



## Temple Israel Players Staging 'Oklahoma!' April 5-6

"Oklahoma!" the long-running Broadway hit musical, is making a return trip to the Temple Israel stage next month.

The latest production by the Temple Israel Players has a cast of about 40 ranging in age from 8 to 88. The lively show is the complete opposite in theme from "Fiddler On the Roof," last year's Players' production. "We are coming a long way from Anatevka to Oklahoma," said one of the show's producers, Eileen Putterman.

The Temple Israel Players staged "Oklahoma!" once before, in 2002. It was so well received that the congregation's resident theater troupe decided to bring it back.

The show will be dedicated to Temple Israel member Stan Goldfarb, one of the founders of the Temple Israel Players and a producer of many of the group's productions, who also starred in a number of the Players' shows including their first performance of "Oklahoma!" He passed away last year and a presentation to his daughters, Nancy and Janice, will be made during the show.

The original Broadway show, the first by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein, opened in 1943 and ran for an unprecedented 2,212 performances. It features hallmark songs including "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning," "I'm Just a Girl Who Can't Say No," "The Surrey With the Fringe On Top," and, of course, "Oklahoma."

The producers of the Temple Israel show are Ron Klempler,

Mark Putter, Eileen Putterman, Lois Sazer, and Carol Smolinsky. Debbie Tartell is the vocal director, Tara Modlin is the choreographer, Sherry Modlin is the scene designer, Alex Schoen is in charge of props, Sue Cwern is in charge of makeup, Carol Smolinsky is in charge of costumes, and Bob Lopatkin is the assistant to the director. Fred Gatti is musical director and Linda Burson is the director.

The show includes seven parent and child teams and features Amy David as Aunt Eller, Daniel Frankel as Curley, Kim Kaiman as Ado Annie Carnes, Gary Noren as Ali Hakim, Abe Kanfer as Jud Fry, Mark Putter as Will Parker, and Lillian Rokhsar as Laurey.

Other members of the cast include Robert Aizer, Zara Clayden, Van Frankel, Keyvan Frouzan, Marilyn Goldberg, Jon Kaiman, Kenneth M. Leff, Jacob Mamiye, Andy Nadler, Ofra Panzer, Harriet Picker, Eileen Putterman, Mickey Putterman, Alex Rothstein, Rusti Rothstein, Carol Smolinsky, Steve Smolinsky, Diana Stein, Debbie Volk, Dan Wotman, and Rebecca Wotman. Children in the cast are Zara Clayden, Ava Hoffman, Iyana Kaiman, Amanda Putter, Nancy Schoen, Amanda Volk, and Sophia Wotman.

The show opens on Saturday, April 5, at 8:30 P.M., followed by a reception with the cast for show Patrons and Sponsors. A matinee performance is on Sunday, April 6, at 2 P.M. To order tickets contact Kathy Reccia at the Temple Israel office, 482-7800 or <kreccia@tign.org>.

### *Trip to Prague and Israel Leaves Lasting Impression on Temple Israel Teens*



Temple Israel sent 34 Waxman High School teens on a tour of Prague and Israel during their February school break, led by their teachers and Rabbi Seth Adelson. The group, shown here on *erev Shabbat* in Jerusalem, came home with life-long experiences, reports Rabbi Adelson in his column on page 2 and school Director Danny Mishkin in his column on page 4 of this issue of The Voice.

## The B'nai Mitzvah Journey!

By Rabbi Amy Roth

The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* of a child at Temple Israel of Great Neck is a family journey. As part of the introduction to this significant Jewish milestone, the *B'nai Mitzvah* Orientation was held on January 12 and helped to kick-off the process. Parents of children who are currently in fifth grade

### *The Bar/Bat Mitzvah of a child... is a family journey.*

gathered. They took some time to record their hopes, dreams and expectations for the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* on the "*Bar/Bat Mitzvah* Compass," a document that we expect to be integral as this process continues.

Danny Mishkin, director of the Waxman High School and Youth Engagement, will be serving as *B'nai Mitzvah* liaison. He will be utilizing this "Compass" as he meets with families one year prior to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, and spends time getting to know each family, and helps to set goals and create a personal, meaningful experience.

Rabbi Stecker, Rabbi Adelson and Cantor Frieder all presented key infor-

mation: a timeline for Torah and *Haftarah* preparation, the *D'var Torah* goals, and upcoming *B'nai Mitzvah* workshops (eight months prior to the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*) as well as an awareness of the sensitivities relating to adolescents during this tender time in their lives. Rabbi Stecker also emphasized the significance of the involvement of the whole family, both parents and siblings.

Marc Langsner, the chair of the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* Committee, chaired the event and presented packets with key information that families need. The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* Handbook (inside the packet as well as on our website) is a friendly, updated guidebook to the educational training and logistics of "everything you ever wanted to know about the *B'nai Mitzvah* process at Temple Israel!"

Ushering our children into this next phase of Jewish life is an awesome responsibility: one which we (the senior staff at Temple Israel) take seriously. Our goal is to ensure that your child's individual needs and aspirations (as well as yours) are met and that the whole process is personal and meaningful.

For any questions relating to the *B'nai Mitzvah* orientation, please contact me at <aroht@tign.org>.

FROM THE RABBI

## Old and New: A Tale of Two Shabbatot

By Rabbi Seth Adelson

Having just returned from a ten-day trip to the Czech Republic and Israel with 34 teenagers, I can say one thing with absolute certainty: I have never been so exhausted in my life. But this was a good kind of fatigue—the kind that comes with the satisfaction of knowing that we had accomplished something transformative, that we had crafted an experience that these students will carry with them their whole lives and that will continue to connect them with Judaism, Jewish life, and the Jewish state. I could write a short book about the trip, but a shortcut would be to describe our two *Shabbatot*.

On the *Shabbat* of February 14-15, we were located in Prague, having visited Terezin, the model ghetto that the Nazis called *Theresienstadt* on Friday. We attended services at the Altneu Shul, the "Old New Synagogue" built in Prague's Jewish quarter in 1270, the oldest functioning synagogue in the world. To keep and re-

member the *Shabbat* in a building that has been doing so more or less continuously for nearly seven and a half centuries is truly breathtaking. While *Shabbat* morning was fairly well attended

*Prague is...haunted  
as much by the success  
of its Jews  
in prior centuries  
as the destruction  
wrought by the Nazis.*

(there were perhaps 100 people there), the four of us who returned for *Minhah* had to wait a bit while a *minyán* was rustled up—no small feat for a tiny and largely secular Jewish community.

—Continued on page 5

## Seeking Survivors

By Ron Greenfield

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Ron Greenfield is the chair of the congregation's Shoah Remembrance Committee.

The Shoah Remembrance Committee has been an integral part of Temple Israel since 1992. The committee is dedicated to remembering the *Shoah* and honoring those who survived and has maintained a focus on Temple Israel's own survivors and their families.

Each year, the committee helps to organize a *Yom HaShoah* service and a *Kristallnacht* commemoration in conjunc-

*The committee is  
dedicated to...honoring  
those who survived.*

tion with the Temple Israel clergy. A summer get-together for committee members, Temple Israel survivors and their families has also become an annual event.

The committee has begun planning Temple Israel's annual *Yom HaShoah* Remembrance event, which will take place on Sunday, April 27. There may be Temple Israel members who are Holocaust survivors who are not known to us. We would be interested in obtaining the names of additional survivors in the congregation. We would also love to speak with you, but it is up to you to get involved with our committee.

In addition, if you are second or third generation of a survivor and have a story to tell about your parents or grandparents, we would like to hear from you. Contact me at <ShoahCommRonG@yahoo.com> or 466-4075 or Eileen Putterman at 482-6527.

### *A Message from Rabbi Stecker:*

I'm writing to inform you that the Annual Rabbinic Dialogue, which was scheduled to take place at Temple Beth-El on Sunday, April 6, has been postponed due to the health of my dear friend and colleague, Rabbi Dale Polakoff of Great Neck Synagogue. Rabbi Polakoff experienced complications during recent surgery that require an extensive period of recovery. Thankfully his condition has been improving steadily and everyone involved is confident that he will be able to resume his full responsibilities as rabbi of Great Neck Synagogue.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Rabbi Polakoff, his family and the Great Neck Synagogue community. Please include *Harav David Eliahu ben Avrima* in your prayers.



## IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences  
to the families of:

**SARAH DOUSTAN**

mother of Manijeh Schlegel-Moallem

**ANITA KOSS**

sister of Miriam Kobliner

**ARYEH LEV POLLACK**

father of Eli Pollack

**GERTIE SHERMAN**

mother of Dr. Peter Sherman

May their memories be for a blessing.

## DAILY MINYAN TIMES

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., March 15	8:45 A.M.	6:45 P.M.
Sat., March 22	8:45 A.M.	6:30 P.M.
Sat., March 29	8:45 A.M.	6:35 P.M.
Sunday	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.

## CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Friday, March 14.....	6:42 P.M.
Friday, March 21.....	6:49 P.M.
Friday, March 28.....	6:57 P.M.

## MAZAL TOV TO . . .

- **Karen and Dan Covitt** on the engagement of their daughter, Betsy, to Andy Field.
- **Niloofer and Amir Haghani** on the birth of their daughter, Julia Debra Haghani.
- **Nancy and Manny Alani** on the birth of their granddaughter, Yael Alani.
- **Maxine and Terry Bernstein** on the birth of their grandson, Adin Yosef Bernstein-Cohen.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

March	14	<i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service and Dinner For College Grads and Friends	7:30 P.M.
	15	<i>Erev Purim</i>	
	15	Purim Service followed by a Congregational Celebration and Costume Contest for Adults and Children	6:45 P.M.
	16	Purim	
	16	Religious School and Beth HaGan Purim Carnival	10:00 A.M.
	16	EmptiNesters Purim Dinner and Sing-a-Long Accompanied on the piano by Fred Gatti	6:00 P.M.
	16	Shalom Club Dinner/Meeting	6:30 P.M.
	18	Tradition and Change in the 21st Century: Facing the New Challenges of Our Time	8:15 P.M.
	20	Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	23	TILL Movie Night: "The Gate Keepers"	7:30 P.M.
	25	Religious School Multi-Generational "Afternoon of Fun"	4:30 P.M.
	28	Men's Club <i>Shabbat</i> Service and Dinner	6:30 P.M.
	30	Blood Drive Sponsored by the Men's Club	8:30 A.M.
	31	Sisterhood Pre-Passover Program	10:00 A.M.
April	3	Beth HaGan Nursery School Pre-Pesah Workshop For Parents	9:30 A.M.
	5	" <i>Shabbat</i> Talk" – Led by the Waxman High School Students Discussing Their Trip to Israel	12:30 P.M.

### Temple Israel Men's Club

honors

**Jeffrey Fleit**

*Man of the Year*

**Amy Pourmoradi**

**and Jonah Klempner**

*Youths of the Year*

**Sunday, April 6 • 5 to 9 P.M.**  
at New York Metro Federation  
of Jewish Men's Clubs Annual Dinner

Crest Hollow Country Club  
Woodbury

Cost: \$90 per person

Ads & reservations must be made  
online: [moy.nymfjmc.org](http://moy.nymfjmc.org) by March 23

*Temple Israel &  
community seniors  
are invited to...*

A Multi-Generational  
Afternoon  
with Temple Israel  
Religious School students

**Tuesday, March 25**  
4:30-5:30 P.M.

For further information call the  
school office: 482-7800

## Men's Club Shabbat Topic: Sports and the American Jews

"Sports and the American Jews During the 20th Century" will be the topic of a discussion at the annual Men's Club *Shabbat* Service and Dinner—open to the entire congregation—on Friday, March 28.

Temple Israel member Ari F. Sclar, who will lead the discussion, teaches at the Ramaz Upper School in New York City and is an adjunct professor in the History Department at Hunter College. He has a doctoral degree in American History from Stony Brook University and his dissertation examined basketball's impact on American Jewish culture and identity in the first half of the 20th century. He previously served as the director of content of the Jews in Sports Online website, first at New York University and then at the American Jewish Historical Society. He has also served on the Advisory Committee for the Jewish Sports Hall of

Fame in Commack and was the senior research consultant for the "First Basket," a documentary film about Jews in basketball.

The Friday evening service, which precedes the talk and dinner, will be held in the Multipurpose Room and will be conducted entirely by members of the Men's Club. Members of Conservative congregation men's clubs throughout the world conduct the service on this *Shabbat*, *Shabbat HaChodesh*.

Dr. Sclar will speak following a traditional *Shabbat* dinner, to be held in the Crystal Ballroom. The service begins at 6:30 P.M. and the dinner begins at 7:30 P.M. The cost of the dinner is \$25 per person and \$15 for children 13 and younger. Reservations, can be made by sending a check to the Temple Israel office. Further information about the service, dinner and speaker is available by calling the synagogue office at 482-7800.

**Join Sisterhood for Brunch and A Pre-Passover Program:**

**The History of the Haggadah**

**MONDAY, MARCH 31 at 10 A.M.**

Non-Members: \$10

**R.S.V.P. BY MARCH 26 to:**

**Karen at 487-3048 or Laura at [laurab44@optonline.net](mailto:laurab44@optonline.net)**

# B'NAI/B'NOT MITZVAH IN OUR TEMPLE ISRAEL FAMILY



**Amanda Shirazi**

Amanda Shirazi will be celebrating her *Bat Mitzvah* on March 22. She is the daughter of Sharona and Dr. Moshe Shirazi and has two older brothers, Aaron Levi, 16, and Arriel, 15. Amanda is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. She enjoys playing basketball and soccer. Amanda plans to attend the Waxman High School and Youth House following her *Bat Mitzvah*.



**Eric Rosenbaum**

Eric Rosenbaum will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* on March 29. He is the son of Serina and Dr. Marlon Rosenbaum and has two brothers, Elliot, 21, and Ethan, 20, and a sister, Allison, 17. Eric is a seventh grade honor student at Great Neck North Middle School. He enjoys basketball, volleyball, cross country, and track, as well as the piano. Eric plans to attend the Waxman High School and hopes to visit Israel with his family in the near future.



**Jonathan Rothbaum**

Jonathan Rothbaum will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* on April 5. He is the son of Ellen and Dr. Steven Rothbaum and is a seventh grade honor student at Great Neck South Middle School. He is a four-time recipient of the Judaic Scholar Award from the Temple Israel Religious School. Jonathan plays the clarinet in his school band and enjoys fencing and chess. He is currently attending the Waxman High School and plans to visit Israel in the near future.

FROM THE WAXMAN HIGH SCHOOL

## *Location, Location, Location*

By Danny Mishkin

This past February break, 34 teens and four teachers from the Waxman High School and Youth House traveled to two of the most significant locations for all Jews in the 20th century.

We spent three days in Prague uncovering our recent past, and we honored those who perished or narrowly survived the most horrific event in Jewish history. This portion of our program was a necessary, difficult, and eye-opening experience, and I could actually feel the students yearning to arrive in Israel, just like our people have done for 2,000 years.

Although tough to handle, Prague brought us joyous moments, as well. *Shabbat* included laughter and singing that filled a room. One student, Rachel, remarked about *Shabbat* in Prague: "For me, Friday night was the 'moment' that started the trip, because it was the first time our previously cliquy group connected and bonded. The laughter of each person at the table made the evening so special." It appears *Shabbat* has the same affect all over the world.

After a long journey, including a layover in the Amsterdam airport, we finally arrived

in Israel. The excitement was palpable! Our trip included all the normal sights, sounds, and pleasures of a Jewish pilgrimage to our homeland. Our students exclaimed how they felt so comfortable in Israel, and a few of them said they never wanted to leave. This warmed the heart of all the staff.

However, besides the regular teen trip filled with laughter—new friends, and memories that will last a lifetime—our trip was a spiritual and religious awakening for each of our students and staff. Thanks to the diligent, enthusiastic, and creative Rabbi Seth Adelson, our students learned to truly pray. Rabbi Adelson uncovered three secrets to meaningful teen *tefillah*, Jewish prayer: Location, Location, Location. He helped 34 initially reluctant teens find relevance, spirituality, and a stronger connection to God through traditional, egalitarian Jewish prayer. Although we *davened Shacharit* every morning, there were three *tefillah* moments that elevated our teen community to heights they did not know possible. Each moment led into the next and enhanced the following prayer experience.

**Location One** was the "Hidden Synagogue" in Terezin, a ghetto that witnessed the death of over 36,000 Jews. We gathered into the cramped, low-ceilinged room for a brief, somber ceremony. It might seem odd to sing and pray in a place where such horrible things occurred, but it seemed so right to our teen community. We saw the scriptural quotes written on the wall of a secret synagogue that helped our ancestors cope with awful living conditions. In some way, we felt like we were telling our predecessors that we are still here and we still care.

Simon, an 11th grader, states: "I felt as though I was continuing my culture and heritage, but this time not in secret. It felt so good to sing with the whole group, making our ancestors proud. I think it would make them happy to see us praying freely."

Alexa said: "I felt connected with the Jews who recited prayers in this synagogue. I completed the same prayers as they did, and I was also able to pray for those who were lost." One lesson that was clearly learned is that *tefillah* connects us to Jews who came before us and will connect us to our children who come after. *Tefillah* is a link that connects us from generation to generation.

**Location Two** was the backdrop for much of the Torah: the desert. Rabbi Adelson reminded us that most of Jewish prophecy occurred in the desert and that the desert or wilderness is a sacred place for our people.

—Continued on page 7



## Temple Israel Museum Featuring Special Judaica Exhibit for Purim

A beautiful collection of items relating to Purim is now on exhibit in the front cases of the Temple Israel Museum.

A large and elaborate silver *megillah* case with *megillah* is from middle Europe, dating to the 19th century.

An elaborate pierced and chased silver grogger is from 19th century central Europe. Another example from central Europe circa 1920 has silver letters that say "Megillat Esther," and "Mordecai, Esther, and Haman." A rare and unusual miniature silver noisemaker has a cherub with bow and arrow on top it, and is from 18th century Germany.

A silver gilt *megillah* box case in the form of a Torah Ark has two doors, which open to reveal a gilt *megillah* case and scroll. This unusual piece is from Palestine, circa 1940.

A rare gold *megillah* case studded with paste "gems" is 19th century English.

An unusual and rare miniature ivory and silver *megillah* case with scroll is from 19th century Ottoman Turkey. This beautiful piece is available for dedication.

For dedication information and to visit the museum, call the Temple Israel office, 482-7800.

## D'VAR TORAH

—Continued from back page

**Tazria**

**Saturday, March 29**

This portion and the next deal with laws of ritual purity. Such purity is conceived as a prerequisite for the pursuit of *kedusha*. Furthermore, because the *mishkan* (sanctuary) was located within the camp of the Israelites, great care had to be taken to ensure its purity. The portions deal with specific physical conditions which give rise to impurity. The first is childbirth. The next is a complex of diseases known as *tzaraat* (translated leprosy, but clearly not the modern disease.) The priests are charged with the task of determining the nature of the ailment when it appears in humans or in fabrics and leather and the method of purification. Since all the Israelites were obligated to strive to be *kadosh* in accordance with God's demand, the matter of maintaining a state of purity was of great significance.

## SABBATH SERVICES

—Continued from back page

**Saturday, March 22 - Shabbat Parah**

Havurah Service	10:00 A.M.
Junior Congregation	10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service	11:00 A.M.
Minhah and Ma'ariv	6:30 P.M.
Havdalah	7:50 P.M.

**Friday, March 28**

Evening Service	6:30 P.M.
Men's Club Shabbat Service	7:30 P.M.

**Saturday, March 29 - Shabbat HaChodesh**

Morning Service	8:45 A.M.
Weekly Portion: Tazria; Leviticus 12:1 - 13:59; Exodus 12:1 - 20	
Haftarah: Ezekiel 45:16 - 46:18	
Sabbath Service Officers: Jackie Astrof and Dr. Robert Lopatkin	

*Bar Mitzvah*

**ERIC ROSENBAUM**

son of Serina and Dr. Marlon Rosenbaum

Junior Congregation	10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service	11:00 A.M.
Minhah and Ma'ariv	6:35 P.M.
Havdalah	7:58 P.M.

## Celebrate Purim in Style!

Come to the

### Costume Contest for Adults

held after the Megillah reading

judged by the Executive Committee!

**Saturday, March 15**

**at 8:45 P.M.**

**Costume Categories:**

- Funniest
- Most Purim-ish
- Costume with the Most (Tasteful!) Chutzpah
- Best Couples
- Most Original
- Best Group
- Best Purim Accessory
- Best Overall

## A Tale of Two Shabbatot

—Continued from page 2

What always echoes in my head when visiting Central and Eastern Europe is the emptiness, the legacy of Hitler's attempt to make all of Europe "judenrein," free of Jews. This synagogue, which had been the center of a thriving community for so long, the pulpit of the renowned 16th-century rabbi, the Maharal of Prague, and all the other relic synagogues still standing in that city of unparalleled architectural richness, are mostly tourist attractions. The names of the dead inscribed on the walls of the Jewish quarter's memorial to the Shoah exceed the number of living Jewish residents by a factor of perhaps 100 to one. Prague is infused with a deathly beauty, haunted as much by the success of its Jews in prior centuries as the destruction wrought by the Nazis. All of these thoughts saturated my *tefillah* as I sat in the Altneu Shul and listened to the cantor sing from his pulpit, recessed a few inches into the floor in deference to the opening line of Psalm 130, A Song of Ascents: "Out of the depths I have called to You, O Lord."

The following *Shabbat* we found ourselves in Jerusalem, and we welcomed the *Shabbat* Queen on an Old City rooftop overlooking the Dome of the Rock, the location where the First and Second Temples stood prior to their respective destructions at the hands of the Babylonians and the Romans. We danced, we sang, we prayed, and we celebrated being *am hofshi be-artzeinu*, a free people in our land. When we went down to the Kotel plaza to spend a few personal moments with the warm Herodian stones, we were struck by the number of people there—literally thousands, praying in various concurrent services, schmoozing, flirting, reconnecting, and otherwise taking in the scene.

Here is the irony: while the Altneu Shul has had a 700-year run, that holy corner of Jerusalem thrived two millennia ago, and is filled with Jews once again. Those who fled Prague and Warsaw, Moscow and Tehran, Aden and Aleppo, are now to be found in the cities of Judah and the courtyards of Jerusalem. The old is new once again.

Prague may be stunning, but I'll take Jerusalem any day of the week, and especially on *Shabbat*. Out of the depths, indeed.

**RABBI ADELSON'S  
DISCRETIONARY FUND**

*In memory of:*

Ervin Hoenig  
Anne and Jerry Hirsh  
The Fried-Oginski  
family, Wendy, Gerry  
and family  
Susan and Dr. Hal  
Rothbaum  
Michael S. Becker  
Drs. Madelyn and Robert  
Gould  
Brenda and Dr. Lance  
Greiff and family  
Joyce and Burton Weston  
Simone and Robert  
Kahen  
Audrey Kent Itzkowitz  
and Eric Itzkowitz

**TEMPLE ISRAEL FUND**

*In honor of:*

Journal Dinner Dance  
honorees Deanna and Rabbi  
Howard Stecker  
Mr. and Mrs. Dan  
Schoeffler  
The upcoming wedding of  
Meredith Koeppel, daughter  
of Mitchell Koeppel, and  
Andrew Schwed  
Ellen and Robert  
Koeppel  
Joyce and Burton Weston  
and family  
The engagement of Jacob  
Katz, son of Ronnie and Marc  
Katz, to Amanda Teitelman  
Joyce and Burton Weston  
and family  
Arlene Levine becoming a  
*Bat Mitzvah*  
Judy Levenstein and  
Philip Kruger  
The birth of their grandson,  
Adin Yosef Bernstein  
Maxine and Terry  
Bernstein  
The *Auf Ruf* of Meredith  
Koeppel, daughter of Mitchell  
Koeppel, and Andrew Schwed  
Carole and Arthur  
Anderman  
Aaron Geula, son of Rachel  
and Kiumarz Geula,  
becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*  
Sally and Jerry Sussman

*In memory of:*

Sophie Freudman  
Arlene Wigler Stein  
Lori and Dr. Paul  
Freudman  
Willie Sherman  
Dr. Peter Sherman  
Harry Narotzky  
Alfred Narotzky  
Sydell Sobel  
Edward Sobel  
Francine Citron  
Harold Citron  
Fanny Silbergleit  
Joseph Silbergleit  
Elaine Silbergleit

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# From Generation to Generation



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## Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

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Irene Harris  
Dr. Alvin Harris  
Clara Mirkin  
Naomi Schulman  
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Jane Salzberg  
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Joshua Charry  
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Fridel Sonder  
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Adele Warren  
Bertha Klein  
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Emma Scheiner  
Susan and Saul Ellman  
Harry Gorelick  
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Fran Langsner  
Irving Saks  
Muriel Geller  
Daniel Bernstein  
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Dorothy Jaffe  
Florence Becker  
Dr. Robert Rutkin-Becker  
Beatrice Baynash  
Adele Gentin  
Clara Kahn  
Dr. Cyrus Kahn  
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Dotty Katz  
Mildred Katz  
Anna Katz  
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Pearl Glowatz

Marcia Weiss  
Leonard Weiss  
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# From the Waxman High School: Location, Location, Location

—Continued from page 4

He challenged the students to find out why! What followed next was a transcendent experience that our students will never forget. One at a time in complete silence, our students were led out of the Bedouin Tent camp where we were staying and walked to a desolate area that looked into the vast desert horizon. Our students were placed far enough apart so they could barely see the person next to them, providing a personal space and solitude. I was the last to arrive as the students were placed in their location, and I was in awe at how quiet and focused each student was. One student looked at me and pointed up, to ensure I noticed the fullest starry sky this young woman had probably ever seen. In solitude, yet all together, we recited the Shema and Amidah into the dark desert night.

Silently, each student walked back to our tent and was asked to journal. Amy, an 11th grader, said: "Israel is my home away from home. There is nowhere else in the world where I feel God's presence. Under the stars of the desert sky, the beauty of the land set my soul free without stress or worries. Through song, prayer, and laughter my group has become a family."

Additionally, Sophie, a 12th grader, wrote: "Tonight was the most memorable experience thus far. I have never felt as connected to Hashem, standing in the desert at night, under the stars, praying as one group. Singing Oseh Shalom made me tear. It's one of my favorite songs, and I've never sung it in such a beautiful way. The quietness, except for our soft voices and surrounding nature's sounds, truly made the experience 100-percent special." The desert helped us connect *tefillah* to God and God's creation, another essential component of meaningful prayer.

**Location three** was the focal point of Jewish prayer from all over the world: the *Beit Hamikdash*, or Temple Mount. In New York we face east and in China Jews face west in order to face Jerusalem, but in Jerusalem itself we face the Temple Mount, as that was where the *Beit Hamikdash* and the *Kodesh HaKodashim*, the Holy of Holies, once stood. Some might view this as a place that has no significance in Jewish ritual today, since we no longer make sacrifices, but our students learned that it is a sacred location that unifies Jews from all four corners of the world.

Our group had several encounters at the *Kotel*, the Western Wall, including a private evening moment for personal prayer and reflection, a *Bat Mitzvah* celebration for three of our participants who had not been called to the Torah at age 13, and a *Kabbalat Shabbat* service from the roofs of the old city which gave us a view which left no doubt what direction to pray, unlike the various morning services in random hotel lobbies.

This was my fourth time traveling to Israel with teen groups, and I have never seen such a connection with the *Kotel*. During our personal time, several young women, by their own admission not particularly engaged with Jewish practice prior to this trip, walked with their teacher, Moji Pourmoradi, to place notes in the *Kotel*. To my surprise, their notes were quickly covered in tears. Nicolette, an 11th grader, noted that she felt that she was fulfilling the destiny of Jews all over the world throughout history by getting the chance to encounter this most holy site. It was her first time in Israel.

On another occasion, more than half the group elected to wake up before sunrise to *daven Shacharit* at the *Kotel*. One of the teachers, Tziona Kamel, said she could not believe it when she saw this group of eight young men returning from morning prayers arm in arm, feeling closer and more connected than ever. Mitch, a tenth grader, wrote: "When going to the Wall I was very emotional. It made me feel closer to God and my religion." Talia, an 8th grader, wrote: "When we went to the *Kotel* I felt so close to God. When I pray at home, I look towards Jerusalem. This day I was in the place where all Jews look and pray. I felt like I was in the center of all of Jewish culture."

These three experiences do not prove that we need to be in some exotic location to find prayer meaningful. Rather, these three experiences were powerful precisely because we had prayed in hotel lobbies and other nondescript locations on other days. These three locations, the Hidden Synagogue, the desert, and the *Kotel*, became even more sacred because they were accompanied by meaningful *tefillah* and spiritual guidance, nurtured just as much in the other less-inspiring places. It is the combination of regular prayer and spontaneous variables that creates sacred moments and authentic *tefillah*. I am grateful that I was able to participate in and witness these moments with such an inspired group for ten special days in the year 5774.

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Marc Katz, Editor

Associate Editors:

Rabbi Marim D. Charry, Paula Charry, Angela Jones, Ronnie Katz

Photographers: Dr. Robert Lopatkin, Ofra Panzer, Milton Putterman

TEMPLE ISRAEL OF GREAT NECK

108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023

Phone: 516-482-7800 • Fax: 516-482-7352 • E-Mail: info@tign.org

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# D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

## Tzav

Saturday, March 15

In this portion we find further details concerning the burnt offering, the meal offering, the guilt offering and the peace offering, as well as details of the thanks offering. With the types of sacrifices fully described, we now move to a description of the institution of the service in the *mishkan* and the consecration of Aaron and his sons to the priesthood. The ceremonies consist of dressing the priests in their special vestments, anointing the *mishkan* and all of its furnishings with oil, offering sacrifices and putting blood of the sacrifices upon the right ears, the right thumbs and the right toes of the priests. The aim of the entire proceedings was to highlight the special duties and responsibilities of the priests as representatives of the people before God. The pattern which is described here continued to be the manner of anointing the priests for over a thousand years.

## Shemini

Saturday, March 22

We conclude the laws of the sanctuary in this portion. The reading opens with a description of proceedings through which the priests begin their duties. In the midst of this, we find an account of two sons of Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, who take it upon themselves to bring some kind of unprescribed offering to the altar and are summarily struck down. Their death becomes the occasion for God to issue specific warnings to Aaron and all the priests to take special care in carrying out their duties. The remainder of the Book of Leviticus deals with the laws of daily life and provides rules and regulations whose purpose is to raise every aspect of human life to the level of *kedusha* (holiness). The first matter to be dealt with is *kashrut* (the dietary laws). Details are provided of permitted and forbidden quadrupeds, fish, birds and insects. The reason given for these prescriptions is that since God is *kadosh* (holy) and Israelites are His people, they also must be *kadosh*. However this is understood, *kashrut* serves to help make the basically animal function of eating, something uniquely human.

—Continued on page 5

# SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, March 14

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.

Kabbalat Shabbat Service & Dinner For College Grads 7:30 P.M.

Saturday, March 15 - Shabbat Zachor

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Tzav; Leviticus 6:1 - 8:36; Deuteronomy 25:17 - 19

Haftarah: I Samuel 15:2 - 34

Sabbath Service Officers: Brian Zeitlin and Laura Gal

B'nai Mitzvah

JONATHAN KIRSHNER

son of Malvina and Jeff Kirshner

EITAN HOLLANDER

son of Karen and Roger Hollander

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Minhah, Ma'ariv and Full Megillah Reading 6:45 P.M.

Purim Pre-School and Kindergarten Service 7:15 P.M.

Havdalah 7:41 P.M.

Megillah Reading 7:45 P.M.

Friday, March 21

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

Waxman High School Family Friday Dinner 7:30 P.M.

Saturday, March 22 - Shabbat Parah

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Shemini; Leviticus 9:1 - 11:47; Numbers 19:1 - 22

Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:16 - 38

Sabbath Service Officers: Burton Weston and Rachel Geula

Bat Mitzvah

AMANDA SHIRAZI

daughter of Sharona and Dr. Moshe Shirazi

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