



## New Religious School Model Unveiled

By Bracha Werber, Barbara A. Levy, Zina Rutkin-Becker and Rabbi Seth Adelson

The Temple Israel Religious School has just announced an exciting new plan for next year. As the culmination of a planning phase that began nearly two years ago, the Project Re-Imagine Task Force unveiled the new model for the Religious School, which will be partly implemented this September.

The model, with its focus on joyful interactive experiences and understanding of and comfort with Jewish prayer, will increase both the depth and breadth of Jewish learning for Religious School students and their families. Major features of the new model are:

- A revised curriculum, with special emphasis on *tefillah* (prayer) and continued emphasis on Hebrew language, Jewish history, heritage, and holidays;
- New choices for Religious School class schedule, including Monday and Wednesday afternoons for two-and-a-half-hours each, or Tuesday afternoon and Sunday morning for two-and-a-half-hours each;
- New joyous *Shabbat ha-Mishpaha* family programming, including a mix of Friday night, Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon offerings;
- Special family events, including holiday programming and other community activities.

Task Force deliberations included much discussion about the various pressures on families and children today, the need for flexibility in the program and the desire to re-connect learning and action in our community.

As an introduction to the new model, the Project Re-Imagine Leadership Team held a series of parent meetings between May 19–22 to discuss some of the specifics. Many of the parents were excited about the changes and welcomed them wholeheartedly, and others still have questions and concerns that the Re-Imagine Task Force is continuing to address. These changes will affect family schedules, but are designed to

involve more families through interactive and meaningful participation and greater involvement with their children and the education process.

This new model took much time and energy in preparation. Two years ago Temple Israel was invited to participate in the third cohort of Re-Imagine, a nationwide project funded by the UJA Federation. Re-Imagine is a process of assessment and re-envisioning of the congregation's Religious School

to meet the needs of the community in the 21st century.

Temple Israel's Re-Imagine process began with the appointment of a Task Force. Its membership represented a cross-section of the Temple community, including ten parents of students in the Religious School, former parents of students in the school, members of the Religious School Education Committee, two Waxman High School stu-

—Continued on page 7

### *A Great Day for a Parade!*



Photo by Barbara A. Levy

### Temple Commemorates Memorial Day

Temple Israel members connected with the Great Neck community in commemorating Memorial Day both at *Shabbat* last Saturday and by marching with neighbors in the parade that proceeded along Middle Neck Road last Monday.

The Membership Committee sponsored a service and *kiddush* on Saturday, May 24 for members of the congregation who are military veterans. Barbara Katz, Dr. Karen Lewkowitz and Eileen Putterman planned the event. Upon arrival at services, each

—Continued on page 9

## From the Sassounis

By Rebecca Yousefzadeh Sassouni

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following remarks were delivered by Rebecca Yousefzadeh Sassouni on behalf of herself and her husband, Sassan, among the honorees at Temple Israel's 45th Annual Journal Dinner Dance, held April 12.

*B'shem hashem na'aseh v'nashtach  
Khodah b'omideh khodet*

I heard this mantra every day growing up in my parents' home. Like my mom, I still

*We are truly  
humbled  
by this honor.*

take a deep breath and invoke it to calm myself down, like when I'm about to deliver a speech. I thought it was just my family's affirmation, but learned from Sassan that his grandparents invoked it frequently as well.

Here it is again:

*B'shem hashem na'aseh v'nashtach  
Khodah b'omideh khodet*

The first part is Hebrew. It means: In the

name of God, we will do, and we will succeed.

The second part is Farsi. It means: God, may it be your will.

In asking myself what I am doing on this *binah*, what I am doing with Temple Israel on my brain 24-7, I have come to the conclusion that, like the optimistic bilingual mantra I internalized before even knowing the translation, the answer begins long before I was ever able to articulate it: In some inchoate way, Sassan's and my allegiance to our beloved synagogue began before we were born, in the families we come from and in places I have never been, back in Kashan and in Teheran.

As a daughter, I am aware that my memories of my childhood are sporadic. Yet I choose to believe that memory is a sieve (in Farsi we say *abkesh*) which sifts what actually matters.

So, I look back on my childhood and remember not only that I went to synagogue on most *Shabbatot*, but that when we went,

—Continued on page 8

FROM THE RABBI

## Our Re-Imagined Journey Begins

By Rabbi Howard Stecker

This past week, several representatives of the Re-Imagine Task Force, charged with evaluating and reinvigorating our Religious School, met with Religious School parents to describe some new directions that we will be taking in the education of our children and their families.

Following almost two years of reflection and deliberation, we are going to begin a process of evolution toward a Religious School program that increasingly uses engaging methods to instill greater knowledge within our children and to encourage them and their families to feel ever more connected to Jewish life.

Education in general is complex, and Jewish education is particularly complex. We seek not only to convey information, but also to encourage an attitude of curiosity and joy. We are not merely addressing the mind, but also the heart. In keeping with ancient rabbinic tradition, we aim to expand knowledge in a way that leads to increased action. We want Jewish rituals—prayers, holidays, cus-

toms, *tzedakah*—to deepen our children's sensitivity to what it means to live responsibly as a Jew on this awesome, yet fragile, planet.

Clergy, teachers, parents and the entire congregational community are all partners in helping our children to discover the pro-

*Jewish education  
is particularly  
complex.*

found power Judaism has to enable them to live each day with greater sensitivity to their own sacred potential, as well as the potential for holiness all around them. It takes a synagogue, and then some, to raise a Jewish child.

Our Re-Imagined journey, which begins with gusto this September, will include several elements: a restructuring of the hours

—Continued on page 8

## Building It

By Hon. Richard Kestenbaum

It used to be that all you had to do was build a *shul* and meet the basic religious needs of your members and people would join. Well, as the song says, "The times they are a changin'."

Synagogues across all denominational lines now recognize that their members want more; they now expect meaningful and transformative spiritual experiences in both their religious encounters and in their educational pursuits. Jewish leaders also recognize that creating a strong synagogue is the most ef-

*We need your  
participation...*

fective way to strengthen Jewish identity and counter growing assimilation and the high rate of intermarriage. The lay leadership and the clergy of Temple Israel also recognize these national trends and do not think that we are immune from the consequences that arise from the failure to meet our members' needs. Just being here is no longer enough.

In order to put our thoughts into practical results, our Re-Imagine Committee has been working for the last 20 months on a new model for our Religious School which will be implemented in September, in time for our school opening. This new model is intended to not only meet, but exceed the requirements of the Conservative Movement for educating our youth, and it is anticipated that programmatic results will be evident to the whole congregation very shortly.

The details of the plan, which was fully adopted by the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees, is now being presented to the Religious School parents, and is written about in this issue of *The Voice*.

Temple Israel's Institute for Life Long Learning has also prepared a Temple-wide survey, the results of which will give us necessary information to further tailor our programming to the needs of our congregants. We will be reaching across all age barriers to develop effective, relevant and compelling experiences in order to attract our members to our services and special programs.

However, we can't do it alone. We need your participation and your willingness to explore our exciting new plans. It's not about money—it's about creating an effective partnership between us that will result in a stronger *shul* and a stronger Jewish identity for our children and adult members.

## IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences to the families of:

### IRVING ROSENTHAL

husband of Ruth Rosenthal and esteemed member of Temple Israel

### HADASSAH FUTERNICK

mother of Carol Alcalay

### MURIEL KARASIK

mother of Victoria Benalloul

### EILEEN SCHUPACK

sister of Harvey Shefren

### DOROTHY KOEPEL

mother of Mitchell Koepfel

### MORTON LOPATKIN

father of Dr. Robert Lopatkin

### BAHMAN BEROUKHIM

brother of Jacklin Youdim

### RONNIE L. GARDNER

esteemed member of Temple Israel

May their memory be for a blessing.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

|      |      |  |           |
|------|------|--|-----------|
| June | 1    | Salute to Israel Day Parade in Manhattan | Noon      |
|      | 2    | Congregational Meeting                   | 8:15 P.M. |
|      | 8    | <i>Tikkun Leyl</i> Shavuot Program       | 5:30 P.M. |
|      | 9-10 | Shavuot                                  |           |
|      | 19   | Temple Board of Trustees Meeting         | 8:15 P.M. |

SAVE THE DATE!

Golf, Tennis...  
and more!

## TEMPLE ISRAEL'S 6TH ANNUAL GOLF & TENNIS OUTING

Monday, July 14

(Rain or Shine)

Fresh Meadow Country Club  
Lake Success

## CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Friday, May 30.....8:00 P.M.

Friday, June 6.....8:05 P.M.

## DAILY MINYAN TIMES

Mon. & Thur. 6:45 A.M. 8:00 P.M.

Tues. & Wed. 7:00 A.M. 8:00 P.M.

Friday 7:00 A.M. 6:30 P.M.

Sat., May 31 8:45 A.M. 7:40 P.M.

Sat., June 7 8:45 A.M. 7:45 P.M.

Sunday 8:15 A.M. 8:00 P.M.

## 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 Israel's national anthem, Hatikvah. What is your favorite quote? Send your suggestions to The Voice, in care of Temple Israel.

*“As long as the heart of the Jew beats,  
And as long as the eyes of the Jew look eastward,  
Then our two-thousand year hope is not lost,  
To be a free nation in Zion, in Jerusalem.”*

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

FROM THE WAXMAN HIGH SCHOOL

## *Todah Rabbah!*

By Dov Goldberg



**Morgan Fishkin**

Morgan Fishkin will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* on June 14. He is the son of Jamie and Eric Fishkin and has a sister, Marissa, 9. Morgan is a seventh grade student at Great Neck South Middle School. Morgan enjoys playing sports and is a member of the school soccer and lacrosse teams. He also enjoys skiing with his family. Morgan is an accomplished piano player and participates annually in NYSSMA. He also plays the saxophone in the school band. He plans to attend the Waxman High School and Youth House next year.

There are still a couple of youth activities left on the calendar before we head off for our various summer plans. Yet, as the spring winds down and my tenure at the Youth House comes to a close, I wanted to take just a few moments for some personal comments. I beg your forbearance and ask that you indulge me in what may be little more than a thank you list. And of course, I apologize profusely to all those I may inadvertently neglect to thank here. Despite the seemingly dull reading ahead, I always recall the remarks of a Dutch Reformed minister many years ago at an interfaith Thanksgiving service in North Brunswick, New Jersey. I only wish I could recall his name to give him the credit due. He reminded us that if we neglect to extend appreciation and thanks, then as a recipient we are, in effect, showing the temerity to accept the gift while rejecting the giver.

My year here at Temple Israel has certainly been a gift and I hope that in return I have been able to provide all of you with some stability at the Youth House, especially during some challenging times.

I could not begin elsewhere than with expressing my deep appreciation to the

clergy of Temple Israel, Rabbi Adelson, Cantor Frieder, and most especially Rabbi Stecker, for their warmth, advice, collegiality and friendship. I am at a loss to thank Rabbi Klires appropriately, but I have been fortunate to have her as a colleague, partner, mentor, supporter and friend. While they often bear the brunt of their thankless tasks, I want to thank Temple Israel's tireless executive director and assistant executive director, Harriet Schiff and Eric

*My year here  
at Temple Israel  
has certainly  
been a gift...*

Nussbaum, for all of their help and assistance. And, I do not want to be remiss in thanking everyone who works in the synagogue offices for everything they do to make all of our jobs look like we're the ones doing them.

It has been an honor for me to work with Ossie Spector, chair of the Waxman High School Education Committee, and with all of the rest of the members of the committee. It is hard to imagine a group of people more committed to the flourishing of our Jewish youth and the well-being and success of the Youth House. I also need to express a debt of gratitude to Temple Israel's president, Rich Kestenbaum, vice-president overseeing education, Dr. Michael Ziegelbaum, and the entire rest of the Board of Directors. The Youth House could not be what it continues to be after many decades were it not for the extraordinary ongoing support of the synagogue leadership.

As I begin to get closer to home, I want to thank the Youth House activities director, Sarah Kay, for all of her work in making so many events the successes that they were. All of the Youth House teachers have been fabulous to work with, and have brought their knowledge and enthusiasm for Judaism, their commitment to teaching, and their love for our kids to the Youth House week after week. However, it would be a particular insult were I to fail to single out Moji Pourmoradi and thank her not only for the guidance, assistance and kindness that she has provided me, but most especially for the

—Continued on page 9

You are invited to...

## THE 8TH ANNUAL BETH HAGAN ART & LITERATURE EXHIBITION

Wednesday, June 4

5:30 - 7:00 P.M.

Crystal Ballroom

Featuring creative works of art by the children reflecting their love of fine literary classics rich in illustrations using many art forms such as watercolors, oil painting, collage, chalk, paper maché and texture rubbings

Temple Israel Religious School invites you to  
come join us for the

3rd ANNUAL TIGN

# SHAVUOT FAMILY ADVENTURE

Come help us BUILD THE MISHKAN!\*

(\*The portable sanctuary)

When: SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 5:30 P.M.

Where: START IN THE YOUTH HOUSE  
WITH A PIZZA DINNER . . .

What: THEN GRAB YOUR TOOLS AND  
FOLLOW MOSHE, AHARON, BEZALEL AND  
OHOLIAV OUT TO THE SINAI WILDERNESS FOR  
ANOTHER INCREDIBLE ADVENTURE!



There's More! AT 7:30, WHEN WE'RE DONE  
BUILDING THE MISHKAN, COME TO THE  
CRYSTAL BALLROOM FOR EREV SHAVUOT  
CANDLE LIGHTING AND KIDDUSH. THEN

FROM 7:40-8:20 KIDS HAVE AN ICE CREAM PARTY, WHILE  
PARENTS CAN CHOOSE FROM 3 EXCITING STUDY SESSIONS  
LED BY RABBI STECKER, RABBI ADELSON AND DR. SHARON  
KELLER.



RSVP to Cathy Gewanter, 482-7800, ext. 2103, [cgewanter@tign.org](mailto:cgewanter@tign.org)

TEMPLE ISRAEL OF GREAT NECK

Presents

## **TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT**

Join us on **Sunday, June 8**, the first night of Shavuot, for an evening of study and food:

### **Rebuilding Our Temple, Renewing Ourselves: A Fresh Look at God, Torah, and Israel**

#### PROGRAM

- 7:30 P.M.**     **Study Session I: "God"**
- A. "God and Prayer: Do We Mean What We Say?"  
– Rabbi Howard Stecker
  - B. "Rebuilding Modern Theology"  
– Rabbi Seth Adelson
  - C. "The God of Israel: One Among the Mighty?"  
– Dr. Sharon Keller
- 8:20**             *Ma'ariv*, followed by a dairy dinner
- 9:20 – 10:00**   **Study Session II: "Israel"**
- A. "Israeli Music and *Tefillah*: Is There a Connection?"  
– Cantor Raphael Frieder
  - B. "Plato, Torah, and Tennyson: What's the Common Thread?" – Rabbi Marim D. Charry
  - C. "Who Are You?" A discussion of Jewish Identity and Nationalism – Ms. Leah Guren
- 10:10 - 10:50**   **Study Session III: "Torah"**  
"How Do You Figure Out Which *Mitzvot* to Observe?"  
– A discussion and text learning with the Rabbis
- 11:00**             **Conclusion/Integration**
- 11:10**             **Optional** - Stargazing with Rabbi Seth Adelson  
(weather permitting)

*Dinner is free, but please RSVP to the Temple office: 516-482-7800.*

# New Religious School Model Is Unveiled By Re-Imagine

—Continued from page 1

dents and members of the congregation who have a professional or personal interest in Jewish education. Also included were the professional leadership of the Temple: Rabbis Howard Stecker and Seth Adelson, Cantor Raphael Frieder, Religious School Director Rabbi Tracy Klirs, Beth HaGan Director Rachel Mathless, Waxman High School Director Dov Goldberg, and Religious School teacher Cheryl Sneag. In all, the Task Force included over thirty members of the community, all of whom shared their insights and expertise.

In November 2006, the Task Force began its thorough and lengthy process by meeting monthly, studying models of Jewish education that are practiced across the country to determine how best to meet the needs of Jewish families and children today. There were homework assignments and exercises including reaching back to memorable Jewish learning experiences; reviewing the history of the Religious School at Temple Israel and assessing its strengths and weakness; developing goals and pioneering a Temple Israel Vision for Education as a guide; examining new models adopted by other congregations to assess what can be learned from them; implementing "low-hanging fruit" programs to engage and stimulate the Religious School community; and implementing professional development programs for the faculty to involve them in Re-Imagine. At the conclusion of this phase, the Alternative Model Subteam proposed three models for the Temple's Religious School, and the Task Force ultimately selected the new model from these.

What emerged from this process was not only a new plan for the Religious School, but also a community of learners and seekers within the Temple community. From this position, the Task Force was better able to assess the Religious School's needs more accurately and come to a consensus regarding our educational priorities.

In addition to the Task Force, three subcommittees were formed to work on specific areas: The Low Hanging Fruit Subcommittee, chaired by Karen Bardash; the Vision Sub-Committee, chaired by Sherry Husney; and the Alternative Model Subteam, chaired by Rebecca Sassouni. Each of these groups worked diligently to move the Task Force forward in its work.

Guiding the Task Force was a nine-member Leadership Team comprised of professional staff, including all Temple clergy as well as lay leaders. The Leadership Team met at least once before each Task Force meeting to evaluate the ongoing work, provide input to subcommittees, and plan for upcoming large group meetings.

Although the Task Force has put significant time and energy into producing the new model, its work is not yet done. "We must continue to evaluate the model to see how its different components are working. Are we meeting the goals that we set for the Jewish education of our children? We will periodically revisit our vision statement to answer this question and others," the Task Force said in its report.

Among the new subcommittees launched to implement the new model is the Evaluation Subcommittee, chaired by Zina Rutkin-Becker, a member of the Leadership Team and the Task Force. This committee will involve parents, teachers, students and administration in the assessment process to continually evaluate how the model is working, and make modifications as needed.

"All of us recognize that change is not easy, and that institutional change is often complex and difficult. Nevertheless, we are confident that, working together, Temple Israel's children and families will experience increased satisfaction and joy in Jewish learning and living as we move forward into the 21st century," the Leadership Team said when announcing their plans.

## SHAVUOT SERVICES

Sunday, June 8

Erev Shavuot

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Family Program: "Building the Mishkan" | 5:30 P.M.              |
| Study Session I for Adults             | 7:30 P.M.              |
| Ice Cream Party for Children           | 7:40 - 8:20 P.M.       |
| Maariv - followed by a dairy dinner    | 8:20 P.M.              |
| Study Sessions II & III                | 9:20 P.M. - 10:50 P.M. |

Monday, June 9

First day of Shavuot

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Festival Service                            | 9:00 A.M. |
| Torah : Exodus 19:1-20:23; Numbers 28:26-31 |           |
| Haftarah: Ezekiel 1:1-28, 3:12              |           |
| Mincha-Maariv                               | 7:30 P.M. |

Tuesday, June 10

Second day of Shavuot

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Morning Service   | 6:30 A.M. |
| Complete festival service including Yizkor Memorial Prayers |           |
| Festival Service  | 9:00 A.M. |
| Torah: Deuteronomy 15:19-16:17; Numbers 28:26-31            |           |
| Haftarah: Habakkuk 2:20-3:19                                |           |
| Yizkor Memorial Prayers and Dedication of Plaques           |           |
| Mincha-Maariv   | 8:15 P.M. |

## SHAVUOT D'VAR TORAH

The reading for the two days of Shavuot are taken from two different books of the Torah. They consist of passages dealing with various aspects of the festival.

First Day - Monday, June 9

Exodus 19:1-20:23

The reading describes the giving of the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai.

Second Day - Tuesday, June 10

Deuteronomy 15:19-16:17

The reading consists of a calendar of the three Pilgrim Festivals. The emphasis is on the observance at a central sanctuary, and meanings are assigned to the Festivals to make them significant to future generations who will not have experienced the revelation at Sinai.

On each day Numbers 28:26-31, detailing the special offerings to be brought on the Festival, is read from a second Torah.

## SHAVUOT CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

|                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Sunday, June 8..... | 8:08 P.M.       |
| Monday, June 9..... | after 9:16 P.M. |

## MEMORIAL PLAQUES

### TO BE DEDICATED

Second Day of Shavuot, Tuesday, June 10

MAX GOLDEN

Father of Dr. Ronald Golden and Charles Golden

LEAH PFEFFER GOTTFRIED and MOSHE GOTTFRIED

Parents of Bracha Werber

JACOB WERBER

Father of Martin Werber

NORTON HAROLD ZAVON

Husband of Charlotte Zavon

## TEMPLE LITES . . .

• Rory Breidbart, M.D. was named chief of the division of Endocrinology at St. Francis Hospital.

# Our Re-Imagined Journey Begins

—Continued from page 2

of instruction which offers choice, in order to meet the complex schedules of our families; an intensive program of faculty development to encourage the most compelling methods of teaching; opportunities for students to engage in interactive prayer with clergy and educators with the goals of sharpening their skills and increasing their enjoyment of prayer and, finally, creative family programs to allow parents to learn alongside their children and to deepen and support their children's efforts.

We will continue to offer a program that explores the full range of the Jewish experience, including our history, our language, our prayers, our customs and our connection to Israel. We hope to help children unpack the what's, the how's and the why's of being Jewish. When families celebrate *Shabbat* together, deliver meals to the homeless together, enjoy a nosh in the Sukkah together, dance on Simchat Torah together, support Israel together and so on, all the generations will hopefully feel uplifted and connected to our Jewish destiny across space and time.

Our Re-Imagining is underway. During these formative steps of the journey, as we try new things, we will constantly be seeking input and feedback. Don't be shy! Let us know what works and what doesn't. Help us publicize and plan events by joining a Re-Imagine subcommittee. With your input and help, we can maximize the joy and the benefit of the journey of Jewish souls that awaits us.

For a detailed description of the process and program inspired by Re-Imagine, please read the article on the front page. And please join us on Shavuot on Sunday, June 8 (details inside this Voice and on our website) when all of us—children, teens and adults—will experience an enjoyable, transformative evening that typifies the new direction we seek.

### Shalom Club Wine Sale Is a Big Success

The Shalom Club thanks the Temple Israel members who participated in this year's Passover Wine Sale. Your orders were promptly processed and delivered to your door and raised over \$750 for Temple Israel.

We look forward to the participation of even more Temple members in next year's Annual Passover Wine Sale.

—Renee and Elliot Fleischer, Co-Chairs  
Shalom Club Wine Sale

## Voice Guest Column: From the Sassounis

—Continued from page 2

my mom often gave unnamed senior citizens rides back to their homes. I remember that my dad corrected cashiers who gave him too much change because he worried they could lose their jobs if their daily totals did not add up. I recall being a 16-year old in Israel for the first time with my parents, standing beside my mother at the *kotel* and watching in fascination as she trembled and wept uncontrollably. I recall speaking bitterly to my father after the funeral of a young cousin and hearing him tell me without a trace of irony or anger in his voice, that when good things happen in my life, I should be grateful to God, but that when bad things happen, I should try not to blame God or myself.

I will also never forget that my sisters, cousins and I grew up with true, real-life matriarchs and patriarchs, our grandparents. No matter how overwhelmed or tired I become, I am inspired by the example of my grandmothers.

My father's mother single-handedly prepared delicious holiday and *Shabbat* meals for over 80 people for decades. Even though her own mother died when she was a child, as a young woman in Kashan, she raised her siblings, cared for neighbors' children—sometimes even nursed them—in addition to her own eight! She slaughtered her own poultry, grew herbs, made breads, cheeses and jams, and did the laundry by hand! My *Maman* Janee still nourishes us by imparting marital and parenting advice to every one of her many, many children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She never received the luxury of the schooling that members of my generation have. Yet her life is a study in humility, *chochmah*, *derekh eretz*, and *shalom bayit* that I never found in any legal text.

Also caught in the sieve of my memory is my recollection of a nine-year-old girl in Hebrew school. It was 1979, the year of the overthrow of the Shah of Iran's regime. But as a nine year old who'd never been to Iran, and at that point in my life, not aware of my triangulated identities as a first-generation-American-Persian-Jewish girl, I was shocked when a kid I'd known for years turned to me angrily and hissed, "You Iranian."

That was a life-changing moment for me. Until then, I had regarded my Persian identity as something I could turn on and off at will. Like choosing between a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and chello kebab or between a matzah ball and a gondi. Or, like switching from English to Farsi in the middle of a sentence.

Looking back on it, that kid did me a favor: At an early age, he made me aware that I would be an Iranian, a Persian, even if I had never been to Iran, and even if my English was perfect, and my cuisine all-

American. Like many first generation Americans, I have been reckoning with that ever since.

I also recall that Reverend Kahn, the wonderful elderly man who trained me for my *Bat Mitzvah* did not teach me to recite from the Torah. It would never have occurred to anyone at my Conservative synagogue to do that then. How strange, I thought, that the man who so encouraged me to continue my Jewish learning, left the sanctuary as I read my Haftorah on my *Bat Mitzvah* day. I am so happy for our children that those days are behind us!

So where does all my memory-sifting bring me tonight?

As a parent, I accept that I have little control over what each of my children's memory sieves will ultimately hold. It is my hope and prayer, however, that they will look back on Sassan's and my parenting and know not only that we loved them inordinately, but that Judaism has always been the core of our vision for them as well-adjusted, complete human beings. I want them to remember, too, that they carry a long, proud, tradition of Persian Jewry that has crossed centuries and continents without interruption or assimilation.

I am so glad that at Temple Israel I have finally found a repository for all my identities: Temple Israel engages me as a woman in an egalitarian setting; a Persian, an American, and above all, a committed and questioning Jew.

At Temple Israel, one quickly learns not only that everyone has opinions, but also that everyone cares! This was brought home to me one night as I tried to park my car, BFE (before the fire era), when there was a party going on in the ballroom. It was minutes before the 8 o'clock *minyan*, and there wasn't a spot to be had. Out of the darkness, our custodian, Basil, suddenly appeared and confronted the valet. I so relished overhearing our Haitian-American custodian forcefully explaining to the caterer's Asian-American valet that people needed to park their cars and get in the building immediately. "These people need to pray," Basil insisted. For me, that was a quintessential Temple Israel moment to remember.

Sassan and I are proud to be part of this wonderful congregation, led by our inspiring clergy, and alongside so many fantastic individuals and families. We are grateful to Maura, Sue, Bob, Lauren, and Jackie and the entire Dinner Dance Committee for all their efforts to make tonight happen. It is a particular pleasure to share this bimah with Eve, Barbara and Howard. We are truly humbled by this honor. It means the world to us.

In the name of God we will do and we will succeed. God, may it be your will.

B'shem hashem na'aseh v'nasliach

Khoda b'omideh khodet

# From the Waxman High School: Todah Rabbah!

—Continued from page 4

enumerable ways she contributes to the success of the Youth House and the growth of each and every teenager who come through its doors.

The little, untold secret of every institution is how much its success rests on the hard work provided by its custodial staff. And so, I want to acknowledge all of the people who, with good spirits and devotion to the physical aspects of the Youth House, expend good old-fashion, back-breaking, and often tedious hard-work to make sure all of our programs are a success.

I would never forgive myself if I neglected to mention the other secret of any successful school, its office support staff. Words cannot describe my appreciation to the Youth House's administrative assistant, Kathy Recckia, who has been in so many ways my partner in crime, safety-net, advisor and good friend. But most importantly, she loves the Youth House and its kids.

Finally, I have come to the core of the Youth House. Firstly, I need to thank the amazing parents of the Youth House for their support of me and most importantly for the support and encouragement of their kids.

I also want to praise all of the students on this past year's Youth House Board for their love, effort and time in making the Youth House and the experiences of their peers fun and worthwhile. In particular, I want to thank Yael Levy, the outgoing (in every sense of the term) president of the Youth House, for her energy, commitment and leadership.

Last, but never ever least, I want to mention each and every Youth House member. I want to mention each and every one of them, but if I did I think I would be pushing the limits of your already taxed patience. So, let me just turn to them and say: thank you for being who you are, sharing your lives and selves with me and giving me the blessing

of making this year not just a job, but personally the loving heart of my day every single day. You have helped me in ways you will never know, and have made me want to get out of bed each day just so that I could spend part of the day with you.

With so much love and respect, *Todah Rabbah!*

## Temple Commemorates Memorial Day

—Continued from page 1

military veteran was presented with a patriotic lapel pin and offered an honor during the service.

More than two dozen former members of the armed forces stepped up to the *bimah* and Cantor Raphael Frieder led the congregation in singing "America The Beautiful." Rabbi Howard Stecker addressed the group with great praise as they remembered fallen comrades.

Dr. Ruth Zielenziger, the sole servicewoman, stood proudly with the impressive group of former military men. Everyone was moved by the sights and sounds. As he left the sanctuary, Louis Katz, a World War II veteran, was misty eyed in remarking how good it felt to be remembered.

Following services, the congregation was invited to the Crystal Ballroom for *kiddush*. The room was festooned with American flags and lovely plants decorated each table. Friendly conversations and lively reminiscences throughout the room could be heard. A sheet cake saluting the veterans was presented. In between noshing, Rabbi Eckstein regaled congregants with recollections of his military chaplaincy.

"Certainly, the public acknowledgment of the veterans' great sacrifices enhanced observance of the national holiday in a very meaningful way," said Temple Membership Committee Chair Cheryl Eisberg Moin. The Membership Committee conceived and planned the veterans' *Shabbat*.

On Monday, May 26, a lively group of more than 30 congregants clad in Temple Israel tee-shirts distributed by Dr. Robert Panzer, made their way along Middle Neck Road behind the Temple Israel banner as part of the community's Memorial Day Parade. Even Gary and Lois Sazer's pooch was outfitted with her own Temple Israel tee-shirt! Other congregants waved from the sidelines as they recognized members of the Temple Israel family. "The weather was magnificent for a parade," said Temple President Richard Kestenbaum. He remarked favorably about the turnout and said he expects to increase the size of the Temple Israel contingent next year.

### Bar/Bat Mitzvah INVITATIONS

Large Selection • Calligraphy  
DISCOUNT PRICES!

**KC Graphics**

25 Cuffer Mill Road • 466-2434  
across from the Inn at Great Neck

### METRO Floral Decorators



Flowers for All Occasions

574 Middle Neck Road  
Great Neck

516-466-6151

www.metrofloraldecorator.com

### LAFFEY ASSOCIATES Fine Homes & Estates

New York's Finest Homes Are At One Address  
www.Laffey.com

**Sherry Robin Modlin**

Licensed Sales Associate  
Selling? Call me for a **FREE**  
consultation and value analysis  
Office: 516-883-7789 ext. 230  
Cell: 516-220-6997  
E-mail: smodlin@laffey.com

### Shastone Memorials

~ 1904 A CENTURY OF SERVICE 2004 ~

MEMORIALS OF DISTINCTION ERECTED AT ALL CEMETERIES

112 Northern Boulevard • Great Neck, New York 11021

516-487-4600 • 1-877-677-6736 (Toll free outside NY)

www.ShastoneMemorials.com

Marvin Rosen - Laurel S. Rosen - Russell J. Rosen

CUSTOM DESIGN and SHOP AT HOME SERVICES

MONUMENTS - FOOTSTONES - PLAQUES - MAUSOLEUMS - CLEANING - REPAIRS

Planning a party?  
**Call us!**

**Carlton on the Bay**  
at Temple Israel of Great Neck

**Lederman Events**

Glatt Kosher International Cuisine

Phone: 516-829-6666

www.ledermanevents.com

**TEMPLE ISRAEL  
REBUILDING FUND**

*In honor of:*

Dinner Dance honorees  
Rebecca Yousefzadeh  
Sassouni and Sassan  
Sassouni

Ellie and Daniel  
Kimiabakhsh

Zachary Stecker becoming  
a *Bar Mitzvah*

Rebecca Yousefzadeh  
Sassouni and Sassan  
Sassouni and family

The birth of Spencer David  
Gerson, grandson of Trudy  
and Steve Markowitz

The engagement of Amy  
Diana, daughter of Ronnie  
and Marc Katz, to

Jonathan Kardon  
Barbara and Howard  
Spun

Dinner Dance honorees  
Barbara and Howard Spun  
Dr. Sharyn and  
Norman Goodman  
Liz and Bob Deturris

*For the recovery of:*

Myrna Abrahams  
Barbara and Howard  
Spun

*Contributions:*

Barbara and Stanley  
Goldfarb  
Harold Domnitch

*In memory of:*

Joseph (Jim) Belmont  
Ronni and Larry  
Shatzkamer and  
family  
Lori and Howard  
Dorman

Dr. Mitchell Brucker  
Karen Covitt

Asher Abroon  
Ellie and Daniel  
Kimiabakhsh

Florence Hirsch  
Vivian and Yuval  
Brash and family

Miryam Borzikowsky  
Vivian and Yuval  
Brash and family  
Rita and Mel Ortner  
and family

Fred Brash  
Lori and Howard  
Dorman

Phineas Spinrad  
Joshua S. Charry

Abraham Fuchs  
Elise and Hon.  
Richard Kestenbaum

# From Generation to Generation



## Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

Rowena Stecker  
Dr. Efrom Blank  
Bernice and Joseph  
Tanenbaum  
Rita and Mel Ortner  
and family  
Lori and Howard  
Dorman  
Bela and Melvin  
Schoenfeld  
Susan and Dr. Cyrus  
Kahn  
Marlene Handelman  
Carol and Marc  
Seidenberg  
Louise Cohen and  
Mark Molbegat  
Jerry Ungar  
Ellie and Daniel  
Kimiabakhsh  
Nancy and Sidney  
Freedman  
Frances and Dr.  
Matthew Harris  
Barbara and Howard  
Spun  
Karen and Donald  
Ashkenase  
Susan Gray  
Evelyn Golbert

### SHOAH REMEMBRANCE FUND

*In appreciation of:*  
Joan Mandel's help with  
her project  
Shari Oginski and  
family

*In honor of:*  
The Shoah Committee  
Lori and Peter  
Oppenheimer and  
family

*In memory of:*  
Jerry Ungar  
Cheryl Eisberg Moin  
and Seth Moin  
Helene and Murray  
Cohen  
Patricia Sachs

### KIDDUSH FUND

*In memory of:*  
Camille Katz  
Vivian Brash  
Paul Meyrowitz  
Jannette Meyrowitz

### WAXMAN HIGH SCHOOL AND YOUTH HOUSE FUND

*In memory of:*  
Paul Meyrowitz  
Jannette Meyrowitz  
Jerry Ungar  
Drs. Victoria and  
Marius Pessah  
Mary and Robert Nowak  
Kathleen and John  
Whiteman  
Dr. Efrom Blank  
Beverly and Larry  
Roberts  
Timothy Chipman  
Ina Marcus Ross  
Jody and Michael  
Frankian  
Elayne Bernstein and  
Sol Schwartz  
W & D Machinery Co.  
International Paper  
Teddy Goldberg  
Muriel Hyman  
Shirley and Phil Perlman  
Lillian Rabkin  
Jean Frankian  
Bela and Melvin  
Schoenfeld  
Monica and Terrence  
McNeill  
Kathy White  
Cathy Kennedy  
Martin Friedman  
Barbara Friedman  
Weisen  
Annie Rapp  
Benjamin Rapp  
Shirley Perlman  
Howard Schottenfeld  
Shirley and Phil Perlman  
Lillian Berman  
Irene Ashery  
Arnold Sheidlower  
Ina Marcus Ross

### BETH HAGAN NURSERY SCHOOL FUND

*In memory of:*

Rowena Stecker  
Gloria and Dr. Daniel  
Nachmanoff  
Ingrid and Robert  
Fishman

### ABRAHAM ROSENFELD MEMORIAL FUND

*In memory of:*  
Jerry Ungar  
Roberta and David  
Harounian

### RABBI STECKER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

*In memory of:*  
Alvin Cohen  
Sandy and Norman  
Rosenberg  
Jerry Ungar  
Drs. Victoria and  
Marius Pessah  
Dr. Hamid Jack  
Moallem  
Fanny and Alfred  
Narotzky  
Asher Abroon  
Shamuel Rastegar  
David Yedidsion  
Dr. Hamid Jack  
Moallem  
Rowena Stecker  
Dr. Hamid Jack  
Moallem  
Barbara and Stanley  
Goldfarb  
Merrill and Dr. Mel  
Schneiderman  
Marilyn Lois  
Alexander  
Stacy and Shahram  
Yafeh  
Fanny and Alfred  
Narotzky  
Drs. Daniel and  
Mahvash Abitbol  
Bernice and Irving  
Katelansky  
Ellie and Daniel  
Kimiabakhsh  
Stanley Rosenfeld  
Karen and Donald  
Ashkenase  
Nina and Abner  
Ohebshalom  
Patricia and Leonard  
Adelson  
The Dolgin Family  
Ronni Esta Fink  
Ruth Fink  
Dr. Simon Fink  
Norma Frankel  
Abraham Frankel  
Harriet Finkelstein

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

Jerry Ungar  
Ellen Cooper

*In memory of:*

Vivian Krasnov  
Ruth Adise  
Karen and Donald  
Ashkenase  
Laura and Manny  
Bardash  
Hannah Berman  
Susan and Dr. Dennis  
Brustein  
Carol and Paul  
Burstein  
Helene and Murray  
Cohen  
Karen and Daniel  
Covitt  
Dr. Eva Ebin  
Linda Emanuel  
Nadine and Dr. David  
Feingold  
Basami and Fabian  
Ferber  
Sam Fink  
Renee and Elliot  
Fleischer  
Teddy Goldberg  
Mickey and Allan  
Greenblatt  
Rachel Hersonsky  
Drs. Rena and  
Jonathan Horwitz  
Muriel Hyman  
Claire Kahn  
Judy and David Kaplan  
Bernice and Irving  
Katelansky  
Parvaneh and Dr.  
Parviz Khodadadian  
Esther and Dr. Harry  
King  
Susan Wagner and  
Alan Klinger  
Brenda and Dr. Natie  
Kopelowitz  
Sharon Kovacs Gruer  
and Dr. George Kovacs  
Elaine and Jerome  
Laurence  
Walter Leavitt  
Natalie Levine  
Mildred Lewis  
Sharon and Edward  
Mazur  
Cheryl Eisberg Moin  
and Seth Moin  
Joyce and David  
Paseltiner  
Freda and Dr. Yale Pava  
Shirley and Philip  
Perlman  
Leila and Milton  
Posner

# From Generation to Generation



## Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

Eileen and Mickey  
Putterman  
Harriet and Seymour  
Rosenbaum  
Cheryl and Dr.  
William Ross  
Ana Maria and  
Malcolm Salit  
Bela and Melvin  
Schoenfeld  
Naomi and Sol  
Schulman  
Janet Stern  
Selma and Dr. Milton  
Stier  
Anne Summers  
Adele and Willard  
Warren  
Effie Apelast and  
Norbert Weinberg  
Hyman and Marjorie  
Weinberg Foundation  
Lorraine and Dr.  
Herbert Weissbach  
Joyce and Burt Weston  
Belle Wittlin  
Eileen Zarin  
Lois and Martin Zelman

### ROSALIE AND DANIEL KATZ MEMORIAL FUND

*In memory of:*

Anna Lillian  
Meyer Lillian  
Herbert Lillian  
Sandy Rosen  
Arthur Levine  
Sandy and Walter  
Rosen

### YAD B'YAD FUND

*In honor of:*

The birth of Merital Ora,  
great-granddaughter of  
Rayma Feldman  
Viola and Raymond  
Esikoff

*In memory of:*

Harry Parris  
Libby Weston  
Susan Gray  
Helene Schachter

### TEMPLE ISRAEL FUND

*In honor of:*

Esther Brochstein's birthday  
Esther Vickers

*In memory of:*

Oscar Zinn  
Douglas Zinn  
Florence Hirsch  
Lori and Howard  
Dorman  
Helene Kalnick  
Sheila Kalnick  
Charlotte Basch  
Ruth Haspel  
Paulette Moshell  
Yuri Moshell  
Avram Kutan  
Segal Moshell  
Elisa Reiner  
Ana Maria Salit  
Bessie Allen  
Teddy Goldberg  
Bruce Gerstein  
Solomon Gerstein  
Feiga Gerstein  
Chaim Gerstein  
Lucy Gerstein  
Ernest Deutsch  
Frances Rogers  
Isidore Achenbaum  
William Achenbaum  
Howard Reinert  
Shirley and Leonard  
Samansky  
Roselyn Hermanson  
Emily Levin  
Rose Jacobson  
Max Paul  
Arlene Paul Caitung  
Bernard Provisor  
Lillian Rabkin  
Elick Baynash  
Adele Gentin  
Harry Kamer  
Dr. Maxine Fried  
Spenser Scharfman  
Joy and Stewart  
Scharfman  
Eva Shapiro  
Rose Bernstein  
Morris Wilkes  
David Wilkes

Milton Kestenbaum  
Hon. Richard  
Kestenbaum  
Louis Horowitz  
June Zucker  
Robert Cohen  
Sophie Cohen  
Seymour Sacks  
Harriet Odett  
Seymour Oberman  
Linda Handsman  
Rose Zacharoff  
Belle Wittlin  
Fred Brash  
Harriet Finkelstein  
Ada Mass  
Thelma Benjamin  
Ruth White  
Nanci Roth  
Louis E. Bernstein  
Terry Bernstein  
Camille Katz  
Vivian Brash  
Solomon Cohn  
Seymour Cohn  
Morris Gemorah  
Marsha Levin  
Solomon Elefant  
Jack Elefant

### ISRAEL EMERGENCY FUND

*In memory of:*

Jerry Ungar  
Eleanor and Bob  
Liebmann  
Rachel Hersonsky  
Gina Noblit and  
Vincent Giannetti  
Vera and Joseph Eden  
Edward and Shirley  
Goldfeder  
Eileen and Mickey  
Putterman  
Catherine Lauer  
Marcy and Geoffrey  
Kaiser  
Ingrid and Robert  
Fishman  
Cheryl Eisberg Moin  
and Seth Moin

### SHALOM CLUB LIBRARY SHELF FUND

*In honor of:*

Eileen and Mickey  
Putterman's 60th wedding  
anniversary  
Anne Summers and  
family

*In memory of:*

Vivian Krasnov  
Howard Schottenfeld  
Jerry Ungar  
Rowena Stecker  
Eileen and Mickey  
Putterman

# D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

**Bemidbar**

**Saturday, May 31**

In this portion, we begin the Book of Numbers. For about a year, the Israelites had been camped at the foot of Sinai, where they witnessed the revelation, built the Mishkan and were instructed in its operation. Now they are ready to resume the journey through the wilderness to the Promised Land. The people are organized into a military camp to enable them to undertake a march through hostile environments, both natural and human. The first order of business is a census of all males over 20, except Levites. The tribes are then assigned positions in a square surrounding the Mishkan. Finally, the Levites are assigned special duties in connection with the *Mishkan* and numbered separately. The physical arrangement of the camp will serve to remind the people on the march of the monumental events they have recently experienced. The Mishkan will become a "mobile Sinai," and its location at the center of the camp will provide focus for the Israelites on their journey.

**Naso**

**Saturday, June 7**

We continue the final preparations at Sinai for the resumption of the journey through the wilderness to the Promised Land in this portion. The numbering of the Levitical families and assignment of portage duties for the Mishkan is concluded. Several laws dealing with the purity of the camp and the family are then promulgated, including a trial by ordeal for a woman suspected of adultery. These are followed by a description of the restrictions incumbent upon any person who takes a Nazarite vow as an act of special piety. Nazarites must refrain from drinking wine or alcohol, from cutting their hair and from coming into contact with the dead for a specified period of time. Moses is then instructed to teach Aaron a special three-fold blessing, which he is to use in blessing the people. The portion ends with a detailed account of the gifts brought by the princes of the tribes on the occasion of the dedication of the Mishkan. The gifts were identical, yet they had different symbolic meanings for each tribe. The offering of identical gifts by the tribes, regardless of their size, emphasized the equality of each tribe and each person before God.

## SABBATH SERVICES

**Friday, May 30**

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.

**Saturday, May 31**

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Bemidbar*  
Numbers 1:1-4:20

*Haftarah*: Hosea 2:1-22

Sabbath Service Officer:

Dr. Alan Freedman

*Bar Mitzvah*

ZACHARY STECKER

son of Deanna and Rabbi Howard A. Stecker

**Friday, June 6**

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.

**Saturday, June 7**

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Naso*

Numbers 4:21-7:28

*Haftarah*: Judges 13:2-25

Sabbath Service Officers:

Ellen Klig and Martin Domnitch

*Worship at  
Temple Israel  
This Shabbat!*

### TEMPLE ISRAEL VOICE

Marc Katz, Editor

Associate Editors

Rabbi Marim D. Charry, Paula Charry, Angela Jones, Ronnie Katz  
*Photographers*: David Kaplan, Dr. Robert Lopatkin, Milton Putterman

*Advertising Representative*: 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 078-740. Subscription \$5.00 per annum.

#### TEMPLE STAFF

Howard A. Stecker.....Senior Rabbi  
Raphael Frieder.....Cantor  
Seth Adelson.....Assistant Rabbi  
Mordecai Waxman\*.....Rabbi Emeritus  
Harriet Schiff.....Executive Director  
Rachel Mathies.....Director, Beth HaGan  
Rabbi Tracy Guran Kirs.....Director, Religious School  
Dov Goldberg.....Director, Waxman High School

#### OFFICERS

Hon. Richard Kestonbaum.....President  
Dr. Michael Ziegelbaum.....First Vice President  
Dr. Parviz Khodadadian.....Vice President  
Aliou Kroufiter.....Vice President  
Cheryl Eisberg Moir.....Vice President  
Alan Klingler.....Secretary  
Steven Shepman.....Treasurer  
Dr. Robert Pomeroy.....Financial Secretary  
Irving H. Luria\*.....Honorary President  
\*Deceased

AFFILIATED WITH  
THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

TEMPLE  
ISRAEL  
OF  
GREAT  
NECK



VOICE

108 OLD MILL ROAD, GREAT NECK, NY 11023

Periodicals  
Postage Paid  
at Great Neck, NY

*March With Temple Israel*  
in the  
**ISRAEL DAY PARADE**  
This Sunday, June 1

*for details call Karen Ashkenase: 487-3048*