



## Dinner Dance Honoring Five Members April 12th

Temple Israel will honor five congregants at this year's Annual Journal Dinner Dance, to be held Saturday, April 12 in the Grand Ballroom. In addition, Congressman Gary Ackerman, chairman of the House Subcommittee on the Middle East, will present a keynote address in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel, the theme of the Dinner Dance.

Selected as this year's honorees are Eve Keller, Rebecca Yousefzadeh Sassouni and Sassan Sassouni, and Barbara and Howard Spun.

"This year we are fortunate to be honoring five people who have truly devoted themselves to the betterment of our congregation," said Temple President Richard Kestenbaum in announcing the Dinner Dance honorees. "All, in their own way, have made Temple Israel a better place for all of us. This Dinner Dance is our opportunity to thank them."

The Journal, to be published in coordination with the Dinner Dance, will be dedicated to the honorees, as well as to Israel's 60th anniversary. Any Temple member purchasing or selling a full page ad or selling a total of \$1,000 in commercial ads will receive two free tickets to the Dinner Dance. An ad form is on page 6 of this issue of The Voice.

### Eve Keller

Eve Keller is no stranger to Temple Israel involvement. In fact, participation in congregational activities has been a part of her life almost since birth. Her parents, Shirley and the late Dr. Marvin Keller, have been extremely active at Temple Israel for as long as anyone can remember. Her father served as a vice president of the congregation and for many years oversaw the operation of the Temple's three schools. Her husband, David, a son of the congregation's late longtime rabbi, Mordecai Waxman, grew up at Temple Israel, and her sister, Sharon, is also an active Temple member.

Dr. Keller chaired the most recent Assistant Rabbi Search Committee, was an active member of the Senior Rabbi Search Committee and belongs to the Ritual Committee and Waxman High School Education Committee. She frequently leads *shiva minyanim* and enjoys reading Torah and Haftorah.

She and her husband were married at Temple Israel 21 years ago. They have two children, Jessye, 15, and Avir, 11. Dr. Keller is a graduate of the Waxman High School.

A professor of English at Fordham University, she is the past president of the Society of Literature, Science and the Arts, a national academic organization that brings together scholars from the humanities and sciences to explore the interconnections among their fields. Her book, "Generating Bodies and Gendered Selves: The Rhetoric of Reproduction in Early Modern England," was published last year.

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Dinner Dance honorees Eve Keller, top, Rebecca Yousefzadeh Sassouni and Sassan Sassouni, center, and Barbara and Howard Spun.



## Helping the Seminary

By Ellen Cooper

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Temple Israel Sisterhood's Torah Fund chairperson, Ellen Cooper, asks for your contribution in support of Torah Fund activities which help sustain the Jewish Theological Seminary.

During the past 60 years, since 1948, the Torah Fund Campaign of Women's League for Conservative Judaism has contributed more than

*...it is with  
our help that  
the Seminary  
continues to  
grow and thrive*

\$80 million in support of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. This has been achieved through the unstinting efforts of Sisterhoods throughout the United States and Canada.

It is no secret that in the face of the chal-

lenges of attrition and assimilation that confront contemporary Jews, the best response is effective and meaningful Jewish education. Just as urgent is our need for strong and knowledgeable leaders—rabbis, cantors, academic scholars and communal professionals—who are committed to Jewish life and learning. It is at the Jewish Theological Seminary that these leaders are being trained. And, it is with our help that the Seminary continues to grow and thrive, responding to the needs of Jews around the world.

The JTS faculty of over 100 world-class scholars is the most comprehensive Jewish studies resource in North America. It provides extraordinary undergraduate and graduate level education to over 1,000 students and is the research center for the Jewish future.

With such a large student population, it is clear that young Jews are responding to the message of the Seminary. The rabbinical school, cantorial school, graduate schools and

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FROM THE RABBI

## Judaism and the Environment

By Rabbi Seth Adelson

In the last six months, I have used many opportunities available to me to speak or write about *mitzvot*, as well as our stewardship of the environment. I am therefore quite excited to be able to tie the two concepts together in promoting the Mitzvah Marathon, Temple Israel's annual celebration of *mitzvah*, which will take place this year on March 16. At the risk of developing a reputation as "the environmental rabbi," a title from which I will not readily shy away, I'd like to share a few items about the Jewish environmental connection.

Today's ecological consciousness may be mostly a modern phenomenon, and some point to the publishing of Rachel Carson's book "Silent Spring" in 1962 as having precipitated in the modern environmental movement. Judaism, however, has a deep ecological awareness, going back to our most ancient of texts.

Here, for example, are some sources found in the Torah:

Exodus 23:5 (*Etz Hayim*, pp. 471-2): "When you see the ass of your enemy lying

under its burden and would refrain from raising it, you must nevertheless raise it with him." This is one example of the *mitzvah* of *tza'ar ba'alei hayyim*, preventing the suffering of animals.

*...a renewed  
sensitivity to the  
Earth would help  
renew for us the  
spiritual connection  
that we all seek.*

Deuteronomy 20:19-20 (*Etz Hayim*, pp. 1104-5): "When in your war against a city you have to besiege it... you must not destroy its

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## What I've Learned

By Hon. Richard Kestenbaum

Last weekend I had the good fortune to attend our fourth annual Comedy Night, along with almost 300 other people. This annual production, expertly presented by Robert Lopatkin and Robert Panzer, has become a model of what to do right—a fun evening with good food, an opportunity to chat with friends and a chance to laugh a lot. What could be bad?

For those of you who couldn't attend, here is my contribution to the laughter of the evening:

### Top Ten Things I Learned Since Becoming President

10. Managing an organization where everyone is an owner is more challenging than I realized.
9. The important Jewish holidays are the ones on which street parking rules are altered.
8. Rules of Parliamentary Procedure are out the window. A participant has the right to monopolize a meeting as he or she talks about a point, the relevance of which escapes all other participants.
7. The Sanctuary can be hot and cold at the very same time.
6. *Shul* committees should be made up of three members, two of whom should be absent at every meeting.
5. Being president allows you to be kissed by every 80-year old woman in the *Shul*.
4. For every three members at a meeting, there are four opinions.
3. My day job, from which I used to make a living, is a distant memory.
2. Your wife and children really don't need to see you more than once every two weeks.
1. There are more ways to insult people than I ever imagined.

*Have you visited the  
Temple's new website?  
[www.tign.org](http://www.tign.org)*

## IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences  
to the families of:

DR. ARIE LIEBESKIND  
esteemed member of Temple Israel

MARLENE HARELICK  
sister of Roberta Harounian

May their 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.	5:15 P.M.
Sat., Feb. 9	8:45 A.M.	4:40 P.M.
Sat., Feb. 16	8:45 A.M.	4:50 P.M.
Sunday	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.

## CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

*Kindle the Sabbath Lights!*

Friday, February 8.....	5:02 P.M.
Friday, February 15.....	5:10 P.M.

## MAZAL TOV TO . . .

- **Leslie and Dr. Martin Handler** on the marriage of their son, Benjamin, to Rebecca Strauss.
- **Carol and Paul Burstein** on the birth of their twin grandsons, Joshua Natan and Zachary Meir Burstein.
- **Rachel and Norman Lee** on the birth of their granddaughter, Hannah Rose Goldberg.
- **Nina and Abner Ohebshalom** on the birth of their granddaughter, Maya Shalom Lalezarian.
- **Flora and Faramarz Lalezarian** on the birth of their granddaughter, Maya Shalom Lalezarian.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

Feb.	9	Midnight Run	
	13	Jewish Music Lecture Series: "60 Years and Still Singing" Featuring: Cantor Raphael Frieder and Rabbi Seth Adelson with a guest appearance by Rabbi Howard Stecker	8:15 P.M.
	28	Temple Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.
March.	1	Midnight Run	
	20	Erev Purim	
	21	Purim	

## Temple Israel's Year-Long Celebration of Israel's 60th Anniversary

*Celebrate with Temple concerts,  
the Dinner Dance, special school events—  
then culminate by marching up Fifth Avenue!*

## Sunday, June 1 Salute to Israel Parade

*Mark your calendar now!  
Details will follow soon.*

This is the year all Jews should be out in the street declaring support and pride for Israel.

A Temple Israel Parade Committee is now being formed. This year, Temple participation is expected to be the best ever. If you want to be part of the Israel Affairs Committee excitement, call Karen Ashkenase at 487-3048.

## 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 from Pirkei Avot, The Teachings of the Sages, Chapter 2. What is your favorite quote? Send suggestions for this column to The Voice, c/o the Temple office.

*“ Be as attentive to a minor mitzvah  
as to a major one,  
for you do not know the reward  
for each of the mitzvot. ”*

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



**Ariel Terrani**

Ariel David Terrani will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* on February 23. He is the son of Zehavit and Dr. Michael Terrani and has two brothers, Daniel, 15, and Jonathan, 10 and a sister, Natalie, 1. Ariel is a seventh grade honor student at Great Neck North Middle School. He will be attending the Waxman High School. He enjoys skiing, as well as playing football, the piano and the violin. Ariel has visited Israel almost every summer where he attends Kimama Summer Camp and visits with relatives.

## Helping the Seminary

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List College all are experiencing growth. The Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education was established specifically to allow the Seminary to train a new generation of Jewish educators for schools and synagogues.

While the Jewish Theological Seminary is headquartered in New York, its reach is worldwide. It is the catalytic center for a network of academic and religious institutions extending from New York to Los Angeles, from Buenos Aires to Budapest, and from Moscow to Jerusalem, bringing the message of Conservative Judaism around the globe.

Through the Torah Fund campaign, the Sisterhood members of Women's League are an integral part of these efforts. We have immeasurably enriched student life by building and maintaining student residences, beautifying campuses for student enjoyment, dedicating bookshelves to the world famous library, establishing a multi-million dollar scholarship fund for needy students, converting the former Library Reading Room into a permanent synagogue and established the Women's League Learning Center, a state-of-the-art facility with world-wide reach.

Torah Fund contributors number in the thousands and contribute 15-percent of the seminary budget each year. Please remember that by supporting Torah Fund, you are serving the entire Jewish community. Your contributions sent to the Temple will help us to achieve our pledge of \$18,000. Many thanks for your generosity.

FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

## Lots of Happenings at School!

By Rabbi Tracy G. Klirs, Director

Tu B'Shevat was celebrated throughout the school at the end of January. All the classes enjoyed an assortment of dried fruits, almonds and grape juice. Some classes held Tu B'Shevat Seders, planted seeds or played Tu B'Shevat games. The Zayin classes picked up the environmental theme of Tu B'Shevat and did an environmental survey of the synagogue. They wrote up all their suggestions as to how Temple Israel could become more "green" in a letter to the Board of Trustees, which will be presented at an upcoming Board meeting.

**JNF Tree-Planting Campaign:** The other major school activity in conjunction with Tu B'Shevat is our annual JNF tree-planting campaign. Tree order forms were given out to all Religious School students. We set a goal of planting 200 trees in Israel. We haven't reached our goal yet, but we could if everyone in the congregation would participate. This is a wonderful way to celebrate Israel's 60th anniversary and help fulfill the *mitzvah* of *shmirat ha'adamah*, preserving the earth, a major theme of this year's Mitzvah Marathon. Go to <[www.jnf.org](http://www.jnf.org)>, click on "Plant a Tree" and pick from the many options. After you plant your tree (or trees), simply send an e-mail to Cheryl Sneag at <[csneag@tign.org](mailto:csneag@tign.org)> with your name and how many trees you planted, and we'll add you in to our total count.

**Israel Bulletin Board:** Another way that we are celebrating Israel's 60th in the school is through the "Temple Israel Families Having Fun in Israel" bulletin board in the school lobby. In the center is a huge map of Israel. Our intention is to completely surround this map with photos of Temple families taken in Israel. As soon as we receive a photo, we put it up on the edges of the map, with a caption identifying it, and a string connecting it to the place where it was taken. We would love to add your photo to the map! If you have been to Israel in the past ten years, please send the Religious School one or more photos of you or people in your family taken in Israel, as soon as possible. Please label the photo with the names of the people in the picture, the date and the place where it was taken. All photos will be returned during the summer.

**World Wide Wrap:** On Sunday, February 3, the Vav and Zayin (6th and 7th grade) students—boys and girls—and their parents joined with other members of the congregation to learn how to put on *t'fillin*. The event, sponsored by the Men's Club, was part of a coordinated effort by Conservative synagogues around the world to teach *t'fillin* on the same day. After children and adults who

wanted to learn were paired up with teaching buddies who helped them put on *t'fillin*, everyone joined in a participatory, educational Shacharit Service led by the clergy, and then enjoyed brunch together.

To prepare for the event, over a dozen volunteers, from our clergy and senior staff, to members of the Men's Club and the parents of the Zayin students, worked with our Zayin students prior to the World Wide Wrap to teach them how to put on *t'fillin*, so they would have enough opportunities to practice. It was a wonderful example of hands-on, multigenerational learning. A huge *todah rabbah* to all our volunteers! I would also like to thank Barbara, Henry, Abraham, Deborah, Samuel and Joseph Katz for the incredibly generous donation of 36 pairs of new *t'fillin* to the Religious School, which they made in honor of their children's *b'nai mitzvah*.

**Bar/Bat Mitzvah Parents' Orientation:** All parents of 4th-6th graders, as well as 7th graders who haven't yet had their *b'nai mitzvah*, are invited to attend an orientation providing information on every aspect of the Machon and Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program on Sunday February 10. There will be two sessions: 9-10 A.M. and 11-12 P.M., in the Crystal Ballroom. This event is open to all parents of 4th-7th graders, whether or not their children attend the Religious School. The clergy, senior educational staff and Bar and Bat Mitzvah Committee Chairperson Marc Langsner, as well as Laura Lederman of Carltun Caterers, will all be available. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

**Hay Tzitzit Workshop:** On Sunday, February 10, the Hay (5th grade) classes and their parents will join together for the culminating activity in their *tallit* project. At this workshop, I will be teaching the significance of the *tzitzit* and art teacher Lisa Weinblatt will teach how to tie them. Students should be justly proud of the gorgeous *tallitot* they made!

**Mitzvah Marathon:** Please put March 16 on your calendar for our annual Mitzvah Marathon. This year, in addition to participating in many hands-on *chesed* (loving kindness) projects, we will be focusing on the environment, putting into practice Judaism's mandate to care for the earth. Mitzvah Marathon is a family day for parents and children to join together in doing the *mitzvot* of *g'milut chasadim* (acts of kindness) and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). Please see the insert in this issue of The Voice that lists some of the projects that the entire congregation is invited to participate in, and plan on coming on the 16th!

# A Parent's View: Beth HaGan's Torah Science Fair Dazzles

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This article is by Pargol Khadavi, a member of the Beth HaGan Bridge Committee, which is dedicated to building relationships between the congregation and Beth HaGan families. She and her husband, Steven, are proud parents of Kevin, a member of the Beth HaGan Toucan class, and Justine, a future Beth HaGan student.

By Pargol Khadavi

Children from the Toddlers to the four-year olds presented research projects in a tactile-sensory hands on approach at the Temple's Beth HaGan Nursery School Seventh Annual Torah Science Fair, held last week. The concept of *Torah U'madah B'yachad*, Torah and Science Together, bridges the gap between the scientific and Judaic world.

Rachel Mathless, director of the school, acknowledged how hard the children and teachers had worked for the previous month to make their presentations to the rest of the school. "I am amazed not only with how hard they worked, but how much they have learned throughout this process," said Ms. Mathless. "And, indeed, the children became experts in their field of study."

The Toddlers performed beyond any expectation of their little size. The Bunnies, under the guidance of *Morot* Nathalie and Adina, presented the third day of creation, the creation of trees and plants. Each Bunny class member created a book about the climatic and seasonal changes in the cycle of a tree. The Kangaroos class led by *Morot* Mojdeh and Phyllis presented Joseph and his coat of many colors. In their pursuit of experimenting with primary colors and the color wheel, their presentation was quite a hit among their fellow classmates. Children were encouraged to use spray paints and finger paints to experiment with color on hats, shirts and funny glasses.

The Kittens class, directed by *Morot* Roni and Amy, presented the sixth day of creation, the creation of animals. They studied animal names, sounds and movements, and drew comparisons to human beings. People need food, shelter and water to survive, but animals live on farms, zoos, forests, jungles, and of course, the circus! People, on the other hand, live in homes. Their presentation included dioramas of different animals portrayed in various habitats. The Lambs class, under the supervision of *Morot* Dinah and Siona, did



Members of the Toucan Class, at the Torah Science Fair, left to right, *Morah* Ann, Ariela Hakimi, David Kahen, Kevin Khadavi, Dayna Pourmoradi, Ryan Aminzadeh and *Morah* Lois.

a geological study of rocks and matter, complete with handmade rock forms labeling the 12 tribes of Israel in a larger-than-life depiction of Jacob's Dream.

The three-year olds impressed us all with their unbelievable use of imagination and creativity. Under the leadership of *Morot* Susan and Lucy, the Ducks presented *Hachmasat Orchim* (Welcoming Guests) based on *Parshat Vayaira*. Complete with a life-sized welcoming tent of Abraham and Sara, the Ducks welcomed everyone with delicious homemade treats made from nutritious recipes they had cooked and baked as part of learning about nutrition and health. Walking into the Crystal Ballroom that evening, one could not help but notice the floor to ceiling sized Goliath created by the Giraffes class, under the direction of *Morot* Miriam and Michelle. Their presentation of the laws of physics in connection with the story of David and Goliath was comparable to that of a research project of a high school student. Complete with their own handmade Newton's Cradle, slingshots and an array of photos depicting the children performing experiments with various laws of motion and physics, it was truly hard to believe that the projects were created by three-year olds!

The Seals class portrayal of Jerusalem: Jerusalem of Old - Jerusalem of Gold, was worthy of the city's importance. Led by *Morot* Cheryl and Elizabeth, the Seals' replication of Jerusalem made with cardboard boxes and milk cartons, all gleaming with gold, was just beautiful. No detail had been spared, even down to a gorgeous replica of the Dome of the Rock. They even had a pretend archeological dig that kept many of the attending children busy and entertained. The Bears class presentation of musical instruments from the Bible allowed the children to experiment with vibrations and sound waves. Conducted by the Beth HaGan's

musically talented *Morah* Sarah and *Morah* Lida, the Bears presented handmade maracas, flutes, drums and even harps!

The school's graduating classes compiled their experiences and know-how into creating truly spectacular models for everyone to enjoy and learn from. The Dolphins class, under the leadership of *Morot* Connie and Ety, presented a model of Solomon's First Temple: Architectural Engineering and Simple Machines. Attending children were able to experiment with an actual wheel, a pulley, an inclined plane and a lever. Children were also encouraged to build homes with toothpicks and mini-marshmallows. Perhaps the Dolphin class has some future highly talented architects!

The Butterflies class, under the supervision of *Morot* Rebeka and Hilda, presented weather related occurrences in the Torah: The Study of Natural Phenomena. Samples of liquid, solid and gas forms were on display while pictures of the class in almost every weather situation were happily displayed.

Last but certainly not least, was the Toucans class, which I am slightly biased as my son, Kevin, is a Toucan. Under the direction of *Morot* Lois and Ann, the Toucans very appropriately studied feathered friends of the Tanach. Complete with a tree full of handmade nests made of tree branches and feathers, the Toucans amazed us with their knowledge of birds. In their study of bird beaks and feet, the children touched on similarities between bird beaks and various human tools such as nutcrackers, chopsticks and sieves. The children also experimented writing a word from the Torah with quill and ink. Beautiful portrayals of toucans, doves and owls decorated their boards.

My hat is off to the entire staff of Beth HaGan for, once again, creating a truly memorable and educational event for parents and children. Congratulations on a job very well done!

**Temple Israel of Great Neck  
Dinner Dance Journal April 12, 2008**

Please help support Temple Israel's annual Journal, to be published in conjunction with Temple Israel's annual Gala Dinner Dance to be held on Saturday evening, April 12, 2008. Our honorees this year are *Barbara and Howard Spun, Eve Keller and Rebecca and Sassan Sassouni*. If you purchase a full page ad, sell a full page ad or sell a total of \$1000 in commercial ads, you will receive two complimentary tickets to the Dinner Dance.

Bill to: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Solicited By: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Provide Copy in Space Below**

**PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR LEVEL OF SUPPORT**

Inside Front or Back Cover Diamond Page.....	\$5,000.00
Outside Back Cover Emerald Page.....	\$5,000.00
Gold Full Page.....	\$2,500.00
Silver Full Page.....	\$1,800.00
Bronze Full Page.....	\$1,250.00
White Full Page.....	\$800.00
Half Page.....	\$500.00
Quarter Page.....	\$360.00
Eighth Page.....	\$180.00
<b><u>Listings:</u></b>	
Gold Professional Page.....	\$100.00
Professional Page.....	\$50.00
Children's Page.....	\$36.00
Grandchildren's Page.....	\$36.00

All ads are due by March 21, 2008 accompanied by a check payable to: Temple Israel of Great Neck, 108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, New York 11023. Major credit cards will be accepted. Please include your credit card name and number along with the expiration date below.

CREDIT CARD-NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Please call the Temple office  
 at 482-7800

TEMPLE ISRAEL OF GREAT NECK PRESENTS:

# 5768 Mitzvah Marathon

CARING  
for EACH  
OTHER



CARING  
for the  
EARTH

Come join us on **SUNDAY, MARCH 16**  
for a day of activities devoted to  
**תקון עולם - Tikkun Olam:**  
**“Repairing The World”**

Come to the Main Sanctuary at 9:00 or 11:10am to hear an inspirational message by Lisa Buksbaum, founder and CEO of Soaringwords, and view a DVD about how her organization has touched the lives of tens of thousands of severely ill children. Then stay to participate in these and other activities:

- \* Learn about Jewish environmental and *chesed* organizations.
- \* Help create original, colorful murals to be donated to a local hospital and to a hospital in Israel.      \* Plant seeds in recycled containers.
- \* Make *groggers* out of recycled beverage bottles.
- \* Help prepare the ground for planting a “mitzvah” garden at Rabbi Adelson’s house.      \* Donate blood.
- \* Make your own lip balm out of 100% natural materials.
- \* Write cards and letters to disabled Israeli soldiers.
- \* Start a composting project at the Youth House.

To find out more, or to volunteer to help out, contact Gloria Delott: 466-5690, [glostu@aol.com](mailto:glostu@aol.com) or Barbara Spun: 773-4116, [bbspun@hotmail.com](mailto:bbspun@hotmail.com).

(PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE.)



# 5768 TEMPLE ISRAEL OF GREAT NECK

## MITZVAH MARATHON COLLECTIONS



Help us care for each other and for the earth by bringing in the following items. Collection bins for most of these items can be found in the Temple lobby until March 16<sup>th</sup> (Mitzvah Marathon).



### EMPTY BEVERAGE BOTTLES

(These will be used to make recycled *groggers* on Mitzvah Marathon day.)

**Between now and March 16, please save all your plastic beverage bottles (soda, water, etc.), rinse them thoroughly, put the caps back on, and put them in the marked bins in the lobby and at the Youth House.**

### SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR ETHIOPIAN CHILDREN IN ISRAEL

(All Supplies must be **NEW**. Unopened packages rather than individual pens or markers are most appropriate for sending overseas.)

- **Construction Paper** • **Calculators** • **Checker Sets** (not Chinese checkers)
- **Crayons** • **Deflated Balls** • **Erasers** • **Geometry Sets** • **Glue Sticks**
- **Jump Ropes** • **Markers** • **Metric Rulers** • **Pencil Pouches**
- **Pencil Sharpeners** • **Post-it Notes** • **Safety Scissors**
- **School Bags (Backpacks)** • **Scotch Tape** • **Small Black Dolls**



#### PLEASE DO NOT SEND:

- Binders • Chalk • Clothing • Food of any kind • Games requiring English • Loose paper
- Non-educational toys • Notebooks • Pads of paper • Paperclips • Thumbtacks

### NEW TOILETRIES FOR THE INN (INTERFAITH NUTRITION NETWORK)



- **Band-Aids** • **Body Lotion** • **Chap Stick** • **Combs** • **Dental Floss**
- **Deodorant** • **Disposable Razors** • **Feminine Hygiene Products**
- **Kleenex** • **Mouth Wash** • **Shampoo** • **Shaving Cream** • **Soap**
- **Swabs** • **Toilet Paper** • **Tooth Brushes** • **Tooth Paste**

### CLOTHING, LINENS AND BLANKETS FOR THE INN

(Can donate either new or used, but must be clean and in good condition)

- **Blankets** • **Pillows** • **Pillow Cases** • **Sheets** • **Towels** • **Wash Cloths**
- **Children's Clothes** for spring/summer, like tee shirts, shorts etc.
- **Sneakers** (Adult's and Children's sizes)



### NONPERISHABLE FOOD FOR THE INN



- **Canned Soup** • **Canned Vegetables** • **Pasta**
- **Peanut Butter** • **Rice** • **Tuna**

### OTHER NEEDS FOR THE INN

- **Children's Books** • **Loose Change** (to be used to buy metro cards for people who use public transportation to get to the soup kitchen). Please bring your loose change to the Religious School office.



*Please see reverse side.*

# Dinner Dance Honoring Five Members April 12th

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## Rebecca Yousefzadeh Sassouni and Sassan Sassouni

Rebecca Yousefzadeh Sassouni was born in Missouri and lived in New Jersey and Queens before moving to Roslyn with her family in 1984. As a teenager, Sassan Sassouni emigrated to Great Neck from Teheran, Iran. The couple married in 1994, honeymooned in Israel, and settled in Great Neck.

In 1996, they became the proud parents of twins, Cy and Sophie. Before their children could walk or talk, the couple decided that their young family would regularly attend *Shabbat* services. They soon became devotees of *Morah* Ronnie Katz's Temple Tot *Shabbat*. In 2000, their daughter Leila was born, followed by Emma in 2002. The family joined Temple Israel in 2000, and continues their commitment to *Shabbat* and Temple participation. Leila and Emma each graduated from Beth HaGan and all of their children are currently enrolled in the Temple Religious School.

Mrs. Sassouni is currently serving her second year on the Temple Board of Trustees. The couple says they became more involved in Temple affairs because of several events: the death of Mrs. Sassouni's maternal grandfather, the inspiration of Rabbi Howard Stecker, Mrs. Sassouni's graduation from the two-year J-Learn Me'Ah course, and the couple's decision that they should be a model of Jewish learning and ethics for their children.

In addition to serving on the Temple Board, Mrs. Sassouni serves as the chair of the Beth HaGan Bridge Committee, Sukkah Hop chair and on the Leadership Team of the Re-Imagine Project. She is also a member of the Religious School Education, Israel Affairs and Membership Committees and is a regular contributor to *The Voice*.

Mrs. Sassouni says she "most enjoys the numerous learning opportunities at Temple Israel, whether it be a class taught by Rabbi Stecker or Rabbi Charry, a Machon service led by Rabbi Adelson, a Junior Congregation service led by Michael Sloyer, a sermon from the *bimah*, a *minyana* led by a fellow congregant or a *seudah shlishit* led by Rabbi Stecker or Cantor Frieder. And," she adds, "it all began back in *Morah* Ronnie's Tot *Shabbat*."

Mr. Sassouni says he derives "pleasure from Temple involvement, attending services every *Shabbat*, opening my home for various meetings, opening the family sukkah to the congregation for the Sukkah Hop, donating blood, teaching students to lay *t'fillin* and feeding and clothing homeless New Yorkers during several Midnight Runs." He said he also enjoys the camaraderie of the Men's Club.

The couple say *tzedakah* and *chesed* are important to their family and that they try to be generous in their support of Temple Israel; the Iranian-American Jewish Federation;

SHAI, the Sephardic Heritage Alliance, Inc.; IMA, Iranian Mothers Association; Hadassah; Meir Panim; Midnight Run; the Interfaith Nutrition Network; and other causes.

Mrs. Sassouni, a perennial class parent, has served on the Executive Committee of the J.F. Kennedy School PTA and has been a member of the Shared Decision Making Committees at the Kennedy and North Middle Schools. For the past two years, she has been the parent co-chair of the committee at the Kennedy School.

She is also a founding member of the Persian Culture Committee, which has coordinated Persian culture programming with the Great Neck Library and Park District since 2001. In 2005 and 2006 she was appointed to the Nominating Committee of the Great Neck Library. She also sits on the Board of Trustees of IMA and HUGS (Help Us Give Smiles), which raises funds for Schneider Children's Hospital.

She is a *cum laude* graduate of Barnard College and graduated from the Hofstra Law School as an associate editor of the *Law Review*. Mr. Sassouni is a real estate investor.

## Barbara and Howard Spun

Barbara and Howard Spun have become an integral part of congregational life in recent years through involvement in many Temple activities.

Mr. Spun currently serves as chairman of the Pastoral Committee, co-chair of the Ritual Committee and a member of the Temple Board of Trustees. During the High Holy Days, he is the co-chair of the Temple's High Holidays Task Force, coordinating the labeling of all seats and the placement of Kol Nidre pledge cards and prayerbooks. In ad-

dition, he serves as the head usher for the High Holy Days service in the tent.

He has served as the president of the Men's Club, member of a Board Nominating Committee and a teacher of adult Hebrew literacy. On the lighter side, he has been among those doing the planning for the Annual Tennis and Golf Outing and Comedy Night. Mr. Spun has also performed in a number of plays with the Temple Israel Players as a featured singer and comedic actor.

But, he says his most gratifying Temple role is "bringing comfort to bereaved members of the congregation" by leading *minyana* at their homes. "That," he says, "is truly a *mitzvah*."

Mrs. Spun was introduced to congregational life with the Temple Israel Players when she performed as a "Hot Box Girl." Since then, she has performed in a number of subsequent productions.

She serves as the co-chair of the Temple's Mitzvah Marathon and is a member of the Membership, Adult Education and Golf and Tennis Committees. She is a regular at the Temple's popular Monday night Israeli Dance Class. Recently, she became an adult *Bat Mitzvah*, learning Hebrew for the first time.

Since retiring as a public school teacher, she serves as a substitute teacher in the Great Neck Public Schools, tutors children with reading needs and works as a private image consultant. She also is a volunteer at the Holocaust Center, Glen Cove.

But, she says, her favorite role is being the grandmother of her new grandson, Elijah Hallel Spun. The Spuns son, Brandon, and daughter-in-law, Stephanie, live in Tennessee.

## Next Temple Blood Drive Is Sunday, March 16

One of the greatest *mitzvot*, our rabbis tell us, is to save a life. Giving a pint of your blood can do just that. "...If any one man saves a single soul, it is as though he had saved a whole world." That is what the Temple Israel Men's Club Blood Bank is all about. By donating blood, you will insure that blood will be available for the entire congregation, if needed.

The Men's Club is asking all congregants to donate blood on Sunday, March 16, between 8 A.M. and 1:30 P.M. in the Crystal Ballroom, in conjunction with Temple Israel's Mitzvah Marathon. Every donor is urgently needed. Donors must be between 16 and 75 years old (16 year olds need parental permission, 76+ need a doctor's note), at least 110 pounds, and in basic good health. Every donor is given a mini-physical to make sure it is safe for him or her to give blood. They will receive a free cholesterol screening, as well.

Of course, there is no danger of contracting any disease from donating blood because everything that is used is brand new, sterile and used only once. Very careful screening procedures have been instituted for all donors. ID with a photo will be required.

Donating blood is a very tangible way of expressing generosity of spirit. Although appointments are not necessary, they will expedite blood donations. To make an appointment or for further information about the blood drive, call Dr. Charles I. Adler at 482-4421. The safest blood supply in the world will only be there if each one of us takes the time to give that gift of life.

Speaking of generosity, the committee would like to express its thanks to the Mazur family for donating a quart of soup to every blood donor to help replenish the pint of blood they donated and to Bagel Mentch for their generous contribution of bagels for the Blood Drive.

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ACKERMAN  
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*In honor of:*

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Suzanne and Hon.  
Howard Weitzman, to  
Alexa Meyer  
The birth of Annie Jane  
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of Pamela and Dr. Ben  
Boal  
The birth of Benjamin  
Ollendorff, grandson of Jill  
and Mitchell Friedman  
Linda and Bill  
Ackerman

*In memory of:*

Beatrice Ackerman  
Pamela and Dr. Ben  
Boal  
Laura and Manny  
Bardash  
Susan and Dr. Cyrus  
Kahn and family  
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SCHOOL FUND**
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Omid Pourmoradi  
Rebecca and Dr. Ben  
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Jacob, Rachel and  
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Pourmoradi

# From Generation to Generation



## Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

**TEMPLE ISRAEL FUND***In honor of:*

The *Auf Ruf* of Matthew  
Weitzman, son of Suzanne  
and Hon. Howard  
Weitzman, and Alexa  
Meyer  
Marcia and Leonard  
Weiss

*In memory of:*

Dr. Herbert B. Rosenthal  
Jane Salzberg  
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**PRAYER BOOK FUND***In honor of:*

Ariel Terrani becoming a  
*Bar Mitzvah*  
Helen Wrobel and Tal  
Eyal

*In memory of:*

Eva and Armand Friedel's  
mother  
Klara and Sandy Brand  
Bronia Rothbaum  
Paul Rothbaum  
Dorothy Ruderman  
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**CHARLES RABKIN ADULT  
EDUCATION FUND**
*In memory of:*

Charles Rabkin  
Lillian Rabkin

**LIBRARY FUND***In honor of:*

The marriage of Amy,  
daughter of Rosalinde and  
Paul Liebowitz, to Marc  
Berman  
Jill and Mitchell  
Friedman

*In memory of:*

Beatrice Ackerman  
Mimi Rosenberg and  
Jacob Boltino  
Morris Shapiro  
Marcia Shapiro

**WAXMAN HIGH SCHOOL  
AND YOUTH HOUSE FUND**
*In honor of:*

The birth of Sofia Emerson  
Levy, granddaughter of  
Wendy and Jeffrey Maurer  
Roberta and Herbert  
Selzer  
Marc Katz being elected to  
the National Board of  
United Synagogue of  
Conservative Judaism  
Sylvia Rieders  
Jamie Kahen becoming a  
*Bat Mitzvah*  
The birth of Layla Tova  
Pourmoradi, daughter of  
Moji and Omid Pourmoradi  
Ronnie, Marc, Amy  
and Jacob Katz  
The birth of Liana Alex  
Kase, daughter of Amy  
and Mitchell Kase  
The birth of Alex Hudson  
Rokhsar, grandson of Faye  
and Dr. Joseph Rokhsar  
The engagement of  
Benjamin Handler, son of  
Leslie and Dr. Martin  
Handler, to Rebecca Strauss  
The birth of Elliot Murray  
Weiss, grandson of Anne  
and Jerry Hirsh  
The *Auf Ruf* of Matthew  
Weitzman, son of Suzanne  
and Hon. Howard  
Weitzman, and Alexa  
Meyer  
The birth of Leo William  
Weitzman, grandson of  
Suzanne and Hon.  
Howard Weitzman  
Parvaneh and Dr.  
Parviz Khodadadian

*In memory of:*

Norman Zuller  
Randi Zuller and  
family  
Louis I. Berman  
Irene Ashery

## NEW MEMBERS OF THE TEMPLE FAMILY

**Editor's Note:** With this issue, The Voice begins a new regular feature about new members of the congregation, in the hopes that when you see these new members of the Temple family, you will warmly welcome them.

This feature is compiled by Temple member Jeff Weinberger of the Membership Committee. For information on Temple Israel membership, e-mail Membership Chair Cheryl Eisberg Moin at <cremesq@aol.com>, call her at 487-0242 or call the Temple office at 482-7800.

Temple Israel welcomes Jackie Einstein Astrof and her husband, Joshua Astrof, recent émigrés from the Upper West Side, New York City, and their sons, Jared, 5, and Zachary, 3, to the Temple Israel family.

Before moving to Great Neck, Mr. and Mrs. Astrof were active members of Congregation Habonim in Manhattan. Mr. Astrof works for a hedge fund and Mrs. Astrof worked in health care strategic planning and business development.

Their sons both attend the Temple's Beth HaGan Nursery School and are budding swimmers and ice skaters. Mrs. Astrof is an avid run-



ner and helps the New York Road Runners' Youth Foundation introduce running programs to children in underserved urban areas.

—Continued from page 2

trees, wielding the ax against them. You may eat of them, but you must not cut them down... Only trees that you know do not yield food may be destroyed..." This is the source of the *mitzvah* known as *bal tashhit*, not destroying or wasting useful things, widely applicable today for such principles as "reduce, reuse, recycle."

In the rabbinic period, the authors of the Talmud taught us the importance of understanding God's role in nature (BT *Berakhot* 59b): "He who sees the sun starting on its new cycle, the moon in its power, the planets in their orbits and the signs of the zodiac in their orderly progress should say, 'Blessed be God who wrought the work of Creation.'"

## Judaism and The Environment

A rabbinic *midrash* on the book of Genesis teaches the following about the interconnectedness of humanity and the natural world (*Bereshit Rabbah* 13:3): "Three things are of equal importance: earth, humans and rain... Each word in Hebrew has three letters, to teach us that without earth, there is no rain; without rain, the earth cannot endure; without either, humanity cannot exist."

And, in modern times, the following

Hasidic tale brings it all together for us: The child of a certain *rebbe* used to wander alone in the woods. At first, his father let him wander, but over time he became concerned that it might be dangerous. One day, the father asked the boy, "Why do you go into the woods every day?" The boy replied, "I go there to find God." The father, puzzled by this, said to his son, "But, my child, don't you know that God is the same everywhere?" "Yes," the boy answered, "but I'm not."

Sometimes we need to return to nature to find God; perhaps a renewed sensitivity to the Earth would help renew for us the spiritual connection that we all seek. Join us on March 16.

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# D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

## Terumah

Saturday, February 9

In this portion, we find a description of the *Mishkan*, the portable sanctuary that was built in the wilderness to house the ark with the tablets of the Ten Commandments. The purpose of the *Mishkan* was to serve as a sign that God dwelt among His people. Moses is directed to gather from the Israelites a free will offering of all manner of precious metals, jewels, fine wood, fine materials and spices to use in constructing the *Mishkan* and its appurtenances. Specific instructions are then given for building the furnishings of the *Mishkan* and the special tent that housed them. The *Mishkan*, as a whole, was meant to be a symbol, a portable Sinai, reminding the Israelites on their journey through the wilderness of their unique experience at the mountain. The *Mishkan* evolved by way of the Temple in Jerusalem into the synagogue, but the purpose remained the same. To this day, whenever we open the ark and look upon the Torah scrolls, we stand again at Sinai.

## Tetzaveh

Saturday, February 16

We move from instructions for the creation of the physical *Mishkan* to details concerning the officiants, in this portion. At the outset, Moses is directed to see to it that a light is kept burning in the *Mishkan*, a task that is to be performed by priests. He is then directed to appoint Aaron and his sons to the priestly office. There follows a detailed description of the vestments of the High Priest and the ordinary priests. Finally, the rituals of installation for the priests are laid out. The *Mishkan*, as sacred space, is differentiated from profane space by its design. In like manner, its officiants are to be distinguishable from the laity by their attire and insignia of office. In particular, the High Priest is to wear vestments, which symbolize his role as representative of the entire community before God. The High Priest, who presided over sacrificial rites evolved into the prayer leader of today's synagogue. That individual is still designated the *shaliach tzibur*, the representative of the congregation.

## SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, February 8

Evening Service 5:15 P.M.

•

Saturday, February 9

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Terumah*

Exodus 25:1 - 27:19; *Haftarah*: I Kings 5:26 - 6:13

Sabbath Service Officers:

Cheryl Eisberg Moin and Ellen Birnbaum

*B'not Mitzvah*

JESSICA HAROUNIAN

daughter of Fariba and Hercul Harounian

HANNAH SIEGEL

daughter of Heidi and Walter Siegel

*Havurah* Service 10:00 A.M.

•

Friday, February 15

Evening Service 5:15 P.M.

•

Saturday, February 16

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Tetzaveh*

Exodus 27:20-30:10; *Haftarah*: Ezekiel 43:10-27

Sabbath Service Officers:

Hercul Harounian and Dr. Alan Freedman

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Photographers: David Kaplan, Dr. Robert Lopatkin, Milton Putterman  
Advertising Representation: Lottie Blye

TEMPLE ISRAEL OF GREAT NECK  
108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023

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

Published bi-weekly by Temple Israel of Great Neck, New York,  
from mid-August to mid-June. Periodicals postage paid at Great Neck,  
NY. Postmaster: Send address changes to Temple Israel Voice at address  
above. Publication No. USPS 078-743. Subscription \$5.00 per annum.

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