



Shavuot Discussion Topic: Why We Disagree



Shavuot Speaker Jonathan Haidt

A look at why people disagree will be the focus of a special presentation on Shavuot—celebrating the giving of the Torah—on Tuesday evening, May 14, at Temple Israel.

The annual *Tikkun leyl Shavuot*, an evening of study and prayer led by Rabbis Howard Stecker and Seth Adelson, will feature a special presentation by Dr. Jonathan Haidt, a social psychologist at the NYU-Stern School of Business and author of The New York Times best seller “The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion.” He will discuss the origins and psychological foundations of human morality and explore the basis of liberal and conservative thinking as it applies to Israel, bioethics, and

other current issues.

“In light of so many controversial things happening in our lives both around the world and right here in our community, we thought we should take a step back and look at how we form our opinions,” said Rabbi Stecker. “We should try to understand why we each view issues the way we do so that we can engage those with whom we disagree respectfully and effectively. As an expert in how moral perspectives are formed, Dr. Haidt is the right person to lead us in this important direction. He is in the forefront of the study of morality.”

The program, generously sponsored by
—Continued on page 6

Teen Youth Choir To Perform at Temple Israel May 5

High school students from Long Island, Manhattan, Brooklyn, Westchester, Rockland, Bergen and Northern New Jersey, all members of HaZamir: The International High School Choir, will come together on Sunday, May 5, at Temple Israel to present a concert of classical and contemporary Jewish music. The concert is free and open to the public.

The prestigious HaZamir: The International High School Choir, was created to provide Jewish teens with a high level choral experience in a Jewish environment. There are 21 local HaZamir chapters in cities across the United States and Israel. HaZamir is a program of the Zamir Choral Foundation, Matthew Lazar, Founder and Director.

For two decades, more than 1,000 students have found HaZamir to be a life-changing experience that reaches their emotional core. Equipped with the tools necessary to meet challenges in a communal context, many have gone on to form a cappella groups, sing in adult choirs, and assume leadership roles both lay and professional, in the Jewish community.

In addition to local and regional performances, HaZamir sponsors regional retreats, where chapters meet, rehearse together, and grow in friendship. The HaZa-

mir Annual Festival brings participants from each HaZamir chapter across the country and Israel for a two-day festival, culminating in a gala concert in New York City. This year’s concert was held at Lincoln Center.

“I can’t overstate the value of HaZamir,” said Rabbi Howard Stecker. “By bringing together Jewish teens of varied backgrounds from throughout the United States and Israel to learn and perform a diverse

—Continued on page 5



HaZamir, The International High School Choir, will perform at Temple Israel Sunday, May 5.

Shabbat Kol Ishah Uplifts Congregation

By Rebecca Yousefzadeh Sassouni and Lori Oppenheimer

EDITOR'S NOTE: Still basking in the glow of the highly successful all-women of the congregation led *Shabbat* services earlier this month, two of the organizers of *Shabbat Kol Ishah*, Rebecca Yousefzadeh Sassouni and Lori Oppenheimer, report on the weekend in this Voice Guest Column.

By all accounts, the *Shabbat* services of Friday, April 12, and Saturday, April 13, were an inspirational experience for all who participated in or were present at Temple Isra-

...the Shabbat services...were an inspirational experience for all who participated

el's fourth lay-led *Shabbat*, and second *Shabbat Kol Ishah* (literally, "a woman's voice").

Following months of preparation in group classes, as well as countless one-on-one sessions, more than 50 female participants of all ages, cultural backgrounds,

Hebrew proficiency, and prior experience came together in a *tour de force* of lay-led prayer and teaching, under the expert tutelage of Cantor Raphael Frieder.

Cantor Frieder reflected that, "It was wonderful to see each woman grow and learn something new, whether it was someone who had never lead any prayer in Hebrew before, or a person who completed learning to lead all *Shabbat* prayers. That common goal created a beautiful bonding between the participants."

In addition to leading all aspects of Friday evening *Mincha*, *Kabbalat Shabbat*, and *Ma'ariv*, as well as *Psukei d'Zimra*, *Shacharit*, *Torah*, *Musaf*, *Mincha*, *Ma'ariv L'Motza'ei Shabbat*, and *Havdalah* services, lay participants led the teaching and discussions over the course of *Shabbat*.

On Friday evening, following services and a delicious dinner attended by over 100

—Continued on page 5

FROM THE RABBI

Beyond Right and Left

By Rabbi Howard Stecker

Have you ever tried to convince someone who thoroughly disagrees with you that your opinion is more reasonable? If so, you may well have experienced frustration. Taking this to the next level, it is truly unlikely that someone with a particular ideological leaning overall will be convinced to do an about-face. Liberals don't generally become conservatives, and vice versa.

We could give up trying to talk about substantive issues with people who occupy a different part of the political spectrum, but that would deprive us of a potentially fruitful exchange of ideas. At the very least, a thorough conversation sharpens our own perspective and, on occasion, it causes us to modify that perspective.

My teacher, Dr. Eliezer Diamond, offered a theory that if you examine Jewish history, you find a correlation between the perceived security of the Jewish community and their willingness to engage in vigorous debate. During periods of persecution, our ancestors tended to produce one-sided legal codes and philosophical statements.

In times of relative calm, by contrast, we engaged in dialectic such as produced the Palestinian and Babylonian Talmuds, with their wide arrays of legends and legal arguments.

Judging by the increased polarization in the Jewish community and the retrenchment toward simplified statements and

...a thorough conversation sharpens our own perspective...

slogans, one could say that we're not feeling terribly secure right now. There seem to be fewer and fewer settings that resemble interactive Talmudic debate and more instances of monolithic positions being lobbed from one side to the other.

The upcoming presentation of Dr. Jonathan Haidt, professor of social psychology

—Continued on page 8

Across the Divide

By Alan Klinger

We have these past few weeks witnessed unfortunate examples of the harm that occurs when people are tied to staunchly held positions and prove unwilling to participate in rational discourse. On a national level, we saw senators ignoring the views of 90 percent of Americans favoring enhanced background checks as a pre-condition to the purchase of guns. According to countless media reports, a number of senators refused to discuss the particulars of the proposed disclosure requirements, bowing instead to the perceived pressure of the NRA that any limitation was tantamount to abandonment of the right to bear arms. So, even in the face of the Newtown tragedy, not only is there no federal ban on assault weapons, but something as innocuous as

We need...to be able to discuss matters on which we disagree in productive ways...

pre-purchase review has been defeated.

On a regional level, we saw the horrible tragedies of the bombings of the Boston Marathon, with the resultant loss of life and maiming, followed by the subsequent shooting of police officers. While at this writing the reasons underlying these heinous acts are yet unknown, there is a clue in the writings of the older brother, Tamerlan Tsarnaev. Reports are that despite spending key formative years in the United States, he said he didn't understand Americans, didn't know how to talk to them. Relatives report him becoming increasingly embittered about America, yet there is nothing to suggest attempts by him to engage in political, social, or religious dialogue to in any way modify policies.

And on a local level, we saw the debate about Pamela Geller and her thesis that the spread of Islamic teachings threatened to undermine American democracy. In Great Neck (where the Muslim population is not large), the debate didn't center on the philosophy of Western religion versus that of Islam, or the politics of Democrats vs. Republicans; rather, what we saw were Jews divided in stark manner. One side reflected the "ADL argument" that Ms. Geller's speech was laden with stereotyping and hate, and they urged that her

—Continued on page 6

IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences
to the family of:

NOUROLLAH FOULADIAN
father of Sima Taeid

May his memory be for a blessing.

DAILY MINYAN TIMES

Attend the Daily Minyan!

Mon. & Thur.	6:45 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Tues. & Wed.	7:00 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Friday	7:00 A.M.	6:30 P.M.
Sat., April 27	8:45 A.M.	7:05 P.M.
Sat., May 4	8:45 A.M.	7:15 P.M.
Sunday	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Kindle the Sabbath Lights!

Friday, April 26.....	7:27 P.M.
Friday, May 3.....	7:35 P.M.

Save the Date!

Congregational Meeting Monday, June 3 8:15 P.M.

- Election of Officers
- Approval of Budget
- Committee Reports
- Answers to your questions

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

April	27	The Temple Israel Players Present "Fiddler on the Roof"	8:45 P.M.
	28	<i>Lag B'Omer</i>	
	28	The Temple Israel Players Present "Fiddler on the Roof"	2:00 P.M.
May	2	Men's Club Meeting and Texas Hold 'Em Night	7:30 P.M.
	3	Adult <i>B'nai Mitzvah Shabbat</i> Service and Dinner	6:30 P.M.
	3 - 4	<i>Shalom Club Shabbaton</i> Weekend	
	4	" <i>Shabbat Talk</i> "	1:00 P.M.
	5	HaZamir Concert	3:00 P.M.
	5	"New Eyes" starring Yafit Josephson at Sid Jacobson JCC	4:30 P.M.
	7	Sisterhood "Lunch and Read" Program	Noon
	7	"Five Talmudic Texts You Really Should Know"	8:15 P.M.
	14	<i>Erev Shavuot</i>	
	14	<i>Shavuot</i> Family Adventure	6:00 P.M.
	14	<i>Tikkun Leyl Shavuot</i> Program	7:00 P.M.
	15-16	<i>Shavuot</i>	
	19	Waxman Youth House Banquet Night	5:00 P.M.
	19	Shalom Club Meeting	6:30 P.M.
	20	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 A.M.
	28	"Five Talmudic Texts You Really Should Know"	8:15 P.M.
	28	Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	30	Beth HaGan Art Fair	
	30	Spirit Tasting with Rabbi Adelson	7:30 P.M.
June	2	Celebrate Israel Parade in Manhattan	11:00 A.M.
	3	Congregational Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	9	Men's Club and Sisterhood's Bike, Hike and Picnic at Bethpage State Park	Noon

Five Talmudic Texts You Really Should Know!

Rabbi Stecker and Rabbi Adelson
will survey essential Talmudic passages,
study the texts in English translation using the Aramaic
and Hebrew where possible, then analyze their arguments
and attempt to draw modern lessons from ancient logic.

No previous experience in Talmud study is necessary.

**Tuesday Evenings May 7 & 28
8:15 P.M. in the Blue Room**

RSVP to Angela Jones at 482-7800 ext. 1108 or ajones@tign.org

IN QUOTES

EDITOR'S NOTE: "In Quotes" calls attention to passages from Jewish prayers and writings frequently overlooked or said by rote, but profoundly written.

This issue's quote is recited at the end of *Havdalah* right before extinguishing the flame of the candle. Send your suggestion to The Voice, c/o the Temple Israel office.

" Praised are you Adonai our God...endowing all creation with distinctive qualities, distinguishing between the sacred and the secular, between light and darkness, between the people Israel and others, between the seventh day and the six working days of the week. "



Jonathan Sasson

Jonathan David Sasson will be celebrating his *Bar Mitzvah* on May 4. He is the son of Romina and Dr. Homayoun Sasson and has a sister, Arielle, 19, and a brother, Daniel, 16. Jonathan is a seventh grade honor student at Great Neck North Middle School and is currently attending the Waxman Youth House. He enjoys playing basketball, tennis, guitar and the violin. Jonathan will be visiting Israel in June and have a *Bar Mitzvah* ceremony at Masada and the Kotel.



Kelsey Nathan

Kelsey Nathan will be called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah* on May 11. She is the daughter of Sari and Dr. Rodney Nathan and has a brother, Jack, 10. Kelsey is a seventh grade honor student at Great Neck South Middle School. She is an avid tennis player and is on her school tennis and basketball teams. Kelsey volunteers at the Town of North Hempstead Animal Shelter, which started as part of her *Bat Mitzvah* project last year. She visited Israel last year with her family and grandparents, Temple members Marlene and Morty Leichter. Kelsey spent a good part of the trip with family members who live in Israel. She plans on attending the Waxman High School.

Israel Comes to Temple Israel

By Rabbi Amy Roth

"Bissli for sale!"
"Come taste some delicious Israeli pickles here!"
"Come get your pita!"
No, these were not the calls of the vendors at an Israeli *shuk* (open air market). Rather, these were the sounds of the "Super Shuk," the Alef class experience for *Yom Ha'Atzmaut*, Israel Independence Day.

Alef students brainstormed, planned and put together their own version of an Israeli market, complete with Israeli *shekalim* (money), blue and white decorations and a price list of snacks. While some Alef students served as shopkeepers, others were visitors, equipped with Israeli *shekalim* and appetites; they were excited to shop! With Israeli music playing in the background, our "Super Shuk" provided learning opportunities for all participants.

The high school students (*madrichim*) who serve as assistants in our classes created several avenues through which to teach the children about Israel and *Yom Haatzmaut*. Our *madrichim* also put together a bulletin board featuring the map of Israel, highlighting major cities and sites. The

madrichim will be visiting each class and asking the students to illustrate each site; these pictures will eventually become attached to the map. We have our own *Kotel*, Western Wall, as well. Our interactive bulletin board, assembled by our high school *madrichim*, is a *Kotel*, complete with pencils and papers for notes. Religious School students are already participating in the custom of submitting their own personal *tefillot* (prayers) into the *Kotel*. We will make sure that a Temple Israel traveler to Israel will take them to the *Kotel* in the near future.

The *madrichim* performed a skit introducing the major sites in Israel, eliciting enthusiastic participation from the children. We are fortunate to have such fun role models in our school!

Our halls are filled with the colors and spirit of Israel. We gathered as a school community to commemorate the miracle of the modern State of Israel; we sang and danced together. We joined together in the singing of "Hatikvah," and we truly felt the power of community, and of the vibrant Jewish learning experiences we provide for our children.

CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE TEE-SHIRT CONTEST

**ALL Temple Israel Members & Religious School students
are invited to create tee-shirt designs
on this year's parade theme:
A TRIP TO ISRAEL**

- Designs should be drawn with **MARKERS** on **UNRULED 8 1/2 x 11 paper**
- Use bright colors and simple lines
- Include the words: **Temple Israel of Great Neck**
- Be sure to include this year's theme in your design
- Print your first & last name on the back

**All designs MUST BE SUBMITTED to
the Religious School office BY MAY 1st!**

Shabbat Kol Ishah Service Uplifts Congregation



Many women of the congregation, shown here on the bimah for a rehearsal, participated in *Shabbat Kol Ishah*, a weekend of services led by women. They were tutored for the service by Cantor Raphael Frieder, front right. *Voice photo by Bob Lopatkin*

—Continued from page 2
people and catered by Chatanooga, Rahel Musleah spoke movingly about the transitions of the matriarchs in her own family from Calcutta, India, to the United States. On *Shabbat* morning, Jennifer Khoda presented a thoughtful *D'var Torah* regarding the role of the *Kohen* (High Priest) vis-à-vis individuals cast out of the community as *Metzora* (afflicted), and how the obligation still matters in today's world. Saturday afternoon during *Se'udah Sh'lisheet* (the third *Shabbat* meal), Zina Rutkin-Becker presented a talk pertaining to how ancient customs regarding the notions of "purity" and "impurity" can be understood in a modern light, including new ways to think about uses of mikveh (ritual immersion).

The members of the Steering Committee organizing *Shabbat Kol Ishah* included: Sherry Husney, Simone Kahen, Lori Oppenheimer, Rebecca Sassouni, Neda Sedgh, and Deanna Stecker.

Proud participants also included: Linda Abrams, Judy Adelson, Eleanor Askari, Jackie Einstein Astrof, Sharon Kahn Bernstein, Ellen Birnbaum, Ronda Bloom, Lottie Blye, Paula Charry, Rebecca Cohenmeh, Wendy Fried, Lori Freudman, Shahnaz Goldman, Rachel Husney, Jamie Kahen, Susan Kahn, Andy Katz, Barbara Katz, Ronnie Katz, Elise Kestenbaum, Jennifer Khoda, Shira Klayman, Donna Lefkowitz, Karen Lewkowitz-Miller, Susan Lopatkin, Estelle Nadler, Dalia Naim, Ofra Panzer, Harriet Picker, Moji Pourmoradi, Eileen Putter-

man, Edie Robbins, Guity Rokhsar, Adrienne Rosen, Elissa Rosengarten, Zina Rutkin-Becker, Sophie Saidmeh, Sophie Sassouni, Patty Schneider, Amanda Shirazi, Jodi Smith, Barbara Spun, Diana Stein, Sima Taeid, Debbie Volk, Susan Wagner, and Joyce Weston.

Many of those who attended services that *Shabbat* indicated how inspired they were to see lay people lead so beautifully. Rabbi Stecker remarked that, "The entire *Shabbat* was spirited and uplifting, a testimony to the soulful potential of our congregation. I have heard so many positive reactions to every aspect of the program. This was a triumph of learning, prayer, and community. I am certain that more and more people will be inspired to increase their involvement in our communal prayer. *Shabbat Kol Ishah* helped bring to life one of my favorite Biblical verses: *Kol haneshama t'halel ya*. Let every soul praise God."

In addition to the boundless generosity of the professional and volunteer participants, *Shabbat Kol Ishah* was made possible through the generous support of the Lillian Schiowitz Memorial Fund, Sisterhood of Temple Israel, and Temple Israel's Institute for Lifelong Learning.

HaZamir International High School Youth Choir To Perform at Temple Israel On May 5

—Continued from front page
repertoire of Jewish songs, HaZamir forges lasting friendships and creates spectacular music. I strongly urge you to join us for this concert. You will leave feeling proud of our culture and hopeful for our future." Rabbi Stecker's son, Zach, is a member of HaZamir NYC and is currently finishing his term as Teen Leader International Co-Chair.

The concert begins at 3 P.M. For additional information, call Temple Israel at 482-7800.

Celebrating Yom Ha'Atzmaut at Temple Israel



Cantor Raphael Frieder, left, hosted a well-attended Yom Ha'Atzmaut concert in the Sanctuary earlier this month, along with noted singer Sandra Bendor and Brian Shamash, cantor of the South Huntington Jewish Center.

Voice photo by Bob Lopatkin

Shavuot Discussion Will Feature Noted Author: Why We Disagree

—Continued from front page

Temple Israel members Jacqueline and Hilbert Eshaghpour, will also feature study sessions led by Rabbis Stecker and Adelson, and Waxman Youth House Director Danny Mishkin. Following the Minhah service at 7 P.M., the rabbis will conduct a study session at 7:15 P.M. using rabbinic texts on the dynamics of a good argument. Mr. Mishkin will lead another discussion on "Avoiding the Temptation of the Forbidden Fruit."

Following the Ma'ariv service, which begins at 8 P.M., a complimentary dairy dinner will be served, along with singing led by Cantor Raphael Frieder. Dr. Haidt's presentation begins at 9 P.M.

At 9:45 P.M. there will be breakout discussions where participants will apply Dr. Haidt analysis to current specific political and bioethical issues. It will be followed by another study session with the rabbis beginning at 10:30 P.M. Participants are welcome to come for any or all of the discussions, to hear Dr. Haidt's talk, and to enjoy dinner with friends and neighbors.

"Our congregation, probably more than others, is comprised of individuals whose views on politics, social policy and, yes, matters of a religious nature, span a wide spectrum," said Temple Israel President Alan Klinger, writing in his column in this issue of *The Voice*. "We need, as does society more generally, to be able to discuss matters on which we disagree in productive ways, not default to close-mindedness, yelling or, worse yet, violence."

Dr. Jonathan Haidt

Last year Dr. Haidt was named one of the "Top 100 Global Thinkers" by *Foreign*

Policy Magazine. First noted for his research program known as "Social Intuitionism," Dr. Haidt presented the view that moral judgments are mostly the products of quick, intuitive evaluations of scenarios. People are, as Dr. Haidt says, "intuitive lawyers" whose reasoning usually seeks to vindicate the person's own intuition rather than openly assess the case from an impartial point of view. The view allows that other people's reasoning can affect one's own intuitions. According to Dr. Haidt, social reasoning is the typical means by which people's moral views change.

Dr. Haidt is best known for what he calls his "Moral Foundations Theory," which looks at the way morality varies between cultures, and identifies "foundations" that underlie morality in all societies and individuals. He describes himself as politically centrist and formerly liberal, prior to his work on the theory.

Dr. Haidt found that the more politically liberal or left-wing people are, the more they tend to value care and fairness, and the less they tend to value loyalty, respect for authority and purity. Conservatives or right-wing people tend to value all the moral foundations somewhat equally. Similar results were found across the political spectrum in other countries.

His book, "The Happiness Hypothesis," examines ten great ideas dating from antiquity and their continued relevance to the "happy life." His latest book, "The Righteous Mind," is about why good people are divided by politics and religion. Temple Israel member Dr. Jerry Schlessel suggested the presentation, which is sponsored by TILL.

From the President: Across the Divide

—Continued from page 2

itation to speak at Great Neck Synagogue be revoked. The other side argued for Ms. Geller's right to present her views, pointing to the hallowed virtue of free speech and that the best way of addressing obnoxious ideas (if that was your view of her position) was to counter them with other arguments. (A still third front claimed that Ms. Geller's stereotyping was valid and that adherents of Islam were intent on the evisceration of American ideals and the destruction of Israel—making unlikely bedfellows of civil libertarians and those on the right.) Some maintained that Jews, as a minority, should be particularly sensitive about forbidding speech; others contended that our history of persecution made it imperative that we seek to block libelous attacks on those less powerful.

As a lawyer, issues of speech and the nature of any limitations thereon resonate. From that perspective, it can be said each side had arguments. But what was troubling wasn't the disagreement but the uncivil nature of much of the discourse. Clearly, some involved were both passionate and respectful; but too many partisans of one view didn't seem to accept that those of another might have some merit. Reports in the press (which of course tend to focus on the more sensational) reflected more yelling than reasoning. That shouldn't be our way.

Our congregation, probably more than many others, is comprised of individuals whose views on politics, social policy and, yes, matters of a religious nature span a wide spectrum. We need, as does society more generally, to be able to discuss matters on which we disagree in productive ways, not default to close-mindedness, yelling or, worse yet, violence. This goal—the ability to engage with those with whom we disagree—is the focus of our upcoming *Tikkun Leyl Shavuot* teaching. On Tuesday evening, May 14, join us for an evening of food and learning where NYU-Stern Professor Jonathan Haidt will speak on: "Right and Left: Why We Disagree and How We Might Talk to Each Other." The author of "The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion," Professor Haidt will explore topics ranging from diverging views of morality and bioethics to the basis of liberal and conservative thinking as it applies to Israel—there truly should be something that captures the interests of all. Please join us for this important talk.

Next Voice, Deadline

The next issue of *The Voice*, the Shavuot issue, will be published on Thursday, May 9. The deadline for that issue is Monday, April 29th.

Celebrate Israel's 65th Birthday!



**CELEBRATE
ISRAEL
PARADE**



✧ March with Temple Israel of Great Neck ✧
✧ Spectators Welcome ✧ Bring Your Kids & Grandkids ✧

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

“PICTURE ISRAEL: THE ART AND CRAFT”

**Sunday, June 2, 2013
11:00 A.M.— 4:00 P.M.
Rain or Shine!**

5th Avenue in NYC from 57th Street to 74th Street
Tee shirts and round trip bus transportation provided.
Advance registration required.

Family Education credit will be given if at least one parent attends.

For more information please contact:
Moji Pourmoradi at (516) 487-3159, email to mommymojo@aol.com or
the Synagogue office at (516) 482-7800.



An Ashkelon Visit to Temple Israel



Representing congregation Kehillat Netzach Israel, Temple Israel's sister congregation in Ashkelon Israel, Terry Davis, second from left, toured Temple Israel's schools and met with members of the congregation's Israel Affairs Committee. With her are, left to right, Jackie Astrof, Director of Congregational Schools Rabbi Amy Roth and Vice President Rebecca Yousefzadeh Sassouni. Temple Israel has donated several thousand dollars to pay for play equipment for the congregation's children stressed by recent bombings. Students in the two schools share holiday greetings and correspondence, Skype together, and members of Temple Israel have visited the congregation in Ashkelon.

From the Rabbi: Beyond Right and Left

—Continued from page 2

at NYU, on Tuesday, May 14, the first night of Shavuot, will give us insight into the psychological underpinnings of human morality and the basis of liberal and conservative thinking. Professor Haidt will not tell us what we ought to think, but rather, why we think the way we do and how we might engage those with whom we disagree. I found his book, "The Righteous Mind," original and enlightening and I'm grateful to our member, Dr. Jerrold Schlessel, for introducing me to the book and inviting Dr. Haidt to speak at Temple Israel.

Within and beyond the Jewish community, there have been those rare individuals who seek to deepen relevant conversations by actively engaging people with different perspectives. During a period of extreme polarization in United States history, Abraham Lincoln famously surrounded himself with politicians who disagreed with him, often explicitly inviting them to let him know if they felt he was missing the mark.

Mostly, we need to be reminded of the world view implicit within the rabbinic statement, "There are 70 faces to the Torah." Our ancestors thought there was value in engaging different perspectives because they believed that multiple perspectives could equally be reflective of God's truth and purpose.

As we prepare to dramatize the giving of the Torah on Shavuot, we should remind ourselves that receiving Torah, in its broadest sense, involves a willingness to consider its many facets. Encouraged by modern and ancient scholars, let's pledge to cultivate what the Talmud calls "an understanding heart and a listening ear." The world needs that from us now as much as ever.

Men's Club Blood Drive a Big Success

Lots of blood was contributed at the Men's Club's semi-annual Blood Drive held last month in the Crystal Ballroom. More than 50 people came to donate blood supplying 41 whole blood pints and ten automated red cell donations.

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

The Men's Club thanks Iris Adler, Len Katz, Kenneth M. Leff, Dave Scherr, Bob Lopatkin, Dan Weinstein, Seth Moin, Brent Greenspan, Ashley Nemiroff, Van Frankel and Howard Spun for their tireless efforts in making this event such a success.

The following people participated in the blood drive: Linda Abrams, Dr. Charles I. Adler, Warren Axelrod, Paul Bloom, Debra Bykoff, Donald Citak, Farhad Dardashtian, Geoffrey Epstein, Scott Erlich, David Eshaghoff, Tal Eyal, Keyvan Frouzan, Ron Golden, Madelyn Gould, Brent Greenspan, Carol Hacker, Valerie Hirschbein, Roger Hollander, Shahram Homapour, Mariana Hurtadosbordoni, Alan Itchkow, Eric Itzkowitz, Janet Kahen, Robert Kahen, Anna Kaplan, and Darren Kaplan.

Also Audrey Kent, Ron Klempner, Kenneth Kobliner, Miriam Kobliner, Kenneth M. Leff, Lawrence Lefkowitz, Michael Leventhal, Laurence Lewitas, Stuart Lubert, Silmara Marciano, Seth Moin, Amy Pearlman, Neal Picker, Eli Pollack, Hal Rothbaum, Gary Sazer, Lois Sazer, David Scherr, Patty Schneider, Andrew Schultz, Paul Schwartz, Jacquelin Shirian, Craig Smolow, Jonathan Tillem, Alan Weinberg, Helen Wrobel and David Zielenziger.

Congregation Says Thanks to Recent Kiddush Sponsors

Appreciation is expressed by the Temple Israel officers and Board of Trustees to members who have generously sponsored and enhanced the Sabbath *kiddush*.

A contribution toward the *kiddush* on April 6 was made by Robin and Kevin Portnoy in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Matthew.

Contributions toward the *kiddush* on April 13 were made by the *Kol Ishah* class and Sisterhood in celebration of the class' participation in the services.



Temple Israel of Great Neck
108 Old Mill Road • Great Neck, NY 11023
(516) 482-7800 • www.tign.org

DOR HABA **The Next Generation**

**Thursdays:
10:00 A.M.
in the Library**

Join Rabbi Adelson and Rabbi Stecker as we read and discuss the weekly Torah portion through the lens of modern life, looking for ways to connect our ancient tradition with issues we all face today.

To RSVP, please contact Angela at 482-7800 ext. 1108 or ajones@tign.org.



TEMPLE ISRAEL FUND*In honor of:*

Deborah and Amanda Volk
 Mel Fishman
 The birth of Grayson Max Baily, grandson of Fran and Marc Langsner
 Deborah and Judd Volk and family
 Barbara and Howard Spun
 Their 40th wedding anniversary
 Barbara and Howard Spun

In memory of:

H. Bert Mack
 David Mack
 Elaine Wrobel
 Helen Wrobel
 Helene Kalnick
 Sheila Kalnick
 Eve Irom
 Miriam Irom
 Elick Baynash
 Adele Gentin
 Helen Weinberg
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 Sara Lou Steinhacker
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From Generation to Generation



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D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Emor

Saturday, April 27

The Holiness Code continues with laws concerning the maintaining of ritual purity by the priests in this portion. In particular, we find laws regulating the marriages of priests, limiting their participation in funerals and specifying the blemishes which may disqualify a priest from officiating. This section ends with an admonition not to profane God's holy name, but to hallow it among the Israelites. The Code then turns to the sacred seasons and presents a calendar of the festivals on which cessation from work is mandated. The list begins with *Shabbat* and continues chronologically from *Pesach*. 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-Behukotai

Saturday, May 4

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

SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, April 26

Shabbat HaMishpacha 6:00 P.M.
Evening Service 6:30 P.M.
Kabbalat Shabbat Service & Dinner For College Grads 7:30 P.M.

Saturday, April 27

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.
Weekly Portion: *Emor*; Leviticus 21:1 – 24:23
Haftarah: Ezekiel 44:15 – 31
Sabbath Service Officers: Ron Klempner and Dr. Robert Panzer
Bar Mitzvah
JOSHUA GAL
son of Drs. Laura and Robert Gal
Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.
Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.
Minhah and *Ma'ariv* 7:05 P.M.

Friday, May 3

Evening/Adult *B'nei Mitzvah* Sabbath Service 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, May 4

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.
Weekly Portion: *Behar-Behukotai*; Leviticus 25:1 - 27:34
Haftarah: Jeremiah 16:19 – 17:14
Sabbath Service Officers: Andrew Bloom and Sam Husney
Bar Mitzvah
JONATHAN DAVID SASSON
son of Romina and Dr. Homayoun Sasson
Shabbat Up Close and Personal Service 10:30 A.M.
Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.
"Shabbat Talk" 12:45 P.M.
Minhah and *Ma'ariv* 7:15 P.M.