

Holocaust Survivor Telling His Incredible Story of Survival on Kristallnacht Nov. 4

by Marc Katz, Editor

An incredible story of survival before, during and after the Holocaust—including coming face-to-face with notorious Nazi Dr. Josef Mengele and a harrowing escape to England—



**Kristallnacht Speaker
Werner Reich**

will be told by Werner Reich when he is the featured speaker at Temple Israel's Kristallnacht observance on Sunday, November 4 at 7 P.M.

Kristallnacht is considered by many to be the start of the Holocaust. Mr. Reich said the title of his talk will be: "Was Kristallnacht Really the Beginning of the Shoah?" because, by the time Kristallnacht took place, many had been killed, there had been many suicides, and thousands

of careers had come to a stop. "I will, of course, talk about all that. But," he added concerning the title of his talk, "every

Jewish statement must be in the form of a question!"

Temple Israel marks Kristallnacht each year with a solemn program and featured speaker. Kristallnacht, known as "The Night of Broken Glass," was a pogrom against Jews by the Nazis in Germany on November 9-10, 1938. Jewish shops and synagogues were smashed, many Jews were murdered, and tens of thousands were deported to concentration camps.

Mr. Reich and his family lived in Berlin when the Nazis came to power in 1933. His father, an electrical and mechanical engineer, lost his job prompting the family to move to Yugoslavia. His father died in 1940 and the following year the Nazis occupied the country. His mother placed him in hiding along with several families. Mr. Reich joined one of the families, which was working for the resistance movement. In 1943, he was arrested by the Gestapo, beaten, and jailed for

—Continued on page 6

Mordechai Sobol: End of a High Holy Days Tradition

by Marc Katz, Editor

Cantor Mordechai Sobol joined the Temple Israel clergy to lead Rosh Hashanah prayers with his distinctive melodic voice last month, just as he has done for the past 27 years. But, the congregation was shocked when he did not return on Yom Kippur.

Between the High Holy Days he traveled to Atlanta to visit his daughter, where he suffered a massive stroke. He passed away shortly before Yom Kippur. Cantor Sobol was 67.

"Cantor Mordechai Sobol's death was shocking and the loss is immense,"

said Rabbi Howard Stecker in his Voice column on page two of this issue. "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 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. In addition, he was also a composer, orchestrator and arranger for cantorial works for

—Continued on page 6



Try Again!

A Voice Guest Column by Rabbi Howard Stecker

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Voice Guest Column contains excerpts from Rabbi Stecker's High Holy Day sermon.

What we've gotten wrong in the past, we can get right today. We have the ability, and the responsibility, to try again.

At a certain point in our lives we may have done the wrong thing, or not done the right thing, for whatever reasons. We may not

What we got wrong in the past, we can get right if we try again.

have been there for people who needed us, we may have said hurtful things, we may not have said helpful things, we may have acted in ways that were cruel, or not sufficiently kind. We may not have stood up for what we know to be right.

We may have repeated our mistakes over and over again. According to our tradition, we aren't trapped in old

behavior. What we got wrong in the past, we can get right if we try again.

The philosopher and Rabbi Moses Maimonides defined repentance, teshuva, as follows: if the situation where you sinned before presents itself again and this time, you do the right thing, that is repentance. That is teshuva. (Maimonides Hilchot Teshuva, 2:1)

Most of us are not evil and we don't do evil things. We just get caught up in ourselves—our lives, our fears—and we say or do the wrong things, or we are not responsive enough to other people.

Children of Abraham and Sarah, which we are, are supposed to bring blessing to all the families of the earth. And so we should help ourselves and we should —

—Continued on page 10

Singing With Heart and Soul

From the Rabbi by Rabbi Howard Stecker

Cantor Mordechai Sobol's death was shocking and the loss is immense. 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.

Much has been said, and will continue to be said, about Cantor Sobol's life and accomplishments. While we at Temple Israel encountered him predominantly as a cantor, he was even more widely known as a composer, a conductor and a mentor. Cantor Sobol bears significant responsibility for expanding the audience of people who appreciate cantorial music. His compositions are widely sung in synagogues and concert halls throughout the world. And he has mentored numerous cantors and musicians who owe him an enormous debt for their initial and ongoing training and inspiration.

But I would like to reflect on Cantor Sobol's cantorial leadership, since that's primarily how the Temple Israel community experienced him. Cantor

Cantor Sobol embodied the highest Jewish and human ideals of decency and concern.

Sobol led us with his heart and soul. He invited us to join him as a conductor invites an orchestra or a choir. It's not easy to bring a community along in soulful prayer, but Cantor Sobol did it and he made it look easy. He did it with a smile, with his eyes sparkling, with love and with humor.

When I stood on the bimah with Cantor Sobol, I marveled at how brilliantly

—Continued on page 7

Helping On Kol Nidre

From the President by Rob Panzer

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article contains excerpts from President Rob Panzer's Kol Nidre message.

Temple Israel strives to be a place where everyone feels welcome to discover the power of Judaism to bring blessings to their lives and to our world.

Annually, Temple Israel participates in a program called Midnight Run. For the uninitiated, when participating in a "Run," we deliver clothing, food and toiletries to the homeless population of New York at designated locations in New York City, generally on a Saturday night in the

When we reach out to help, we sometimes don't know to whom that help may go.

winter, although sometimes we have a Sunday morning "Breakfast Run."

A number of years ago, on a breakfast run outside of Penn Station, I saw our past president, Richard Kestenbaum, talking to a tall gentleman of African extraction. When they concluded, Richie came over and said: "You're not going to believe the conversation I just had." He related that the gentleman speaking to him came from one of the islands, had spent his time and assets taking care of his elderly mother, and now found himself as the one in need. He had concluded with: "...and I'm Jewish. Not every Jew is rich."

The following Saturday evening we had another Run. I was driving the Temple Israel minivan loaded with donations and my co-pilot on that Run and many others was Arthur Budick. When we got to the Penn Station stop I went downstairs to announce to people that Temple Israel had arrived and I saw this same person. I spoke with him briefly and found out that his name was Solomon. He came upstairs and accepted what few things he needed, and went on his way. We had five Midnight Runs that year, and by the last one I greeted Solomon and he

—Continued on page 7

In Memoriam

Temple Israel extends condolences
to the families of:

SYLVIA GREENSPAN

mother of Brent Greenspan

JACK HANDSMAN

father of Fred Handsman

KHANOM HANA SARRAF

mother of Daniela Pollack,
sister of Minu Ohebshalom
and Elias Kalimian
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

BEATRICE ROSENBERG

sister of Natalie Levine

MARILYN GLASER

mother of Steven Glaser

PAUL SCHLANK

father of Lynn Weitzman

May their memories be for a blessing.

Daily Minyan Times

Friday, October 19

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

Fridays, October 26 & November 2

7:00 A.M. 5:45 P.M.

Friday, November 9

6:45 A.M. 4:30 P.M.

Friday, November 16

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

Sunday

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

Monday

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

Tuesday & Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

Candle Lighting Times

Friday, October 19

5:52 P.M.

Friday, October 26

5:42 P.M.

Friday, November 2

5:33 P.M.

Friday, November 9

4:25 P.M.

Friday, November 16

4:19 P.M.

Upcoming Events at Temple Israel

October 14

Men's Club Trip to a Jets Game

October 21

Family B'nei Mitzvah Workshop 10:30 A.M.
"Day of Kindness" Event with 3:00 P.M.
Temple Israel and Great Neck
Chinese Association

October 22

Board of Trustees Meeting 8:15 P.M.

October 25

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

October 28

Family B'nei Mitzvah Workshop 10:30 A.M.

October 29

Sisterhood Board Meeting 10:00 A.M.

November 3

Welcoming Ceremony 9:00 A.M.

November 4

Family B'nei Mitzvah Workshop 9:30 A.M.
Kristallnacht Program 7:00 P.M.

November 5

Congregational Meeting 8:15 P.M.

November 11

Hatzilu Concert 4:30 P.M.

Waxman Youth House

Midnight Run 7:30 P.M.

November 17

"Shabbat Talk" 12:45 P.M.

about Camp Ramah

With Rabbi Ethan Linden

November 18

Men's Club Blood Drive 8:30 A.M.

November 19

Board of Trustees Meeting 8:15 P.M.

November 26

Sisterhood Board Meeting 10:00 A.M.

November 29

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

Temple Israel Hosting Cantorial Concert In Support of Hatzilu on November 11th

by Alise Kreditor

Hatzilu Rescue Organization is sponsoring a free benefit concert at Temple Israel on November 11 featuring a number of noted cantors. The concert will celebrate the community service that Hatzilu has provided for more than 40 years.

To celebrate the work of Hatzilu and to raise funds for the future of the organization, Temple Israel Cantor Raphael Frieder will headline a musical celebration that will feature duets and solos with other outstanding vocalists, including Cantor David Katz of Congregation Or Elohim of Jericho and Cantor Elizabeth Shammash of Temple Tiferet Bet Israel in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania. Cantor Shammash, a protégé of Cantor Frieder, performed at Temple Israel on Yom Ha'atzmaut. Joining them will be the Shireinu Choir of Long Island, a co-ed choir whose repertoire explores Jewish heritage through music and song.

Hatzilu serves the elderly and Jewish poor in communities throughout Nassau County, providing financial aid, food, social welfare assistance, as well as emotional support. Hatzilu, a non-profit volunteer organization, was established in 1976. Members of Temple Israel have been involved with Hatzilu since its inception, and for many years the Men's Club of Temple Israel has taken a lead role, raising money and providing volunteer services for the organization.

"As a food deliverer to over a dozen Great Neck recipients, I see first-hand the major benefits that Hatzilu provides," said David Scherr, co-chair of the concert committee.

"For more than four decades Hatzilu has been changing the lives of thousands by helping them to maintain their dignity through difficult times," said Alan Levine, Hatzilu's president. "When Jewish families fall on hard times due to death, illness, unemployment, divorce or any other misfortunes that occur, Hatzilu is there to provide help."

The Hatzilu Rescue Organization Benefit Concert is open to the public. It will be held in the Sanctuary beginning at 4:30 P.M. For additional information about the concert or Hatzilu, contact Mr. Scherr at 487-1053 or Dsactuary@aol.com.

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



Eric Yachbes

Eric Yachbes will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on October 27. He is the son of Irene and Jack Yachbes and has a sister, Olivia, 9. Eric is an eighth grade honor student at Great Neck South Middle School where he is on the track and swim teams, is in the top tier on the cross country team and plays baritone horn in the school band. Eric is a junior black belt in Aikido. He enjoys playing chess and recently won a \$100 prize in a Manhattan tournament. Eric was named a Religious School Judaic Scholar. He intends to continue visiting relatives in Israel and participating in the Waxman Youth House.



Aiden Weinberger

Aiden Weinberger will be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah on November 3. He is the son of Deborah Heiser and Joel Weinberger and has a brother, Liam, 14. Aiden is an eighth grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. He is on the school baseball and travel teams. He has played in national tournaments, including Ripken and Cooperstown. Aiden visited Israel two years ago and plans to return in the near future. He will also be joining the Hazamir Choir soon.

Beth HaGan School Year Off to a Busy Start

From the Beth HaGan Nursery School by Rachel Mathless, Director

The 2018-2019 school year has gotten off to a great start. Teachers have been hard at work with professional development offered by local child care agencies to help them remain on the cutting edge of all that is new and good in early childhood education. Most of our toddlers have separated and are enjoying the enriched curriculum and myriad activities of our daily routine. We are making hay while the sun shines and enjoying the outdoor playground to develop our large motor skills and expand social relationships.

We were sorry to miss preparing and celebrating Rosh Hashanah in school, but we were determined to make it up for Sukkot. Every child at Beth HaGan made a lulav and etrog with which to celebrate the holiday, as well as a model sukkah made from paper, cardboard, shoe boxes, cloth, twigs, and recycled material.

Kudos to Amanda Zar and her committee for, once again, doing an incredible job with the sukkah decorating party. The sukkah looked lovely, the entertainment was great, the pizza delicious, the weather beautiful, and a good time was had by all. We ate snacks and lunches in the sukkah and we had our awesome celebration sing-along with the rabbis in the sukkah. We danced and shook the lulav and etrog and recited the special holiday blessings. We had an early Simhat Torah dance party and enjoyed yummy ice cream under the schach in the sukkah. Moving right along at a frenetic pace, every child made either a flag or a Torah to bring to synagogue to celebrate Simhat Torah.

Morah Gina is back with her fabulous music program. The songs are a mixture of "oldies but goodies," modern, hip, rap, Israeli pop, and classic. The songs are relevant and fun and we love singing them. Gina has added a drama component to her program for the four-year old children.

Shabbat is always a celebration at Beth HaGan beginning with a communal oneg, baking challah and a Shabbat party in the classroom. Please feel free to visit on 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.

The PTA continues to be a vibrant and vital auxiliary of Beth HaGan. Their dedication and contribution to the welfare of every student is invaluable. The Hanukkah Boutique is scheduled for November 7, and is a major fund raiser for us. It enables the PTA to distribute goody bags for all the holidays and provide interesting enrichment programs for all the children.

Volunteers Make the High Holy Days Work!

Preparing for High Holy Day services at Temple Israel requires the assistance of many volunteers who make the services run smoothly and efficiently.

Ushers in the Sanctuary included Manny Alani, captain, Irene Tannenholtz, Brent Greenspan, Seth Horowitz, and Arnold Gussin.

Grand Ballroom ushers were Jack Moallem, captain, Leonard Schultz, Burton Weston, Ted Lev, Martin Domnitch, Van Frankel, Marc Langsner, Robert Kahen, Robert Aizer, Jacqueline Harounian, Ezra Kassin, and Toby Katz.

Crystal Ballroom ushers were Robert Panzer, captain, Howard Spun, Gary Sazer, and Robert Lopatkin.

Men's Club members who labeled seats included David Scherr, Charlie Adler, Gary Goldstein, Gary Sazer, Harold Citron, Abe Sheffy, Michael Becker, Noah Becker, Seth Moin, Sam Husney, Dan Weinstein, Larry Greengrass, Steve Smolinsky, and Jemi Goldstein.

High Holy Day Kol Nidre Appeal cards were placed on seats by Gary Sazer, Seth Moin, Larry Greengrass, and Marc Langsner.

A Temple Israel Scrapbook

The fall season officially begins at Temple Israel with the annual "Welcome Back BBQ," hosted by the congregation's officers and Board of Trustees. Perfect weather added to the festive mood—and who could resist a burger served by the president!



Voice photos by Ofra Panzer



Mazal Tov To...

- **Madelyn and Robert Gould** on the marriage of their son, Michael, to Helen Schnaper.
- **Susan and Bob Lopatkin** on the marriage of their daughter, Stefanie, to Mark Garibyan.

Temple Lites...

- **Ellen and Martin Domnitch** were honored by The Friends of the Israel Defense Forces Long Island Chapter at the Fresh Meadow Country Club earlier this month.

Cantor Sobol: The End Of a High Holy Days Temple Israel Tradition

—Continued from front page
soloists and choirs. A popular performing and recording artist, he received several prestigious awards for his work, including the Jerusalem Prize and the President's Prize for Education.

Just before coming to Temple Israel this year, Cantor Sobol conducted the World Creation Concert, held to commemorate the day on which Jewish tradition states that the world was created, according to a news service, Breaking Israel News. Intended to unite all the nations in praise of the Creator, invitations were sent to world leaders and several were in attendance. The concert was held at The Temple Mount, or as close to it as possible, because according to Jewish tradition the creation of the world began at the site.

Cantor Raphael Frieder said "Mordechai was a close friend to me. He always stayed in my house during the 27 years that we shared the High Holy Days pulpit at Temple Israel.

"I was fortunate to sing many concerts under his baton and to enjoy his beautiful arrangements," Cantor Frieder said, "but the greatest privilege for me was that I saw the man he was in private. ... I experienced his warm hugs, and I enjoyed having yom tov meals with him, talking about chazzanut and music, sharing jokes and having the type of good time that people only have with their closest friends. As he was larger than life, he made me larger than I was before I knew him. I will miss him for the rest of my life."

Holocaust Survivor Telling His Incredible Story of Survival on Kristallnacht Nov. 4th

—Continued from front page

seven weeks. He was then sent to the Theresienstadt and Auschwitz concentration camps, where he went through three selections by Dr. Mengele. He was one of only 89 who were chosen out of 60,000. The others did not survive.

In January 1945, after a seven-day death march, he ended up in Mauthausen, Austria. After liberation in May 1945, he returned to Yugoslavia and, after two years under brutal communism, he escaped to England where he worked as a laborer, and later as a tool and die maker. Mr. Reich married another Holocaust survivor in 1955 and they immigrated to the United States where he eventually became an engineer.

Mr. Reich, who is related to Nassau County Legislator Ellen Birnbaum, a Temple Israel member, recently spoke to the legislature about hatred and tolerance. During the past year he has also spoken in England, Portugal, Hong Kong, and Macao.

An active member of the Nassau County Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center, "Mr. Reich is one of the most prolific, well known, and vibrant speakers about the Holocaust," according to its Board of Directors Chairman Steven Markowitz, a past president of Temple Israel and former chair of the Shoah Remembrance Committee.

"The story of Mr. Reich's struggle for survival against insurmountable odds is one we should all hear," said Temple Israel Shoah Remembrance Committee Chair Lori Oppenheimer. She urges the congregation to listen to Mr. Reich's first-hand account of the Holocaust. The program is planned and organized by the Temple Israel Shoah Remembrance Committee.

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From the Rabbi: Singing With Heart and Soul

—Continued from page 2

he swept us away in the full range of prayers, reflecting the full array of themes and moods. He gave us the motivation and the space to embrace the lyricism of “unetaneh tokef,” the whimsy of “areshet sefateinu,” and the affirmation of “hayom t’amtzeinu.” When he hit one of his iconic high notes, the room reverberated and we remembered why the Crystal Ballroom got its name. I sometimes imagined those very notes sending cosmic vibrations throughout the heavens.

The traditional term for someone who leads the community in prayer is

From the President: Helping On Kol Nidre

—Continued from page 2

greeted me. He again took what he needed, but had one additional request before heading off. He asked: “Would you happen to have a tallis?” We apologized for not having one and he bid us farewell.

Fast forward to the following winter. On our first Run that year it was a cold November night. We made our first stop and were packing up to move along to our next when we heard a voice ask: “Would you happen to have any button-down shirts?” I responded, “Solomon?” A voice from beneath the hood of a very worn Parka responded: “How did you know it was me? I told him that I had recognized his voice.

Arthur reached into the van and said to Solomon “I have something for you” and handed him a tallit that had come from Arthur’s father, who had passed away not too long before. Solomon responded: “Baruch Hashem,” thanked Arthur profusely, and went off into the night.

Why do I tell this story? When we reach out to help, we sometimes don’t know to whom that help may go. When we support Temple Israel, where Jewish education is valued, we may be helping someone for whom Religious School or Hebrew High School tuition has become a hardship, and so we have

Shaliah Tzibur, the representative of the community. Cantor Sobol was an outstanding representative, but primarily for reasons other than the power of his voice or even his uncanny capacity to bring us along.

Cantor Sobol was an outstanding representative in large measure because he was a supremely decent human being. So many of us experienced his gentle, sometimes humorous, prodding and his warm concern. He had a sixth sense for how to talk to people based on their unique personalities and needs. He was a person who kept proper

scholarships available. We may be helping someone for whom physical access is difficult, and so we must raise the funds to make our buildings accessible. We are planning for your future, and your contributions may go to developing engaging new programming for true lifelong learning.

And so, I ask you to consider your High Holy Day contribution. If you have contributed in the past, we thank you for your participation and ask if you would consider increasing that contribution. If you have not participated, we ask that you consider making that first contribution now.

A post-script to my Midnight Run story: we saw Solomon a few times more, and then no longer. I hope he has found a safe place, with a roof over his head, and a place to practice his Judaism. Not too long after these events, Arthur passed away after a brief illness. but the lessons learned will never be forgotten, that of kindness, thoughtfulness, and generosity.

G’mar hatima tova, may we all be inscribed for a year of health, peace and gemilut chasidim, acts of loving kindness.

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

perspective, who saw the whole forest and didn’t get stuck in the weeds. He loved the Jewish people and was able to embrace and appreciate different ideologies and approaches, so long as they were offered with sincerity.

Cantor Sobol was grounded and comfortable in his own Jewishness and didn’t need to prove anything to anyone

**Cantor Sobol
led us
with his heart and soul.**

by embracing the extremist tendencies that sometimes surfaced around him. He excelled as our representative because he embodied the highest Jewish and human ideals of decency and concern.

For all of his talent, for all of the undeniable gifts he brought to multiple settings, Cantor Sobol did not take himself too seriously. He could laugh at himself every bit as well as he helped others to laugh at themselves. One Rosh Hashanah when I was on the other side of the bimah from Cantor Sobol, I noted at a certain point that the service was slowing down a bit. I walked over to his side of the bimah, smiled at the cantor, took off my watch, and put it down in front of him. Without (literally) missing a beat, he took his own watch off, handed it to me, and continued the service. I don’t recall if the pacing changed at that point, but I do remember that we both had a good laugh.

Like so many, I will miss Cantor Sobol deeply and like so many, I am profoundly grateful to have known him. He brought passion and power, heart and soul, to every note he sang, wrote and conducted, and to every person whom he inspired.

I think of Cantor Sobol and the final verse of the Psalms comes to mind. “Let every soul praise God. Halleluyah.” Cantor Sobol’s voice, life and soul are an exquisite tribute to our Creator and a lasting inspiration for us all.

From Generation to Generation

Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

ISRAEL

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and Seth Moin
Alise Kreditor and
Jeffrey Englander
and family
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For the recovery of:

Steve Smolinsky
Alise Kreditor and
Jeffrey Englander
and family

In appreciation of:

The comfort that was shown
to her in her time of sorrow
on the loss of her husband,
Robert
Noelle Parket

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In appreciation of:

Rabbi Schweber's
kindness at the
unveiling for her husband,
David Rachman
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Rabbi Schweber's comfort
and support
Noelle Parket
Rabbi Schweber's
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during the mourning period
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Elise Tepper
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and support and for
officiating at Susan Smith's
funeral
Arden Smith

In memory of:

Mitchell Brucker
Lillian Brucker
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Mitchell Falow
Grayce Falow

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High Holiday wishes and in
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performs for our
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For the recovery of:

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Cheryl Eisberg Moin
and Seth Moin

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Ethel Hecht
Sara Lou Steinhacker
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Saeed Khodadadian
Marjan and Shahram
Taied
Teddy Goldberg
Roberta Goldberg

In appreciation of:

Rabbi Stecker for his
overwhelming kindness
to the Jacob Stein family
Pepi and Stuart
Stein

From Generation to Generation

Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

Rabbi Stecker for his kindness and caring support and officiating at the funeral of Susan Smith Arden Smith
The clergy's compassion and comfort during a most difficult time
Elise Tepper
The support Rabbi Stecker has shown their families
Craig Litt
Rabbi Stecker for officiating at the funeral of Teddy Goldberg
Roberta Goldberg

In honor of:

The engagement of their daughter, Paige, to Steven Soleimani
Stacy and Shaun Yafeh
Bracha and Marty Werber's 50th wedding anniversary
Meir Michael Mitelman
Morton Leichter's 70th birthday
Barbara and Leonard Schultz
The 70th anniversary of Rabbi Marim Charry's Bar Mitzvah
Carol S. and Rabbi Leonard S. Berkowitz
Rosh Hashanah
Charles Dimston

Contributions:

David Bloomgarden
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Guest Column: Try Again!

Continued from page 2
help others. There's enough to go around.

If we haven't been responsive to people in distress, our people or other people, then we need to try again and do what's right.

Here are some things I hope we will all consider, whatever our ideological predilections:

If we rush to criticize Israel before we know the facts, and especially if we do it publicly, on social media, I urge that we should try again and get our facts straight before we speak or write or post. Israel is far from perfect, criticizing can sometimes be justified and even helpful, but we should be careful of the facts before we speak and post and we should find appropriate ways to discuss Israel's shortcomings along with her many accomplishments.

If we have been quiet as we see a rise in anti-Semitism in this country, and also a rise in racism, in transphobia and homophobia, in demeaning attitudes

toward women, in inhumane treatment of people who seek to immigrate to this country, we must try again and do what is right, namely to speak out and advocate on behalf of equality and decency for all people. We rise together or we fall together.

Closer to home, I urge us to consider how we behave toward the people in our day-to-day lives, people we see at synagogue, at school or at work.

If we make disparaging jokes about people based on gender or ethnicity or race or how they look, if we laugh when others

**I ask each of us
to pick one person,
one situation,
where we got it wrong
and to ask ourselves,
can we try again?**

make those jokes, or if we just say nothing at all, we need to try again and speak out.

Men don't need to have sisters or daughters to know that demeaning women is wrong, or to support the full engagement of women in every aspect of communal life. We just need to have a brain, a soul and a pulse.

If institutions do not respond sufficiently when people come forward to say that they have been mistreated or, God forbid, harassed or abused, we need to try again and take such claims with the seriousness they deserve.

If we as a synagogue have yet to make this a place where everyone feels welcome—whatever their background, whatever their story—then we need to try again and again and again.

Moving even closer. We often make the most mistakes with the people who are closest to us. We criticize them harshly. We don't have enough patience for them. We take them for granted. We assume they'll love us no matter what and spend too much energy and time trying to win the admiration of everyone else. With the people closest to us, our life partners and our children and our siblings and our parents and our dearest

friends, we mess up again and again.

There were times that I came home upset with something going on in the synagogue—a dilemma, or a frustration—and rather than process it fully where it belonged, I brought the frustration home. As a result my mind was elsewhere. Or I was sarcastic and annoyed with the people who didn't deserve it. Or I didn't always listen carefully enough when I needed to. Or I didn't relax enough to enjoy the sweet pleasures of being with loved ones.

If we are more worried about what everyone else thinks of us than how present we are for our loved ones. If the choices we make demonstrate that our priorities are misplaced. If we bring the frustrations of work home more than we should. Then we need to try again.

So try to think about your own life, your own priorities. If you are giving your loved ones the leftovers when they should be getting the main course, try again.

No matter what, we will continue to make mistakes, to say what we shouldn't say and to do what we shouldn't do. But our tradition tells us that we have the ability and the responsibility to try again. To try this time to say the right thing, to do the right thing.

To try this time to speak up on behalf of the people across the world and down the hall who need us to speak up. To pay attention this time to the people closest to us, the people who deserve the best we have to offer.

I ask each of us to pick one person, one situation, where we got it wrong and to ask ourselves, can we try again? Can we do our best this time to get right what we previously got wrong?

On Passover we sing Dayeinu. I've thought about writing a song for Rosh Hashanah called TRY-EINU. Let's try again.

Little by little, action by action, word by word, person by person, the world will become a better place because each of us decided, in ways large and small, that we would try again.

Sabbath Services

—Continued from back page

Saturday, November 10

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: Neda Sedgh, Jack Yachbes, Gail Zahler, Mark D. Birnbaum, and Andi Katz

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.
Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.
Afternoon Services 4:05 P.M.
Se'udah Shelishit 4:35 P.M.
Shabbat Evening Services 5:08 P.M.
Havdalah 5:24 P.M.

Friday, November 16

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

D'var Torah

—Continued from back page
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 the 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 3


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 10

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 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.



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D'var Torah

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Lekh-Lekha Saturday, October 20

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, October 27

In this portion Abraham is informed by angels that he and Sarah will have a son and that the wicked cities of Sodom (where Lot lives) and Gomorrah are to be destroyed. Abraham argues
—Continued on page 11

Temple Israel of Great Neck

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Sabbath Services

Friday, October 19

Evening Service 6:00 P.M.

Saturday, October 20

Shaharit Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Shabbat Morning Group *Aliyah*

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:

Veronica Bisek Lurvey, Diana Stein,

Bob Lopatkin, and Brent Greenspan

Shabbat HaMishpacha 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Niggun Circle with

Cantor Frieder following kiddush

Afternoon Service 5:30 P.M.

Evening Service 6:34 P.M.

Havdalah 6:50 P.M.

Friday, October 26

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

Saturday, October 27

Shaharit Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

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:

Sima Taeid, Debra Bykoff, Patty

Schneider and Rebecca Friedman-Charry

Bar Mitzvah: Eric Yachbes,

son of Irene and Jack Yachbes

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Afternoon Service 5:20 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 5:50 P.M.

Evening Service 6:25 P.M.

Havdalah 6:41 P.M.

Friday, November 2

Evening Service 5:45 P.M.

Saturday, November 3

Shaharit Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

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

Weekly Portion: *Hayyeh Sarah*

Genesis 23:1 – 25:18

Haftarah: I Kings 1:1 – 31

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:

Ezra Kassin, Barbara Levy, Mark Putter,

Susan Brustein, and Deanna Stecker

Bar Mitzvah: Aiden Weinberger,

son of Deborah Heiser and

Joel Weinberger

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Afternoon Service 5:15 P.M.

Evening Service 6:16 P.M.

Havdalah 6:32 P.M.

Friday, November 9

Rosh Hodesh Kislev/Kristallnacht

Evening Service 4:30 P.M.

—Continued on page 10