



"Anything Goes" producers Stan Goldfarb, Eileen Putterman, Carol Smolinsky and Mark Putter are getting ready for another Temple Israel Players production.

*Voice Photo by Mickey Putterman*

## 'Anything Goes' at Temple Israel!

Broadway is once again coming to Temple Israel, via the Temple Israel Players. The congregation's accomplished theatrical group is now in rehearsals for their latest production, "Anything Goes," scheduled to be performed on the Temple's Crystal Ballroom stage on Saturday evening, April 5, and Sunday afternoon, April 6.

The musical comedy was such a big hit that it has been revived two times and was twice made into a movie. Among the show's many memorable songs are "I Get a Kick Out of You," "Friendship," "Blow Gabriel Blow" and "You're the Top."

"The show was selected," said one of the producers, Eileen Putterman, "because there are so many great songs everyone will know and lots of humor." She called the show "a delightful, delicious, delectable comedy that everyone will thoroughly enjoy."

Working as a team, producers Stan Goldfarb, Mark Putter, Eileen Putterman and Carol Smolinsky have announced the selection of a large cast. They said there was a large turnout for the just completed auditions, including "people from the past, the present and little people of the future."

Cast members familiar to Temple audiences from past performances include Lori Freudman and Eve Keller, who share the role of Hope Harcourt; Jon Kaiman, who plays Billy Crocker and Kim Kaiman, who is Reno Sweeny. Waxman High School and Youth House Director Dov Goldberg makes his Temple Players debut as Moonface Martin.

Among the many other starring performers are Amy Cantos, Mark Cwern, Stuart DeLott, Marilyn Goldberg, Stan Goldfarb, Anne Hirsch, Abe Kanfer, Ron Klempner, Natie Kopelowitz, Stan Lavin and Kenneth M. Leff, Elaine Paris Duncley, Mark Putter, Eileen Putterman, Al Rothstein, Rusti Rothstein, Gary Sazer, Lois Sazer, Ruth Shelberg,

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## This Year, Temple Planning a 'Green' Mitzvah Marathon

Plans are being formulated for Temple Israel's fourth annual Mitzvah Marathon—a day dedicated to activities by Temple members to improve the world. This year the day of events, scheduled for Sunday, March 16, has the theme "Temple Israel Goes Green!"

"This year's theme is in keeping with the 'inconvenient truth' that we are truly leaving a planet much more depleted of natural resources for our children and grandchildren than we had when we were growing up," said Gloria DeLott, a chair of the Mitzvah Marathon. "We have to reduce, reuse, recycle."

She said plans call for taking congregants and their children through the Temple looking for ways to conserve energy and be less wasteful. "We can be shutting off lights and recycling cans, glass and paper. We have to learn the Jewish perspective on improving our environment."

Temple members are needed to participate in the planning of the Mitzvah Marathon and to participate in activities. To volunteer, call Mrs. DeLott at 466-5690 or e-mail her at <GloStu@aol.com>.

Additional projects will be undertaken by Temple Religious School and Waxman High School students.

Among projects under consideration for the Mitzvah Marathon are:

- Making Ecologically-Friendly *Tzedakah* Boxes: The boxes, made by Temple school children, will be used to collect coins from recycled bottles and cans to be donated to a designated charity.
- Movie Afternoon: A showing at the Temple of "An Inconvenient Truth" or "Who Killed the Electric Car?"
- "Let the Earth Teach You Torah:" A class teaching ecological concepts through a Jewish lens.

## Becoming a Temple Bar or Bat Mitzvah

By Marc Langsner

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Temple member Marc Langsner is marking his *Bar Mitzvah* year as the chair of the Bar and Bat Mitzvah Committee. He gives a status report on the committee in this Voice Guest Column.

Every *Shabbat* morning, I normally stand in the back of the Sanctuary to con-

*On the morning  
of February 10,  
we will be  
conducting an  
orientation...*

gratulate our *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah* child and his or her family as they return the Torah to

the Ark. This year is especially significant for me, since the *B'nai Mitzvah* this year were born the year I became chairman. The years have gone by quickly, but I am pleased that the *Bar* and *Bat Mitzvah* Machon Program continues to be well organized and efficiently run by our Temple staff. Our current clergy is providing excellent leadership. Together, they will assure that this vital stage in a child's ongoing religious education and lifelong commitment to living as a Jew will be successfully attained.

On the morning of February 10 we will be conducting an orientation for the parents of those children who will be becoming *B'nai Mitzvah* in 2010. The 2008 and 2009 parents are also invited and should attend, especially

—Continued on page 5

FROM THE RABBI

## Our Faith, Our Song

By Rabbi Howard Stecker

"They believed in God." "Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the Lord." The coincidence of faith and song was unusual for our ancestors. In Egypt and in the wilderness, they often lacked faith, and the sounds that emerged tended to be groans and complaints.

The Song at the Sea was unique, as faith crystallized and jubilant song emerged. Some scholars have suggested that Moses and the Israelites sang the song antiphonally, alternating portions. That may be so, though unfortunately, we have no proof of how the song was actually sung.

What we do know, based on the description in the Torah, is that the faith and the song rose up from the entire community. Moses wasn't singing alone, nor was his faith alone sufficient to move the community forward. Midrashic traditions underscore the universality of faith and song at the Sea. The humblest members of the community experienced God in a way unmatched by the greatest prophets. Babies stopped nursing to behold the *Shekhina*, God's immanent presence.

This climactic moment of communal faith and celebration reminds us that faith

and worship are not just the province of religious leaders. Ideally, everyone in the community takes responsibility for wrestling with issues of faith and trying to create a satisfying atmosphere for prayer.

*I hope we'll lift  
each other up  
so that we...  
end up in a  
better place*

Prayer is complex in so many ways, and it is not always easy to achieve the depth of faith and song that our ancestors achieved after crossing the *Yam Suf*, the Sea of Reeds. Yet, as a community and as individuals, we can do a few things to deepen our experience of prayer.

We can learn more by taking classes at

—Continued on page 4

## Kosher Chinese

By Hon. Richard Kestenbaum

A few days ago, Bloomberg News reported an interesting story about China. As many of you have read, there has been a backlash in the United States over tainted products from China, including toothpaste, pet food and seafood. In an effort to "clean up their act," the Chinese exporters turned to the Orthodox Union, a group that certifies as kosher more than 400,000 products worldwide, to certify the *kashruth* of the Chinese products.

The story went on to state that the Chinese exporters were eager to gain access to the \$11.5 billion U.S. kosher market, so they were willing to comply with the requirements of the Orthodox Union.

Of course, there were some humorous moments at the start of the inspection process, such as when a furniture maker

*we each can find  
a way to put  
our toe  
in the water...*

asked for kosher certification, but had to be told that they don't have it quite right. The OU is working through these cultural differences, so when their team arrives to examine the company books or drops in for surprise inspections to ensure that the dietary laws are being followed, feelings aren't hurt.

What can we draw from this? I think that it is fair to conclude that there is a worldwide acceptance of the fact that kosher products are better inspected than non-kosher products.

So, why don't more of us in our synagogue follow the *mitzvah* of keeping kosher? (By way of full disclosure, I do not keep kosher at home.) I have no explanation to offer, but suggest that it is never too late to change. The act of making your home a "kosher home" will be uplifting, and to those who have young children at home, a spiritual experience they won't forget. If you decide to undertake this, let them fully participate in the process.

You should all be aware that by contract, I am not allowed to give *halachic* advice. However, just between us, I'm sure that with a little imagination, we each can find a way to put our toe in the water without a complete dunking, just to see how it feels.

## IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences  
to the family of:

SONIA SAVITZKY  
mother of Denise Ratner

May her memory be for a blessing.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

Feb. 2	Temple Comedy Night	7:30 P.M.
3	Temple Men's Club World Wide Wrap	9:00 A.M.
9	Beth HaGan <i>Shabbat</i>	
9	Midnight Run	
13	Jewish Music Lecture Series: "60 Years and Still Singing" Featuring Cantor Raphael Frieder, Rabbi Seth Adelson and a guest appearance by Rabbi Howard Stecker	8:15 P.M.
21	Temple Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.

## MAZAL TOV TO . . .

- Eileen and Mickey Putterman on the engagement of their granddaughter, Abby Panisch, to Glenn Hamburg.
- Parvaneh and Dr. Parviz Khodadadian on the birth of their granddaughter, Sara Ariella Kalimi.
- Amy and Mitchell Kase on the birth of their daughter, Liana Alex.
- Ruth and Harold Nelkin on the birth of their granddaughter, Liana Alex Kase.
- Susan and Joel Poretsky on the birth of their granddaughter, Kylie Hunter Hoffman.

## CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

*Kindle the Sabbath Lights!*

Friday, January 25	4:45 P.M.
Friday, February 1	4:53 P.M.

## 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, Jan. 25	7:00 A.M.	4:45 P.M.
Friday, Feb. 1	7:00 A.M.	6:30 P.M.
Saturday, Jan. 26	8:45 A.M.	4:25 P.M.
Saturday, Feb. 2	8:45 A.M.	4:35 P.M.
Sunday	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.

*Temple Israel's Jewish Music Series  
Presents...*

# '60 Years & Still Singing'

*A Musical Retrospective*

*In Honor of Israel's 60th Birthday*

*featuring*

*Cantor Raphael Frieder, Rabbi Seth Adelson  
and a guest appearance by*

*Rabbi & Maestro Howard Stecker*

**Wednesday, Feb. 13 • 8:15 P.M.**

**Crystal Ballroom**

*free and open to the public*

## 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 1. What is your favorite quote? Send suggestions for this column to The Voice, c/o the Temple office.

“*The world rests on three things—  
on Torah,  
on service of God,  
on deeds of love.*”

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



**Samuel Shamouilian**

Samuel A. Shamouilian will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* on February 2. He is the son of Fariba and Sam Shamouilian and has a brother, Michael, 14, and two sisters, Michelle, 11, and Sally, 8. Samuel is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. He enjoys playing basketball. Samuel will be attending the Waxman High School and Youth House following his *Bar Mitzvah*.



**Jessica Harounian**

Jessica Dina Harounian will be celebrating her *Bat Mitzvah* on February 9. She is the daughter of Fariba and Hercel Harounian and has two brothers, Jason, 21, and Joshua, 18. Jessica is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. She enjoys playing tennis, lacrosse and basketball. She will be attending the Waxman High School. Jessica has visited Israel many times. During the last visit, she became a *Bat Mitzvah* at the Wailing Wall.



**Hannah Siegel**

Hannah Siegel will be called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah* on February 9. She is the daughter of Heidi and Walter Siegel and has two brothers, Daniel, 15, and Adam, 9. Hannah is a seventh grade honor student at Great Neck South Middle School. She is a member of the All County Chorus and enjoys track, singing and playing tennis. Hannah plans to visit Israel in the near future.

FROM THE WAXMAN HIGH SCHOOL

## *New Courses: What A Range!*

By Dov Goldberg

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This column, by Waxman High School and Youth House Director Dov Goldberg, alternates with columns by the directors of Temple Israel's other two schools.

Tomorrow we conclude our Minimester with a Gala Mock Wedding Celebration. After two weeks of learning about Jewish marriage, relationships and the wedding ceremony, the experience will culminate with our own Youth House version of the "Big Day." It is sure to be memorable.

In the afterglow of this celebration, we are embarking on the spring semester of Waxman High School classes. To give you an idea of the range and type of courses, I thought I would share a description of the various courses being offered.

*...the range of offerings  
is significant and exciting.*

We are creating a somewhat different emphasis on courses offered during our first period from courses offered during the second period. The former are specifically more hands-on and overtly practical. While they will certainly have an important learning component, they are specifically geared to have a major hands-on aspect as well. Following are the courses of this type that we'll be offering:

- **It's Not Easy Being Green:** An exploration of environmental currents in Judaism with a focus on connecting textual sources with hands-on experience. Projects may include gardening and recycling, reducing the carbon footprint of the Youth House and Temple Israel.
- **The Art of Torah:** Studying two stories from the Bible (The Book of Esther and the Book of Ruth) and creating artwork based on these stories. We hope to share this work with the entire congregation for Purim and Shavuot.
- **T'nT – Tefillah and Trope:** Each student will create his or her own goals for working on prayers, Torah portions, Megillah reading, etc. Students will receive coaching and tutoring

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## *Our Faith, Our Song*

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Temple Israel in the structure, content and mechanics of prayer. We can vary our participation by joining the main service, *Havurah*, and *N'raneh* Services and Torah Yoga. We can encourage our children by attending Junior Congregation and Machon with them regularly, demonstrating for them our effort to increase our own learning and participation. We can learn to lead a service in a house of mourning. We can ask our rabbis and cantor questions and offer them feedback. We can allow ourselves to get just a little bit lost in the melodies of the prayers, surrendering to the power of the music and the embrace of the community. We can imagine how prayer might lead us to view our obligations toward one another and toward our planet more sensitively.

Not every song is a peak song, and faith certainly has its highs and lows. But the communal experience of our ancestors reminds us that faith and prayer are everyone's responsibility and privilege, and that our worthy efforts can do wonders for the communal song. I wish us many moments when we, like our ancestors, achieve peak faith and song, sometimes jointly, sometimes separately. During the other moments, when neither is at a high, I wish us joy, humor and patience.

Whenever we get together to pray, I hope we'll lift each other up so that we, like the ancient Israelites crossing the Sea, can end up in a better place than we started.

# Becoming a Temple Bar or Bat Mitzvah

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if they haven't been to a previous orientation. Rabbi Stecker, Cantor Frieder, Rabbi Adelson, Religious School Director Rabbi Klirs, Waxman High School Director Dov Goldberg, and Laura Lederman, of Carlton Caterers, will all speak. The orientation will give parents a complete understanding of the three year program. Our clergy will discuss attendance requirements, study programs, individual training, *mitzvah* projects, the Machon Family Service, and the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony and celebration. The Machon booklet, which will be handed out, will serve as a guidebook which parents may refer to throughout the program. There will be two sessions on February 10, the first from 9 to 10:30 A.M. and the second from 11:15 A.M. to 12:45 P.M. Parents may attend either session, whichever is more convenient.

I believe it is important to mention that in addition to our clergy, our Bar and Bat Mitzvah program receives great support from our executive director, Harriet Schiff, and her office staff. They help plan each Bar or Bat Mitzvah ceremony, coordinating the *aliyot*, *kippot* and family pictures, among the many other details. Rabbi Isaac does a great job in overseeing all of the congregational and private *kiddushim* being held at Temple Israel. Our Sisterhood, Men's Club, Israel Affairs and Religious Education Committees all donate gifts to the Bar and Bat Mitzvah children. And our regular congregants who attend services every Shabbat assure that the ceremony is truly a community event. Our Executive Committee and the members of the Board of Directors continue to provide the necessary funds allowing us to maintain the excellent leadership that I mentioned above. Lastly, the Bar and Bat Mitzvah Committee, made up of parents, help support the entire program including communication, the Machon Family Service and dealing with individual issues. As you can see, there are many people involved in helping our children attain the status of a Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

Having chaired the Bar and Bat Mitzvah Committee for 13 years, I want to take this opportunity to recommend that you, as parents, take the time to be involved. Attend the Machon Service, help your child rehearse his or her Torah and Haftarah portions and sit in and help with the *D'var Torah*. I really believe that your children want you to be involved, even though they may not ask you. It will certainly result in a more meaningful experience for them, for you and for your entire family.

I want to end by getting back to the moment when the Torah is being returned to the Ark and I shake hands to congratulate the child who has just become an adult Jew. As I look at them, I can't help but be

impressed by how well they have achieved this special moment in their lives. They have taken their studying and training very seriously and really do "rise to the occasion." As you will experience for yourself, our children will chant their Haftarah and Torah portions beautifully and will deliver a most meaningful *D'var Torah*.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the parent orientation on February 10.

## New Courses: What A Range!

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to work on their individual goals.

- Do the Right Thing—*Derech Eretz*: There's an important difference between what you have a right to do and what is the right thing to do. This course will examine what the Jewish tradition teaches to be the right thing to do and why. It will also tackle what we can do to try to live up to these ideals and encourage others to do so, too.

- From Us T.O. the World: According to the Jewish tradition, human beings were created (at least in part) in order to be God's partners in caring for God's world. *Tikkun olam* (repairing the world) is the Jewish responsibility to make the world a better place in which to live. This course will examine a variety of ways in which we can make a difference in the world. It will wrestle with how we determine our priorities and especially engage in *tikkun* projects.

Courses offered during our second period will also be engaging and interactive, but in addition, are especially designed to extend our understanding and knowledge about a wide range of Jewish topics. Following are courses of this type:

- Happy Birthday Israel! A Biography: Israel turns 60 this year. What kind of place is Israel today and how did it get there. This course will take a look at the history of Israel from the events that led to its establishment, through its developing society, culture, religion, politics and wars, to the reality which exists today.

- Seeing Tomorrow or Seeing Today? Who

## 'Anything Goes' at Temple Israel!

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Carol Smolinsky, Steve Smolinsky, Maxine Vogel and Jessye Waxman.

Children in the play are Jared Kaiman, Rebecca Marcus, Rachel Seidenberg and Avir Waxman.

"Mark your calendars now," Mrs. Putterman said. "Tickets will be going on sale soon. Be sure to save the date because you will just love all of the fun, the comedy and the music."

## Beth HaGan Shabbat

Beth HaGan pre-schoolers will celebrate Shabbat on Saturday, February 9, at a special service and festive *kiddush*, to be held in the Blue Room at 11:15 A.M. Then, they will join Rabbi Howard Stecker on the *bimah* in the Sanctuary to lead the congregation in song.

The toddler service is led by *Morah* Ronnie Katz. The congregation is invited.

were the Biblical Prophets? We know the word "prophet," but who were these biblical figures? Did they predict the future? Did they speak with God? Did they just hang out on street corners warning about the end of the world? We'll explore what the Bible says and consider whether there can be prophets today.

- Evolving Judaism—A Look at Women's Roles: The place of women in Judaism today is certainly not the same as it was a thousand, a hundred, or even ten years ago. Of course, the nature and range of Judaism has changed, too. The course will explore the evolving role of women in Judaism and examine it as one example of the development of Judaism as a whole.

- Date with a Debate: Did you ever hear the old joke of two Jews...three opinions? Or the one about the Jew found shipwrecked on a deserted island? He'd constructed all kinds of buildings for himself including two synagogues: the one he prays in and the one he'd never set foot in. In some ways, these jokes are often not far from the truth. In this course, students will participate in some of the most crucial Jewish debates of modern times. Issues may include the nature of God, the authorship of the Torah, the relationship of Jews and non-Jews and the nature of the State of Israel.

- Shoah: An Exploration of the Holocaust: Understanding the Holocaust never gets any easier. The more we learn, the more time passes, the more perspective we try to get and the more survivors die, the more we realize how awesome, terrifying and challenging it is to understand the Holocaust. This course will explore what it was, how it came to be, and what consequences it had. Students will especially try to come to their own understandings of what the Shoah has meant and should mean for the Jewish people, the world and, most importantly, themselves.

As you can see, the range of offerings is significant and exciting. Hopefully this shows with you some perspective of the important learning experiences the teens in our community are having at the Waxman High School.

**TEMPLE ISRAEL FUND***In appreciation of:*

Receiving an *aliyah* for  
*Benching Gornel*  
 Jack Elefant

*In honor of:*

Marc Katz being elected to  
 the National Board of  
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The birth of the grandson  
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Alise Kreditor and  
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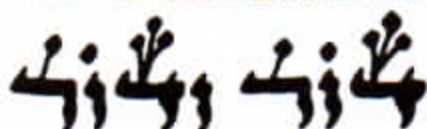
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# From Generation to Generation



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Their son, Mark Kreditor,  
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Marlene and Larry  
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The engagement of Ariel  
Taitz, son of Emily and  
Isaac Taitz, to Jillian  
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The birth of Elliot Murray  
Weiss, grandson of Anne  
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**From Generation  
to Generation**



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# D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

**Yitro** **Saturday, January 26**

In this portion we read of the greatest event in the entire history of the people of Israel: the revelation at Mt. Sinai. The portion opens with an account of the visit of Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, to the Israelite camp just after they have crossed the Sea. Jethro suggests an administrative arrangement to Moses, which significantly enhances Moses' effectiveness as a judge. The people then proceed to the foot of Mt. Sinai where they engage in three days of purification in preparation for God's appearance. The proclamation of the Ten Commandments itself is accompanied by smoke and fire and the sound of the shofar. The effect on the people is overwhelming, so much so that they cannot bear to hear God's voice directly and Moses serves as an intermediary. The experience of Sinai establishes a covenantal relationship between God and Israel which is to last to eternity and put its distinctive stamp on the entire future development of the people.

**Mishpatim** **Saturday, February 2**

We find details of the covenant entered into between God and Israel in this portion. Since the relationship is all-inclusive, we find rules pertaining to social conduct, morality, ethics, civil and criminal law, and ritual concerns. Like the Ten Commandments, the source of these rules is divine. The legal material set forth here is not a code in the strict sense, since there are significant subjects not touched upon. (These subjects are, however, dealt with elsewhere in the Torah.) On the other hand, the material does make clear that God's demands of His people cover matters of conscience as well as matters usually subject to juridical control. The portion concludes with an account of the ratification of the covenant, and Moses ascends Mt. Sinai to remain there for 40 days and nights for the purpose of writing down the specific details. Thus, the freedom gained at the Exodus has now been confirmed and institutionalized in law. The next step will be to create a physical institution that will serve as the embodiment and reminder of the experience at Sinai.

## SABBATH SERVICES

**Friday, January 25**  
Evening Service 4:45 P.M.

•  
**Saturday, January 26**  
Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Yitro*  
Exodus 18:1 - 20:23  
*Haftarah*: Isaiah 6:1 - 7:6; 9:5-6  
Sabbath Service Officers: Hilbert Eshaghpour and Dr. Alan Freedman  
*B'not Mitzvah*  
MICHELLE BOTESAZAN  
daughter of Nazee and Parviz Botesazan  
LAURA SHAPIRO  
daughter of Wendy and Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro  
*Havurah Service* 10:00 A.M.

•  
**Friday, February 1**  
Evening Service 6:30 P.M.

•  
**Saturday, February 2**  
Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Mishpatim*  
Exodus 21:1-24:18  
*Haftarah*: Jeremiah 34:8-22; 33:25-6  
Sabbath Service Officers: Helen Wrobel and Dr. Robert Panzer  
*Bar Mitzvah*  
SAMUEL SHAMOULIAN  
son of Fariba and Sam Shamouilian  
*Machon Family Service* 10:30 A.M.

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