



**THE WEDDING:** *Hay* 1 class students Rachel and Joshua Moinian, students of Liora Ben Harari, were "married" in the Sanctuary as part of a new Religious School curriculum.

## Temple School Students Are Married, Conduct Religious Ceremonies

Rachel and Joshua Moinian, students in the Temple Israel Religious School *Hay* 1 Class, were married recently in the Temple Sanctuary.

Another group of students, the *Hay* 3 Class, held a *B'rit Milah* and *B'rit Bat* ceremony, a baby naming for a newborn girl. And, the *Hay* 2 Class prematurely celebrated in their *Bar* and *Bat Mitzvah*.

Parents of the participating *Hay* classes, all fifth graders, beamed with pride as they observed what their children had learned about Jewish lifecycle events in the

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**THE BABY:** "Rabbi" Henry Kirshner, left, and "family members" Aaron Khorshad and Jonathan Roshan, at right, smile approvingly as new "mom" Brittany Chadi holds her "baby," said to be a real doll, at a class *B'rit Bat* ceremony, a baby naming for a girl. Teachers of the *Hay* 3 class are Kathy Farkash and Connie Reichman.

## Reconstruction Following Fire About to Begin

Construction is about to begin on the rebuilding of Temple Israel following the devastating fire last February which destroyed the congregation's Grand Ballroom and did major damage to the Beth HaGan Nursery School and Religious School.

"Our goal is to have the Ballroom open for the High Holy Days," said Temple President Richard Kestenbaum. "In addition, I am confident the schools will be open for the start of the school season in September."

He said construction material is being delivered and work on the building will begin in about one week. In addition, the general contractor will be on-site while work is being done and is setting up an office in the school wing of the building.

Within a week, exterior building glass will be replaced, Mr. Kestenbaum said. Work on the inside will start immediately, including painting, installation of a new ceiling, lighting, sheetrock work, floor repairs and general cleaning of the classroom area. A sprinkler system will be installed in the Ballroom and on the stage, as well as in the schools. They already have a fire detection system.

"The fire got so hot," Mr. Kestenbaum, who is personally overseeing construction, said, "that four steel beams were distorted by the heat. They will be replaced within a month, as will the entire roof over the Ballroom."

"We also anticipate doing improvements to the Temple complex beyond the area that was damaged by the fire. With that in mind, a Rebuild Temple Israel Fund has been established and all donations are welcome."

The president invited members of the congregation to submit suggestions for improvements to Temple Israel, which were then discussed by a committee he assigned with the task. The committee made recommendations to

—Continued on page 5

## Help Wanted

By Van Jeffrey Frankel

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Hatzilu, a Temple Israel Men's Club project to provide food and other assistance to the Jewish poor, is in desperate need of volunteers to continue their mission, as reported in this Voice Guest Column by Hatzilu Co-Chair Van Frankel.

Thank you so much for contributing to the Men's Club Hatzilu *tzedakah* project, which is now in its fourth decade. We raised over \$11,000 in the last few months with the help of your generosity, 100 percent of which

*Your help  
and caring  
is greatly needed!*

goes directly to aid the Jewish poor.

"Hatzilu" is the Hebrew word for "rescue." We provide emergency food and financial aide to needy Jewish people, mostly in Nassau County—including seven families in Great Neck. Four of our own Temple members including Bill Blye, Norbert Weinberg, Hatzilu co-chair Manny Bardash and myself,

FROM THE RABBI

## A Nation of Miracles

By Rabbi Seth Adelson

The State of Israel turns 60 years old on Thursday, May 8. We at Temple Israel are marking this joyous celebration with an open-air concert that evening, and it promises to be lots of fun and an exciting way to honor the Jewish State.

Behind the festivities, however, a dark cloud is lurking. While at one time, our support for Israel as American Jews was so strong as to be taken for granted, this is no longer true. We are seeing a gradual withdrawal from Israel, from Zionism, from the very concept of a Jewish homeland. If you read the Jewish Week, you may have seen in their recent special supplement titled *Israel at 60*, a series of articles about the dissipation of American Jewish ties to Israel. I am saddened by such observations.

Israel has always been inspiring to me—a nation of miracles. That the United Nations voted for partition on November 29, 1947, that Israel declared her independence on May 14, 1948, that it immediately became a haven both for Holocaust survivors and refugees from Arab lands, that, against the odds,

have been directly involved in food pick-up and distribution for many years. Now, some of our "Food Soldiers" are in real need of reinforcements.

The job description is as follows:

Go with a Temple Israel partner for a pleasant 20 minute drive on the Meadowbrook Parkway to the Hatzilu warehouse, pick and pack well-balanced meals for needy families, all living in close proximity to Great Neck, and deliver the food to their homes. This service not only provides people with food to survive and comfort and dignity throughout the year, but also demonstrates to these people that their fellow Jews really care about them.

The result is a synergy leaving both the givers and the takers a sense of love and caring that is wonderfully hard to describe. The entire job takes a couple of hours (less than the time it takes to go out to and come back

—Continued on page 5

## Proud Parents

By Hon. Richard Kestenbaum

Sometime last fall our oldest son, Jonathan, proposed that he go abroad for the second half of his junior year of college. His first suggestion was to visit Florence, Italy, to which I quickly responded that Italy hasn't changed much in the last 500 years, and waiting until he graduated wouldn't cause him to miss anything. His next idea was Australia, beating me to the punch by telling me that the Great Barrier Reef was quickly disappearing and if he didn't get

*...we can learn  
from our children.*

there soon, it would be gone forever. I quickly countered with India and China as places where things were changing rapidly and a revisit to either place in the next ten years would be a very different experience. Before I could say "check mate," he registered at Tel Aviv University as the place he would spend the remaining half of his junior year.

Elise and I were quite surprised. He was never much of a Hebrew school student, but deep down we were both proud of his choice. He began the semester with an intensive month of studying conversational Hebrew and by the middle of February he was enrolled in five classes at Tel Aviv University.

Being the small Jewish world that it is, he immediately made good friends with the Israeli family of one of our Temple members, the Sheffys, and had lunch with Cantor Frieder on one of his trips to Israel.

Just when I thought things were going pretty well and having extracted a promise from him that even if he fell in love with an Israeli girl he would eventually come home, his spring break arrived. What happened next was that both Jonathan and our money toured Europe for three weeks. To his credit, he visited the "Jewish Quarter" in every city he went to and attended a Passover seder in a Chabad House in Italy. To my dismay, it seemed that my Visa card visited every dance club in Europe.

However, when he returned to Israel after his excursion, I heard words from him that made it all worthwhile. He said, "I am so happy to be back in Israel. It feels like home. It is the best country in the world." Although my credit card is still warm to the touch, it is not as warm as the place he now has in his heart for Israel. Although, we as parents hate to admit it, we can learn from our children.

*Israel  
has always been  
inspiring to me...*

coffee spiced with cardamom, and watching the living, breathing Jewish homeland go on about her business amid the unique juxtaposition of the ancient and the modern. Certainly, there are internal conflicts in Israel, many ongoing discussions over, for example, the relationship between democracy and religion, the peace process and its implications, the integration of her Arab citizens, and so forth. Yes, the image that the world's news

—Continued on page 5

## IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences to the family of:

**SUSAN GRAY**  
sister of Naomi Schulman

May her memory be for a blessing.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

May	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	
	29	Annual Lillian Schiowitz Memorial Lecture	8:15 P.M.
June	2	Congregational Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	8	Erev Shavuot	
	9-10	Shavuot	

## MAZAL TOV TO...

- **Ronnie and Marc Katz** on the engagement of their daughter, Amy Diana, to Jonathan Kardon.
- **Gail and Jeffrey Zahler** on the marriage of their son, Aaron Michael Goldman, to Stephanie Fels Pottruck.
- **Karen and Donald Ashkenase** on the birth of their granddaughter, Casey Ashkenase.
- **Trudy and Steve Markowitz** on the birth of their grandson, Spencer David Gerson.
- **Eli Rosenbaum** on the birth of his granddaughter, Ella Malis.

## TEMPLE LITES ...

- **Susan Lopatkin**, a former member of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Kensington, was elected mayor.
- **David Rosengarten**, son of Temple members Elissa and William Rosengarten, has been named a winner of the Intel Science Talent Search, formerly the Westinghouse Competition. He was among the top ten winners in the country, placing sixth. The research of the Great Neck North High School senior showed that Einstein's General Relativity Theory, in principle, could modify rotation curves in the absence of dark matter.
- **Shirley and Phil Perlman's** granddaughter, Shoshana Rubin, a writer and producer for News 12, won an Emmy Award for a documentary she wrote, titled "Walk for Autism." Another of her documentaries featured former Temple President and Holocaust survivor William Ungar, and was based on his autobiography, "Destined to Live."

## CELEBRATE

### ISRAEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY and YOM HA'ATZMAUT

at

## Temple Israel's Concert in Jonathan Ielpi Fire Fighter's Park

Grace Avenue, Great Neck Plaza

### THURSDAY, MAY 8 • 7 P.M.

Featuring:

**CANTOR RAPHAEL FRIEDER**

and

**Mezzo-Soprano Magda Fishman  
and Cantor Aaron Bensoussan**

## 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 Genesis (1:31-2:3). What is your favorite quote? Send your suggestions to The Voice, in care of Temple Israel.

*“ God blessed the seventh day  
and called it holy, because on it  
God ceased from all the work of creation. ”*

## April: A Busy School Month

By Rabbi Tracy Klirs



### Claudia Rashtian

Claudia Sara Rashtian will be called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah* on May 10. She is the daughter of Caroline and Arya Rashtian and has two brothers, Ryan, 11, and, Eric, 6. Claudia is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. She enjoys playing sports, especially tennis, softball, swimming and field hockey, as well as singing and dancing. Claudia celebrated her *Bat Mitzvah* this past summer at the Kotel and hopes to visit Israel again in the near future.

With great pride  
and joy  
we invite  
the congregation  
to celebrate with us  
as our son  
**Zachary**  
is called to the Torah  
as a Bar Mitzvah  
Saturday, May 31  
at 8:45 a.m.

Kiddush luncheon  
following the service

Deanna and  
Rabbi Howard Stecker

April has been an incredibly busy month at the Religious School, filled with many special programs, several of which are described below.

### Living Museum

On Sunday, April 6, the Vav students and their parents participated in a family history program called "The Living Museum." As an enhancement to their year-long study of Jewish history, students selected a Jewish object that had been in their families for a generation or more, and with the help of their parents, grandparents and other relatives, researched the background of their artifact. To prepare for the program, the students visited the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Manhattan to learn about how artifacts can help tell the story of individuals' lives, thereby contributing to our understanding of our own history.

After thoroughly researching their artifacts, the students wrote detailed labels for their artifacts and categorized them. On the day of the museum program, the artifacts were displayed next to their labels. Each student came up to show his or her artifact and to tell the story behind it. The parents and students listened in fascination as they heard about a kiddush cup rescued from the Holocaust, a *t'fillin* bag hand-sewn from an old sock, a crumbling family *chumash* in which the dates of every important lifecycle event had been carefully inscribed in Farsi for generations, a *siddur* in Hebrew and Yiddish which had been the cherished possession of a great-grandparent, and many other wonderful stories. Through this program students and parents gained new insights into their own family histories, as well as those of others.

### Pesach

If you visited the Religious School during the first half of April, *Pesach* was in the air. In every class, you could hear students practicing the *Mah Nishtanah* or other parts of the Haggadah, see students making charoset or matzah pancakes, or painting beautiful Elijah cups. All the Nitzanim-Gimmel students enjoyed model seders.

On Sunday, April 13, the Dalet-Zayin students participated in a fun, interactive "Pesach Round-Robin." Students rotated between four activity centers, which were run by Religious School teachers and senior staff, including Rabbis Stecker, Adelson and myself, and Youth House Director Dov Goldberg. Activities included decorating bowls for the symbolic foods; separating chametz from kosher for *Pesach* foods, conducting a search for chametz (*b'dikat chametz*)

and then burning the chametz; a highly competitive game to match the Hebrew to the English terms for each step of the seder and then to put them in the right order; and another fast-paced competition pitting the Israelites against the Egyptians to see who was fastest at naming the ten plagues and the list of 13 things enumerated in *Echad Mi Yodea?* (the riddle song at the end of the seder). Many valuable prizes were won (such as plastic glow-in-the-dark creepy-crawlies), and there were even guest appearances by the two main characters from the *Pesach* story - Pharaoh (aka Dov Goldberg) and Moses (aka Max Zander and Van Frankel)!

### Yom HaShoah

Soon after returning from the *Pesach* break, we gathered for a much more serious occasion: the annual observation of Yom HaShoah, the Holocaust Memorial Day. This year the commemoration took place on Wednesday, April 30 and featured the Third Generation Witnesses to the *Shoah* program. Religious School children in grades 4-7 escorted the Temple's *Shoah* survivors.

### Yom Ha'atzmaut

Be part of the celebration of Israel's 60th anniversary by joining us for two fabulous events. First, the Temple is sponsoring a huge concert in Ielpi Fire Fighter's Park on Grace Avenue on Thursday evening, May 8, at 7 P.M. The concert will feature our very own Cantor, Raphael Frieder, singer Magda Fishman, and Cantor Aaron Bensoussan. A chorus of our Religious School students will also participate, singing several Israeli songs. Every student who participates will receive a free Israel at 60 tee-shirt. If your child is in grades 3-7 and would like to participate, please notify me right away.

The second 60th anniversary event will be on Sunday, May 11, when the Religious School will host a school-wide *Zimriya* and Israel celebration. At the *Zimriya*, to be held in the Sanctuary, every grade will sing one or two Israeli songs that they have been learning from *Morah* Sara Shonfeld, our music teacher. In addition, each class will be presenting information and a visual display about a particular place in Israel or about an important figure or event in Israel's history. The presentations will be followed by a grand celebration, with Israeli food and dancing, in the Crystal Ballroom. The school's *Zimriya* and Israel at 60 celebration will be held during regular Religious School hours for the two separate sessions. Parents, grandparents and everyone else are most welcome to come join us!

# A Nation of Miracles

—Continued from page 2

media distribute is seldom positive. The Jewish State is a complicated place, facing many challenges at 60 years.

Meanwhile, we American Jews are more comfortable than ever, more firmly rooted in exile than any previous generation. For some of us, it must be easier to accept our lot in the Diaspora than to entertain the notion of feeling connected to our ancestral homeland, complex as she is. This withdrawal is most evident among the progressive Jewish movements; I am reminded of this every time I get on a plane to Israel, and I find myself surrounded almost entirely by secular Israelis and Orthodox Americans.

But now is the time to remember the miracles of the State of Israel, referred to in our *siddurim* as *reishit tzemilat ge'ulateinu*, the initial flowering of our redemption. Join us as Cantor Frieder and friends celebrate the Jewish State in song on Yom Ha'atzma'ut. March with us on June 1 in the Salute to Israel Parade, as we walk up Fifth Avenue together. We in the Conservative world have a special obligation to turn out for this parade, to demonstrate our support.

I hope to see you at the concert on May 8, and all the more so, at the parade on June 1.

## Help Wanted

—Continued from page 2

from a movie) just twice a month and can be shared with as many people who volunteer.

The Pay: \$0.00, but an incredible feeling of accomplishment, high energy and exhilaration for having made such a positive impact on other people's lives. All this is possible for just a little schedule balancing.

Rabbi Klirs has recently brought Hatzilu awareness to the children in our Religious School through her Mitzvah Marathon program. Some of those children and their parents are now actively working with needy Hatzilu families in various ways.

Now we ask our adults to please join in our efforts. Your help and caring is greatly needed!

Please contact either Manny Bardash, myself or Men's Club Co-Presidents Mark Birnbaum and Sam Husney through the Temple office, to volunteer as a Hatzilu food deliverer or to obtain additional information about Hatzilu.

*Yashar Koach* in advance for you Mitzvoit!

## CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

*Kindle the Sabbath Lights!*

Friday, May 2.....7:34 P.M.  
Friday, May 9.....7:41 P.M.



**THE B'NAI MITZVAH:** Although only in the fifth grade, Becca Shaktman and her fellow Hay 2 classmates read from a Torah as she celebrated her "Bat Mitzvah." With her is Religious School Director Rabbi Tracy Klirs. Class teachers are Michelle Landsman and Tamar Tauber.

## Temple School Students Are Married, Conduct Religious Ceremonies

—Continued from page 1

year-long *Hay* class project.

The program of mock religious ceremonies, initiated by Religious School Director Rabbi Tracy Klirs two years ago as part of the school curriculum, had all students in the grade participating in one of the ceremonies.

"Jewish lifecycle ceremonies are the highlights of individuals' lives," Rabbi Klirs said. "They are most important in connecting individuals and families to their heritage."

Rabbi Klirs said the *B'rit Milah* was "very convincingly acted out by the students—but, not to worry, a baby doll stood in for the baby boy, followed by a *B'rit Bat* with a girl doll."

The *Hay 2* students were tutored by Cantor Suzy Mazel to prepare for their mock Bar and Bat Mitzvah. They recited their Torah blessings and flawlessly chanted several verses from *Bereshit* using a Temple Torah.

## DAILY MINYAN TIMES

*Attend the Daily Minyan!*

Mon. & Thur.	6:45 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Tues. & Wed.	7:00 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Friday	7:00 A.M.	6:30 P.M.
Saturday, May 3	8:45 A.M.	7:15 P.M.
Saturday, May 10	8:45 A.M.	7:20 P.M.
Sunday	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.

The wedding ceremony was complete with a *chuppah*, *ketubah*, the seven blessings and the breaking of a glass. The ceremony concluded with two songs performed by four musicians in the *Hay 1* class, Ryan Rashtian on violin, Ethan Sassouni on sax, Daniel Torkan on cello and Jonathan Zuckerbrod on clarinet. Following the lifecycle events the celebrants proceeded to the Blue Room for a reception, along with parents, grandparents and siblings.

Rabbi Klirs said these ceremonies are done with fifth graders because "they are on the cusp of celebrating their own Bar and Bat Mitzvah, so these ceremonies will now have real meaning to them."

## Reconstruction After Temple Fire Beginning

—Continued from page 1

the Executive Committee, which will, in turn, bring them to the Board of Trustees.

"Our goal," Mr. Kestenbaum said, "is to make Temple Israel more inviting, more effective. We have to improve the way we interact. Our goal should be to make members come, be comfortable, sit and have a cup of coffee. Many of these things don't require a lot of money and are easy to do.

"We shouldn't be trapped by saying: 'That's the way we've always done it.' We have to have open minds."

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**CANTOR FRIEDER'S  
DISCRETIONARY FUND***In appreciation of:*

Cantor Frieder for his  
 kindness and support  
 during the funeral of her  
 husband, Arnold Sheidlower  
 Elyn Sheidlower

# From Generation to Generation



## Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

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

Eileen and Mickey  
 Putterman and family  
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 Judy and Michael  
 Orenstein's 40th wedding  
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*In memory of:*

David Farber  
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**ANNE AND MILTON  
SNITKOFF  
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Alan Schneider's father  
 Diane and George  
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 Joseph Belmont  
 Fred Brash  
 Ben Kuznick  
 Elyse and Robert Kushel  
 Jerry Ungar  
 Mickey and Allan  
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**JEWISH IDENTITY FUND***In memory of:*

Samuel Rosen  
 Dr. Milton Rosen

**TORAH FUND***In memory of:*

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 Ellen Cooper  
 Charlotte Zavon

*Contributions:*

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DISCRETIONARY FUND***In honor of:*

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 Mae Anderman's 101st  
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 Her grateful family  
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 Jacqueline Harounian  
 Susan and Dr. Robert  
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 Dr. Maura Rutkin  
 Rebecca Yousefzadeh  
 Sassouni and Sassan  
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*In memory of:*

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 Sandy and Norman  
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Charles Dimston

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Evan Oppenheimer  
becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*  
Stephanie Epstein  
becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*  
Ossie and Douglas  
Spector

*In memory of:*

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Sam Fink  
Elaine and Harry  
Silberglait  
Betty Lager  
Miriam Rosenberg  
Francine and Walter  
Blazer  
Alise Kreditor and  
Jeffrey Englander and  
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Joseph Belmont  
Ossie and Douglas  
Spector  
Elise and Hon.  
Richard Kestenbaum  
and family

# From Generation to Generation



## Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

Fred Brash  
Elise and Hon.  
Richard Kestenbaum,  
Jonathan, Scott and  
Matthew

### TEMPLE ISRAEL REBUILDING FUND

*In honor of:*

Rabbi Howard Stecker  
Rabbi Marim D. Charry  
Karen and Dan Covitt  
The Temple Israel Players  
The Dinner Dance  
Committee  
Susan and Dr. Robert  
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Bunny North  
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Spun  
Joseph Belmont  
Barbara and Howard  
Spun

Mrs. Wilkins  
William Dorman  
Susan and Steven  
Glaser and family  
Arlene Stieglitz  
Vivian and Yuval  
Brash

Dr. Harry Shpuntoff,  
beloved father and  
grandfather, on his first  
*yahrzeit*

Drs. Karen  
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and Robert Shpuntoff,  
Hilana and Ariana

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*In memory of:*

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# D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

## Kedoshim

Saturday, May 3

The Holiness Code continues with laws concerning interpersonal relationships and modes of behavior, in this portion. Some of these laws echo the Ten Commandments and deal with such matters as reverence for parents, the Sabbath, idolatry, stealing and deceitful conduct, false oaths and the identification of God as the redeemer from the slavery of Egypt. Other laws of secular and religious nature touch upon agriculture, testimony, social ethics and certain rituals connected with sacrifice. In the second part of the portion, the Torah reiterates its concern with the family in a religious context and reformulates rules previously stated concerning incest and forbidden sexual activity. Here, however, the rules are presented from a slightly different perspective. The portion concludes with an admonition that possession of the land of Israel will be dependent upon faithfully observing these laws of holiness.

## Emor

Saturday, May 10

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

## SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, May 2

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, May 3

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Kedoshim*

Leviticus 19:1-20:27

*Haftarah*: Amos 9:7-15

Sabbath Service Officers:

Shahram Delafraz and Helen Wrobel

*Bar Mitzvah*

JORDAN ARABIAN

son of Elahe and Joseph Arabian

Machon Family Service 10:30 A.M.

Friday, May 9

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, May 10

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Emor*

Leviticus 21:1-24:23

*Haftarah*: Ezekiel 44:15-31

Sabbath Service Officers:

Seth Horowitz and Hilbert Eshaghpour

*Bat Mitzvah*

CLAUDIA RASHTIAN

daughter of Caroline and Arya Rashtian

Flavurah Service 10:00 A.M.

## Worship at Temple Israel This Week!

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