

## Cantors' Concert Will Pay Tribute to Mordechai Sobol

### Led Temple Israel High Holy Days Services for 27 Years

by Marc Katz, Editor

Cantor Mordechai Sobol—who thrilled Temple Israel members with his distinctive melodic voice during the congregation's High Holy Days services for 27 years—will be memorialized at a concert on Sunday, November 24.

The concert was actually the idea of the late cantor, who had strong ties to Temple Israel and the Hollis Hills Bayside Jewish Center in Bayside, sponsors of the event, explains his former close friend, Cantor Raphael Frieder. "It will also help his family continue in the musical path Hazzan Sobol started," he said.

Accompanied by a full orchestra of more than 30 musicians, the concert will feature Cantor Frieder, Hollis Hills Bayside Jewish Center Cantor Sol Zim, and the chief cantor of the Israeli army, Shai Abramson. Their performance will be conducted by Cantor Sobol's son, Ofir, who has followed in his father's footsteps to become the musical director of the Yuval Ensemble of Jewish Music.

The concert will also recognize Cantor Sobol's wife, Yonah, who will come from Israel to attend the performance and reception.

It will be held at the LeFrak Concert Hall at Queens College beginning at 7 P.M. and feature both Jewish and Israeli music. In addition, the performers will feature music composed by Cantor Sobol. He is credited with the rejuvenation of hazzanut in Israel through many



arrangements and compositions during his long career.

As he had for many years before, Cantor Sobol joined the Temple Israel clergy to lead Rosh Hashanah prayers last year. The congregation was shocked when he did not return for Yom Kippur services because he had suffered a massive stroke while visiting his daughter in Atlanta in between the High Holy Days. He was 67.

"Cantor Sobol's death was shocking and the loss is immense," Rabbi Howard Stecker said at the time. "On Rosh Hashanah our congregation heard him lead services with his usual passion and power, not knowing, of course, that it would be for the last time."

As the music director of the Yuval Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Dr. Sobol was recognized as a leading force in Jewish liturgical music. Born in Hadera,

Israel in 1951 to Polish Holocaust survivor parents, he began his cantorial studies at the age of eight and became a cantor at a very young age. He earned a doctoral degree in Jewish Music and was a composer, orchestrator and arranger for cantorial works, soloists and choirs. A popular performing and recording artist, he received several prestigious awards for his work. Opera star Jan Pierce commissioned him to write and orchestrate many songs that were included in his repertoire.

"I worked with him and spent the High Holy Days with him for 27 years," Cantor Frieder said fondly. "It was always a delight. We laughed together, we sang together, we spoke of music together—there was a lot of positive energy. It was a great experience, both musically and as friends."

While Cantor Frieder performed with many orchestras in the past, this is the first time Temple Israel is sponsoring a cantorial concert with a full orchestra. "I invite the congregation—which has heard and appreciated Cantor Sobol for all these years—to a celebration of his life and his accomplishments with beautiful and uplifting music." Cantor Frieder said.

Tickets to the concert and a dessert reception to follow range in price from \$50 to \$5,000 per person. Some price levels include preferred seating. Sponsorships are also available.

Further information about sponsorships and tickets can be obtained by calling the Temple Israel office at 482-7800.

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# Let Us Come Together, Not Push Away

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A Voice Guest Column by Rabbi Daniel Schweber

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rabbi Schweber took note of the good in mankind in his Rosh Hashanah sermon. It is excerpted in this Voice Guest Column.

My final year of rabbinical school was 2004. We had a graduation requirement to deliver a full-length sermon on Shabbat morning. Like a bar or bat mitzvah, the occasion is celebrated with family and friends and kiddush.

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## How do we account for the wicked in the world?

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A few of my friends prefer having only men lead the prayers. So, I reserved a small room where they will conduct a parallel non-egalitarian service. When my classmates heard of the plan, some got very upset with me. One said: "Thanks to places like JTS, women count in the minyan after thousands of years. Now you and your friends come and undo it!" Another adds "JTS is no place for your friends. They are breaking Jewish law and do not respect us."

The experience still bothers me 15 years later because my friends were judged and rejected solely on one aspect of their Jewish practice. There is no definitive answer for how to adapt Jewish tradition with 21st century reality. There is a spectrum of belief and practice and we must respect all people wherever they may be.

We are all too aware of the divisiveness present in our lives. Families are being broken and friendships are ending because of differing beliefs. As a result, it is imperative for us to remain open minded. We have to be open minded to people who think differently and to those who belong to different groups. We are all created in God's image. We must embrace the humanity and divinity in us all. Given all the divisiveness, we must work to reconnect to each other.

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## One Year Later

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From the Rabbi by Rabbi Howard Stecker

I will never forget my reactions to the devastating news that 11 people were murdered at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. I was shocked when I first heard about the shootings and as I discovered more I became angry and sad. How could anyone snuff out so many innocent lives? I wondered. How will their families manage to persevere? What does this mean for the safety of Jews throughout the United States, including in our own synagogue?

The one-year anniversary of these murders calls for some reflection about the realities of anti-Semitism in our country and how we might best respond. For one thing, we cannot deny that there has been a rise in anti-Semitic incidents in the past several years. The shootings in Poway, California, the upsurge in attacks on Jews in Brooklyn, and the proliferation of anti-Semitic speech and actions overall are part of a new reality that we dare not ignore.

Many of us are afraid, and the fear is legitimate. We are appropriately taking additional security measures in our synagogue to increase our safety. In addition, I urge us to support local and national efforts that oppose anti-Semitism. Along with a number of Temple Israel members, I will be attending the ADL's Annual "Never is

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## We fight anti-Semitism most effectively when we are united.

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Now" Summit on Anti-Semitism and Hate on November 21 and I encourage you to attend as well. You can find out more and register on the ADL website.

We fight anti-Semitism most effectively when we are united. As I've said repeatedly this past year, we should expend more energy opposing anti-

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# Connections

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From the President by Burton Weston

In my remarks to the congregation during Yom Kippur, I touched on the importance of having and making connections in our lives and the role that the synagogue can and should play in that process. Our theme for 5780, as displayed on the banner that hangs over our entranceway, is "Lifting Each Other Up"—how we best ensure that people have the opportunity to connect with each other, with the clergy and with the community.

Synagogues today, while houses of prayer, need to play an equally important role in fulfilling our emotional needs. A fundamental concept we frequently hear as being a backbone of current synagogue

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## The value or currency that our synagogue has is our community of members...

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life—"relational Judaism"—speaks directly about the primacy of the connections or relationships that the synagogue affords us. The value or currency that our synagogue has is our community of members—people of diverse backgrounds, cultures, and experiences who are bright, curious, but most importantly caring. When we are needy, something that happens to all of us at different times in life, our members provide an amazing support system to help us through—whether during a period of loss or illness or just a personal bump in the road. And when there are times to celebrate, how fortunate are we that there are others around us who we can share our joys with.

Clergy and health experts tell us—and common sense tells us—that life is easier and a lot more fun when we have personal connections, friendships and a network of people to turn to to take from and to give to. Relationships clearly make life richer and more meaningful. Reaching out and "Lifting Each Other Up" is what Temple Israel is about, what our community should be about—the kind of community I want to be part of and I hope you want to be part of, as well. Together, we can have and make a better life for all of those we connect with.

Chag Sameach.

## In Memoriam

Temple Israel extends condolences  
to the families of:

**VERONIKA BERMAN**  
mother of Robin Kluger

**NATHAN CHAZIN**  
father of Ellen Chazin Putter

**SYLVIA JAFFE**  
esteemed member of Temple Israel

**MURIEL DURBIN**  
sister of Johanna Essex

**DORIS FOGEL**  
mother of Lisa West

**PARVIN ABROON**  
mother of Elena Mirjani

**IDA SYLVIA (WOLFE) GRODOFSKY**  
mother of Michael Grodofsky

**MOLLY BLUM**  
esteemed member of Temple Israel

**GERTRUDE GROSS**  
esteemed member of Temple Israel

*May their memories be for a blessing.*

### Temple Israel Museum Founder Gertrude Gross Passes at Age 98

It is with sadness that Temple Israel notes the passing of Gertrude ("Gert") Gross, a founder of the Temple Israel Museum along with Miriam Katzin, at age 98.

At the urging of Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, z'l', she sought out Jewish objects of significance and beauty, making the museum one of the best in the country. She acquired iconic pieces of Judaica to tell the story of Judaism from ancient to modern times. She was prescient enough to buy several modern pieces by Moshe Zabari, one of the pre-eminent Judaic silversmiths of the 20th century, early in his career.

From founder to curator to curator emeritus, many in the congregation will remember her standing inside "her" museum welcoming visitors during a period of 50 years!

## Upcoming Events at Temple Israel

### November 10

Men's Club Trip to a Jets Game

### November 16

Shabbat Talk 12:45 P.M.  
Featuring Nancy Cohen of Sharsheret

### November 17

Men's Club Blood Drive 8:30 A.M.  
B'nei Mitzvah Family 10:30 A.M.  
Workshop

### November 18

Sisterhood Luncheon: Noon  
"The Reality and Danger of  
White Supremacy"

### November 20

Men's Club Meeting 7:30 P.M.

### November 21

Beth HaGan PTA 9:00 A.M.  
Holiday Boutique  
Board of Trustees Meeting 8:15 P.M.

### November 24

Queens College Concert In 7:00 P.M.  
Memory of Cantor Sobol

### December 8

Challah Braiding Workshop Noon  
Temple Israel Players Auditions 5:00 P.M.

### December 9

Temple Israel Players Auditions 7:00 P.M.

### December 11

Temple Israel Players Auditions 7:00 P.M.

### December 18

Men's Club "Vodka and  
Latkes Night" 7:30 P.M.

### December 19

Board of Trustees Meeting 8:15 P.M.

### December 21

Temple Israel Film Series: 7:00 P.M.  
"To Dust"

### December 22

Erev Hanukkah  
Congregational 5:00 P.M.  
Hanukkah Celebration

### December 23-30

Hanukkah

## SHABBAT TALK:

# Saturday, November 16

following Kiddush

at approximately 12:45 PM in the Blue Room

## CREATING A CARING COMMUNITY: MORE THAN CHICKEN SOUP

**NANCY COHEN, J.D.**  
Sharsheret's Long Island  
Program Coordinator



It is often assumed that supporting someone in need is instinctive, and that we know how best to help - but it's not always that easy. Nancy will discuss ways to support a friend, loved one, or community member facing illness. Through concrete and practical tips, we will explore how both individuals and synagogue communities can meet some of the needs of their community members facing illness. Sharsheret provides support, education and information with a Jewish perspective concerning breast and ovarian cancer.

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



**Alexis Dorf**

Alexis Dorf will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah on November 30. She is the daughter of Amy and Andrew Dorf and has a brother, Zachary, 10. Alexis is an eighth grade honor student at Great Neck South Middle School where she is also a peer leader. She enjoys theater, playing tennis and softball and is on the school softball team. She celebrated her Bat Mitzvah with her family on Masada this past August. Alexis is a member of BBYO and will continue to attend the Waxman High School and Youth House following her Bat Mitzvah.



**Jonah Haghani**

Jonah Haghani will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on December 7. He is the son of Dalya and Omid Haghani and has a sister, Remy, 9. Jonah is an eighth grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. He enjoys all sports, especially basketball.

## Celebrating the High Holy Days and Shabbat

From the Beth HaGan Nursery School by Rachel Mathless, Director

Beth HaGan Nursery School got off to a rousing start this fall, and for the first time in many years the calendar gave us three weeks to learn about Rosh Hashanah. So, we counted apples, voted on our favorite one, dipped them all in honey and got sticky all over. What fun! We learned all about the shofar, what it represents, the sounds it makes. Everyone made a personal shofar, a usable honey pot, new year cards and slippers for Yom Kippur. Our beautiful sukkah adorned the school corridors, and we've shaken the lulav and etrog all through the holiday. We all ate lunch in the sukkah as a family and a good time was had by all. Our Oneg Shabbat on Friday also incorporated Simchat Torah dancing and hakafot with flags and Torah.

The PTA hosted a fabulously well attended Sukkah decorating party on erev Sukkot, a Sunday morning. We decorated, lunched on pizza and were entertained by a very funny clown. The next PTA sponsored event, which is a super-fund raiser, is the Hanukkah boutique, which is scheduled for Wednesday, November 21. Thank you PTA for the wonderful and thoughtful goody bags given to our pre-schoolers and staff in honor of Rosh Hashanah.

Now that the Jewish holiday season is coming to a close, we look forward to fall and all its inherent beauty and activities. We begin with weather changes and how they affect our lives, and the lives of animals and plant life. We begin our parsha study with Beraisheet and Party Pets will bring the animals to enhance the study of Parashat Noah, which follows.

Shabbat, as always, is a celebration at Beth HaGan beginning with a communal oneg, baking challah and Shabbat party in the classroom. Please feel free to visit Friday mornings and join us to experience with the children the real meaning of the joy and peace of Shabbat. It's sure to boost your spirits and keep you humming all day.

## Rabbi Eckstein Presents Scholarships to Two Students In Memory of his Wife, Adele

This is the third year since the establishment of the Adele L. Eckstein Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund at Temple Israel. Rabbi Abraham B. Eckstein has created this fund in memory of his beloved wife in order to encourage Temple Israel student attendance at Camp Ramah, the summer camp of the Conservative movement. Any child who is attending Camp Ramah for the first time for four or more weeks or is participating in a USY Israel program is eligible to receive \$1,000 towards tuition.

The 2019 recipients of scholarships are Max Covitt and Gabriel Weitzman, who attended Camp Ramah in the Berkshires. Both boys have expressed their gratitude to Rabbi Eckstein. Gabe Weitzman wrote: "Thank you for the generous gift. I had a great time at

camp. Max Covitt told Rabbi Eckstein: "Thank you so much for honoring me with this scholarship to Camp Ramah. I had such a great time at Camp Ramah. All the activities at camp were great! I can't wait to go back next year."

For more information about the Eckstein grant for next summer, contact Religious School Director Rabbi Amy Roth at [rabbiroth@tign.org](mailto:rabbiroth@tign.org) or 516-482-7800.

### Mazal Tov To...

- **Elise and Richard Kestenbaum** on the birth of their grandson, Brody Max Kestenbaum.
- **Janet Esagoff Goldfarb and Zachary Goldfarb** on the birth of their granddaughter, Ileana Zahav Talavera.
- **Lauren and Sheldon Horowitz** on the engagement of their son, Lev, to Charie Lucas.

# A Temple Israel Scrapbook



Temple Israel conducted its annual September 11th memorial service on Saddle Rock's 9-11 Memorial Bridge, drawing a large number of congregants, members of the community and elected officials. Also in attendance were members of Great Neck's Alert and Vigilant Fire Companies along with their equipment, including Department Chief Josh Charry, left, and David Bloomgarden, members of Temple Israel. The featured speaker during the outdoor service was John Motchkavitch of the Alert Department, who spoke of the efforts volunteers of his department made during the World Trade Center rescue, the loss of members of Great Neck fire departments from the attacks, and his personal rescue efforts in the days following September 11th.

Members of the community gathered on the bridge on September 11, 2001 to watch the tragedy unfold. The bridge has a commanding view of the World Trade Center. The service on the bridge is sponsored each year by the Men's Club and chaired by Marc Katz.



Cleaning up Whitney Pond Park in Manhasset and planting trees to beautify it was the project undertaken by Temple Israel's newly reestablished Green Committee, along with members of Temple Beth-El and the Great Neck Chinese Association.

The volunteers were joined by North Hempstead Town Councilwoman Veronica Lurvey, fourth from left, and members of the town Parks Department on a recent Sunday afternoon, doing their part to help "repair the world." For further information about the Green Committee contact the Temple Israel office.

# Let Us Come Together, Not Push Each Other Away

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Where does the impetus to debase, reject, or God forbid, harm others comes from? One prominent reason is that we feel threatened by the differences. The famous sociologist Robert Putnam and others think these feelings are subconscious and innate in all of us. We want to keep our egos intact and don't want to accept that we may be wrong. We fear that different people might damage and alter our lifestyle.

The Bible frames our culture as it has for thousands of years. For some readers, the Bible's message is to disconnect from rivals. Ishmael was banished, Jacob stole Esau's blessing, Joseph was sold into slavery. Cain killed Abel. All idolaters are evil, and we must banish them. These stories, unfortunately, give us cover or

permission to give in to our fears and feelings of being threatened.

But is that really the message we are supposed to learn? While rivalry and banishment are very much part of Genesis and the Bible, so is reconciliation and confederation. Right after Ishmael is banished, Abraham makes peace with Abimelech and they agree to share wells. Jacob's 12 sons, the fathers of the 12 tribes, reconcile with each other. Joseph forgives his brothers. The 12 separate tribes unite together as B'nei Yisrael—the Children of Israel. The Bible commands us 36 times to love and not mistreat the stranger.

Many compare the current divisiveness to tribalism. We all belong to various tribes and are hostile to other tribes. Overall, we socialize with people who agree with us. We read news that only aligns with our outlook. And we live with people a lot like ourselves.

Are we better off with so much discord in our lives? Do we like living like this? If not, what can we do?

If we want to live in peace and freedom and make the world better for the next generation, we have to train our minds to know that in the long run we are all better off when we cooperate, work and live together. When we share, we build relationships and with relationships comes trust. That trust alleviates our innate fears.

The holiness code in the Book of Leviticus makes social contract essential to holiness and Godliness. "Do not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor and help save them. Do not put stumbling blocks in front of the blind lest they trip. Love your neighbor as yourself."

How do we account for the wicked in our world? What do we do about the ones who say, "what is mine is mine and what is yours is mine?" There are those who refuse to allow egalitarianism anywhere near the Kotel. Some people even spit on and curse at those who try having egalitarian services at the designated location at Robinson's Arch.

There are still anti-Semites in the world fighting to rid the world of Jews and Judaism. Can we still be open minded in a world with racists and xenophobes? Don't we have to protect ourselves?

The answer is most certainly yes. But let's protect ourselves in a way that does not make us close minded. After the shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, in Fred Rogers' own neighborhood, we used his phrase "look for the helpers, for the good people" as a healing mantra. Despite all the wickedness in the world, the vast majority are ready to help others.

We must protect ourselves from the wicked. But we do that best when the good people unite and help each other. Good people belong to all tribes. We must respect and celebrate our differences in the Jewish community, here in America and with all global citizens. Your uncle might support a different political party than you, but you both love your family and should support each other. We may count women in the minyan and our cousins may be ultra-Orthodox. Regardless of our differences in practice and belief, we are all Jews, connected to each other through our rich and sometimes scarred history.

All eight billion of us global citizens have only one planet to call home. We all have the right to live in shalom—peace and wholeness. The vast majority of the world is good. Let us unite to protect us from the few "rotten apples." We humans of the world have a social contract and cannot ignore each other. Let us reach out, not push people away. We should be aware of those in need and offer our helping hands.

Rosh Hashanah is not just the Jewish New Year. Rosh Hashanah is also World Unity Day. Today is the world's birthday, when God the Creator takes note of all of creation in all its diverse splendor. If God can take note and care of humankind in its diversity, than we must as well. Let us commit ourselves to a mutual aid contract with each other. What is mine I will share with you, and what is yours you will share with me.

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## Daily Minyan Times

**Friday, November 8 & 15**

7:00 A.M. 4:30 P.M.

**Friday, Nov. 22 & Dec. 6 & 13**

7:00 A.M. 4:15 P.M.

**Friday, November 29**

6:45 A.M. 4:15 P.M.

**Sunday, Nov. 10, 17 & 24 & Dec. 1 & 8**

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

**Monday, Nov. 11, 18 & 25 & Dec. 2 & 9**

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

**Tuesday, Nov. 12, 19 & 26 & Dec. 3 & 10**

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

**Wed., Nov. 13, 20 & 27 & Dec. 4 & 11**

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

**Thursday, Nov. 14 & 21 & Dec. 5 & 12**

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

**Thursday, November 28**

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

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## Candle Lighting Times

**Friday, November 8**

4:26 P.M.

**Friday, November 15**

4:20 P.M.

**Friday, November 22**

4:14 P.M.

**Friday, November 29**

4:11 P.M.

**Friday, December 6**

4:09 P.M.

**Friday, December 13**

4:09 P.M.

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*Save the Date!*

## **BLOOD DRIVE**

The Temple Israel  
Men's Club  
Blood Drive  
will be held on

**Sunday, November 17**  
**from 8:30 A.M.-1 P.M.**  
in the Crystal Ballroom.

For further information  
contact Charles Adler  
at [ciadler.ca@gmail.com](mailto:ciadler.ca@gmail.com)

### **Congregation Thanks Kiddush Sponsors**

A contribution towards the kiddush on September 7 was made by Harvey and Frederica (Freddi) Kadden in honor of the Auf Ruf of their son, Zachary Henry, and Jennifer Rose Tucker.

Contributions toward the kiddush on September 14 were made by Drs. Nader and Farsima Dayani in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Ethan; by Vivian and Yuval Brash in honor of the Auf Ruf of their son, Benjamin Israel, and Rebecca Ann Broad; and by Nancy and Larry Greengrass in honor of the baby naming of their granddaughter, Sylvia Mila McGoldrick.

The congregational kiddush on September 21 was co-sponsored by Ronda and Andrew Bloom in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Ethan, and by Ronnie and Marc Katz in honor of the baby naming of their granddaughter, Mikayla Eve Kardon.

The congregational kiddush on September 28 was sponsored by Pargol and Steven Khadavi in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Justine.

## **Accepting and Celebrating Impermanence**

**by Rabbi Daniel Schweber**

Andy Goldsworthy is a British artist who uses nature as his palette. He creates art with trees, leaves, stone, snow, and other materials found out in the world. In his words, "art allows us to meditate on time, permanence and impermanence and, of course, the beauty of creation."

A 2018 documentary titled 'Leaning into the Wind' about Goldsworthy's career explores how humans are part of the aesthetic of art or any creation. At one point, he literally crawls through a hedge bare of its leaves in the silhouette created by the winter sun. He has inserted himself into the art.

If you google or youtube search "Sand Mandala" you will learn about the Tibetan Buddhist practice whereby trained monks spend devoted hours over several weeks designing colored sand designs. While it looks like art, for the Tibetan Buddhist, the work is a three dimensional house for one of their deities. It is a ritual way for the monks to commune with the gods.

The most surprising part of the Sand Mandala exercise is that as soon as the monks complete their masterpiece they take a brush and destroy the Mandala.

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**We are better off when we accept life's impermanence  
and even better off when we rejoice in the gift of life...**

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The YouTube videos seem to "enjoy" focusing on the surprise of the uninitiated as they react to the destruction.

Goldsworthy and the Sand Mandala makes me think of the book of Ecclesiastes or Kohelet. Kohelet reminds us that we are dust and clay. We are part of nature. We are also God's handiwork. We are temporary. Even what seems permanent is really temporary.

It is in our culture to want to hold on—to preserve. We spend lots of energy manipulating and creating, why not hold on to it for a while? Why not at least let our creations outlive us? Isn't there a value to preservation?

The answer is that much of life, the entire universe really, is transient, dynamic and impermanent. One of the lessons of Goldsworthy's art, the Sand Mandala and Kohelet is to live in the moment. We should enjoy the process, knowing that what we create will come to an end and we shouldn't mourn or be sad at the impermanence of things. Vacations will end. Objects, even landmarks will become obsolete one day. Our lives will end. Even stones will decay to sand. We need to be mindful of this fact and stop 'obsessing over permanence.'

And yet, Einstein's discovery that the universe's energy is finite and the concept of the soul and spirit makes it possible for us to live on in some way. In the documentary, Goldsworthy passes an ancient burial ground and describes how he can feel the energy of the people buried there: "The universe is a series of paradoxes. What is Divine is also human, what is practical is also artistic, what is permanent is also impermanent.

The Torah embodies this paradox. The Torah is a divine book, made with human hands using natural materials written with ink that is fundamentally temporary. Nevertheless, the Torah's words are enduring and they are *eytz chayim*, a tree of life to those who grasp onto it.

We are better off when we accept life's impermanence and even better off when we rejoice in the gift of life that we have been blessed with.

# From Generation to Generation

Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

## **RABBI STECKER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In appreciation of:

Rabbi Stecker officiating at the Auf Ruf of their son, Brandon, and Leah Bloom Linda and Brent Greenspan

Rabbi Stecker participating in the funeral service for her husband, Efrom Sylvia Blank

The great kindness Rabbi Stecker has shown to our family

Linda and Michael Sahn and children

On the occasion of:

Wishing Rabbi Stecker good wishes for the coming New Year

Charles Dimston

Wishing Rabbi Stecker, his loved ones and everyone at Temple Israel a happy Rosh Hashanah and Shana Tovah

The Damaghi family

Wishing Wendy and Jeffrey Maurer a L'Shana Tovah Maxine Vogel

In honor of:

The engagement of Daniel Stecker, son of Deanna and Rabbi Howard Stecker, to Rebecca Rimsky Maxine Vogel

The marriage of Benjamin Brash, son of Vivian and Yuval Brash, to Rebecca Broad

The Ratner family

In memory of:

Leonard Seskin  
The Seskin family  
Thelma Sahn  
Linda and Michael Sahn and children

For the recovery of:

Stuart Gold  
Stuart Gold

Contributions:

Grayce Falow  
Annette Nager  
Debra and Abraham C. Kanfer

## **YAD B'YAD FUND**

In memory of:

Joseph Schachter  
Helene Schachter  
Harold Hymes  
Kenneth Barry Hymes  
Marilyn Leavitt  
Walter Leavitt  
Helen Leavitt Sholler  
Joseph Mandel  
David Mandel

In honor of:

Karen Ashkenase  
Gloria Landsberg  
Ronnie and Marc Katz  
Carol and Steve Smolinsky

Contribution:

Gilda Hecht

## **CANTOR FRIEDER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In appreciation of:

Cantor Frieder's participation in the funeral service for her husband, Efrom Sylvia Blank  
Cantor Frieder's kindness to their parents, Jack and Thelma Sahn z'l'  
Linda and Michael Sahn, Samuel, Benjamin and Rebecca

On the occasion of:

Wishing Wendy and Jeffrey Maurer a L'Shana Tovah Maxine Vogel

## **ROSALIE AND DANIEL P. KATZ MEMORIAL FUND**

In memory of:

Daniel Katz  
Meredith Gantcher

## **ABRAHAM ROSENFELD MEMORIAL FUND**

In memory of:

Manuchehr Kalimian  
Ebrahim Mayourian  
Shlomo Sameyah  
Farang Shahery  
Roberta and David Harounian

## **SAMUEL BARON MEMORIAL MUSIC FUND**

In memory of:

Brocha Kreditor  
Marlene Kreditor

## **SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In memory of:

Ray Smith  
Susan Smith  
Arden Smith

## **ISRAEL SOLIDARITY FUND**

In honor of:

The Auf Ruf of their son, Oren, and Rebecca Elbaum  
Vivi and Herbert Jaspan  
Shahram (Mike) Delafraz for coordinating a sukkah installation caravan  
Rebecca and Sassan Sassouni  
Manijeh Esther Moallem for teaching the Persian Haftarah Trope  
Rebecca Sassouni  
Bela Schoenfeld  
Fanny and Al Narotzky

In memory of:

Manuchehr Kalimian  
Cheryl Eisberg Moin and Seth Moin

## **JEAN WALTON SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In memory of:

Fannie Rosen  
Susan Tomback  
Ida Wolsky  
Susan Tomback  
Janice Genser

## **PRAYER BOOK FUND**

In memory of:

Leonard Seskin  
The Gordon family  
Francine Wurman  
Barbara and Harvey Choit  
Celia Block  
Laurie Frankel  
Moshe Levy  
The Pravder family  
Mildred Kleinhaus  
Barbara Choit

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Ellie Schweber

In memory of:

Bernard Miller  
Monte Miller

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Marilyn Torodash

In memory of:

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In honor of:

Ethan Bloom, son of Ronda and Andrew Bloom, becoming a Bar Mitzvah  
Sheila and Douglas Hyman  
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In memory of:

Charlotte Siegel  
Carolee Solof



# From Generation to Generation

Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

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Judith Jacobs

For the recovery of:

Michael Fishman  
Kathy and Steve  
Berkowitz

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Yuval Brash, to Rebecca  
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Eliane and Adrian  
Cristian and family  
The birth of Lilah and Eitan  
Katz, grandchildren of Ofra  
and Robert Panzer  
The birth of Ari Peter Zinger,  
grandson of Ronni  
Birnbaum Kopelowitz and  
Wally Kopelowitz  
Susan and Dennis  
Brustein  
Vivian and Yuval Brash  
Rochelle and Bennett  
Broad  
Rabbi Stecker  
Pepi and Stuart Stein

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for Temple Israel  
Marilyn Torodash and  
Leon Flax  
Receiving a High Holy Day  
honor  
Navid and Ramin  
Farajollah

In memory of:

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In honor of:

Harriet Spitzer-Picker  
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## Support Temple Israel's Funds!

Temple Israel welcomes your support of a wide variety of funds which enhance congregational activities. Contributions can be made by contacting the Temple Israel office. Here are some of the funds:

- **Israel Solidarity Fund:** Supports various Israeli causes identified by the Israel Affairs Committee.
- **Museum Fund:** Used for the acquisition of new items and upkeep of the Temple Israel Museum.
- **Religious School Fund:** Used to provide additional funding for equipment, technology and special programming.
- **Scholarship Funds:** Donations provide financial aid to Religious School and Waxman High School and Youth House students unable to afford the full cost of tuition. Contributions can be earmarked for a specific school.
- **Shalom Club Library Fund:** Used to expand the Temple Israel collection of literature about the Jewish world and/or publications written by Jewish authors.

## D'var Torah

—Continued from back page

of Sodom (where Lot lives) and Gomorrah are to be destroyed, Abraham argues with God about justice and God agrees to spare the cities if there are at least ten righteous men among them. Lot turns out to be the only righteous man and the cities are destroyed, but Lot and his families are saved. Sarah gives birth to a long-awaited son, Isaac, and demands that Abraham expel Hagar's and her son, Ishmael. God further tests Abraham's faith through the near sacrifice of Isaac. These incidents serve to illustrate Abraham's expanding concept of God and also reveal his human failings.

### Hayyey Sarah

**Saturday, November 23**

We conclude the cycle of Abraham and Sarah stories, Sarah dies at the age of 127, and Abraham purchases a burial site, the Cave of Machpelah in Hebron, from the local Hittite inhabitants in this portion. This cave becomes the burial place for the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their wives, Sarah, Rebekah and Leah. As Abraham faces the prospect of his own death, he arranges a marriage for Isaac by sending his chief servant back to the family homeland to negotiate for the hand of a family member. When the servant returns with Rebekah, Isaac installs her in Sarah's tent and marries her, and in their love he finds comfort after his mother's death. Thus, God's plan of history unfolds through a series of commonplace and natural events.

### Toledot

**Saturday, November 30**

In this portion, we follow the events in the lives of Isaac and Rebekah. Twin sons—Esau and Jacob— are born and their struggles before birth foreshadow later conflicts between the nations they are to found. Although Jacob is the younger, he tricks Esau out of his birthright. Isaac, like Abraham meets a number of challenges and is assured by God that he will have many descendants and possess the land of Canaan. When Isaac feels his end approaching and arranges to pass the blessing of concession on to Esau, Rebekah connives to have Jacob trick his father and receive the blessing for himself. Jacob must then flee to the ancestral homeland to escape Esau's wrath but before he leaves Isaac intentionally passes on to him the blessing of Abraham. This action attests that the leadership of the Jewish people depends on God's plan, not an accident of birth.

### Vayetze

**Saturday, December 7**

We follow the fortunes of Jacob as he leaves the land of Canaan to travel to the ancestral home in Mesopotamia, spends 20 years there and leaves to return to Canaan in this portion. Jacob, fleeing for his life, stops for a night at a place near the border and has a dream in which the angels ascend and descend a ladder to heaven. God confirms the blessing of Abraham for Jacob, and Jacob, upon awakening names the place Beth El, the House of God. Arriving in Mesopotamia, Jacob encounters Rachel, his cousin, at a well and falls in love with her. He negotiates with his uncle, Laban, for Rachel's hand, is tricked by Laban, and then decides it is time to return home. He leaves with two wives, two concubines, 11 sons, one daughter and much livestock.

These events show how Jacob begins to become worthy of the blessing he has been given and of being a successor to Abraham and Isaac.

## Shabbat Services

—Continued from back page

### Friday, November 29

Evening Service 4:15 P.M.

### Saturday, November 30

Shaharit Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

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

Weekly Portion: Toledot

Genesis 25:19 - 28:9

Haftarah: Malachi 1:1 – 2:7

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters: Brent Greenspan, Lynn Weitzman, Andy Katz, Robert Lopatkin, Robert Panzer

Bat Mitzvah: Alexis Dorf  
daughter of Amy and Andrew Dorf

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Afternoon Service 3:50 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 4:20 P.M.

Evening Service 4:55 P.M.

Havdalah 5:11 P.M.

### Friday, December 6

Evening Service 4:15 P.M.

### Saturday, December 7

Shaharit Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

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

Weekly Portion: Vayetze

Genesis 28:10 – 32:3

Haftarah: Hosea 12:13 – 14:10

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters: Susan Brustein, Desiree Rastegar, Deanna Stecker, and Ellen Birnbaum

Bar Mitzvah: Jonah Haghani  
son of Dayla and Omid Haghani

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Afternoon Service 3:50 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 4:20 P.M.

Evening Service 4:53 P.M.

Havdalah 5:09 P.M.

## One Year Later

—Continued from page 2

Semitism together than fighting with one another about such secondary issues as whether it's more dangerous from the left or from the right. We should likewise be unified against anti-Semitism regardless of whether the victims are Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, or secular.

Moreover, we should welcome allies outside of the Jewish community and we should serve as their allies when they are in need. The Pittsburgh Jewish community received considerable emotional and financial support from the local Christian and Muslim communities, an outgrowth of alliances that had been nurtured for decades.

What concerns me at least as much as all of the above are the responses of younger Jews. I hope that the younger generation of Jews recognizes the reality of anti-Semitism without being paralyzed by it. Even more importantly, I hope that they will not allow the people who hate us to define us.

Our raison d'être isn't to survive despite the people who seek to destroy us. The essence of being Jewish is to face the world with joy and responsibility. The hundreds of people of all ages who recently danced together at Temple Israel on Simhat Torah, the many people who donated food and clothing for the homeless for our Midnight Run, are helping to fulfill the essential mandate of our people.

We will do our best to protect ourselves from those who seek to harm us. We will unite with fellow Jews and others of good will in the face of anti-Semitism. And we will continue to demonstrate, and to teach our children and grandchildren that we, and not our haters, get to define and advance our sacred mission.

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# D'var Torah

by Rabbi Marim D. Charry

## Lekh-Lekha Saturday, November 9

We meet Abraham, who, at 75, leaves his home in Mesopotamia at God's command and travels to Canaan with his wife, Sarah, and his nephew, Lot, to become the father of a great nation in this portion. Abraham meets a number of challenges which test his faith in God and his resourcefulness. He has a son with Hagar, Sarah's handmaid, since Sarah appears to be barren. He also enters into covenant (b'rit) with God which is symbolized by circumcision (b'rit milah), thus laying the ground for the development of the Jewish people and its special relationship to God.

## Vayera Saturday, November 16

In this portion Abraham is informed by angels that he and Sarah will have a son and that the wicked cities

—Continued on page 10

### Temple Israel of Great Neck

## Voice

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Marion Stein, Rabbi Daniel Schweber

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## Shabbat Services

### Friday, November 8

Evening Service 4:30 P.M.

### Saturday, November 9

Shaharit Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

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

Weekly Portion: Lekh-Lekha

Genesis 12:1 – 17:27

Haftarah: Isaiah 40:27 – 41:16

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Neda Sedgh, Lila Bernstein-Schoen, Gail Zahler, Mark D. Birnbaum, and Andy Katz

Bar Mitzvah: Zachary Lipp  
son of Sharona and Alan Lipp

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Afternoon Service 4:05 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 4:35 P.M.

Evening Service 5:09 P.M.

Havdalah 5:25 P.M.

### Friday, November 15

Evening Service 4:30 P.M.

### Saturday, November 16

Shaharit Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Shabbat Morning Group Aliyah

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

Weekly Portion: Vayera

Genesis 18:1 – 22:24

Haftarah: II Kings 4:1 – 37

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Patty Schneider, Gary Sazer, Rebecca Sassouni, Edith Robbins, and Joyce Weston

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

"Shabbat Talk" 12:45 P.M.

Afternoon Service 4:00 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 4:30 P.M.

Evening Service 5:03 P.M.

Havdalah 5:19 P.M.

### Friday, November 22

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

### Saturday, November 23

Shaharit Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

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

Weekly Portion: Hayyey Sarah

Genesis 23:1 – 25:18

Haftarah: I Kings 1:1 – 31

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Lisa Mattaway, Harold Citron, Diana Stein-Smolen, Ellen Birnbaum, and Irene Tannenholtz

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Shabbat HaMishpacha 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Afternoon Service 3:55 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 4:25 P.M.

Evening Service 4:58 P.M.

Havdalah 5:14 P.M.

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