

Dinner and Concert to Honor the Panzers



by Marc Katz, Editor

As Rob Panzer's four-year presidency at Temple Israel draws to a close, a gala is being planned for Saturday, June 1, to pay tribute to him and his wife, Ofra, for their many years of service to the congregation.

The event will be reflective of the Panzers' deep connection to Temple Israel. "Rather than have a traditional dinner-dance, the Panzers wanted the congregation to experience spirituality through Jewish music," explained Miriam Kobliner, one of the chairs of the event. The evening will feature a performance by the renowned composer and performer Joey Weisenberg and his Hadar Ensemble. "Rob and Ofra had experienced the group's moving music before and wanted to bring it to Temple Israel," she said. "This music is a real and deep reflection of the Panzers' personal connection with Conservative Judaism and their kehilla of Temple Israel.

They wanted people to leave with the spirit of Jewish music in their soul."

The evening's festivities, which begin at 7:30 P.M., will start with cocktails and a buffet dinner in the Grand Ballroom, followed by Havdalah, remarks, and the musical performance. An elaborate dessert buffet will follow.

The musical presentation is made possible by a generous contribution in honor of the Panzers by Bracha and Marty Werber. "This music is incredibly moving. It transports your soul," Mr. Werber said. "Joey is a sensitive, humble and evocative musician who draws you in with his infectious smile.

"Joey is an enchanting prayer leader who will be our artist-in-residence throughout the weekend at Temple Israel, enhancing Shabbat services and culminating with the gala performance, where he will be joined

by the Hadar Ensemble" said Mr. Werber. "Joey is a multi-instrumental musician, singer, composer and teacher who has performed and recorded internationally." He serves as the founder and creative director of Hadar's Rising Song Institute and is the author of "Building Singing Communities and The Torah of Music," winner of a 2017 National Jewish Book Award. According to his website, his goal is "to educate and train communities around the world to unlock their musical and spiritual potential and to make music a lasting and joy-filled force in shul and in Jewish life."

The colorful invitation to the gala, designed by Miriam Kobliner to reflect the theme of the evening, features a stylized Tree of Life because, she said, "a tree is not only beautiful, but is very symbolic of the Panzer family. Ofra and Rob raised their family at Temple Israel and have made deep roots in the community." The tree has gold leaves, reflecting Jerusalem, known as the "City of Gold." The dinner is on erev Yom

—Continued on page 2



Joey Weisenberg, performing at a recent Temple Israel private party in the Grand Ballroom.

Preparing a Generation for the Road

From the Rabbi by Rabbi Howard Stecker

At the beginning of their book, “The Coddling of the American Mind,” Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt offer the following folk proverb: “Prepare the child for the road, not the road for the child.”

They wrote this book because they believe that, despite good intentions, we are raising a generation unable to face life’s challenges. We do no favor to younger people when we shield them from life’s inevitable disappointments and conflicts and when we don’t allow them to take the kinds of risks that are necessary for growth.

As I prepared to join Youth House Director Avi Siegel, faculty members Moji Pourmoradi and Tziona Kamel, and over 40 Temple Israel teens on a trip to Israel this past February, I quickly discovered that the trip, while maintaining appropriate security and oversight, was also designed to challenge the teens in various ways. We took them on serious hikes that pushed some of them beyond their comfort zones. We switched roommate configurations over the course of the trip, insisting that it was important for them to learn to get along with everyone, whether or not they are friends.

And while we exposed the teens significantly to Israel’s many social and technological accomplishments, we also wanted them to get a sense of some of the challenges Israel faces. So, for example, we took them to meet with Israeli-Arab young adults who are studying at Givat Haviva, an organization that brings together students from diverse backgrounds with the goal of increasing awareness and understanding.

Some of the conversations were not easy. In one small group, an Arab Muslim student got into a heated debate with one of our Israeli staff about the situation at the Gaza border last spring. Our teens watched as two people not much older than they are spoke passionately, but respectfully,

about an issue of deep concern. I added some background in the moment and later on as we followed up with our teens, giving more of the details about the situation, answering some questions, and sharing our own views.

But in the moment, we let the conversation happen. We let our teens watch a passionate disagreement about something important without protecting them or rushing to provide “talking points.”

Likewise, we had a beautiful, egalitarian service Friday night in the public plaza of the Kotel and then gave the teens more than half an hour to approach the Kotel in small groups, in the men’s and women’s sections respectively, for private prayer. We believe deeply in our egalitarian values which guided every service that we organized, but at the same time we wanted our teens to have the chance to experience a part of the Kotel such as it is. Once again we subsequently gave them the opportunity to reflect on their experience, to ask questions and to share their views. Experiencing multiple perspectives

regarding Israel and Judaism and learning how to formulate one’s own opinions are important skills that students cannot acquire if our instruction is one-sided and sanitized. Especially when they leave Great Neck, they will encounter a wide range of opinions about these important issues and we want them to have the capacity to navigate thoughtfully and forthrightly.

Toward the end of the trip, we invited the teens to share what they thought were

Our role is less to protect than to expose.

the highlights. Some identified the hiking, some spoke of the excitement of meeting new friends, some referenced meeting the Israeli Arab students, some addressed their various experiences at the Kotel. In a recent gathering, one of the teens expressed how varied her experiences on the trip were and concluded, “Israel never ceases to amaze me.”

With all ages, but especially with emerging adults, our role is less to protect than to expose. The Hebrew term for tour leader is “moreh derekh,” “guide for the road.” What an apt way to describe the sacred work we all must do, all the time, as new generations find their way.

Dinner and Concert to Honor the Panzers

—Continued from front page

Yerushalayim, this year commemorating the 52nd anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem after the Six-Day War of 1967. The invitation is purple because it is the Panzers’ favorite color.

Ofra is the longtime chair of the Temple Israel Membership Committee and a former member of the Board of Trustees. She is the current chair of the METNY Board, United Synagogue’s New York region. Rob, who has held a number of officer positions, has chaired Temple Israel’s Midnight Run food drives and regularly conducts the minyan in the Chapel and at shiva homes.

“The inventory of committees that we availed ourselves of at Temple Israel is as varied as a mosaic and as long as a megillah,” they said.

A journal, being published for the gala, features ads starting at \$120. Tickets to the gala are \$200 per person. The purchase of an ad of \$900 or more includes two tickets to the dinner and concert. Further information about the journal, concert and gala is available by calling 482-7800 or by emailing JD2019@tign.org.

Chairing the event along with Mrs. Kobliner are her husband, Ken, Parvaneh and Parviz Khodadadian, and Harriet and Neal Picker.

In Memoriam

Temple Israel extends condolences
to the families of:

ELAINE LAURENCE

esteemed member of Temple Israel

HELEN KATZ

sister of Marsha Levin

ANA COHEN

wife of Ira Cohen and
esteemed member of Temple Israel

SION MOUSSAZADEH

father of Nazee Botesazan

May their memories be for a blessing.

Daily Minyan Times

Friday

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

Sunday, May 12, 19 & 26 & June 2

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

Sunday, June 9 (Shavuot – Day 1)

8:45 A.M. 8:15 P.M.

Monday, May 13 & 20 & June 3

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

Monday, May 27

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

Monday, June 10 (Shavuot – Day 2)

8:45 A.M. 8:20 P.M.

Tuesday, May 14, 2 & 28 & June 11

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

Tuesday, June 4

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

Wed., May 15, 22 & 29, & June 5 & 12

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

Thurs., May 16, 23 (Lag B'Omer) & 30 & June 6, 13

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

Candle Lighting Times

Friday, May 10

7:41 P.M.

Friday, May 17

7:48 P.M.

Friday, May 24

7:55 P.M.

Friday, May 31

8:01 P.M.

Friday, June 7

8:05 P.M.

Upcoming Events at Temple Israel

May 14

Sisterhood "Lunch
and Read" Program 12:15 P.M.

May 16

Board of Trustees Meeting 8:15 P.M.

May 19

Temple Israel Film Series 7:00 P.M.
and Shoah Remembrance
Committee Present: "The Invisibles"

May 22

Beth HaGan Literary Art Fair 5:30 P.M.
Lag B'Omer BBQ 5:30 P.M.

May 23

Lag B'Omer

May 25

Shabbat Talk Featuring 12:45 P.M.
Helen and David Albert

May 29

Temple Israel Film Series 7:30 P.M.
Presents: "Extra Innings"

May 31-June 1

Scholar-in-Residence Weekend
Featuring Joey Weisenberg

June 1

Journal Dinner Gala 7:30 P.M.
Honoring Ofra and Rob Panzer

June 2

Israel Day Parade
in New York City

June 3

Sisterhood Board Meeting 10:00 A.M.
Congregational Meeting 8:15 P.M.

June 6

Men's Club Executive 6:45 P.M.
Board Meeting

June 8

Erev Shavuot
Shavuot Services and Program

June 9 – 10

Shavuot

June 12

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

June 13

New Member Dinner 6:30 P.M.

June 14 – 15

Shabbat Kol Ishah

June 17 – 21

Beth HaGan Nursery School
Transition Week

June 20

Board of Trustees Meeting 8:15 P.M.

June 27

Men's Club Texas Hold'em 7:30 P.M.
and Backgammon Night

July 1

Beth HaGan Nursery School
Summer Program Begins

Plans Underway for Congregation's Next Women's Shabbat, Kol Ishah, June 14-15

Temple Israel celebrates a member-led Shabbat every year on a three-year cycle: The first year is a Shabbat led by women, Kol Ishah, "The Voice of Women." The second year is Shabbat HaGever, "The Shabbat of Men," and the third year is marked with Shabbat Koleinu, "Our Voice," in which men and women lead the t'filot together. This year the congregation starts a new cycle for the fourth time with Shabbat Kol Ishah, which will be celebrated on June 14-15.

All women in the congregation are invited to participate. There are large and small parts available, so that everyone can find something to suit their interest and their comfort level in Hebrew. Cantor Raphael Frieder and the service steering committee are about to start assigning parts. To participate contact Cantor Frieder at cantorfrieder@tign.org, or call Jennifer in the Synagogue office, 516-482-7800. The first rehearsal will be held on Thursday, May 9, at 8:15 P.M. in the Blue Room.

"In the past, close to 60 women participated in Kol Ishah," said Cantor Frieder. "This is the time to break this record and have more participants. I strongly encourage you to take this opportunity to learn something new in leading t'filah and to forge new friendships as everyone prepares their assignments. I am looking forward to working with you!"

Why Is This Service Different From All Other Services?

From the Waxman High School and Youth House by Avi Siegel, Director

On the seventh day of Passover, Friday, April 26, Waxman Youth House teens led a rousing and spirited Pesach service for the congregation in the Sanctuary. We had 18 incredible teens show the congregation another reason why our teens are the bright lights of the Jewish future.

After practicing for weeks with Cantor Frieder, our students brought beauty and spirit into our ancient traditions. We welcomed teens from all of our programs to find their outlet in the service. From TILT leaders to Israel trip participants, the teens came together for a unified celebration of teen spirit and Jewish life. This teen service brought pride to the Youth House, our families, and the entire congregation.

A huge yasher koach goes out to: Yoel Hawa, Amanda Volk, Eric Yachbes, Leila Bakhshi, Shayla Bakhshi, Amelia Blumberg, Emma Sassouni, Liam Weinberger, Aiden Weinberger, Amanda Putter, Sahar Tartak, Jared Ohebshalom, Bella Rastegar, Aaron Ohebshalom, Zach Astrof, Jared Astrof, Aaron Geula, and Alex Geula.

Following is the D'var Torah that I delivered during the service:

I want to start by expressing how truly grateful, impressed, and mostly inspired I am with our teens. Today is another proven testament to their abilities, character, and neshamot. They are truly the bright lights of tomorrow. I say to each one of you, "thank you!"

The latest poll has shown that Passover is the most celebrated of all Jewish holidays, with more than 70 percent of Jewish Americans taking part in a seder. Seeing that in the pantheon of holidays that Judaism provides, especially with the heavy hitters like Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, what makes Passover so popular?

I am sure that if we investigated the

rationale, most people would give one of three answers as to why they celebrate Passover:

- Family: It is centralized around a family meal.
- Simple Ritual: It comes with an instruction manual.
- L'Dor V'Dor: It allows for passing on tradition.

I will come back to those three answers and the secrets they hold, but first I want to think about the holiday in a different light.

Passover is called "Zman Cherutenu," or the time of our freedom. What is interesting is that phrase does not appear in Biblical sources, but shows up first in Rabbinic Hebrew. We do find

**...our students brought
beauty and spirit
into our ancient traditions.**

related words like chorim, "nobles," in some of the later books of the Bible (e.g. Nechemia 2:16, Melachim I 21:8, Kohelet 10:17). Outside of Judaism we see its prolific use. Arabic has a cognate to herut: hurruyyah, also meaning "freedom, liberty." From Arabic, the word entered the Swahili language as uhuru, meaning "freedom." In fact, my Star Trek fans would note that the character Lt. Uhura was named after it. We see in the Persian-Zoroastrian religion that Ahura Mazda is the god of light.

It is clear that freedom is emphasized as something fundamental to language, culture, and beliefs. What exactly is this freedom gained that we recall during Passover? On one hand, our ancestors, who were in physical enslavement, were redeemed and set free. On the other hand, we were given the freedom to worship Hashem. On the other hand, we were free to reap the fruit of our labors. And, if the Passover seder instructs us to view ourselves as

personally leaving Egypt then we have to ask ourselves: What freedoms are we entering into during the coming year? When you sit down to a Passover seder make it one of your questions that you ask.

Now, about those three answers. The success of Passover is astounding and what is beautiful is that the values that it espouses are the same ones that we holdfast and embody at the Waxman Youth House:

- Family: The second word of our name is more than just a title. I believe that all are welcomed and cherished who step foot into the door. We are the family that you choose to spend time with.
- Simple Ritual: When you choose to be a part of our program we don't put you through a triathlon. We build what it means to be Jewish one step at a time.
- L'Dor V'Dor: My favorite part of the entire Waxman Youth House is the stairwell wall. When you look upon it you see the hands of the Youth House family that has come before you. It is the reminder that we are part of a powerful legacy that I am proud to be carrying on each day.

The ancient Greek historian Thucydides, who lived around 400 bce, shared the following: "The secret to life is happiness...The secret to happiness is freedom... And the secret to freedom is courage." Courage is to dream big. Courage is to try new things. Courage is to add Judaism into your life even when it's tough. This year, I pray we all find the courage to achieve freedom. The freedom to achieve happiness, and what Thucydides didn't say, but I do, is share that happiness with the ones we love.

As I learned from my students, "In order to make this world a better place, you must start with yourself." I hope that in the year to come you all join me on the journey to freedom.

Moa'dim L'Simcha to all!

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



Dylan Chaman

Dylan Chaman will be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah on May 18. He is the son of Angela and Omid Chaman and has a sister, Ashley, 18, and a brother, Blake, 10. Dylan is a seventh-grade student at Great Neck North Middle School and will be receiving a four-sport award at the end of the school year. Dylan enjoys playing and watching all sports, especially basketball, football, volleyball, and tennis. Dylan is currently attending the Waxman High School and Youth House and plans to visit Israel in the near future.



Sigal Weitzman

Sigal Weitzman will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on May 25. She is the daughter of Lynn and Gil Weitzman. Her siblings are Elie, 15, and Gabriel, 8. Sigal is a seventh-grade honor roll student at Great Neck South Middle School. She enjoys theatre and playing softball. Sigal currently attends the Waxman High School and Youth House and celebrated her Bat Mitzvah in Israel this past April.



Serena Askari

Serena Ahava Askari will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah on June 1. She is the daughter of Eleanor and Kaveh Askari and has three sisters, Saba, 24, Donna, 23, and Sophia, 17. Serena is a seventh-grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. She is on the travel soccer team and was on the school soccer team. Serena also enjoys playing the violin. She currently attends the Waxman High School and Youth House. She says she plans to continue her Jewish education by immersing herself in Jewish culture.

Mazal Tov To...

- **Gloria and Stuart De Lott** on the marriage of their grandson, Joshua, son of Lynda and Steven De Lott, to Danielle Daitch.
- **Nancy and Lawrence Greengrass** on the birth of their granddaughter, Sylvia Mila McGoldrick.
- **Nazee and Parviz Botesazan** on the marriage of their son, Joshua, to Laleh Simani.

Temple Lites...

- **Deborah Tartell**, director of the 58 member Shireinu Choir of Long Island, will lead the group's annual spring concert at Great North High School on June 2 in a program of Hebrew, Yiddish and English songs. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and under, and \$125 for blocks of 10 tickets. For additional information call 551-6228 or go to www.shireinuchoirli.org. **Cantor Raphael Frieder** will perform a solo with the choir.

Temple Israel Museum Acquires Unusual Yad



The Temple Israel Museum has acquired a beautiful and unusual silver Torah pointer, yad, from Morocco.

The flat elongated form starts as a worked handle with leaves supporting a circle, within which is a Star of David containing the Hebrew word "Tsion." Above that is a tapering triangle with the words "Ohr Torah" and a carved and engraved stem with leaves and flowers. It ends with a naturalistically formed hand with extended and curved pointer finger. The reverse, also carved with leaves and vines, has an inscription in Hebrew reading "for the soul of Masoudah Boharone. Her (S)oul should rest in (P)ease."

This fascinating yad is from the first half of the 20th century from Morocco and is available for dedication. It can be seen as part of the Museum's Shavuot exhibit in the front case.

Rabbi Stecker on the Recent California Synagogue Shooting

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rabbi Stecker wrote the following several days after the recent shootings at the Chabad of Poway, CA:

Like all of us, I imagine, I am angry, devastated and shaken up once again. Six months after 11 Jews were murdered at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, a woman was murdered in the Chabad of Poway near San Diego. In addition, Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein and two other people, including a child, were injured.

My deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Lori Gilbert Kaye and my profound prayers for healing to Rabbi Goldstein, Noya Dayan (age 8) and Almog Peretz. Hateful acts impact real people who deserve full sympathy and support. No matter how many people are murdered and injured in this attack and others like it, we must continue to remind ourselves of the infinite value of each precious soul.

Though we may be feeling emotionally drained, I implore us to continue to confront the realities that allow such violent acts to occur in synagogues and other houses of worship. The reality of anti-Semitism, whether it comes from the right or the left, whatever religious tradition or ideology is perversely invoked to support it, must be opposed unambiguously throughout our great land, including the halls of Congress and the precincts of the White House. And we must call out our leaders when they fail to oppose anti-Semitism and other forms of hatred vociferously, or worse, when they give direct or tacit support to such hatred through discriminatory words and actions.

Rabbi Goldstein referred to the jamming of the murderer's gun partway through his rampage as a miracle. The Talmud urges, however, that we not rely on miracles. In this regard, we must continue to advocate for sensible gun laws, like those that exist in Israel and many other countries, that will help diminish the damage that hateful people can do.

We will acknowledge the human devastation caused by these shootings. We will take steps to increase security at Temple Israel and other houses of worship. And we will do whatever we can to oppose everything which helps make such violence possible.

I surely wish I didn't have to keep writing and speaking about all of this. But clearly I do have to, and I will keep doing so, so long as it is necessary.

Shabbat Talk May 25: 'Refugees on the Run'

Helen and David Albert, will provide a Shabbat Talk on May 25, following services, about emigration to the United States by survivors of the Holocaust. They will discuss their family's multi-year struggle to leave Europe and to make a new life in the United States. Their parents, Diana and Oscar endured horrors during the war, and were then faced with a U.S. immigration system that did not foster and assist Holocaust survivors.

Diana Albert was orphaned at age 9. Her mother and father perished, as did her brother. Diana was placed through a wall in the ghetto by her father and told not to return by him. He knew that they would all perish and wanted her to live. She was small and malnourished and easily fit through the hole he made in the wall. She was a young girl who raised herself and learned to survive. When the war ended she returned to her town to find everything was gone. She was one of the few child survivors in Poland and was placed in an orphanage. She had uncles in New York, but the doors to the U.S. were not open to her. She persevered and managed to make it to the U.S. after almost four years in the orphanage. The Alberts will tell her story and how she finally managed to come to New York and make a new life.

Oscar Albert was the survivor of five concentration camps. His mother and sisters were murdered by the Germans. He was six feet tall and weighed less than 100 pounds by the end of the war in 1945. He was on a death march from Flossenburg to Dachau when the American Army found him. Unfortunately, the struggle of this survivor did not end with the war. The U.S. was allowing only small numbers of survivors into the country. His father also survived. They struggled to leave for almost four years after the war. Oscar's father had sisters in the United States, however the doors to the U.S. were not opened to them either. Oscar was allowed in, but his father was not. The Alberts will tell the story of their father and grandfather and how they finally managed to come to New York and make a new life.

Memorial Plaque To Be Dedicated On Shavuot, Monday, June 10

THELMA SAHN
mother of
Michael, David and Billy Sahn

Congregation Thanks Kiddush Sponsors

The congregational kiddush on March 16 was sponsored by Wendy and Benjamin Bernstein in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Noah. A contribution towards the kiddush was made by Sofia and David Sohayegh in memory of Mrs. Sohayegh's father, Ayoub Farhadian.

Baseball and Counting the Omer

by **Rabbi Daniel Schweber**

As many of you know, I love baseball, and more specifically I love the New York Mets. I enjoy the “dance” within the symmetry of the baseball diamond. There is an unpredictability to baseball. Sometimes it is good, sometimes it is bad. But the next day is a reset of sorts.

Baseball is a game of numbers. Statistics have always been a part of baseball. It allows us to record and remember history. Yet as the game has moved into the 21st century baseball has become dominated by numbers, stats and something called Sabermetrics. Sabermetrics is named for the Society of American Baseball research. The field of Sabermetrics basically ‘discovered’ that baseball is quite predictable over a long period of time.

Is it possible that we have become too reliant on the numbers of baseball? Sabermetrics is now used to set team rosters and, for some teams, when to change a pitcher. Some complain that the human and emotional element of the game is lost. As the old Broadway show *Damn Yankees* tells us “you gotta have heart.”

Speaking of numbers, we are in the period of counting the Omer. For 49 days between Passover and Shavuot we count each day and week as they pass. Several reasons are given for this ritual. According to tradition, God revealed the Ten Commandments on Shavuot. We are therefore counting and marking our transition from slaves in Egypt to receiving the Torah. Agriculturally, the Omer marks the transition from the barley harvest to the wheat harvest. We are counting and marking our yield and offering gratitude.

Numbers are important in many aspects of life. Are we measuring too much of our personal ‘worth’ based on numerical benchmarks? Do we base our happiness on how large our income is? As students, do we put too much stock in our grades? What is a better way to evaluate our lives? Psalm 90 notes how temporary and fragile our lives truly are and asks God to “Teach us to count our days

rightly, that we may obtain a wise heart.”

The wise count the days and use numbers rightly. What are the most important measurements in our lives? As the rabbis teach, it is how honest we are and how kind we are to each other.

Psalm 90—and I—would add counting the Omer. It teaches us that time is our most precious treasure and commodity. No Sabermetrics, DNA test or anything else can predict how long we will live. Yet, with our free will we get to decide how to use, or better yet, spend our valuable time.

There is a third explanation for counting

the Omer, in Hebrew, Sefirat Ha’Omer. The word sefirah as a verb means to count, but as a noun it means attribute of God. Since 49 days is a perfect square of seven days and seven weeks, it is seen as a period to work on and improve seven personality traits. Chesed, loving-kindness; gevurah, justice and discipline; tiferet, harmony, compassion; netzach, endurance; hod, humility; yesod, our relationships with others; malchut, sovereignty, leadership.

I invite each and every one of us to spend the next seven weeks working on self-improvement so we can make each day count and be holy and valuable.

SHAVUOT LEARNING & SERVICES

IS RELIGION MAKING THE WORLD BETTER?

The persistent reality of violence and discrimination perpetuated in the name of religion calls for a forthright examination of this age-old question.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8 – LEIL SHAVUOT

- 7:00 PM** *Minhah* - Chapel
- 7:30 PM** **Dairy Dinner & Session I** - Crystal Ballroom
“An Honest Look at Us and Others” - **Rabbi Stecker** will share a range of sources to help us consider the impact, negative and positive, that Judaism has had on the world. He will also provide relevant examples from other faith traditions.
- 9:00 PM** **Festival Ma’ariv** - Sanctuary
- 9:20 PM** **Kiddush, Dessert and Session II** - Blue Room
“Songs of Devotion that Touch the Heart” with **Cantor Frieder**
- 10:00 PM** **Session III** - Blue Room
“Chosen for What?” – **Rabbi Schweber** will encourage us to explore what it means for Jews to be referred to as the “Chosen People.” How do we view ourselves? How does this impact the way others view us? Can more than one people be chosen?

Dinner is free and generously sponsored by Jacqueline and Hilbert Eshaghpour, but RSVP by Thursday, June 6 at Noon to Jennifer in the synagogue office.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9 – FIRST DAY OF SHAVUOT

- 8:45 AM** **Festival Service** - Sanctuary
- 3:00 PM** **Shavuot Picnic** - Allenwood Park
- 8:15 PM** *Minhah-Ma’ariv* - Chapel

MONDAY, JUNE 10 – SECOND DAY OF SHAVUOT

- 6:30 AM** **Early Morning Service** - Chapel
- 8:45 AM** **Festival Service** - Sanctuary
Includes *Yizkor* Memorial Prayers and Dedication of Memorial Plaque
- 8:20 PM** *Minhah-Ma’ariv* - Chapel
- 9:07 PM** *Havdalah* - Chapel

Sabbath and Shavuot Services

—Continued from back page

Havurah Service	10:00 A.M.
Junior Congregation	10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service	11:00 A.M.
“Shabbat Talk:” “Refugees on the Run”	12:45 P.M.
Afternoon Service	7:35 P.M.
Evening Service	8:40 P.M.
Havdalah	8:56 P.M.

Friday, May 31

Evening Service	6:30 P.M.
-----------------	-----------

Saturday, June 1

Shaharit Morning Service	8:45 A.M.
First Mourners’ Kaddish	9:25 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Behukkotay

Leviticus 26:3 - 27:34

Haftarah: Jeremiah 16:19 – 17:14

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters: Barbara Levy,
Susan Brustein, Rebecca Friedman-Charry,
and Brent Greenspan

Bat Mitzvah: Serena Askari
daughter of Eleanor and Kaveh Askari

Shabbat HaMishpacha	10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service	11:00 A.M.
Afternoon Service	7:40 P.M.
Evening Service	8:45 P.M.
Havdalah	9:01 P.M.

Friday, June 7

Evening Service	6:30 P.M.
-----------------	-----------

Saturday, June 8 Erev Shavuot

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

Weekly Portion: Bemidbar

Numbers 1:1 – 4:20

Haftarah: Hosea 2:1 - 22

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters: David Eshaghoff,
Sima Taid, Jeffrey Fleit, and Diana Stein

Bar Mitzvah: Skyler Damaghi
son of Mahin and Robin Damaghi

Havurah Service	10:00 A.M.
Junior Congregation	10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service	11:00 A.M.
Afternoon Services	7:00 P.M.
Congregational Dairy Dinner	7:30 P.M.
Shavuot Evening Services	8:45 P.M.
Kiddush and Dessert	9:10 P.M.

D’var Torah

—Continued from back page

Emor

Saturday, May 18

In this portion the Holiness Code continues with laws concerning the maintaining of ritual purity by the priests. 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.

Behar

Saturday, May 25

The Holiness Code continues with a group of laws that are to take effect when the Israelites enter the promised-land. The people will be permitted to work the land for six years, but the seventh year is to be a Sabbatical year of complete rest for the land. In order to provide sufficient food, God promises that the crop of the sixth year will yield enough for three years. Further, after seven cycles of seven years, the 50th year is to be a Jubilee—a year of release for the land and all of its inhabitants. There follow a series of laws concerning redemption of land and persons. The basic principle of land redemption is that all land belongs to God, and human owners possess it only as land holders. The portion ends with a prohibition against idolatry and an admonition to keep God’s Sabbaths.

Behukkotay

Saturday, June 1

This portion concludes the Book of Leviticus. 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. Finally provision is made for tithes. 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, June 8

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.

A Temple Israel Scrapbook



Voice photos by Bob Lopatkin

Israeli Ambassador Discusses Middle East With The Congregation

Ambassador Dani Dayan, Israel's Consul General in New York, was the featured speaker at Temple Israel's Mordecai Waxman Memorial Program last month. He covered a wide range of topics in his address and question and answer session in the Sanctuary, above. Before his talk he met with Waxman High School students who had just returned from a trip to Israel with Rabbi Howard Stecker and Waxman Youth House Director Avi Siegel, center. Following his address Temple Israel Vice President Veronica Lurvey presented the ambassador with a gift from the congregation, a contribution in his honor to Israel-based Save a Child's Heart, a non-profit which brings children to Israel for emergency surgery.



Coming Up At Temple Israel

LAG B'OMER BBQ

Wednesday, May 22
5:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Courtyard

There will be a bouncy house for kids, delicious food & drinks will be available for purchase and fun for the whole family.

RSVP suggested!

Please contact Jennifer at
 (516) 482-7800 or jmarks@tign.org
 by Monday, May 20.

Sponsored by the Men's Club



MONDAY, MAY 27, 2019

Join us as Temple Israel walks in the annual Memorial Day Parade. We will proudly march behind our Temple Israel banner, waving American flags and wearing red, white and blue Temple Israel buttons (distributed at the parade). We will begin to assemble at:

Middle Neck Road & Pont Street at 9:30 AM

We will march to the Village Green for a very moving service in honor of our veterans and current service men and women.

The entire morning ends by 11:30 AM.

Support Our Veterans - Past and Present

We look forward to walking together.

Rabbi Stecker, Rabbi Schweber

The Temple Israel Memorial Day Parade Committee

For more information call Karen Ashkenase at (516) 487-3048 or Jeffrey Fleit at Jeffrey.Fleit@gmail.com.

TILL Film Series
 presents

EXTRA INNINGS

Directed by Albert Dabah & Brian Drillingner
 Written by Albert Dabah
 Featuring TIGN member Mara Kassir

Wednesday, May 29
7:30 PM
Crystal Ballroom

Discussion led by
 cast members follows film

(Film contains adult language
 and suggestive scenes)



View this outstanding film & participate in a discussion. The film is FREE to Temple Israel members, family & friends. Theater snacks will be served.

EXTRA INNINGS is a coming of age story set in the 1960's within a Syrian Jewish community in Brooklyn, NY. Our twelve-year old protagonist, David Sabah, is obsessed with playing baseball, to his father's dismay. When family drama and tragedy ensue, David struggles with the pursuit of his dream and devotion to his religion and family.



Only in



Sunday, June 2, 2019

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

Bus leaves TIGN at 12:00 Noon and will be returning at approximately 5:00 PM. We will be assembling in Manhattan at 1:30 PM on 52nd Street between 5th and Madison Avenues.

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

For more information, please contact:
 Moji Pourmoradi at momymoji@aol.com.

Temple Israel Repairing the World

A Voice Guest Column by Larry Greengrass and Veronica Lurvey

EDITOR'S NOTE: Temple Israel's revitalized Social Action Committee is looking for volunteers to help the congregation do its part to "repair the world," as explained in this Guest Column by committee chairs Larry Greengrass and Veronica Lurvey.

During the last several years, numerous members of the congregation, as well as the clergy and staff, participated in a year-long strategic planning analysis of the most significant parts of Temple Israel. One objective contained in the final report was the creation of a new Social Action Committee, whose mission is to make Judaism's commitment to *tikun olam* an integral part of synagogue life, supplementing the great works of *chesed* that take place every day at Temple Israel through existing groups such as *Yad B'Yad*.

With the full and enthusiastic support of our clergy and staff, the committee has now begun to meet periodically to organize projects and help educate the congregation about opportunities to participate in meaningful experiences in which we can repair the world, both within and outside of our Temple Israel community.

Among the projects which have already been put in place is the High Holy Days food drive, with over 150 shopping bags of food donated to the Interfaith Nutritional Network, an organization that addresses the issues of hunger and homelessness on Long Island. An additional congregational food drive took place during Passover.

Members have also publicized and participated in the UJA

Aqua Run Race Against Poverty, which takes place in the fall, and is great for beginners to experienced athletes.

The Social Action Committee also helped spread the word about the Hatzilu benefit concert. Hatzilu Rescue Organization, connected to Temple Israel for more than 40 years, has supported members of the Jewish community who have fallen on hard times offering food and financial support.

We hear of people in need all the time.

Earlier this year, the Social Action Committee was involved in the UJA's Martin Luther King Day of Service, during which Temple Israel, Temple Beth-El, SHAI and members

of the First Baptist Church all partnered to receive a grant from UJA to organize an event that attracted more than 60 teenagers from several synagogues and the church at our Waxman Youth House. The teens engaged in small workshops with Anti-Defamation League facilitators to discuss identity and bias and worked together to assemble more than 300 lunches to be given to the Interfaith Nutrition Network. Members of the committee have also attended the ADL Conference on Anti-Semitism.

As we continue, we need additional support with volunteers. We have grand plans to repeat some projects and add others, including partnering with the UJA on additional projects. We hear of people in need all the time. If you have any suggestions about things that need to be addressed or additional projects, or would like to join a list of volunteers, please contact Veronica Lurvey at vlurvey@hotmail.com or Larry Greengrass at lgreengrass1234@gmail.com.

Honoring Memories. Celebrating Lives.

Riverside-Nassau North Chapel

- Funerals • Advance Funeral Planning
- Monuments & Inscription Services

www.riversidenassauorthchapels.com

516.487.9600

55 North Station Plaza, Great Neck

JOIN SHIREINU CHOIR

For Their Annual Concert
Sunday, June 2 • 7:30 PM
Great Neck North High School
35 Polo Road



SHIREINU CHOIR
 OF LONG ISLAND

*Tickets available
 at the door
 \$15 for adults,
 \$10 for children 12
 and under*

YOUR WAY FORWARD

Abraham Kanfer, CBR
 Associate Real Estate Broker
 Great Neck Office
 516.466.4036, c.917.797.9466
abrahamkanfer@danielgale.com



Each Office Is Individually Owned And Operated.



Sales • Service • Installations

516-593-2030
www.AceGarageDoorNY.com

207 Vincent Avenue
 Lynbrook, NY 11563

Shastone Memorials

~ MORE THAN A CENTURY OF SERVICE ~

MEMORIALS OF DISTINCTION ERECTED AT ALL CEMETERIES

112 Northern Boulevard • Great Neck, New York 11021

516-487-4600 • 1-877-677-6736 (Toll free outside NY)

www.ShastoneMemorials.com

Marvin Rosen - Laurel S. Rosen - Russell J. Rosen

CUSTOM DESIGN and SHOP AT HOME SERVICES

MONUMENTS - FOOTSTONES - PLAQUES - MAUSOLEUMS - CLEANING - REPAIRS

D'var Torah

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Kedoshim Saturday, May 11

The Holiness Code continues with laws concerning interpersonal relationships and modes of behavior in this portion. Some of these laws echo the Ten Commandments and deal with such matters as reverence for parents, the Sabbath, idolatry, stealing and deceitful conduct, false oaths and the identification of God as the redeemer from the slavery of Egypt. Other laws of secular and religious nature touch upon agriculture, testimony and social ethics. In the second part of the portion, the Torah reiterates its concern with the family in a religious context and reformulates rules previously stated concerning incest and forbidden sexual activity. Here, however, the rules are presented from a slightly different perspective. The portion concludes with an admonition that possession of the land of Israel will be dependent upon faithfully observing these laws of holiness.

—Continued on page 8

Temple Israel of Great Neck

Voice

Marc Katz, Editor

Associate Editors:

Paula Charry, Angela Jones, Ronnie Katz,
Marion Stein, Rabbi Daniel Schweber

Photographers:

Robert Lopatkin, Ofra Panzer

TEMPLE ISRAEL OF GREAT NECK

108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023

P: 516.482.7800 | F: 516.482.7352

info@tign.org | www.tign.org

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

TEMPLE ISRAEL STAFF

Howard Stecker, Senior Rabbi

Raphael Frieder, Cantor

Daniel Schweber, Associate Rabbi

Mordecai Waxman*, Rabbi Emeritus

Leon Silverberg, Executive Director

Rabbi Amy Roth, Director of Congregational Schools

Rachel Mathless, Director, Beth HaGan

Avi Siegel, Director, Waxman High School

OFFICERS

Robert Panzer, President

Rachel Geula, Vice President

Daniel Goldberger, Vice President

Brent Greenspan, Vice President

Samuel Husney, Vice President

Veronica Lurvey, Vice President

Lynn Weitzman, Vice President

Burton Weston, Vice President

Irving H. Lurie*, Honorary President

*Deceased

Sabbath and Shavuot Services

Friday, May 10

Shabbat Sing-Along in the Park 4:30 P.M.

Shabbat HaMishpacha 6:00 P.M.

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, May 11

Shaharit Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

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

Weekly Portion: Kedoshim

Leviticus 19:1 – 20:27

Haftarah: Amos 9:7 – 15

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Jack Yachbes, Debbie Volk, Ofra Panzer,
Brent Greenspan, and Joyce Weston

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

"Shabbat Talk" 12:45 P.M.

"From the Ideal to the Real: Is Israel

Truly the Homeland for all Jews"

Featuring Israelis active in the Masorti

Movement and Women of the Wall

Afternoon Service 7:20 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 7:50 P.M.

Evening Service 8:26 P.M.

Havdalah 8:42 P.M.

Friday, May 17

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, May 18

Shaharit Morning Service/ 8:45 A.M.

Shabbat Morning Group Aliyah

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:

Jacqueline Harounian, Edith Robbins,

Jeffrey Fleit, Mark Putter, and Sima Taeid

Bar Mitzvah: Dylan Chaman

son of Angela and Omid Chaman

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Niggun Circle following kiddush

Afternoon Service 7:30 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 8:00 P.M.

Evening Service 8:33 P.M.

Havdalah 8:49 P.M.

Friday, May 24

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

Saturday, May 25

Shaharit Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

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

Weekly Portion: Behar

Leviticus 25:1 - 26:2

Haftarah: Jeremiah 32:6 - 27

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Patty Schneider, Lisa Mattaway, Andy

Katz, Irene Tannenholtz, and Joyce Weston

Bat Mitzvah: Sigal Weitzman

daughter of Lynn and Gil Weitzman

—Continued on page 8