

Temple Israel's USY Chapter Named 'Chapter of the Year'

by Marc Katz, Editor

Temple Israel's USY Chapter—which was reestablished this year—has been named the "Chapter of the Year" by the Ruach divisional branch of United Synagogue Youth, which covers almost 30 chapters in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Youth House Director Avi Siegel, who took the position at the beginning of this school year, said when he began that he had a vision of placing a strong emphasis on a reconstituted USY chapter and youth program.

"I can't begin to tell you how proud I am of these kids," he said of the current Temple Israel USY members. "Being recognized like this is an incredible honor."

In addition, a Waxman Youth House student, Jacob Lurvey, the son of Temple Israel Vice President Veronica Bisek-Lurvey and Jonathan Lurvey, was elected to the USY Ruach Divisional board as communications vice president. The divisional election and recognition of chapters took place at the spring

regional convention, held at a Hudson Valley spa. Outgoing Ruach President Omer Neutra, a Solomon Schechter High School of Long Island student from Plainview, praised the chapter for its dedication, growth, social action, and hard work. At the meeting Ariel Wajnrajch, another Schechter student, was elected Ruach president for the coming year and commented that during her term she hopes to take the division to an even more successful

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Shalom Club Is Saying Its Final 'Shalom'



Shalom Club members celebrated the group's 50th anniversary in 2013. The group will disband next month.

by Marc Katz, Editor

After more than 50 years as an integral part of the congregation, the Shalom Club is saying its final "shalom."

The arm of the congregation founded by Eileen and Mickey Putterman with the encouragement of Rabbi Mordecai Waxman in the early 1960s plans to hold its final meeting at

the Waxman Youth House on Sunday evening, June 24.

"We thought we'd end on a high note while we still have many members who love and care for the synagogue," said Mr. Putterman. He served as the first president of the group, and is currently completing his term as its last leader.

—Continued on page 6

Guess Who's Coming to Shabbat?

A Voice Guest Column by Neal Picker

EDITOR'S NOTE Membership Committee member Neal Picker has started a new Temple Israel program and invites you to participate, in this Voice guest column.

The Temple Israel Membership Committee is focused on both welcoming new members and being attentive to satisfaction and retention of existing members. The committee is often meeting to discuss ideas on how best to accomplish this. To this end, in my capacity as a committee member, I presented an idea that is simple and effective and fits in with the mandate of the Membership Committee.

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On February 9 several Temple Israel members participated in the first trial run of an exciting program called "Guess Who's Coming to Shabbat?" The program has two main goals:

- To strengthen the synagogue community.
- To help members create meaningful Jewish memories for themselves and their families.

The program is extremely simple. Temple members invite others members who they do not already know well, to their homes for a Friday night dinner and share an opportunity to enjoy each other's company. Ideally, all families will host on the same evening. The Temple provides a short "cheat sheet" on how to host a Friday night dinner, some potential discussion topics, and some basic supplies. Host families can be provided names of who to invite from the Membership Committee or they can choose who to host without assistance. Temple Israel

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What Do We Believe?

From the Rabbi by Rabbi Howard Stecker

When I was in rabbinical school, a group of my fellow students and I were sitting in the library and discussing our beliefs about God. Specifically, we were arguing about how God revealed the Torah to the children of Israel. One of my peers said that he didn't believe literally that God revealed the Torah to Moses and that Moses wrote down what God dictated to him on Mt. Sinai.

Turns out, Rabbi Morris Shapiro was listening to our conversation. Spiritual leader of the South Huntington Jewish Center for decades and a Holocaust survivor, he taught classes at Temple Israel over the years and also commuted several times a week to the Jewish Theological Seminary to help rabbinical students with their studies.

"Why don't you believe in divine revelation?" Rabbi Shapiro asked and the student answered, "Because it's impossible to prove." "So how do you think the Torah came into being?"

asked Rabbi Shapiro. And the student explained, "Through divine inspiration. God inspired the children of Israel to create the stories and laws in the Torah." "I see," Rabbi Shapiro said. "Not revelation, but inspiration." And then he continued, "So tell me. Inspiration you can prove?"

Join us on Shavuot as we explore our tradition and our beliefs.

Our beliefs often cannot be proven or explained. When it comes to God and how God moves in the world, we may have strong beliefs that we are unable to defend the way we might defend our political or social views. After all, God is invisible and in many respects unknowable.

And yet our impulse to think about God and God's ways is strong. Fundamentalists and atheists and

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We're a Busy Place

From the President by Rob Panzer

Last week (as of this writing), Temple Israel had a memorable Yom Hashoah commemoration. Our long-time member Vera Eden spoke and the Temple Israel Children's Choir and the Shireinu Choir of Long Island lent their collective voices to the proceedings. Vera reflected on her life during the *Shoah*: the story of family, of loss, and of great personal strength this 17-year old needed to survive Auschwitz. We

There truly is something for everyone in our kehillah

are fortunate to have her as a part of our community and to have heard her tell her story.

Tomorrow will be our celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day. The juxtaposition of the two is extraordinary. This year we will be celebrating Israel's 70th anniversary with a concert featuring Cantors Raphael Frieder and Elizabeth Shamash, the Children's Choir, the Shireinu Choir, and the Voices of Virtue, a gospel youth choir.

In two short weeks, we will have Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Bret Stephens in conversation with Jonathan Greenblatt as our guests. This event has been generously funded by the Adele Eckstein Memorial Lecture Fund.

That all of these programs—and more—are occurring in one calendar month demonstrates the breadth of what Temple Israel has to offer. There truly is something for everyone in our *kehillah*.

For information on additional offerings please visit the Temple Israel website at tign.org, stop by the office, or on *Shabbat* morning check the table for the Upcoming Events pamphlet outside the Sanctuary.

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

Daily Minyan Times

Friday

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

Sundays, May 6, 13, 27 & June 3

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

Sunday, May 20 (Shavuot – Day 1)

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

Mondays, May 7, 14 & June 4

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

Monday, May 21 (Shavuot – Day 2)

8:45 A.M. 8:05 P.M.

Monday, May 28

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

Tuesdays, May 8, 22, 29 & June 5

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

Tuesday, May 15

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Upcoming Events at Temple Israel

May 4

Shabbat in the Park 4:30 P.M.
at Jonathan Ielpi Firefighters Park

May 7

Sisterhood Board Meeting 10:00 A.M.

May 8

Last Day of Tuesday Waxman High
School Classes

Waxman High School 7:00 P.M.
Havdalah Bon Fire/Graduation

May 9

Waxman High School and 7:00 P.M.
Youth House TILT/USY
Elections/Banquet

May 10

Last Day of Thursday Waxman High
School and Youth House Classes

May 16

Beth HaGan Torah Literary 5:30 P.M.
Art Fair

May 17

Board of Trustees Meeting 8:15 P.M.

May 18

Shabbat Koleinu N'Ranenah 6:30 P.M.
Style Evening Services
Congregational Shabbat 7:30 P.M.
Koleinu Dinner

May 19

Erev Shavuot
Shavuot Learning Services 7:00 P.M.
Congregational Dairy Dinner 7:45 P.M.

May 20

Shavuot Picnic 3:00 P.M.
at Allenwood Park

May 20-21

Shavuot

May 23

Author Tova Mirvis 7:00 P.M.
Discussion and Book Signing

May 24

Men's Club Meeting at Ben's Deli 7:00 P.M.

June 3

Celebrate Israel Parade 11:00 A.M.
in Manhattan

June 4

Congregational Meeting 8:15 P.M.

June 11

Sisterhood Board Meeting 10:00 A.M.

June 12

Beth HaGan Nursery 9:30 A.M.
School Graduation

June 13

Last Day of Beth HaGan
Nursery School Classes

Author Tova Mirvis Discusses Jewish Divorce May 23

Bestselling author Tova Mirvis tells of leaving both her marriage and her Orthodox Jewish community in her new book, "The Book of Separation." She will discuss her memoir at a Temple Israel Lifelong Learning program and book signing, jointly sponsored with the Sisterhood, on Wednesday, May 23, at 7 P.M.

"Women can feel trapped in a marriage," said TILL committee member Jacqueline Harounian, who arranged for the program. "I think there is much people can learn from reading this book and hearing Ms. Mirvis."

Ms. Harounian, who has practiced divorce law for more than 20 years, said she has seen many religious people navigate the same problems discussed in the book. What is talked about is relatable to people who stay in a difficult marriage, but people make choices for all sorts of reasons."

She said she became acquainted with Mr. Mirvis as an alumna of Columbia College, where both attended as undergrads.

"I followed her career and have been a fan of her novels and articles in The New York Times. Each time I come across her writing, I find the topics to be very relatable to women, especially those with deep religious and familial roots."

"The Book of Separation" opens with Ms. Mirvis' appearance before a Rabbinical Court (Beth Din) to accept her Jewish Divorce Decree (Get). After a heart wrenching scene, she

goes back in time to describe her Orthodox upbringing and her experiences as a wife and mother of three in her tight-knit community. Her main struggle is feeling trapped both in her marriage and in her faith. She also shares her painful encounters with sexism, conformity, and ostracism.

According to Ms. Harounian, "the feelings of torment and indecision and the process of grief and rebirth are universal to individuals from all backgrounds who go through marital break ups." "One of the things that impressed me about "The Book of Separation" was the respectful way that Tova and her ex-husband dealt with each other during the legal process and while co-parenting their three children. Despite the emotional upheaval, they put their children's needs ahead of their own and did everything they could to minimize conflicts."

Rabbi Daniel Schweber, who was also instrumental in planning the program, said: "I experienced Mirvis' book as being about self-discovery and how one weighs and balances one's personal needs with familial and communal needs. After some soul searching, Mirvis seems to have found a way. I encourage people to come hear her story.

The discussion, as well as a book signing, will take place in a member's home. For reservations for the no-charge program call Jodi at Temple Israel, 482-7800.

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



Nancy Schoen

Nancy Schoen will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah on May 12. She is the daughter of Alexander K. Schoen and Lila J. Bernstein-Schoen. Nancy is a seventh grade student at Great Neck South Middle School. She enjoys singing, playing piano and violin, drawing and theater. Nancy participated in multiple productions with the Temple Israel Players and is now part of the South Middle School Theater Company.



Emanuel Nysenbaum

Emanuel Lawrence Nysenbaum will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on May 26. He is the son of Esther and Barry Nysenbaum and has a brother, Matthew, 8. Emanuel is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School and is a member of the school's Blazers Baseball team. Emanuel will continue to attend the Waxman High School following his Bar Mitzvah and plans to visit Israel in the near future.



Sophia Gal

Sophia Gal will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah on June 2. She is the daughter of Laura and Robert Gal and has a two sisters, Hannah, 19, and Emily 15, and a brother, Joshua, 18. Sophia is a seventh grade student at Great Neck South Middle School. She enjoys playing basketball and soccer and will be attending the Waxman High School following her Bat Mitzvah.

Beth HaGan Students Preparing for Literary Art Fair

From the Beth HaGan Nursery School by Rachel Mathless, Director

Everyone is very assiduously working on the Literary Art Fair which will take place on Wednesday, May 16. We are depicting our favorite books, gluing, drawing, conceptualizing, and creating masterpieces which reflect some aspect of the storyline. The literacy-rich experiences which our children have every day will hopefully spark a lifelong love of reading. Some of the books included in the fair are classics, such as "Harold and the Purple Crayon," a

selection of Leo Lionni, a book about the life and works of Leonardo Divinci, and many new children's best sellers.

Beth HaGan children returned from Passover vacation ready and raring to go. So, we begin the last semester of the year with preparation for Yom Ha'atzmaut and Israel's 70th birthday. We are reading books about Israel's cultures, food, climate, topography, and people—and we are reading about Israel's history as well

as its modern 21st century development.

We are all preparing our passports and flags and thinking about what prayers to put into the Kotel. The El Al, Beth HaGan chartered flight is standing by to fly us to Ben Gurion Airport. The PTA has set up a "shuk," where children can "purchase" games and toys and treats for shekels. They will also visit Safed, the artist colony, and create some special Israeli art, pass by a kibbutz and have a drink of Mitz Tapuzim, orange juice, and rest in a Bedouin tent and have a blue and white snack while reading a book about Israel. Each child will bring home a birthday goody bag full of Israel-themed toys and keepsakes.

This month we welcome "Mr. Fish," who entertains us with his incredible magic and science, and "The Circus Guy" who brings kid friendly comedy and circus acts. Beth HaGan hosts ten different quality entertainers annually in an effort to enrich our program and present a variety of new experiences to the children.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

The next issue of The Voice will publish the names of the daughters and sons of Temple Israel families who will be receiving college or postgraduate degrees. To be listed, parents of students should complete the form below and return this form to the Temple Israel office, c/o The Voice, "Congratulations, Graduates," by May 9.

Name of Graduate: _____

Son/Daughter of: _____

College: _____

Degree: _____ Awards: _____

A Night to Remember at the Waxman High School

From the Waxman High School by Avi Siegel, Director

After a semester of studying the Shoah, our seventh graders put on a moving, inspiring, and powerful Yom Hashoah ceremony. The ceremony gave our parents, guests and community an insight into how our seventh graders wrestled and came to process one of the most significant moments in our history. The students shared reflections, poems, personal stories, and some art work. The evening was concluded with an incredible story told by Holocaust Survivor Gloria Glantz.

Some parent reflections from the evening: "The power of the ceremony made me feel closer to everyone in the room having shared such a meaningful experience." "Hearing the story of Gloria reminded me that there are truly good people in the world." "The Youth House is making sure that our children will never forget what happened to the Jewish people." "The power of memory is the one thing that they can never take away from us."

A huge thank you goes out to our seventh graders who ran the service: Juliette Ahdoot, Zach Astrof, Leila Bakhshi, Rebecca Bernstein, Luke Cronin, Bradley Delafraz, Joey Eshaghoff, Sophia Gal, Ariel Greenblatt, Ava Hoffman, Leila Hawa, Julia Hyman, Jared Kimiabakhsh, Serena Mahfar, Eli Newman, Manny Nysenbaum, Claudia Pour, Amanda Putter, Jaren Solomon, and Eric Yachbes.

A thank you to seventh grade teachers, Connie Reichman and Rabbi Daniel Schweber for bringing this difficult history to our students, all while connecting it to the present day. Our seventh graders fulfilled the promises to never forget and never stay silent. Below are some of their reflections:

Rebecca Bernstein:

All three Righteous Gentiles have three qualities in common: courage, confidence and bravery. They all did things that could have gotten them killed. They are major Upstanders because they saved Jewish people's lives even though they were not Jewish.

Ava Hoffman:

Two Hours

"You have two hours," they said.

Two hours to pack your life into one little, small bag.

What would you pack? Memories, family heirlooms, or necessities like clothes and food.

Two hours to leave the home you've known your whole life for who knows where.

What would you pack?

Amanda Putter:

Death Camps, oh death camps. You are the worst of them all. Can you imagine one day being with your family, everything beginning okay, then being in the gross ghettos and then having your life taken away by a chamber. Imagine this happening to you or your family and friends. It is horrible. So many people's lives were taken away because of death camps. This happened to young innocent children. No one deserves to perish like this. No one.

Zach Astrof:

This past summer I went on a trip to

Germany to see where my mom's family lived before escaping Nazi Germany in 1939. On the trip, I felt that I really connected with my heritage. I visited my family's old home and store, I went to the concentration camp Dachau, and I went to my grandfather's old hometown of Ulm. On that trip, it reminded me that my family was lucky to get out of Germany, including my grandfather, Fred. Tonight, we remember those who weren't as fortunate as my family and I think I play a big role in that. The purpose of my name, Zachariah—zachor—is to remember not only the survivors but also the ones who perished, and I am grateful that I don't have to remember that all of my family were the ones who perished.

Ariel G:

Unfinished:

The men in the uniforms came.

We were all either dead or close to it. May 1945, they came for us.

The soldiers came and took us away. But what about those who were not saved.

Their stories are now...unfinished.

Receiving Men's Club Honors



Temple Israel's Men's Club recently honored outgoing President Jack Guberman, second from left, and Waxman High School students Brian Volk, center, the son of Deborah and Judd Volk, and Clara Goldberger, right, the daughter of Maggie and Daniel Goldberger at the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs annual dinner. Joining them at the celebration was Cantor Raphael Frieder, left, and Rabbi Howard Stecker, second from right.

Let's celebrate
Shavuot
together!

Sunday, May 20
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Allenwood Park
82 Allenwood Road
Great Neck, NY

Family Get Together
and Pot Luck Snack



SHAVUOT LEARNING & SERVICES

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

On Shavuot we celebrate the giving of Torah by studying and grappling with the complex questions in our lives and world. This year, we will have frank discussions about how we view God and our mortality and explore how these views guide how we live our lives. Cantor Frieder will also lead us in soulful song and prayer.

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY JACQUELINE AND HILBERT ESHAGHPOUR

SATURDAY, MAY 19 – EREV SHAVUOT

- 7:00 PM *Minhah* led by Koleinu - Sanctuary
7:45 PM Dairy Dinner & Session I - Crystal Ballroom
"Who is God and What is God's Nature?" with Rabbi Stecker
(Dinner is free, but you **MUST RSVP by Wednesday, May 16** to Jennifer at 482-7800)
8:45 PM Festival *Ma'ariv* - Sanctuary
9:10 PM Kiddush, Dessert and Session II - Blue Room
"The Torah is Called Shir—Song" with Cantor Frieder
9:40 PM Session III - Blue Room
"What Happens After I Die? Is There a Next World?"
with Rabbi Schweber

SUNDAY, MAY 20 – FIRST DAY OF SHAVUOT

- 8:45 AM Festival Service - Sanctuary
3:00 PM Shavuot Picnic - Allenwood Park
8:00 PM *Minhah-Ma'ariv* - Chapel

MONDAY, MAY 21 – SECOND DAY OF SHAVUOT

- 6:30 AM Early Morning Service - Chapel
8:45 AM Festival Service - Sanctuary
Includes Plaque Dedication and Yizkor Memorial Prayers
8:05 PM *Minhah-Ma'ariv* - Chapel
8:52 PM *Havdalah* - Chapel

CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE

SUNDAY, JUNE 3
11 A.M. - 4 P.M.

On 5th Avenue
from 57th Street
to 74th Street
in New York City

Tee shirts & round trip bus
provided by Temple Israel's
Israel Solidarity Fund

For further information
contact Jacqueline Harounian:
jacquelineharounian@gmail.com

Advance registration encouraged

Shalom Club Is Saying Its Final 'Shalom'

—Continued from front page

The Puttermans were new to Great Neck 50 years ago, and so were many other new families joining Temple Israel. They were leaders of the Young Marrieds Club at their former synagogue, the Rego Park Jewish Center. "We asked Rabbi Waxman if there was a similar group at Temple Israel," Mrs. Putterman said. "I can still recall the big smile on his face when he said we should start one! It would be a good opportunity to attract young couples to the congregation, he told us."

The new group rapidly grew, even drawing additional couples from Rego Park to Great Neck. Through the years the Shalom Club held regular Sunday evening dinner and discussion meetings, bringing in a varied list of speakers on Jewish family life. The group also took many trips to Israel and Jewish points of interest throughout the United States.

Shalom Club members became active in synagogue life, with many serving on the Board of Trustees. Four members of the group became Temple Israel presidents. Even children of the members, who saw their parent's commitment to their synagogue,

became active in the congregation, too.

"When you are in a big congregation such as ours," Mrs. Putterman said, "being involved in a small group such as the Shalom Club makes Temple Israel personal. Members of a smaller group know you, and cares about you and your family."

"We drew a fascinating group of people who became lifelong friends—and still are," Mrs. Putterman said. But now, the average age of members of the club is 90 and it is becoming increasingly difficult for the membership to get together regularly. And, because some members have moved to warmer climates or have passed away, the group is becoming smaller.

Because many of the remaining members regularly attend Shabbat services, they plan to reserve a Kiddush table just for former members of the group.

The last meeting will feature the clergy and members of the Waxman family. "It will truly be the end of an era," Mrs. Putterman said. The meeting will be a mixture of emotions, she added. "We had such good times together. It will be moving."

Shavuot: A Talmudic Treasure Trove

by Rabbi Daniel Schweber

The following description of Talmudic thinking and discourse is found on many Internet sites. Despite the Talmud's insistence on giving credit to authors, I could not determine the original composer of this description. Thank you Mr. or Ms. Anonymous.

A Jew is talking to his Rabbi:

Rabbi," the man said, "Explain the Talmud to me."

"Very well," he said. "First, I will ask you a question. If two men climb up a chimney and one comes out dirty,

...what exactly is the Talmud?

and one comes out clean, which one washes himself?" "The dirty one," answers the man.

"No. They look at each other and the dirty man thinks he is clean and the clean man thinks he is dirty, therefore, the clean man washes himself." "Now, let me ask you the questions again.

The man smiles and says, "You just told me, Rabbi. The man who is clean washes himself because he thinks he is dirty." "No," says the Rabbi. "If they each look at themselves, the clean man knows he doesn't have to wash himself, so the dirty man washes himself."

"Now, again answer the question. "I don't know, Rabbi. Depending on your point of view, it could be either one." Again the Rabbi says, "No. If two men climb up a chimney, how could one man remain clean? They both are dirty, and they both wash themselves."

The confused man said, "Rabbi, you asked me the same question three times and you gave me three different answers. Is this some kind of a joke?" "This is not a joke, my son. This is Talmud."

Do you find this passage humorous or funny? Do you find the passage hard to follow? Is the passage interesting

and leaving you curious and perhaps interested in learning Talmud? Perhaps you find the passage tedious and seemingly a waste of time?

All of these reactions and more are possible reactions people have to Talmud. If you enjoy Talmud, you are not alone. If you are repelled by the Talmud, you are not alone.

The above anecdote aside, what exactly is the Talmud? The literal answer is that it is a collection of rabbinic teachings with material taught and said between 100 BCE and 500 CE. The interpretive answer is that the Talmud is many things. The Talmud is a witness to the formation of rabbinic Judaism as it transitioned from a temple based religion. The Talmud is a curriculum on how to study, read and interpret the Bible. Like the anecdote, it is about asking and analyzing questions more than exact answers. The Talmud is also a vast and valuable anthology of many genres, including jurisprudence, legend and exegesis. While our more modern aesthetics often expect a unified thesis and opinion on matters, the Talmud often presents many points of view on topics.

The Talmud's unique presentation allows it to be studied in different ways. One

can study a topic or even just a passage in depth, reading various commentaries and interpretations. One can study the Talmud quickly so as to ingest, at least in part, its great breadth. The popular 'daf yomi,' where a folio of Talmud, is studied daily, is such an example.

I believe the present is the best time to study Talmud in all of its history. There are more study tools than we know what to do with. There are modern and understandable translations both in book form and electronically. There are podcasts and apps devoted to the study of Talmud. There are opportunities to study in the traditional pairs or chevruta style. And of course you have your Temple Israel rabbis to help you study. Please reach out to us and we will be glad to help begin or continue your journey through the Talmud.

Shavuot is *zman matan Torateinu*—the season celebrating the Torah. Torah in its broadest sense is all of Jewish wisdom, the written Bible and the Talmud which traditionally was studied orally. The Talmud is truly a treasure of the Jewish people. I invite you all to take hold of our treasure, enjoy it and cherish it.

Chag Sameach

SHABBAT KOLEINU

Congregants will lead us in all of the services

Friday, May 18 - Saturday, May 19

FRIDAY EVENING:

N'Ranenah Style Services - 6:30 PM
Followed by a Festive Dinner - 7:30 PM
(dinner details to follow)

SATURDAY:

Shabbat Morning Service - 8:45 AM
Shabbat Minḥah Service - 7:00 PM
Ma'ariv Service welcoming the start of Shavuot - 8:45 PM

To RSVP and for more information, please contact Jennifer in the Synagogue office at 482-7800 no later than Noon on Wednesday, May 16.

From Generation to Generation

Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges
The Following Contributions

MUSEUM FUND

In memory of:

Jesse Feingold
David Feingold

SAMUEL BARON

MUSIC FUND

In honor of:

Ilyana Kaiman, daughter
of Kim and Jonathan
Kaiman, becoming a
Bat Mitzvah
Elise and Richard
Kestenbaum
Amanda Putter, daughter
of Ellen and Mark Putter,
becoming a Bat Mitzvah
The marriage of Rachel
Englander, daughter of
Aise Kreditor and Jeffrey
Englander, to Adam Davis
Lois and Gary Sazer

In memory of:

Benjamin Kreditor
Charles Kreditor
Barbara Moskowitz
Morris Kreditor
Marlene Kreditor
Bert Bronheim
Elise and Richard
Kestenbaum and family

DAILY MINYAN FUND

In appreciation of:

The support and comfort
received during the
mourning period for her
mother, Ruth Rader
Judy Vine

In honor of:

Ilyana Kaiman, daughter
of Kim and Jonathan
Kaiman, becoming a
Bat Mitzvah
Amanda Putter, daughter
of Ellen and Mark Putter,
becoming a Bat Mitzvah
Amy David
Ed Goldfeder's 90th
birthday
Anne and Jerry Hirsh

In memory of:

Ruth Iteld
Melissa Jurin
Selma Richer
Barbara and Dan
Dicker

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In memory of:

Farideh Bakhshi
Neda and Farid Sedgh
Saeed Sedgh
Farid Sedgh
Mocha Albin
Cecilia and Harrison
Albin
Selma Richer
Rachel, Jake and Sam
Englander
Adam Davis
Lauren Weisskirk

ISRAEL SOLIDARITY FUND

In honor of:

Daniel Schiff
Matthew Schiff
Lillian Luftig
Oscar Luftig
Meyer Schiff
Elissa and Joel Schiff

SHALOM CLUB LIBRARY SHELF FUND

In memory of:

Benjamin Cohen
Harold Kobliner
Max Putterman
Mickey Putterman
Clara Mirkin
Naomi Schulman

GEMILUT CHESED FUND

In memory of:

Leonard Pickard
Robin and Alex
Rosenau
Roselyn Weingrod

LILLIAN AND STANLEY SCHIOWITZ MEMORIAL FUND

Contribution:

Bracha and Martin Werber

Temple Lites...

• **Suane Scherr and Karen and Donald Ashkenase** will be honored by the Lulav Group of Great Neck Hadassah at their annual dinner, to be held on May 30 at the Royalton Country Club, Roslyn. All event proceeds will go towards the new Hadassah 360 Campaign to build a new 250- bed wing at Hadassah Hospital in Israel.

Mrs. Scherr is the past president of the Erev Group of Great Neck Hadassah. She is the current vice president of Education for the Lulav Group and has held almost every portfolio on the group and chapter levels.

Mr. and Mrs. Ashkenase have been major supporters of Hadassah for many years. Mrs. Ashkenase joined a Hadassah group at age 14 and has been active ever since. She has served as national president of Junior Hadassah and a past president of Great Neck Hadassah. She is the current president of the Temple Israel Sisterhood.

Mr. Ashkenase, a longtime member of the Great Neck Board of Education, is currently the vice president and chair of the Finance Advisory Committee. He is a four-generation associate member of Hadassah.

For further information about the event, contact Lulav President Nancy Greengrass at Nancelag@gmail.com or 466-6296.

What Do We Believe?

—Continued from page 2

everyone in between have thought about essential questions that include: How did we get here? What is our purpose? Why is there suffering in the world? What happens next?

The holiday of Shavuot, when we commemorate the giving of the Torah, lends itself to an exploration of our beliefs about some of these larger questions. To usher in the holiday, we at Temple Israel will devote the first evening to exploring ancient and modern sources that address core issues of belief.

I invite you to join the festivities on Saturday, May 19, as we learn, eat delicious dairy foods, and discuss our questions about the intersection of God, Torah and life. All the information about the evening can be found elsewhere in this issue of The Voice and will be shared via email with the congregation.

Ecclesiastes wrote (3:11) that God "places the world within our hearts, without us being able to discover what God did from beginning to end." I understand this to mean that God gives us the curiosity to ask the ultimate questions without necessarily allowing us to find definitive answers.

I am grateful to God for the gift of spiritual and intellectual curiosity that God has given us and for the vast riches found in all aspects of Torah that help us to make sense of our lives and our world. From Abraham's forthright conversations with God to medieval philosophers' analyses to more contemporary meditations, our people have creatively examined life's deepest questions.

Join us on Shavuot as we explore our tradition and our beliefs.

Waxman Youth House USY Chapter Named 'Chapter of the Year'

—Continued from front page
place and that partnering with chapters
is the key.

The last time a Temple Israel USY chapter was recognized as “Chapter of the Year” was 6 years ago by the former Chazak division, a predecessor to Ruach. “This says a lot about our efforts to bring kids in the door,” Mr. Siegel said. Although a few Youth House students had participated in USY activities outside of Temple Israel before the start of the current school year, during this season membership has surged to 43 teens.

Mr. Siegel cited a busy schedule of activities as the reason for attracting many participants. “During the current school year we hosted a divisional kinnus, bringing teens from throughout Long Island to Temple Israel,” he said. “In addition, a delegation of teens from the Waxman Youth House attended the international USY convention in Chicago, we had a paint night, science night, game night, played laser tag, and sang karaoke in the sukkah.”

Before coming to Temple Israel, Mr. Siegel was deeply rooted in USY activities, having attended USY camps and conventions, staffed USY On Wheels bus tours of the United States, and USY Pilgrimage, which allows Jewish teens to spend a summer in Israel during high school. He met his wife, Keren, while staffing a USY Pilgrimage to Israel.

Candle Lighting Times

Friday, May 4

7:35 P.M.

Friday, May 11

7:43 P.M.

Friday, May 18

7:49 P.M.

Friday, May 25

7:56 P.M.

Friday, June 1

8:01 P.M.



Celebrating the Temple Israel USY chapter being named “Chapter of the Year” are, left to right, Waxman Youth House members Sarah Kobliner, Sarah Weinreich, Elie Weitzman, Amanda Volk, Jacob Lurvey, Samuel Lurvey, Leila Sassouni, and Omer Chanoch. Missing from the photo is Lana Bind. Standing behind the USY members is Youth House Director Avi Siegel.

Men’s Club’s Blood Drive Is a Big Success, More Than 50 Donors Contribute 48 Pints

Blood was flowing in big amounts at the Men’s Club’s semi-annual blood drive, held last month in the Crystal Ballroom.

More than 50 people participated in the blood drive and 48 pints of blood were collected.

“The gift of life is the single greatest gift one person can give to another,” said Charles Adler, who chaired the event. “It is truly wonderful that we have people who feel the need to give something back to the community, to give a gift of such magnitude to people they may never meet.”

The Men’s Club thanks Mr. Adler, who has chaired the blood drive for many years. Appreciation is also expressed to Iris Adler, Len Katz, Kenneth M. Leff, Dave Scherr, Dan Weinstein, Seth Moin, Van Frankel, Howard Spun, Marc Langsner, Sam Husney, and Kenneth Kobliner for their efforts in making the event a success.

The following people participated in the blood drive: Charles I. Adler,

Allen Ahdoot, Elizabeth Atkins, Ellen Birnbaum, Debra Bykoff, Omid Chaman, Susan Chin, Scott Erlich, Geoffrey Epstein, David Eshaghoff, Jeffrey Fields, Vicki Fields, Arthur Finkel, Andrea Goldstein, Jonah Green, Fred Handsman, Alan Freedman, Keyvan Frouzan, and Jonathan Kaiman.

Other participants included Maurice Harounian, Elias Hawa, Shahram Homapour, Robert Kahen, Abraham Kanfer, Andrea Katz, Flora Lalezarian, Ron Klempner, Alicia Lev, James Levin, Rona Lupkin, Seth Moin, Randy Navo, Joe Mashieh, Rachele Ohebshalom, Eli Pollack, Gary Sazer, Rebecca Schneider, Neal Picker, Benzion Tartak, Jonathan Tillem, Allan Weinberg, Joni Scheidt, Paul Schwartz, Moshe Shirazi, Richard Wender, and David Zielenziger.

Mazal Tov To...

Nancy and Larry Greengrass

on the engagement of their daughter,
Alyssa Celia, to Matthew Charles Sommer.

Dalia and Samy Naim

on the birth of their granddaughter,
Sophia Nili.

Guest Column: Guess Who's Coming to Shabbat?

—Continued from page 2

has made some minor modifications to best meet our needs. The program works well because in today's busy world, it can be difficult to find the time or location to spend quality time with others.

I learned about the program after scheduling several calls with the founder, Debbie Albert, located in suburban Philadelphia. Ms. Albert has helped bring "Guess Who's Coming" to more than 50 synagogues across the U.S. Around the same time, the Temple's Strategic Planning Task Force on Membership

presented its recommendations to the Membership Committee, which included a Friday night hospitality component, which has ensured the Membership Committee that it stays aligned with the Strategic recommendations.

The February 9 participants had very positive feedback about the program. Ezra Kassin said: "I always like to try out new recipes, and who better to surprise than Friday night dinner guests?" Lauren Juceam noted: "Overall, it was a great program. We loved the Shabbat questions, cheat-sheet, and flyers.

The challah, juice, and candles, were a nice touch." Robert Panzer stated: "This kind of program is the type of thing the *shul* community really needs, with members spending time together outside of the physical Temple building."

A big thank you goes to the host families for their participation in the trial run: Juceam, Kassin, Panzer, Picker, Schweber.

We are planning the next dinner in June. If you are interested in participating, please contact me directly at tignShabbas@gmail.com.

D'var Torah

—Continued from back page

Behar-Beḥukotay

Saturday, May 12

We conclude the Book of Leviticus with this double 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. Further, after seven cycles of seven years, the 50th year is to be a Jubilee—a year of release for the land and all its inhabitants. There follow a series of laws concerning redemption of land and persons and an admonition to keep God's Sabbaths. The Holiness Code ends with a promise and a curse. If the Israelites follow God's laws and commandments, they will be blessed with peace, prosperity and security. If they do not obey, however, a long list of the most dire consequences will ensue. The final chapter of Leviticus deals with providing funding for the Mishkan. Thus, the entire description of the sanctuary, its functioning and the type of life it is supposed to engender in the Israelites concludes with the establishment of a pattern of generosity toward our places of worship, which continues down to our own time and becomes a basic element of community life wherever Jews settle.

Bemidbar

Saturday, May 19

In this portion we begin the Book of Numbers. For about a year, the Israelites had been camped at the foot of Sinai, where they witnessed the revelation, built the Mishkan and were instructed in its operation. Now they are ready to resume the journey through the wilderness to the Promised Land. The people are organized into a military camp to enable them to undertake a march through hostile environments, both natural and human. The first order of business is a census of all males over 20, except Levites. The tribes are then assigned positions in a square surrounding the Mishkan. Finally, the Levites are assigned special duties in connection with the Mishkan and numbered separately. The physical arrangement of the camp will serve to remind the people on the march of the monumental events they have recently experienced. The Mishkan will become a "mobile

Sinai," and its location at the center of the camp will provide focus for the Israelites on their journey.

Naso

Saturday, May 26

We continue the final preparations at Sinai for the resumption of the journey through the wilderness to the Promised Land in this portion. The numbering of the Levitical families and assignment of portage duties for the Mishkan is concluded. Several laws dealing with the purity of the camp and the family are then promulgated, including a trial by ordeal for a woman suspected of adultery. These are followed by a description of the restrictions incumbent upon any person who takes a Nazarite vow as an act of special piety. Nazarites must refrain from drinking wine or alcohol, from cutting hair and coming into contact with the dead for a specified period of time. Moses is then instructed to teach Aaron a special three-fold blessing which he is to use in blessing the people. The portion ends with a detailed account of the gifts brought by the princes of the tribes on the occasion of the dedication of the Mishkan. The gifts were identical, yet they had different symbolic meanings for each tribe. The offering of identical gifts by the tribes, regardless of their size, emphasized the equality of each tribe and each person before God.

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, 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.

Sabbath and Shavuot Services

—Continued from back page

Congregation Dairy Dinner and
Shavuot Study Session I 7:45 P.M.
Festive Evening Service 8:45 P.M.
Kiddush, Dessert and
Study Session II 9:10 P.M.
Study Session III 9:40 P.M.

Friday, May 25

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

Saturday, May 26

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

Weekly Portion: Naso
Numbers 4:21 – 7:89
Haftarah: Judges 13:2 – 25

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:
Jerrold Schlessel and Barbara Levy,

Bar Mitzvah: Emanuel Nysenbaum
son of Esther and Barry Nysenbaum

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.
Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.
Niggun Circle following kiddush
Afternoon Service 7:35 P.M.
Se'udah Shelishit 8:05 P.M.
Evening Service 8:41 P.M.
Havdalah 8:57 P.M.

Friday, June 1

Evening Services/Led by TEP 6:30 P.M.
TEP Dinner 7:00 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.
Evening Service 8:46 P.M.
Havdalah 9:02 P.M.

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D'var Torah

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry
Emor **Saturday, May 5**

In this portion the Holiness Code continues with laws concerning the maintaining of ritual purity by the priests. In particular, we find laws regulating the marriages of priests, limiting their participation in funerals and specifying the blemishes which may disqualify a priest from officiating. This section ends with an admonition not to profane God's holy name, but to hallow it among the Israelites. The Code then turns to the sacred seasons and presents a calendar of the festivals on which cessation from work is mandated. The list begins with Shabbat and continues chronologically from Pesah. Cessation from work is a crucial element in the account of creation and, by observing the festivals, the Israelites are led to emulate one of God's major characteristics and achieve holiness.

—Continued on page 10

Temple Israel of Great Neck

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

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

Temple Israel Voice, 108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023

Subscription \$5.00 per annum

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Sabbath and Shavuot Services

Friday, May 4

Shabbat in the Park 4:30 P.M.
Evening Services 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, May 5

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

Weekly Portion: Emor
Leviticus 21:1 – 24:23
Haftarah: Ezekiel 44:15 – 31

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:
Audrey Kent Itzkowitz, Ezra Kassin,
Susan Brustein, and Deanna Stecker

Bat Mitzvah: Leila Hawa
daughter of Shirley and Eli Hawa

Shabbat HaMishpacha 10:30 A.M.
Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.
Afternoon Service 7:15 P.M.
Se'udah Shelishit 7:45 P.M.
Evening Service 8:20 P.M.
Havdalah 8:36 P.M.

Friday, May 11

Evening Services 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, May 12

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

Weekly Portion: Behar-Behukkotay
Leviticus 25:1 – 27:34
Haftarah: Jeremiah 16:19 – 17:14

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:
Jack Yachbes, Joyce Weston, Ofra Panzer,
Brent Greenspan, and Debbie Volk

Bat Mitzvah: Nancy Schoen
daughter of Lila J. Bernstein-Schoen
and Alexander K. Schoen

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.
Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.
Afternoon Service 7:25 P.M.
Se'udah Shelishit 7:55 P.M.
Evening Service 8:28 P.M.
Havdalah 8:44 P.M.

Friday, May 18

Evening Services/Shabbat Koleinu
N'ranenah Style Services 6:30 P.M.
Shabbat Koleinu Dinner 7:30 P.M.

Saturday, May 19 Erev Shavuot

Shaharit Morning Service 8:45 A.M.
Shabbat Koleinu/Shabbat Morning
Group Aliyah
First Mourner's Kaddish 9:25 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Bemidbar
Number 1:1 – 4:20
Haftarah: Hosea 2:1 – 22

Sabbath Service Officers and
Greeters: Jacqueline Harounian,
Mark Putter, Robert Lopatkin,
Edith Robbins and Jeffrey Fleit

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.
Afternoon Service 7:00 P.M.
led by Koleinu

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