



Dinner-Dancing



Temple Israel members honored five congregants at the Temple's 45th Annual Journal Dinner Dance, held last weekend. In addition, Congressman Gary Ackerman spoke about Israel and the Middle East in keeping with the event's theme, "Celebrating Temple Israel and 60 Years of Israeli Statehood."



Honoree Eve Keller was introduced by Lauren Zander, Rebecca and Sassan Sassouni were introduced by Jackie Harounian and Barbara and Howard Spun were introduced by Susan and Dr. Robert Lopatkin. The honorees were each presented with a piece of Judaic art.

Following the presentation, the honorees all joined in song, led by Cantor Raphael Frieder, above. Temple President Richard Kestenbaum presented Congressman Ackerman with a gift from the congregation following his talk, at left.

Temple's Concert To Salute Israel's 60th Anniversary

Temple Israel will celebrate Israel's 60th anniversary on May 8 with an outdoor celebration featuring world-renowned performers as well as a youth choir from Temple Israel.

The highly spirited event commemorating the founding of the state of Israel in 1948 will involve much audience participation at a unique and memorable evening past and present Israeli songs, with both western and Middle Eastern elements.

The featured performer will be Temple Cantor Raphael Frieder. Joining him will be mezzo-soprano Magda Fishman, who has performed extensively in Israel and Europe, and served in the Israeli Army orchestra as a vocal soloist and trumpet player. In addition, Moroccan born Aaron Bensoussan, former cantor at Temple Beth Sholom in Roslyn, will also be featured. He is best known for his Judeo-Moroccan folk classics and has many cantorial and pop recordings to his credit.

Temple Israel will also take the opportunity to thank the local fire departments and the Nassau County Police Sixth Precinct for their fast and heroic actions on February 12 as they responded to and contained the fire that destroyed a major portion of Temple Israel. "We have much to be thankful for this year," said Temple President Richard Kestenbaum. "In addition to bringing together the Temple Israel community and their friends and family to celebrate this historic moment in Israel's history, we are also most grateful for the work of many local people who truly came to us in our time of need."

Temple Israel's salute to Israel's 60th will take place in the Fire Fighter's Park (formerly Grace Avenue Park) located at Grace Avenue and Barstow Road. The event begins at 7 P.M. and there is no charge for admission. For additional information, call the Temple office.

Why I Chose Beth HaGan

By Lisa Goodwin

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Voice Guest Column is by Beth HaGan alumna Lisa Goodwin. She and her husband, Jeffrey, are the parents of Religious School student Charlie and Beth HaGan students Benjamin and Eli. Mrs. Goodwin is a member of the Beth HaGan Bridge Committee.

I am clearly biased. Having been a member of Temple Israel of Great Neck since the day I was born (back in 1969), exploring another synagogue as a congregant was never a consideration. Exploring a nursery school for my children was another story altogether.

*This would be
one of my first
critical decisions
as a mother...*

This would be one of my first critical decisions as a mother, not necessarily as a Jew.

When my first son, Charlie, was nearing preschool age, I attended a nursery school fair at the Great Neck Public Library.

Temple Israel's pre-school, Beth HaGan, was represented as were many other fine institutions both secular and religious. I was immediately impressed by Beth HaGan's varied curriculum as well as the praise shared by parents of already-enrolled children and alumni. Reawakened were memories of my own early years as a toddler at Beth HaGan. Recollections of braiding challah on *Shabbat* were paired with their circulating aromas signaling that they were hot, fresh and ready to be devoured. Hebrew songs I thought I had long since forgotten became the soundtrack during this journey. I did not need to research any other options—my son would attend Beth HaGan. I was certain (as a mother first) that Charlie would receive an excellent education which would be that much more enriched by a steady celebration of his Jewish heritage.

Charlie thrived at Beth HaGan. By the end of his three years there, he mastered the

—Continued on page 5

Without Israel

By Hon. Richard Kestenbaum

As Israel prepares to celebrate its 60th Anniversary, and as we at Temple Israel plan our celebration to mark the event on May 8th at the Jonathan Ielpi Park (formerly the Grace Avenue Park) at 7 P.M. with a wonderful musical presentation, my thoughts about living in a world where Israel might not exist, gives me a very uncomfortable feeling.

I don't mean to be too pessimistic, but being neighbors with a country that is rushing to arm itself with nuclear weapons, which has publicly stated that they want to wipe Israel off the face of the globe and is funding Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, doesn't bode well for a long-term future. And, of course, we have President Carter, who continues to poke his finger in our eye with his

*...our fate as Jews
is tied to the
fate of Israel.*

attempts at "peace" in the Middle East.

I question whether I am being too negative, and whether there is a solution for any of this bad news, but what feels right to me is for us to recognize that our fate as Jews is tied to the fate of Israel. Our survival in the long run is tied to their survival in the short run. We must acknowledge that the preservation of a Jewish state is critical to our own survival.

How can we accomplish this?

Our college youth have to be better armed in the campus propaganda wars and be taught not to be embarrassed to protest against the Palestinian propaganda being disseminated on our college campuses. Our children must be told that it is okay to speak out and it is okay to be proud to be Jewish. Preserving the right of others is good, but protesting your own right to exist is better.

At Temple Israel we have had a great role model, one who was not afraid to speak out or risk her life for the State of Israel. Jerry Ungar, who recently succumbed to her last illness, would be proud of us if we followed this path, as we were proud of her and her accomplishments. May she rest in peace.

Stand up and be counted; join the Israeli Day Parade on June 1, and join us on May 8, at 7 P.M. in the Jon Ielpi Park to celebrate Israel's 60th birthday and to make it known to the world that we in the Diaspora recognize the importance of the State of Israel to our existence and to the world.

FROM THE RABBI

In Appreciation

By Rabbi Howard Stecker

My mother, Rowena Stecker, died on *Ta'anit Esther* and was buried on Purim. Her illness and death were very hard for me and my family on many levels and our grief, of course, continues. But, I so deeply appreciate how much comfort Jewish tradition and the support of our community have provided us during this difficult time.

Because it connects each moment to something larger and deeper, Jewish tradition often has a way of providing comfort. *Ta'anit Esther*, the fast that the Queen asked her people to observe together with her as she prepared to stand firm before the King, is a day I associate with personal courage. Commemorating my mom's *yahrzeit* on this day will forever link her forthright personality with the bravery exercised by Queen Esther. As a dedicated mother, *bubbe* and elementary school teacher, my mom took steps throughout her life to champion the needs of her children, grandchildren and students. Her burial on Purim will remain, for me, a testament to her great sense of humor and the enjoyment she got out of telling jokes and

stories to friends and even total strangers. Somehow, the Jewish calendar gave my family an uplifting context to a very sad situation.

Even more comforting was the enormous communal support, wisely prescribed by Jewish tradition, that we received during

*nothing beats
...the embrace
of a caring
community.*

the week of *shiv'a* and beyond. I want to express what many people have felt following the death of a loved one. Loss experienced with the support of family and friends is much less bitter than loss experienced alone.

During the week of *shiv'a*, I was never

—Continued on page 4

IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences to the families of:

JERRY UNGAR

wife of William Ungar and esteemed member of Temple Israel

ARLENE STIEGLITZ

mother of the late Dr. Caron Tarras and mother-in-law of Marc Tarras

ASHER ABROON

father of Elana Mirjani

May their memory be for a blessing.

MEMORIAL PLAQUES TO BE DEDICATED Sunday, April 27

DANA SPECTOR KIMMEL

daughter of Janet and Dr. Joseph Spector
sister of Douglas Spector
and Lisa Roth Krug

SYLVIA WILLNER MORRISON

mother of Laura Bardash
grandmother of Karen Bardash
wife of Morton Morrison

HARRIET ZULLER

mother of Randi Zuller, Michael Zuller
and Elaine Zuller Cristian
sister of Martha Marder

NORMAN ZULLER

father of Randi Zuller, Michael Zuller
and Elaine Zuller Cristian

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Friday, April 18.....7:19 P.M.

Friday, April 25.....7:27 P.M.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

April	19	Erev Passover	
	20-27	Passover	
	30	Yom HaShoah Remembrance Service	7:00 P.M.
May	1	Yom HaShoah	
	8	Yom Ha'Atzmaut Concert	7:00 P.M.
	15	Temple Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	19	Sisterhood Torah Fund Luncheon	Noon
	23	Lag B'Omer	

The Congregation is Invited to Attend Sisterhood's Torah Fund Luncheon

All proceeds aid the students of The Jewish Theological Seminary.

Monday, May 19 • Noon

Blue Room

**Dedicated to the Memory of
Vivian Krasnov**

former Sisterhood President and Temple Israel Executive Director

*A mezzuzah and plaque will be dedicated
at the Judaica Shop, which Vivian helped to manage.*

*If anyone would like to write something about Vivian
or speak during the program,
call Karen Ashkenase at 487-3048
or Ellen Cooper at 466-8072*

Watch for your luncheon invitation in the mail soon

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 the Passover Haggadah. What is your favorite quote? Send your suggestions to The Voice, in care of Temple Israel.

**“The Holy One saves us from their hands
With a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.”**

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



Jordan Arabian

Jordan Jacob Arabian will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* on May 3. He is the son of Elahe and Joseph Arabian and has a sister, Judit, 23, and a brother, Joshua, 17. Jordan is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. He finished his elementary education at the North Shore Hebrew Academy. He enjoys playing sports and was a member of his school football, basketball and wrestling teams. He is now on the school lacrosse team. Jordan also enjoys singing in the chorus and playing the piano. He plans to visit Israel with his family in the summer.

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, April 18	7:00 A.M.	6:30 P.M.
Friday, April 25	6:30 A.M.	6:30 P.M.
Sat., April 19	8:45 A.M.	7:15 P.M.
Sat., April 26	8:45 A.M.	7:00 P.M.
Sunday	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.

Congregation Thanks Kiddush Sponsors

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

The congregational *kiddush* on March 22 was sponsored by Sepideh and Mansour Neissani in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, David. A contribution toward the *kiddush* was made by Pamela and Dr. Bernard Boal in honor of the baby naming of their granddaughter, Annie Jane Weisfeld.

Lost and Found

A zippered black three-quarter leather coat was lost at the Temple Israel Players' cast party on April 6. Anyone with information about the coat should call Executive Director Harriet Schiff at 482-7800.

FROM THE WAXMAN HIGH SCHOOL

Midrashim Writing

By Dov Goldberg

A few months ago, I shared with you the range of courses being offered at the Waxman High School this semester. But, simply seeing a list of course titles doesn't capture what actually goes on in our classrooms.

One day, shortly before the fire (coincidentally "Bring a Friend to Youth House Day"), students in Moji Pourmoradi's class were collaborating on writing their own original *midrashim*. They then presented their work to the other students at the school who enjoyed their unique and creative perspectives on classic stories from the Torah. I'd like you to see just one *midrash* created entirely during that class hour.

Written by Marina and Michaela, you can see that it is based on the life of our matriarch, Sarah. Enjoy!

"Sarah really wanted a child. She was now extremely lonely and depressed. She prayed to God eagerly, but did not believe

anything would happen. She was jealous that Abraham's son, Ishmael, wasn't born from her. One day the angel, Orlando, came down from heaven and spoke to her. He said God was going to answer her prayers. She could not believe these words and instantly shooed Orlando away. The next day another angel came down. He again tried to get through to Sarah. She still couldn't believe it and asked him to prove his powers. He chanted some words she couldn't understand. All of a sudden, she felt sick. She looked down and saw a large stomach. She cried for joy. The next day her baby was born. She named him Isaac and brought him to Abraham. They performed the *brit* and Sarah was never happier. When he grew, Abraham brought Isaac on a trip. While they were gone Orlando came down telling Sarah it was her time. She climbed the stairs to heaven, looking down..."

Two Temple Teens Receiving Honors

Two Temple Israel students, Sari Levy, daughter of Rhonda and Dr. Dan Levy, and Ben Belmont, son of Suzanne and Dr. H. Michael Belmont, have been selected "Mazor Scholar Athletes of the Year" by The National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame. The awards will be presented to them at the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and Museum Inductions on June 8. It will be held at the Suffolk Y JCC in Commack.

Sari, a junior at Great Neck North High School, is a champion fencer, having won a gold medal at the Long Island Individual this year, a silver medal at the North Atlantic Section Junior Championships in 2007 and a gold medal at the Nassau County Fencing Team Championships in 2007.

Ben, a senior at Great Neck North High School, is a three sports star participating in football, basketball and lacrosse, and will be attending Duke University in the fall. Ben has been a four-year starter in lacrosse, having earned All County Honorable Mention last year and All Conference the previous two years.

The Pearl D. Mazor Award is given to the Outstanding Jewish Female Scholar Athlete of the Year and The Jules D. Mazor Award is given to the Outstanding Jewish Male Scholar Athlete of the Year. "We have been giving this award since 1997, and is the first time that two athletes from the same community and congregation are receiving it," said Hall of Fame Director Alan Freedman. "We are thrilled to be honoring Sari and Ben this year. They are outstanding representatives of scholar athletes."

Among the inductees at the ceremony

will be Olympic gymnast Kerri Strug, sportscaster Tony Kornheiser, Tennessee basketball coach Bruce Pearl and five other notables from the world of sports.

The induction ceremony begins at 10:30 A.M. Admission is \$10 per person, children and seniors are admitted free of charge. For more information, call 631-462-9800, ext. 125.

In Appreciation

—Continued from page 2

alone, surrounded by my family, the Temple Israel family, and people I've known since I was a child. It was tiring at times, but ultimately cathartic, to be able to talk about my mother, recounting not only her illness, but also the many good times we shared. I'm grateful to everyone for providing food, drink, hugs, conversation and a listening ear. I appreciate the many thoughtful notes and generous donations made in my mother's memory.

Many of us have experienced the whirlwind of emotions that surface, often without warning, following the death of someone we love. Life goes on and yet, somehow, everything seems different. On May 31, we will celebrate the *Bar Mitzvah* of our youngest son, Zach, a milestone we look forward to sharing with the entire congregation.

In times of sadness and joy, nothing beats the uplifting lens of an ancient tradition and the embrace of a caring community. As my year of mourning continues, and as I look forward to our *simcha*, I am deeply grateful for both.

Why I Chose Beth HaGan

—Continued from page 2

days of the week and months of the year, could print all his letters and recognize words, in addition to countless other non-Judaic feats. He could also lead an informal *Oneg Shabbat* service (having participated in them every Friday), expound on the many significant traditions of the Jewish holidays and recite numerous routine *brachot*. Most important, Charlie made wonderful friends, became an avid conversationalist and was the fortunate recipient of a plethora of warm hugs and smiles, consistent encouragement and profound creative enrichment from Beth HaGan's devoted and phenomenal faculty and staff.

Needless to say, I was proud of my son on his graduation day. While I was saddened that Charlie would no longer be a Beth HaGan student, I was nonetheless confident that he was fully prepared for kindergarten and satisfied that his studies would continue at Temple Israel's Religious School. I was certain that the decision I made to send him to Beth HaGan three years earlier was one of the best decisions I have ever made.

The following year, Charlie's younger twin brothers, Benjamin and Eli, began their first year at Beth HaGan. And again, I was certain that this was the right environment for my boys. They, too, shined and I was thrilled with their progress.

During Benjamin and Eli's second year at Beth HaGan, Parkville Elementary School announced that there would be nearly 40 open spots for their esteemed pre-K program. This was an excellent opportunity for my sons, especially considering that they would matriculate there for kindergarten (Not to mention that it would be tuition-free times two!). After much deliberation, I decided to keep my children at Beth HaGan. I wanted to maintain the Judaic element of their pre-school curriculum (which they would not have received at Parkville). More important, I did not want to remove my sons from the familiar hallways in which they had found a home. Benjamin and Eli (like Charlie) had come to truly love their surroundings and to me, that feeling of comfort and confidence was invaluable in weighing the pros and cons of one less year at Beth HaGan.

As my twins entered their third and final year at Beth HaGan, returning home daily with broad smiles and wonderful recounting of their day at school, I was confident I again made the right decision in terms of their early education.

I...made the right decision in term of their early education.

Tracy Klirs), demonstrated, yet again, that my decision to send my three sons to this incredible institution was without question, one of the best decisions I have ever made. Only three days after the fire, an impromptu *Oneg Shabbat* was orchestrated to maintain continuity for the children and to demonstrate the importance of fortitude even in the midst of utter devastation.

My sons missed only one week of school due to this disaster. Children were efficiently and safely relocated to either the Youth House behind Temple Israel's main building or to empty space so generously provided by Great Neck Synagogue. When air quality became a possible issue of concern, children were immediately welcomed to another building so as not to compromise their safety and welfare for even one day. Our clergy and board members worked tirelessly to ensure the children of Beth HaGan and the Religious School would not feel the disruption the fire was sure to create. Walls were literally (and figuratively) taken

Then in February, a fire suddenly destroyed the area of our synagogue which houses both the Hebrew School and Beth HaGan. Temple Israel's swift and thoughtful actions in the wake of this tragedy, and more particularly, those of the Religious School and Beth HaGan (fearlessly led by Rachel Mathless and Rabbi

PASSOVER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 20 - First Day of Pesach

Morning Service	9:00 A.M.
Mincha-Maariv	7:00 P.M.

Monday, April 21 - Second Day of Pesach

Morning Service	9:00 A.M.
Mincha-Maariv	7:30 P.M.

Hol Hamoed

Tuesday, April 22, Wednesday, April 23, Thursday, April 24

Morning Service	6:30 A.M.
Mincha-Maariv	8:00 P.M.

Friday, April 25 - Hol Hamoed

Morning Service	6:30 A.M.
Evening Service	6:30 P.M.

Saturday, April 26 - Seventh Day of Pesach

Morning Service	8:45 A.M.
Waxman High School Students will lead the service in the Sanctuary	
Mincha-Maariv	7:00 P.M.

Sunday, April 27 - Eighth Day of Pesach

Morning Service	8:45 A.M.
Yizkor Memorial Prayers and Dedication of Memorial Plaques	
Mincha-Maariv	7:40 P.M.

down and moved to accommodate the children. And indeed, while there has inevitably been destruction, sorrow and turbulence, so too has there been unity, gratitude and most apparent—resilience.

As my twins' graduation date looms, I am again saddened by the knowledge that they will no longer be Beth HaGan students even though they, too, will attend Temple Israel's Religious School and are similarly prepared for Kindergarten. These wonderful boys have become little men in their tenure here (although I must admit that there are moments when I doubt the accuracy of this statement). They are inspired, educated and most important, happy. Even now, juggling their schedule between the Youth House, Great Neck Synagogue and occasional appearances in the main building, I would not have traded their third year at Beth HaGan for a fire-less or tuition-free year elsewhere.

I am sure Temple Israel has its critics, as there are always detractors in the aftermath of adversity. Outpourings of concern and generosity from both the Temple Israel community, other synagogues and beyond, however, have buoyed up the spirits of Beth HaGan's parents and children and as a consequence, business as usual continued without skipping a beat. A team dedicated to the rebuilding of Temple Israel has been established and I, for one, am looking forward to all my boys studying together at Temple Israel's Religious School next year (praise for which would require the composition of another article entirely).

Knowledge is a powerful thing. Combined with hindsight, it is a uniquely compelling duo. Had I known then what I know now, confronted with the same decision regarding my sons' nursery school years, would I have followed the same path? Undoubtedly, yes.

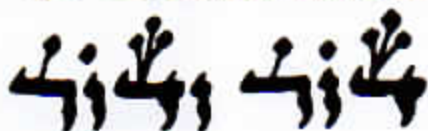
Their priceless Beth HaGan education has formed the foundation for a rich tapestry delicately woven like the plaits of the challah I started all those years ago at the very same school. While I may have enrolled my first child with expectations for him based upon my own sweet memories, I came to love Beth HaGan all over again (and in its own well-deserving right) after witnessing six years of excellence through the eyes of my enthusiastic, contented children. And again, I am certain I made the right decision for them, as both

**RABBI STECKER'S
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In memory of:

Rowena Stecker
Freddi and Harvey
Kadden
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From Generation to Generation



Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

Morris and Rose Danzig
Carole and Arthur
Anderman
William Dorman
Friends of the
Dorman family

In appreciation of:
Rabbi Stecker for
officiating at the funeral of
Fred Brash
The Brash family

In honor of:
Temple Israel's journey to
wholeness
Cyd Weissman

For the recovery of:
Ruth Zielenziger
David Zielenziger

TEMPLE ISRAEL REBUILDING FUND

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Harounian
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Fred Brash
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Teddy Goldberg
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Jonathan Zuckerbrod
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In honor of:
Natalie Gilardian
becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*
Ivy Miller

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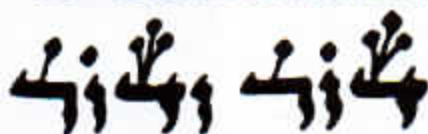
In honor of:

Lewis Weston's
achievement with
Technion
Carol and Joel
Zaslow and family
The birth of Annie Jane
Weisfeld, granddaughter
of Pamela and Dr. Bernard
Boal
Harriet Seiler
Kim and Hon. Jonathan
Kaiman
Rita and Frank
Castagna

In memory of:

William Dorman
Marcia and Leonard
Weiss
Susan Wagner and
Alan Klinger and
family
Rowena Stecker
Miriam Rosenberg
Rosalind and Jerome
Teamkin
Susan and Dr. Hal
Rothbaum
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Frances Rogers
Dr. Robert Kahn
Dr. Cyrus Kahn

From Generation to Generation



Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

Leo Leeds
Lorraine and Douglas
Burack
Mitchell Benjamin
Thelma Benjamin
Soleiman Gabbay
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Sassouni and Sassan
Sassouni
Pargol and Steven
Khadavi
The birth of their
granddaughter, Casey
Ashkenase
Karen and Donald
Ashkenase

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Susan and Dr. Arden
Smith

In memory of:

Rowena Stecker
Susan and Dr. Arden
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D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Ahare-Mot

Saturday, April 19

In this portion we conclude the laws of ritual purity and begin the section known as the "Holiness Code." The readings open with a description of the ritual of Yom Kippur. This ritual, with its distinctive rites of riddance, including the symbolic transferal of the transgressions of the Israelites and their priests onto a goat (the scape-goat) which is driven into the wilderness never to return, is the climax of the laws of purification. In the Torah, Yom Kippur is an annual ritual of purification of the *Mishkan* (sanctuary.) In later Judaism, however, the emphasis shifts to atonement for the sins of the people. The laws of the "Holiness Code" serve to implement the idea that the Israelite people is collectively obligated to seek to achieve holiness in order to be like God, who is holy. The Code begins with consideration of the family and details forbidden sexual unions. Whereas purity and impurity pertain to states of being, holiness has to do with interpersonal relationships and modes of behavior.

PASSOVER SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

Toddler Service

11:15A.M.-Noon

Sun. & Mon., April 20 & 21

Sat. & Sun., April 26 & 27

Junior Congregation

10:30 A.M.-Noon

Sun., April 20, Sat. & Sun., April 26 & 27

SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, April 18

Mincha-Maariv and Congregational Dinner

6:30 P.M.

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Saturday, April 19

Shabbat Hagadol

First Seder

Morning Service

8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Ahare Mot*

Leviticus 16:1-18:30

Haftarah: Malachi 3:4 - 24; 3:23

Sabbath Service Officers:

Dr. Parviz Khodadadian and Gary Sazer

•

Friday, April 25

Evening Service

6:30 P.M.

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Saturday, April 26

Morning Service

8:45 A.M.

Exodus 13:17 - 15:26; Numbers 28:19 - 25

Haftarah: II Samuel 22:1-51

Waxman High School Students will lead the service in the Sanctuary

Sabbath Service Officers:

Sam Husney and Barbara Erlich

Havurah Service

10:00 A.M.

Worship at Temple Israel This Week!

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