 7:55 P.M.
Se'udah Shelishit 8:25 P.M.
Evening Service 8:56 P.M.
Havdalah 9:12 P.M.

Friday, July 6

Evening Services 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, July 7

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

Weekly Portion: *Pinehas*

Numbers 25:10 – 30:1
Haftarah: Jeremiah 1:1 – 2:3

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.
Afternoon Service 7:50 P.M.
Evening Service 8:55 P.M.
Havdalah 9:11 P.M.

Friday, July 13

Evening Services 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, July 14

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

Weekly Portion: *Mattot-Mas'ey*
Numbers 30:2 – 36:13
Haftarah: Jeremiah 2:4 – 28; 3:4

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.
Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.
Afternoon Service 7:50 P.M.
Evening Service 8:52 P.M.
Havdalah 9:08 P.M.

Proclaiming Liberty Throughout the Land

by Rabbi Daniel Schweber

On July 4th we think about the words on the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia: “You shall proclaim liberty throughout the land.” They are from Leviticus 25 and I recently taught about them.

One area in life that is extremely complex is economics, especially questions of economic equality and economic opportunity. The Torah in the end of Leviticus gets right to the heart of the matter of these questions. In chapter 25, the Torah presents a radical plan for economic equality, including sabbatical years, requirements to assist family members who have fallen on bad luck and the radical reset of the Jubilee Year, where everyone is supposed to get a piece of land every fifty years.

The very next chapter is a possible challenge to the plan for equality with its theology that our success or failure is caused by God and determined by our behavior. If we are rich and successful, then we must be righteous. If we are not successful, it is possible that bad behavior is the reason.

As the Torah demonstrates, the highly complex questions about the causes and solutions to inequality in regards to income levels and available opportunities to earn a living are not new. The challenge of implementing the Torah’s vision into real life is also an ancient challenge.

Daily Minyan Times

Friday

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

Sunday

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wed., June 6, 20 & 27 & July 11 & 18

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

Wednesday, June 13

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

Wednesday, July 4

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

Thursday

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

The result is that we continue to live in nuance and paradox. The Torah says loans are cancelled every seven years and that Jews cannot loan to other Jews on interest. Yet there are workarounds for both laws. Is that bad? I do not think we can even answer yes or no to this question. Allowing loans to remain after seven years and allowing interest is less than ideal, but the workarounds allow the economic gears to keep on turning when the ideal could turn them off. Despite the workarounds, Jews have always been taught to help others and to keep our hands and hearts open.

I am not an economist by any stretch of the imagination. I took my required economics class at Michigan undergrad and that was it. Yet as a rabbi and interested citizen, I read a lot about inequality. I read about housing and homelessness, education policy and

“Should we strive to do something about economic inequality?”

funding, wages and benefits and working conditions. I read about businesses that struggle to succeed and workers who struggle to make ends meet.

All of these social issues are interconnected; education, ensuring a sound and safe home life for children, ability for people to earn a living wage, access to healthcare. And, if these topics are not complicated enough, there is no “one size fits all” solution. People have different needs and different industries have different needs.

Tipping in the restaurant industry is much more widespread than in other industries. I believe a majority of us know that it is customary to tip 20 percent of the bill, give or take. I have a vague idea that we should tip a cab driver and hair stylist, but what is the amount? Perhaps a cab driver needs a full \$15 per hour wage while a restaurant server can do just fine on \$9.75 per hour and tips.

To repeat, the only emphatic “yes!”

answer should be to the question “Should we strive to do something about economic inequality?” Just because there are no easy solutions to ensuring that all Americans, especially poor Americans get a quality education doesn’t mean we stop trying. Just because gangs have mastered the art of fear and threats to recruit members, doesn’t mean we stop doing what we can to protect children and provide alternatives to gangs.

I learned in my one economics class that much of our behavior, economic and otherwise, is much more tied to our emotions than to our intellectual reasoning. We might wish that the righteous and good people flourish, but we know, and the Torah knows, that the world is more complicated. Many factors determine whether a person prospers or is in need. We must connect with each other’s humanity and feelings.

The Biblical Book of Ruth is a story about feelings, attachment and redemption. Naomi hits on hard times. She is bitter and in need. Ruth has an escape possibility, yet she clings to Naomi and cares for her. Boaz does the same thing for Ruth, who is a penniless Moabite to whom he has no obligation. The protection and redemption in Ruth comes from a place of love and true human empathy. No matter how difficult or how unsolvable our community’s, our country’s, and our world’s economic problems, we should all strive to see each other for the people we are.

Our Chesed Committee is being rejuvenated with the goal of providing opportunities to help people in meaningful ways beginning closer to home, here on Long Island, and then branching out.

The specific laws of the Jubilee might not be applicable anymore, however the words “you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land” are still on the Liberty Bell and ring just as true as when they were written. Let us think about these lessons as we celebrate the upcoming Fourth of July. Have a happy Fourth!

From Generation to Generation

Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

LIBRARY FUND

In honor of:

Phil Barenfeld's birthday
Adrienne and Barry Gray's
60th anniversary
Mickey and Allan
Greenblatt

In memory of:

Ida Stein Laster
Rose Rudich
Werner Stein
Eva Litwak
Mickey and Allan
Greenblatt
Philip I. Silverstein
Pauline R. Seiler
Harriet Seiler

For the recovery of:

Linda Abrams
Cheryl Eisberg Moin
and Seth Moin

YAD B'YAD FUND

On the occasion of:

The end of the 11 month
mourning period of
Walter Leavitt
The Leavitt Family

In appreciation of:

The support following the
passing of Diane Gimpel
Elyse and Robert
Kushel
Yad B'Yad for their help
during Marvin's recent
illness
Elise and Marvin
Tepper

In memory of:

Sylvia Salzberg
Florence Hodes
Pearl and Ken
Hymes
Alan Sternlieb
Beverly Sternlieb
Roni Sazer
Carol and Steven
Smolinsky

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of:

Herb Freedman
Roni Sazer
Susan and Arden Smith
Naomi Abusch
Joni Scheidt
Al Smith
Arden Smith

DANA SPECTOR KIMMEL TORAH RESTORATION FUND

In memory of:

Jack Mogilnik
Ossie Spector

RABBI STECKER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of:

Rabbi Stecker's help in
making funeral
arrangements for her
brother, Eric Denner
Sharon Denner Horowitz
Rabbi Stecker's kindness
and support during this
difficult time
Susan Kahn
Rabbi Stecker's support
during the passing of her
mother, Selma Richer
Debra Shepsman
Rabbi Stecker, his family and
loved ones
The Damaghi Family
The caring and support
Rabbi Stecker provided
during their stressful time
Marylin and Allan Goldberg

In honor of:

Their son, Harry, becoming a
Bar Mitzvah
Joni and Peter Scheidt

In memory of:

Ruth Rader
Judy Vine
Ruth Mack
David Mack
Ganya B. Spinrad
Elisabeth Ebert
Ruth E. Charry
Joshua S. Charry
Sylvia Rieders
Pamela and Ben Boal
Gary Wachter
Irene Wachter
Selma Richer
Diane and Elliot Polland
David Pernick
Jill Friedman

Contribution:

Charles Dimston

HARRIET SCHIFF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FUND

In memory of:

Leopold Schiff
Sali Rothschild
Jacob Schiff

RABBI SCHWEBER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of:

Rabbi Schweber for
officiating at the funeral of
Diane Gimpel
Elyse and Robert
Kushel

In honor of:

Their son, Harry, becoming a
Bar Mitzvah
Joni and Peter Scheidt
Her *tenaim* and upcoming
marriage to Jason
Lillian Rokhsar

In memory of:

Mark Schweber
Lori and Paul Freudman
Judy Vine
Jeffrey Fleit

Contribution:

Charles Dimston

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of Kim and Jonathan
Kaiman, becoming a
Bat Mitzvah
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The marriage of Rebecca
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Ana Maria and Malcolm
Salit

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Lillian Berman
Irene Ashery
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Trudy Emanuel
Aaron Feder
Carol Glatstein

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In honor of:

Thelma Sahn on the birth
of her seventh great-
grandchild, Mia Charlotte
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Emily and Billy Sahn
Emily and Brian Sahn

In memory of:

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Their daughter, Rebecca,
becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*
Sharon and Lawrence
Bernstein
Their son, Eli, becoming a
Bar Mitzvah
Claudia and Bruce
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In memory of:

Esther Fleischer
Elliot Fleischer

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In appreciation of:

Cantor Frieder's support
following the passing of
Diane Gimpel
Elyse and Robert
Kushel
Cantor Frieder's
involvement in the funeral of
her mother, Selma Richer
Debra Shepsman

In honor of:

Their son, Harry, becoming
a *Bar Mitzvah*
Joni and Peter
Scheidt

Contribution:

Abe Sheffy

ESTHER AND SAMUEL BROCHSTEIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:

Leonard Pickard
Lois Illman

From Generation to Generation

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Family

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Nancy and Sidney
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Moallem
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Sylvia Rieders
Anna Rubin
Roni Sazer
Manijeh and Jack
Moallem
Soufer Frouzan
Jack Moallem
Sarah Doustan
Manijeh Moallem

For the recovery of:

Ed Goldfeder
Manijeh and Jack
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The birth of Samantha
Alexa Brustein,
granddaughter of Susan
and Dennis Brustein
Joyce and Burton
Weston
Their 60th wedding
anniversary
Carol and Richard
Winston

In memory of:

Gertrude Yares
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D'var Torah

—Continued from back page

even in the faith of God's miracles, set a pattern that becomes a prominent theme of Scripture—the struggle to raise man above himself.

Shelah

Saturday, June 9

In this portion, the Israelites approach the border of Canaan, and Moses sends 12 princes of the tribes to scout the land. Among them are Caleb and Joshua. The scouts' mission is to investigate the natural properties of the land and evaluate the strength of its people. After 40 days, the scouts return bearing a single cluster of grapes so heavy that it takes two men to carry it on a pole between them. They report that the land is indeed bountiful, but it is inhabited by powerful people living in fortified cities. The scouts maintain that the Israelites are too weak to conquer the land, but Caleb and Joshua argue that, if the people have faith in God and His promise, they will be able to overcome the inhabitants. The people accept the majority report, thus incurring God's wrath. He decrees that they will spend 40 years in the wilderness, until an entire generation dies out and a free generation grows up.

Korah

Saturday, June 16

We find a major challenge to the leadership of Moses and Aaron in this portion. The reading details the rebellion led by Korah, a Levite, and two members of the tribe of Reuben, Dathan and Abiram. They accuse Moses and Aaron of unduly raising themselves above the community of Israelites, all of whom are holy. Moses tells the people that God will resolve the issue by accepting or rejecting an incense offering. He further declares that if the rebels die an unnatural death it will be a sign of vindication for him and Aaron. Following the test, Korah and his associates are swallowed up by the earth and fire destroys 250 of the rebels. Aaron is further vindicated in a test involving his staff which sprouts almond blossoms overnight. With the roles of Aaron, his sons and the Levites in connection with the Mishkan firmly established, a list of emoluments is granted to them in return for their work. Thus, the leadership of the Israelites is made secure at a time when the people are still struggling to define and determine its destiny.

Hukkat

Saturday, June 23

In this portion we cover the 38 years of the wilderness wandering. The reading opens with instructions for the most peculiar ritual in the Torah—the slaughtered red cow whose ashes mixed with water are used to purify anyone who comes in contact with a corpse. In the purification process, people who are already pure and touch the mixture become impure and must themselves undergo a different process of purification. The reading skips over most of the events of the wilderness wandering without comment and continues in the land of Moab. The people again complain of lack of water, and God tells Moses and Aaron to speak to the rock and produce water. Moses, however, strikes the rock with his staff. Water comes forth, but God declares that this action shows lack of faith, and neither Moses nor Aaron will be permitted to enter the Promised Land. The

Israelites wage several battles and win, thus demonstrating that the new generation is ready to attempt the conquest of the land. However, the problems of obedience to God and understanding the responsibilities of leadership have still not been completely resolved.

Balak

Saturday, June 30

Balak, King of Moab, becomes alarmed at the victory of the Israelites over the Amorites in this portion. Fearing that the Israelites are too powerful to defeat in battle, Balak sends messengers to the renowned prophet Balaam in Mestopotamia to summon him to Moab in order to curse the Israelites. At first God instructs Balaam that he is not to go. Balak, however, sends a second set of messengers to plead with Balaam, and God agrees that the prophet can go to Moab on the clear understanding that he will only speak as God commands him. Once in Moab, Balaam blesses the Israelites three different times instead of cursing them. Balak is furious and sends the prophet home, but Balaam first prophesies the destruction of Moab and the neighboring countries. The future of Israel now seems bright, indeed, but the promise is immediately dashed when the people are enticed to participate in the idolatrous cult of Baal-peor. The unique relationship with God is still not firmly enough established.

Pinehas

Saturday, July 7

In this portion, we read that Pinehas, the grandson of Aaron, is rewarded for his zeal in dealing summarily with the idolatry of Baal-peor by having the priesthood become the possession of his descendants for all time. We now turn to the preparations for the conquest of the Promised Land. Moses takes a census of the generation born in the wilderness to determine the number of fighting men and the number of families who would share in the division of the land. God gives Moses instructions for apportioning the land, and we learn of a decision affirming the right of daughters to inherit property when there are no sons. Moses is told to ascend the mountain to prepare to die and to designate Joshua as his successor. The reading concludes with a calendar of the festivals of the year and the public sacrifices that are to be offered daily and on every Shabbat and festival after the Israelites have entered the land. Maintaining this calendar is to be a means of tying together God, the land and the People of Israel.

Mattot-Mas'ey

Saturday, July 14

Mattot-Mase the Book of Numbers concludes with the double portion. The sedrot deal with a variety of laws and occurrences revolving around the conquest of the Promised Land. The "cities of refuge" expresses the Biblical theological postulate that the divine presence cannot abide in a land so polluted by murder; the offense leads to pollution of earth and abandonment by God of His sanctuary and people. Thus homicide and asylum are mentioned here, as issues and institutions regaining attention on the eve of entering the Promised Land. Asylum was necessary because of the prevalence of blood vengeance in the ancient Near East.

Voice Guest Column: A Shalom Club Farewell

—Continued from page 2

course, the Puttermans, Mickey and myself. Oops, I almost forgot Manny Bardash, the only guy to ever come between Mickey and me!

The membership of the Shalom Club had and still has extraordinary warmth and care for each other and for Temple Israel! There is little you can ask of any of us that we wouldn't do for each other or our synagogue.

We traveled to Israel together, to Budapest and to Prague, to Beth Shalom in Elkins Park, Philadelphia, and to a Jewish library in Massachusetts to visit areas of Jewish interest. We even visited the oldest temple on the eastern end of Long Island.

Indeed, we still sing songs, open our minds to new ideas, and listen as well as question significant speakers. We are now

in our 55th year, and made the difficult but necessary decision to end the Shalom Club. Transportation was becoming somewhat problematic, so since several of us come to *Shabbat* services, we decided that a table or two at the kiddush reserved for Shalom Club members would help us

to remain together, discuss the Rabbi's sermon, present him with the Shalom Club verdict of our "kiddush *keppelehs*," and continue our beautiful relationship with Temple Israel and each other.

It will also be helpful for Temple Israel to provide transportation for all in need, the young, the injured, and the car-less amongst us who want to be part of our beautiful *shul*, but need some way of getting there.

As we said back at our 50th anniversary, "may the Shalom Club continue to imbue this congregation with the sensitivity of the Shalom Club and their active mindful involvement for all the years yet to be."

The closing meeting of the Shalom Club will take place on Sunday evening, June 24, at Temple Israel.

Candle Lighting Times

Friday, June 1

8:01 P.M.

Friday, June 8

8:06 P.M.

Friday, June 15

8:10 P.M.

Friday, June 22

8:12 P.M.

Friday, June 29

8:13 P.M.

Friday, July 6

8:11 P.M.

Friday, July 13

8:09 P.M.



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D'var Torah

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Beha'alotekha Saturday, June 2

The march to the Promised Land finally begins in this portion. Among the last details dealt with at Sinai are preparation of the lamps of the menorah, dedication of the Levites to their duties, observance of Passover on the 14th day of the first month in the second year after the Exodus and the making of two silver trumpets to be sounded as a signal to assemble, to break camp or to take note of other special occasions. As soon as the people began their march, they began to complain. In response to Moses' cry for help, God instructs him to gather 70 elders to assist him in leading the people. Miriam and Aaron then challenge Moses' role as prophet. God vindicates Moses by punishing Miriam. These incidents of selfishness,

—Continued on page 10

Temple Israel of Great Neck

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Sabbath Services

Friday, June 1

Evening Services 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, June 2

Shaharit Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

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

Weekly Portion: *Beha'alotekha*

Numbers 8:1 – 12:16

Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14 – 4:7

Sabbath Service Officers and

Greeters: Michael Becker, Susan
Brustein and Brent Greenspan

Bat Mitzvah: Sophia Gal

daughter of Laura and Robert Gal

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Afternoon Service 7:40 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 8:10 P.M.

Evening Service 8:46 P.M.

Havdalah 9:02 P.M.

Friday, June 8

Evening Services 6:30 P.M.

Led by TEP

Saturday, June 9

Shaharit Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

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

Weekly Portion: *Shelah*

Numbers 13:1 – 15:41

Haftarah: Joshua 2:1 – 24

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Toby Katz, David Eshaghoff, Sima Taid,
Jeffrey Fleit, and Diana Stein

Bar Mitzvah: Bradley Delafraz

son of Sima and Hamid Delafraz

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Afternoon Service 7:45 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 8:15 P.M.

Evening Service 8:51 P.M.

Havdalah 9:07 P.M.

Friday, June 15

N'Ranenah Evening Services 6:30 P.M.

at Steppingstone Park

(weather permitting)

Saturday, June 16

Shaharit Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Shabbat Morning Group *Aliyah*

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

Weekly Portion: *Korah*

Numbers 16:1 – 18:32

Haftarah: I Samuel 11:14 – 12:22

Sabbath Service Officers and

Greeters: Andi Katz, Debra Bykoff,
and Brent Greenspan

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Niggun Circle following kiddush

Afternoon Service 7:50 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 8:20 P.M.

Evening Service 8:54 P.M.

Havdalah 9:10 P.M.

—Continued on page 6