

It's Graduation Time at Temple Israel!

The congregation's three schools—the Beth HaGan Nursery School, Temple Israel Religious School and the Waxman Hebrew High School—all recently held ceremonies marking the accomplishments of their students.

Waxman High School

A banquet was held for high school graduating students, their family and friends. Graduates, completing the entire curriculum at the Temple Israel schools, include Dan Domnitch, Michael Kahen, Sam Katz, Yael Levy, Max Mazel and Rose Summers.

Temple Israel Religious School

"Students in the Religious School were not graduating or stepping up, but rather 'stepping in' to a new experience at the Waxman Youth House," said School Director Rabbi Tracy Klirs. She said the school is a "collaborative learning experience where students and their parents can learn together."

While students and their parents enjoyed a pizza dinner at the Waxman Youth House, they heard a presentation from High School Director Dov Goldberg inviting them to continue their studies at the school. He



Temple Religious School students proudly show their school awards to Rabbi Seth Adelson, right. The students are, left to right, David Neissami, Matthew Monahemi, Daniel Mahfar, Max Summers, Ben Hoffman, David Erlich, Steven Farkas, Elana Delafraz, Stephanie Epstein and Ari Panzer (partially blocked).

led a study-text discussion on moving to the next stage in their lives.

Waxman High School student body president Yael Levy explained school activities and presented an orientation to the high school. Other speakers included Rabbi Howard Stecker and Rabbi Klirs.

The long list of students receiving Cer-

tificates of Completion includes Donna Askari, Elana Delafraz, Stephanie Epstein, David Erlich, Steven Farkas, Morgan Fishkin, Natalie Gilardian, Tamara Harounian, Jessica Harounian, Justin Hendler and Benjamin Hoffman.

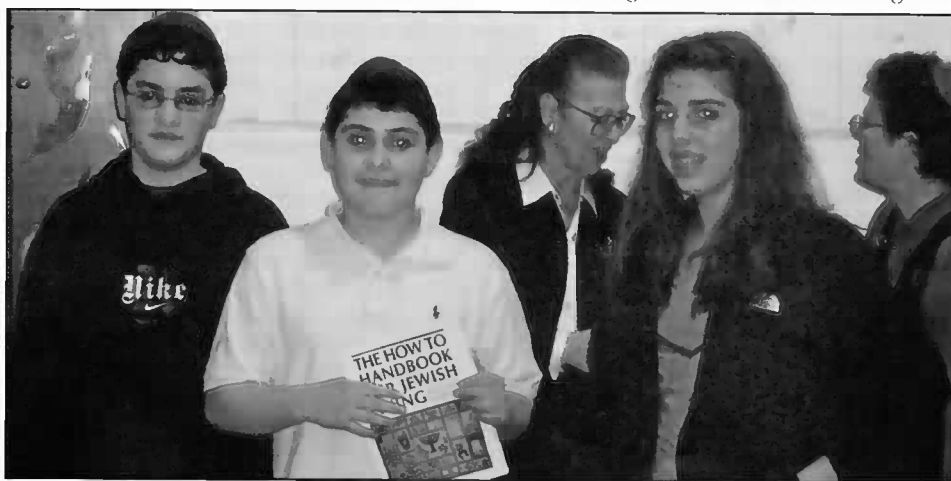
Other students receiving Certificates were Isabel Itzkowitz, Jamie Kahen, Maya Levy, Daniel Mahfar, Matthew Monahemi, David Neissani, Brandon Nesenoff, Tessa Ohebshalom, Ari Panzer, Melissa Powsner, Claudia Rashtian, Justin Sedaghat and Samuel Shamouilian.

Also, Jonathan Shapero, Jacob Shirian, Emily Shokrian, Noah Silverstein, Max Summers, Gabriella Torkan and Benjamin Zander.

METNY Keter Torah Awards, the highest awards presented to students who have been named "Judaic Scholars" for four out of the five years they attended at the Religious School, were given to Tamara Harounian, Ari Panzer and Max Summers. Elana Delafraz was named a "Judaic Scholar" for the year.

Awards for outstanding Hebrew study were given to Elana Delafraz, David Ehrlich, Stephanie Epstein, Isabel Itzkowitz, Maya Levy, David Neissani, Brandon Nesenoff, Ari

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Religious School METNY Keter Torah Award winners were, left to right, Max Summers, Ari Panzer and Tamara Harounian. Their presentation was made by Temple Past President Eileen Putterman and Religious School Director Rabbi Tracy Klirs, in rear.

Rabbis With A Mission

By Dr. Arnold Eisen

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jewish Theological Seminary Chancellor Dr. Arnold Eisen sent the graduates of the Seminary's 114th graduating class on a mission, in his commencement address. Excerpts of his talk is this Voice Guest Column.

I'd like to say a few words to the newest alumni of The Jewish Theological Seminary: the 19 graduates of the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education, the eight graduates of the H.L. Miller

*At this moment,
more than ever,
the world
needs...wisdom;*

Cantorial School and College of Jewish Music, the 24 graduates of The Rabbinical School, the 26 recipients of master's and doctoral degrees from The Graduate School, and—last but not least—List: the 32 graduates of the Albert A. List College of Jew-

ish Studies.

We are proud of you. We are grateful to your families for sharing you with us and supporting you in every way possible these past few years, thereby enabling you to support and strengthen the JTS community. We send you forth today with the promise that this is not good-bye: we will keep in touch by means of our new Diane and Howard Wohl Office of Alumni Affairs at JTS. We will provide you with further learning over the years and look forward to receiving it from you in turn. There is no doubt that the world desperately needs all the knowledge, skill, determination and wisdom that each of us individually and all of us collectively can bring. That much is clear today, when so much else is not at all clear. I have full confidence that you can make a difference for the good. We want to be there with you when

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FROM THE RABBI

A Shavuot Vision

By Rabbi Seth Adelson

A few weeks ago, on the eve of the festival of Shavuot, something miraculous occurred at Temple Israel. Actually, a couple of miraculous things took place:

1- With the guidance of Rabbi Klirs, parents and children gathered to build a scale model of the *mishkan*, the portable sanctuary that the children of Israel used to make sacrifices while wandering in the desert. If you have not seen Temple Israel's *mishkan*, you should take a walk over to the east side of the Youth House to check it out. The exterior features panels, designed and painted by our families, representing each of the 12 Israelite tribes.

2- Later in the evening, we held a *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*, a night of study for adults, featuring the clergy of Temple Israel and a few special guests. The title of this program was "Rebuilding Temple Israel, Rebuilding Ourselves: Fresh Perspectives on God, Torah, and Israel."

You may ask, what made these programs miraculous?

The answer is that they met the qualifications of our new visionary meter-stick. That is, they were transformative, compelling and connective. Let me explain:

- Transformative: Many of those who participated were inspired to think about their

*What was truly
miraculous
was the
integration...*

relationship with Judaism, with Jewish tradition, and with God. Those who built the *mishkan* were momentarily transported to Biblical times, physically connecting an

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Rebuilding Begins

By Hon. Richard Kestenbaum

As this will be my last column before our summer recess, I wanted to take this opportunity to bring our congregation up to date on a few pending matters (as if the fire reconstruction is only a pending matter!).

First, as you can see as you pass the building, our rebuilding process has begun in earnest. Many of the windows have now been replaced and the easternmost glass wall is being replaced as I write this column. A

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sprinkler system is being installed in the catering areas, as well as in the school, where none existed before, and the life-safety alarm systems are being updated to meet new code requirements. We hope—but can't yet absolutely guarantee—that the schools will open on time in September in a refurbished building and we will be praying together in the Grand Ballroom for the holidays. We are currently on schedule to do this. Our contractor is working six days a week, well beyond normal working hours, in order to meet our time requirements. Putting in a good word for us when you are praying wouldn't hurt either!

As for your Board of Trustees, we have begun our participation in a program of synagogue Board development which we were selected to participate in. The program was designed to teach us to act more effectively, create better teamwork and help develop future leaders. It began with a self-assessment, which in itself gets people thinking. Our purpose in participating in this UJA sponsored program is to help our leadership better meet their responsibilities in making Temple Israel a more compelling place for our members. Your leadership recognizes their obligation to be the most effective they can be so that our synagogue can be the best that it can be.

As always, we will continue to hold services during the summer. I hope to see you there. Have a nice summer.

Sunday Office Hours

The Temple office will be closed on Sundays during the month of July. The office will resume Sunday hours on August 3.

IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences to the families of:

HARRY SILBERGLAIT

husband of Elaine Silberglait,
father of Barbara Dicker,
brother of Molly Wolff and
esteemed member of Temple Israel

BETTY SIMON

mother of Judy Jacobs

May their memory be for a blessing.

MAZAL TOV TO . . .

- **Dr. Jack Moallem** on his marriage to Manijeh Schlegel.
- **Karen and Donald Ashkenase** on the birth of their grandson, Benjamin Joseph Ashkenase.
- **Judith and Paul Litner** on the *B'nai Mitzvah* of their grandsons, Zachary Litner and Joshua Stevens.
- **Hannah Berman** on the *Bar Mitzvah* of her great-grandson, Joshua Stevens.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Kindle the Sabbath Lights!

Friday, June 27.....	8:12 P.M.
Friday, July 4.....	8:11 P.M.
Friday, July 11.....	8:08 P.M.
Friday, July 18.....	8:04 P.M.
Friday, July 25.....	7:59 P.M.

Next Voice Issue

The next issue of *The Voice*, the summer issue, will be published on Thursday, July 31. The deadline for the issue is July 18 and submissions are welcome.

Have a great summer!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

July	2	Temple Israel's Institute for Lifelong Learning "Summer Song and Dance" program begins	7:00 P.M.
	14	Golf and Tennis Tournament including Mah Jongg	
	17	Temple Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.

Calling ALL Temple Israel Women

Exciting plans are underway to launch
**Temple Israel's First Annual
SHABBAT B'KOL ISHAH**

בְּקוֹל אִשָּׁה

ON SHABBAT EMOR MAY 8-9, 2009

WOMEN WILL LEAD

Friday Night Kabbalat Shabbat Service on May 8

followed by a festive dinner

AND

Shabbat Morning Service on Saturday, May 9

Volunteers are invited to lead all aspects of the services, in Hebrew and in English. No one will be turned away, and training by our own *Hazzan* Frieder will be available.

PLEASE COME TO OUR FIRST MEETING

ON TUESDAY, JULY 29

in the Blue Room at 8:15 P.M.

Questions? Suggestions? Contact:

Sherry Husney: shusney01@aol.com

Simone Kahen: simonekahen@optonline.net

Rebecca Sassouni: rebeccassouni@verizon.net

IN QUOTES

EDITOR'S NOTE: "In Quotes" calls attention to passages from Jewish prayers and writings frequently overlooked or said by rote, but profoundly written.

This issue's quote is from Pirkei Avot Chapter 2. What is your favorite quote? Send your suggestions to *The Voice*, in care of Temple Israel.

“
*Do God's will as though it were yours,
so that God will do your will as though it were His.
Nullify your will for God's,
that God may nullify the will of others for yours.*”

Beth HaGan's Art Show Wows Parents, Students Too!

By Pargol Khodavi

EDITOR'S NOTE: Proud Beth HaGan parent Pargol Khodavi critiqued the work of the school's students at their recent Art Show for The Voice.

Beth HaGan held its annual Art Show on Wednesday, June 4, in the Crystal Ballroom. This year the children welded the fine arts with literature. Each class displayed thought-provoking and imaginative artwork inspired by some of their favorite books. In some cases, the children used the same techniques that the professional illustrators had used. In representing their own personal and communal interpretations of the texts they have grown to love throughout the year, the children were encouraged "to examine, experiment, and express freely their innermost thoughts," said Beth HaGan Director Rachel Mathless.

The Toddlers surpassed any expectation of what two year-olds can comprehend and then create from that comprehension. *Morot* Dinah and Siona's Lambs Class created a full "Day at the Beach," complete with sand, beach chairs, umbrellas and beach balls to portray the book "Corduroy Goes to the Beach" by Don Freeman. Their rendition of

Karen Beaumont's "I Ain't Gonna Paint No More" hung high on the wall with cutouts of the kids doused in colors from head to toe.

Merrily Kutner's "Down On The Farm" displayed individual barn-like settings that the children created from cardboard milk cartons, plastic farm animals, and, of course, paint! Then came Dina Rosenfeld's "The Very Best Place For A Penny" with the Lambs Class communal rendition of a *tzedakah* box.

The Kittens Class, under the direction of *Morot* Roni and Amy, created their own airplanes using paint, oak tag, and paper towel rolls to fly high overhead (the planes were hung from the ceiling) in the portrayal of Donald Crews' "Flying." Eric Carle's "From Head to Toe" displayed photographs of each child in a different pose with the frames made of collage materials and paint. Keeping with the theme of collage and Eric Carle came one of my personal favorites, Eric Carle's "The Lonely Firefly." The fireflies were created with tissue paper and glue and the tails actually lit up!

As if all that was not enough, the Kittens Class also did renditions of Eric Carle's "Little Cloud" and P.D. Eastman's "Are You My Mother?" *Morot* Mojdeh and Phyllis of

the Kangaroos Class seem to know exactly what draws a crowd—a crowd of two-year olds, that is! My near two-year old daughter was struck by their real-life model of Shabbat, complete with a gorgeous Kangaroo-created Kiddush cup, challah and candle sticks placed on a beautiful *Shabbat* table in a kitchen-like setting to portray Ellen Emerman's "Is It Shabbos Yet?"

And who could forget their amazing hand-painted and cutout monkeys hanging from the Ballroom's ceiling over a mini-bed to illustrate Eileen Christelow's "Eleven Little Monkeys Jumping On The Bed?" Even their gingerbread men in personal cooking trays were right on target in their version of Jim Aylesworth's "The Gingerbread Man." To top it all off was a cute expression of Mark Shulman and Sarah Massini's "Dino In The Jungle." The Bunnies Class, under the direction of *Morot* Nathalie and Adina, truly inspired. Along with super creations of Lois Ehlert's "Snowballs," Jonathan Allen's "I'm Not Scared," and Eric Carle's "The Mixed-Up Chameleon," was perhaps the greatest translation of Eric Carle's "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" Each child's face was photographed and placed onto a cut-out body shape with the classic question posed to the next child using their actual names so that the story became personalized for the Bunnies Class. What an amazing ability to be able to translate this classic children's book to classroom reality.

The three year-olds classes truly dazzled. The Giraffe Class, under the superb leadership of *Morot* Miriam and Michelle brought life to each book they chose. Watty Piper's "The Little Engine That Could" was literally sprawled out in the center of the Crystal Ballroom. The Giraffes made their own giant replica of the little engine, the train and all the dolls, toys, and treats that were its passengers. Sarah Gershman's *The Bedtime Sh'ma*, "A Good Night Book" was illustrated through painted pictures of the children's dreams. Robert McCloskey's "Make Way for the Ducklings" set hand-made ducklings in an actual water-filled pond (the Charles River). The Boston skyline was realistically represented in the background. Creativity comes easy to the Giraffes. Their amazing replica of a wild forest with ceiling-high trees and wild things with photos of the children's faces truly brought to life Maurice Sendak's "Where the Wild Things Are." Bravo!

Moving on to *Morot* Susan and Lucy's Ducks Class, one could not help but be amazed. Their rendition of Peter Spier's "Oh, Were They Ever Happy" made not only the Ducks happy, but made every attending child happy! Their life-size wooden house

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From...

The Beth HaGan Nursery School

Dear Parents,

Beth HaGan is pleased to announce the opening of an afternoon enrichment program to service the pre-kindergarten children who will be enrolled in the Universal Pre-K program held at the Parkville School.

Our program will go from 1:10-3:10 P.M., 4 days a week, Monday through Thursday. We will offer one hour of Judaic enrichment and the second hour will include a mix of music, cooking, art, science, math, and jumpin' fun. All classes will be taught by our own Beth HaGan licensed teachers. You may choose to attend any number of days, but attendance is not interchangeable.

The cost of the program is \$775 per day for the year.

Please come into the Beth HaGan office for further information and an application.

Sincerely,
Rachel Mathless, Director
Beth HaGan Nursery School

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.
Sat., June 28, July 5 & 12	8:45 A.M.	7:50 P.M.
Sat., July 19	8:45 A.M.	7:45 P.M.
Sat., July 26	8:45 A.M.	7:40 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 April 12 was co-sponsored by Laura and Dr. Daniel Powsner in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Melissa, and by Ellyse and Gary Silverstein in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Noah.

The congregational *kiddush* on April 19 was sponsored by Eileen and Mickey Putterman in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary. A contribution toward the *kiddush* was made by Eli Rosenbaum in honor of the baby naming of his granddaughter, Ella Malis.

The congregational *kiddush* on April 26 and April 27 was sponsored by Robert Cooperman in honor of his reading of the *haftarah* on the *yahrzeit* for his father, Albert J. Cooperman.

A contribution toward the *kiddush* on May 3 was made by Elahe and Yousef Arabian in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Jordan.

A contribution toward the *kiddush* on May 10 was made by Caroline and Arya Rashtian in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Claudia.

A contribution toward the *kiddush* on May 24 was made by Vivian Brash in memory of her mother, Camille Katz.

The congregational *kiddush* on May 31 was sponsored by Deanna and Rabbi Howard A. Stecker in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Zachary.

The congregational *kiddush* on June 7 was co-sponsored by Bracha and Martin Werber in honor of their 40th wedding anniversary and by Kathrin Zelouf in memory of her husband, Yousef Zelouf. A contribution toward the *kiddush* was made by Pamela and Dr. Ben Boal in honor of the baby naming of their granddaughter, Annie Jane Weisfeld.

The congregational *kiddush* on June 14 was co-sponsored by Jamie and Eric Fishkin in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Morgan, Manijeh Schlegel and Dr. Jack Moallem in honor of their *Auf Ruf*, and by Barbara Stevens in honor of the *Auf Ruf* of her son, Dr. Daniel Joshua Stephens, and Dr. Hope Rachel Garner.

It's Graduation Time at Temple Israel's Schools!

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Panzer, Justin Sedaghat and Max Summers.

Students receiving awards for outstanding Israel study included David Ehrlich, Stephanie Epstein, Ben Hoffman, Maya Levy, Tessa Ohebshalom, Ari Panzer, Sam Shamouilian, Noah Silverstein and Max Summers.

Machon Attendance Awards were given to Elana Delafraz, David Ehrlich, Stephanie Epstein, Steven Farkas, Ben Hoffman, Isabel Itzkowitz, Daniel Mahfar, Matthew Monahemi, David Neissani, Ari Panzer, Melissa Powsner and Max Summers.

Receiving Shoah Studies Awards were Donna Askari, Elana Delafraz, Stephanie Epstein, Tamara Harounian, Ben Hoffman, David Neissani, Brandon Nessenoff, Ari Panzer, Emily Shokrian, Noah Silverstein, Max Summers and Gabriella Torkan.

Research Project Awards were presented to Stephanie Epstein, David Erlich, Natalie Gilardian, Benjamin Hoffman, Maya Levy, Daniel Mahfar, Brandon Nesenoff, Ari Panzer, Emily Shokrian, Noah Silverstein and Max Summers.

Students receiving Chaggim and Values Awards were Tamara Harounian, Maya Levy, Daniel Mahfar, Ari Panzer, Max Summers and Noah Silverstein.

Outstanding Participation and Effort Awards went to Donna Askari, Daniel Mahfar, Emily Shokrian, Noah Silverstein and Gabriella Torkan.

Awards for Outstanding Attendance were given to Tamara Harounian and Sam Shamouilian.

Many students received Derekh Eretz Awards, given for politeness and consideration.

The presentation ceremony was planned with the assistance of parent Ofra Panzer, co-chair of the Religious School Education Committee.

Beth HaGan Nursery School

At the Beth HaGan Nursery School, students in the Dolphins, Toucans and Butterflies classes all graduated. In ceremonies in the Crystal Ballroom, the students performed a narration and musical presentation celebrating the 60 years of Israel's statehood. Among their many songs were "Leshana Haba-ah," "Kol Yisrael," and "Oshe Shalom." The music was directed by Ruthe Golden. A reception for parents, guests and the students immediately followed the commencement ceremony.

Graduates of the Dolphins Class, taught by Morah Connie and Morah Ety, are Jared Astrof, Abigail Eleyahouzadeh, Ari Lissack, Sophia Mahfar, Benjamin Malekan, Simon Malekan, Harrison Meirowitz, Joy Moalemi, Alexis Noghreh, Tebila Soleimani, Elie Weitzman and Julia Yerousalmi.

The Toucans Class, led by Morah Lois and Morah Ann, includes Saul Ades, Alexandra Ahdoot, Ryan Aminzadeh, Ariela Hakimi, David Kahen, Bridget Kashi, Kevin Khadavi, Zakary Kimiabakhsh, Shaina Makhany, Jake Mehdyzadeh, Heather Nesenoff, Dayna Pourmoradi and Ariella Sakhai.

In the Butterflies Class, taught by Morah Rebeka and Morah Hilda, graduates were Amelia Blumberg, Dayna Davoudi, Hanna Eshaghoff, Emily Gal, Benjamin Goodwin, Eli Goodwin, Jordan Harouche, Michael Kahen, Gabriella Khani, Lea Khani, Charlie Linden, Rebecca Nahavandi, Alexandra Pour, Dylan Solomon and Lauren Victory.

Waxman High School Students Select Officers, Elena Chwat Elected President

Students at Temple Israel's Waxman High School and Youth House have elected a new slate of student body officers, headed by President Elena Chwat.

Monica Emrani and Desiree Neissani were elected vice presidents for Israel affairs; Isaiah Levy, Zoe Oppenheimer and Jessye Waxman were named vice presidents for religious education; Mandy Boltax and Mandy Mazel were elected vice presidents for social action/tikkun olam; Elana Eyal and Maxine Pearlman were selected vice presidents for membership/kadima; Josh Ratner was elected vice president for programming and Ben Ratner was named vice president for communications.

The outgoing Board included Yael Levy, president; Elena Chwat and Monica Emrani, vice presidents for Israel affairs; Zoe Oppenheimer and Jessye Waxman, vice presidents for religious education; Isaiah Levy and Josh Ratner, vice presidents for social action/tikkun olam; Alanna Stark and Lailee Waxman, vice presidents for membership/kadima; Rose Summers, vice president for programming; Spencer Blondman and Daniel Domnitch, vice presidents for communications; and Jamie Brimberg and Sarah Levy, 12th grade representatives.

Congratulations Grads!

Following is a listing of children of Temple Israel members who have received college degrees this spring, as received by *The Voice*. The congregation congratulates these graduates on their outstanding achievement!

- **David Roth**, son of Nanci and Larry Roth, graduated from New York University-Stern Business, M.B.A.
- **Jason Miller**, son of Ivy Miller, graduated from SUNY Purchase, Lighting and Design/Technology, B.F.A.
- **Jonathan Birnbaum**, son of Ellen and Mark Birnbaum, graduated from MIT, dual majors: Engineering and Computer Science, B.S., and Management Science, B.S.
- **Rachel Teamkin**, granddaughter of Rosalind and Jerome Teamkin, graduated from Washington University in St. Louis, B.A.

Beth HaGan's Last Oneg Shabbat

By **Pargol Khadavi**

Beth HaGan held its last *Oneg Shabbat* for this school year on Friday, June 6. In tribute to the graduating classes of the fours, Director Rachel Mathless asked that all the four year-olds stand and conduct the *Oneg*.

Looking at the faces of these children, who have grown in mind and body over the last three years at Beth HaGan, it was easy to feel a sense of nostalgia for what they are now leaving behind and yet a sense of peace and gratefulness for what they will be taking with them.

Where else could our children have entered as timid two year-olds and now leave as confident four year-olds? Where else could our children have matured into aware Jewish children with a love for each other and for the State of Israel? Where else could our children have found their roots and yet planted new ones from which to continue to grow? Where else could our children have learned to sing, "I'm a Jewish child and I'm proud" with enough gusto for the entire world to hear?

Thank you, Beth HaGan, for giving our fours the knowledge, the strength, the smarts and the Jewish pride that will be part of them forever. Thank you, for making us "Jewish parents who are proud!"

Beth HaGan's Annual Art Show Wow's School Parents and Students!

—Continued from page 4

complete with sliding windows housed many happy children that night. Their house alone was jaw dropping but they went further to create renditions of Sylvia Rouss's "The Littlest Candlesticks," Lois Ehler's "Waiting for Wings," and most adorably, Norman Bidell's "Clifford The Big Red Dog" with a huge paper Clifford.

The Seals Class, headed by *Morot* Cheryl and Elizabeth, created delicious versions of Menucha Fuchs' "Who Will Be King of the Jungle," Dina Herman Rosenfeld's "A Tree Full of Mitzvos," and Leo Lionni's "A Color Of His Own." What a delight to look at all of the Seals' artistic talent. *Morot* Sara and Lida of the Bears Class had so much fun with their creations that one could not help smile while looking at their children's artistic expressions. David Shannon's "No David" was created with personal little humorous touches on each "David." Sylvia A. Rouss's "Sammy Spider's First Trip to Israel" highlighted the Western Wall as their project. Bill Martin Jr.'s "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom" showed personal renditions of the letters falling off the tree. And, last but certainly not least, was Caroline Child's "Gorgeous," where each child beautifully illustrated the baby zebra in the book.

The graduating classes showed all they learned in their years at Beth HaGan with unbelievable artistic integrity. Upon entering the Crystal Ballroom that evening one was welcomed by the Butterflies Class life-size model of Robert Lopshire's "Put Me In the Zoo." *Morot* Rebecca and Hilda directed the Butterflies in their creation of a zoo "box" that became a photo-op for many attending children. Their rendition of Richard Buckley and Eric Carle's "The Greedy Python" laid out a huge larger-than-life slithering python along the floor of the room causing everyone to be careful where they stepped.

And, who could forget the gorgeous life-size bedroom from Margaret Wise Brown's "Goodnight Moon." How much thought and creativity had gone into the creation of this "great green room," complete with realistic fireplace and shaggy rug? And don't even get me started on their cute crayon box with photos of each child on bigger-than-big crayons in their depiction of Shane DeRolf's "The Crayon Box that Talked." Now I need to take a deep breath!

Morot Connie and Ety's Dolphins Class brought to life Lloyd Moss's "Zin, Zin, Zin, A Violin." A full chamber orchestra of ten different instruments including a life-size harp all hand-made was truly breath taking. Their zoobary covered half the wall in the ballroom. Every animal one could imagine had been created with paper, paint and stuffing—some standing, some hanging, some walking. Judy Sierra would have been proud to see such a remarkable depiction of her "Wild About Books." And like many other classes, the Dolphins went above and beyond by not stopping there. They also had gorgeous expressions of Marcia Brown's "Stone Soup" and Jamie Lee Curtis' "I'm Gonna Like Me."

Finally—and I did save this one for last intentionally—is the Toucans Class, under the leadership of *Morot* Lois and Ann. For weeks before the art show, my son, Kevin, would come home after school and give me little hints and clues as to what they were working on for the art show. But I never expected what I saw.

Jonathan London's "Froggy Gets Dressed" was a huge hit with the children. Using a safety needle and felt, the children sewed an actual Froggy and dressed him up with their own personal items of clothing—everything from underpants to a hat. Jan Brett's "The Mitten" allowed the children to shape and mold model magic to resemble a rabbit, a badger, a mole, a bear, a hedgehog, an owl and a fox. They were then painted to look like the real thing. Some of them were covered in fur and the hedgehog even had quills! Leo Lionni's "Swimmy" depicted a board full of sea creatures and fish with ocean-like paper through their use of sea sponges. But perhaps the most expressive form of artistic creativity came from their choice of Allia Zobel Nolan's "What I Do Best."

Each Toucan made a self-portrait and filled in the sentence "What I do best is...". They then went on to create a visual of what they do best. Among the creations were a hand-made frying pan with sunny side-up eggs for "what I do best is making eggs with Daddy on Sunday mornings," a hand-made pair of dancing shoes for "what I do best is dancing," a small basketball hoop for "what I do best is playing basketball." My future astronaut, Kevin, made a model rocket-ship for "what I do best is building a rocket ship to fly into space with." All the creations were independent works of creativity and artistic expression.

Once again, I am amazed at the level of commitment the Beth HaGan staff has to our children. Beth HaGan is truly a "Garden of Eden" for our children with plenty of granted room to flourish both in mind and spirit and given love to grow by.

Thank you, Beth HaGan, for another spectacular show of love.

Rabbis With A Mission

you do.

You have heard the news this week, I know. It challenges our faith in life, let alone in God or humanity. The death toll kicks you in the stomach with its sheer enormity, and threatens to overwhelm you with hopelessness and despair. Earthquake, flood, suffering, war: tens of thousands of victims. Jeffrey Sachs reminds us that the newspapers could report a similar death toll from poverty and disease every week, every day. The situation is far worse than the curses set forth in chapter 26 of Leviticus, though the extraordinary kindness displayed in the wake of disaster and disease, and the knowledge, ability and virtue marshaled for relief and recovery, also match up to the blessings Leviticus details.

We've all been reminded, painfully, in recent weeks that...the tragedies built into the order and disorder of nature are either greatly improved or greatly worsened by human, all too human, action and inaction; the sort of business as usual denounced by our prophets; or the kind of altruism and pursuit of justice that our prophets extolled. The tradition we call Torah demands we pay full attention to both sides of the world's reality and do all we can to move the balance toward the good, dedicating lives and skills to finding solutions to the problems that can be solved by human beings or mitigating the suffering caused by those we can't solve.

JTS speaks and educates in the name of this tradition. The Torah we teach and study here commands us to love God with all our faculties—heart, soul, might, mind—and that means, in the first instance, loving God's creation that way. That, in turn, means learning how to build and maintain communities of meaning, justice, and compassion—of faith and reason—as we work to alleviate suffering, suffuse the social and political order with greater sanity and compassion, and provide people with the rich meaning and hopeful confidence that it takes to survive, let alone to thrive.

At this moment, more than ever, the world needs not only science and all it represents, but wisdom; wisdom that is rendered serious, and so keeps talk of God and faith serious, by informing itself with all the tools it can command: science, history, and the experience of people with different perspectives than ours.

We—the faculty, the administration, the many friends and supporters of JTS—have invested so much in you, our graduates, because we know that it takes highly educated and inspired leaders, men and women of exceptional ability and commitment, to help

Grandparents Have Special Day With Their Beth HaGan Students

Overheard in the Butterflies class: "Ok, everybody," said Morah Rebeka "It's calendar time! Let's show your grandparents how we know the months and days of the week! If yesterday was Wednesday what is today?" "Grandparents Day!" yells the class.

What's sweeter than chocolate covered matzah, jelly rings and a glass of Maneschewitz wine? Beth HaGan students serenading their grandparents at the annual Grandparents' Day celebration. The smiling faces and looks of delight filled the air as Hebrew and English songs, clearly practiced for weeks prior, were

belted out for all to hear. There was a Passover preview with Dianu, a memorable tune about Torah and a highly enthusiastic melody on adoration for grandparents. The Tzadakah box overflowed as grandparents marathoned for their wallets handing over dollars for the kids to give for a worthy Israeli cause.

Loving hands made beautiful picture frames with the artist's photo inside. Surely these masterpieces will be placed next to similar ones made by their parents decades ago.

A Jewish event is not complete without a few bagels and a piece of cake, and the yummiest concoction with chocolate frosting ended a most delightful and sweet morning.

According to Rachel Mathless, director of the Beth HaGan Nursery School, "We think it's very important to involve the family in our activities throughout the year, and when grandparents are involved it's a special day for all."

*Loving hands
made beautiful
picture frames...*



PRIDE AND JOY, left to right: Moussa and Ashraf Kahen with their granddaughter, Lexi Pour, and Ety Gross with her granddaughter, Amelia Blumberg, enjoy the festivities at Beth Hagan's Grandparents' Day.

our communities meet the tests we face now and those to come. Human agency is needed to mend the world and move it slowly but surely toward redemption. It takes rabbis and cantors; educators, lay leaders and scholars who are imbued with spirit, possessed of human skills, and so learned in tradition that they can interpret it confidently in unprecedented circumstances.

Graduates of 2008: you leave us today with a degree in hand. I hope that you also

take with you the confidence of your teachers and this institution. That knowledge can make a difference for good in this world—if properly channeled through wisdom—because you make such a difference, and that Jewish tradition, in particular, will continue to matter greatly to Jews and all humanity because of the way you walk the path of Torah and help others to walk it. Thank you for being here. Go well.

D'VAR TORAH

—Continued from back page

Balak

Saturday, July 12

In this portion, Balak, King of Moab, becomes alarmed at the victory of the Israelites over the Amorites. Fearing that the Israelites are too powerful to defeat in battle, Balak sends messengers to the renowned prophet Balaam in Mesopotamia to summon him to Moab in order to curse the Israelites. At first God instructs Balaam that he is not to go. Balak, however, sends a second set of messengers to plead with Balaam, and God agrees that the prophet can go to Moab on the clear understanding that he will only speak as God commands him. Once in Moab, Balaam blesses the Israelites three different times instead of cursing them. Balak is furious and sends the prophet home, but Balaam first prophesies the destruction of Moab and the neighboring countries. The future of Israel now seems bright indeed, but the promise is immediately dashed when the people are enticed to participate in the idolatrous cult of Baal-peor. The unique relationship with God is still not firmly enough established.

Pinhas

Saturday, July 19

In this portion, we read that Pinhas, the grandson of Aaron, is rewarded for his zeal in dealing summarily with the idolatry of Baal-peor by having the priesthood become the possession of his descendants for all time. We now turn to the preparations for the conquest of the Promised Land. Moses takes a census of the generation born in the wilderness to determine the number of fighting men and the number of families who would share in the division of the land. God gives Moses instructions for apportioning the land, and we learn of a decision affirming the right of daughters to inherit property when there are no sons. Moses is told to ascend the mountain to prepare to die and to designate Joshua as his successor. The reading concludes with a calendar of the Festivals of the year and the public sacrifices that are to be offered daily and on every *Shabbat* and Festival after the Israelites have entered the land. Maintaining this calendar is to be a means of tying together God, the land and the People of Israel.

Mattot

Saturday, July 26

The portion Mattot (together with the following portion Mase) relates to the final events proceeding the entering of the Promised Land. The narrative of Mattot deals with three separate matters.

The first section sets out the rules for the annulment of vows and oaths made by women. In the Torah, words have great power. God accomplished His creation with words, and what we call the Ten Commandments is called in the Torah the ten words or statements. Thus, an oath, vow or promise is a very serious matter. Accordingly, a pledge made by a man in the name of God must be fulfilled. However, a woman's pledge may be annulled by her father - if she is unmarried - or by her husband. While this distinction may make some of us uncomfortable, it reflects the social structure of Biblical times.

In the second section, we read of the war against the Midianites. All the men are slain, as well as those women involved in the apostasy at Baal-peor. Spoils are divided, and a section of Trans-Jordan is occupied.

This leads to the third part, in which we learn that the tribes of Gad, Reuben and half of Manasseh wish to stay in that land because it is good for cattle grazing, and they have much cattle. This request presents a problem because it seems to reject the national goal of occupying and settling the Promised Land. After detailed negotiations with Moses, a compromise is reached. The Men of these tribes will settle their families and livestock in Trans-Jordan then join the other tribes in effecting the conquest.

SABBATH SERVICES

—Continued from back page

Saturday, July 12

Morning Service

8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Balak*
Numbers 22:2-25:9
Haftarah: Micah 5:6-6:8

•

Friday, July 18

Evening Service

6:30 P.M.

•

Saturday, July 19

Morning Service

8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Pinhas*
Numbers 25:10-30:1
Haftarah: I Kings 18:46-19:21

•

Friday, July 25

Evening Service

6:30 P.M.

•

Saturday, July 26

Morning Service

8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Mattot*
Numbers 30:2-31:54;
Haftarah: Jeremiah 1:1-2:3

A Shavuot Vision

—Continued from page 2

cient stories with paint and hardware; they were given the creative opportunity to build and be built through Jewish text. Those who participated in our discussions about God, the Torah and Israel were uplifted by discussion, by searching their own souls and by sharing new perspectives with their peers.

- **Compelling:** The building project was fun, outdoor sweaty work, a welcome change from the didactic reality of everyday synagogue learning. This was informal, inductive learning at its best. Meanwhile, the Tikun was newly redesigned for this year: multiple sessions met at the same time; dinner was held between sessions, and although attendance exceeded our expectations, causing a slight food deficit, there was really something for everybody. Our final session, a frank discussion about our relationship to *mitzvot* and Jewish traditions, was held in conjunction with the Waxman Youth House, which held an all-night "shul-in" in honor of the holiday; the opportunity to talk across generational lines was welcomed by all.

- **Connective:** Each of these programs gave the participants the space to learn with and interact with their friends and family. Children connected with each other and their parents; parents met and cooperated; people who did not otherwise know each other met and conversed about Jewish subjects. And all found new opportunities to connect to Judaism.

What was truly miraculous was the integration of family programming, adult education, teenage activities, and the celebration of the festival of Shavuot. The results were sublime.

Watch this space for more transformative, compelling and connective opportunities.

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The Husney Family

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Barbara and Howard Spun

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Vivian and Yuval Brash

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Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

Helene Cohn
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Evelyn Golbert
Sylvia Ziegelbaum
Suanne and David Scherr
Barbara and Howard Spun
Rowena Stecker
Sherry and Bob Modlin
Ellen and Arnold Gruber
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Contribution:

Louise Cohen

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In memory of:

Dorothy Koepfel
Myrna and George Abrahams
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Sylvia Ziegelbaum
Miryam Borzikowsky
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Arnold Sheidlower
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The engagement of Amy, daughter of Ronnie and Marc Katz, to Jon Kardon
Ben Sahn, grandson of Thelma and Jack Sahn, graduating from medical school and his forthcoming marriage
Gloria and Stuart DeLott

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Zachary Stecker becoming a *Bar Mitzvah*

Carol and Steve Smolinsky

The birth of Joshua Lior Mandel, grandson of Joan and David Mandel
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In memory of:

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Marilyn and Harvey Gessin

William Dorman
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Jerry Ungar
Freda Queen

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Cheryl Eisberg Moin,
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Howard Spun for leading
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For the recovery of:

Myrna Abrahams
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Leonard Kahn

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Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges
The Following Contributions

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Jerry Ungar
Dr. Michael Ziegelbaum
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Jay Schwartz
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Freda Queen and
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ISRAEL EMERGENCY FUND*In memory of:*

Jerry Ungar
Molly and Louis Wolff
Varda and Alan Solomon
Barbara and Howard
Spun
Nancy and Manny
Alani
Brenda and Dr. Natie
Kopelowitz
Dr. Harold Grossman
Renee and Elliot
Fleischer
Malvina and Jeff
Kirshner
Bracha and Marty
Werber

REIMAGINE FUND*In honor of:*

Bracha and Marty
Werber's 40th wedding
anniversary
Drs. Zina and Robert
Rutkin-Becker
Paula and Rabbi
Marim D. Charry
Rebecca Yousefzadeh
and Sassan Sassouni
Susan and Dr. Robert
Lopatkin
Drs. Madelyn and
Robert Gould
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The Husney family
Eve Keller and David
Waxman
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Ziegelbaum
Talia and Benjamin
Werber
Chava, Craig, Lia,
Nathaniel and Maya
Ortner
Drs. Victoria and
Marius Pessah
Beverly and Ted
Fettman
Holly and Kambiz
Damaghi
Merrill and Dr. Mel
Schneiderman
Rebekah and Norman
Fassler
Ellie and Robert Wurtzel
Cheryl Eisberg Moin
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Howard Spun's efforts
Mitchell Koeppel

In memory of:

Morton Lopatkin
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In appreciation of:

Rabbi Stecker's concern
and efforts in a time of need
Ruthe and Dr. Ronald
Golden
Rabbi Stecker officiating at
the unveiling of Norma
Frankel
Harriet Finkelstein
and family

In honor of:

Rhoda Smolow being
installed as president of
the Nassau Region of
Hadassah
Sherry and Robert
Modlin
Zachary Stecker becoming
a *Bar Mitzvah*
Maxine Vogel and
Martin Ikenson
Irene and Leslie Kahn
Teddy Goldberg
Barbara and Leonard
J. Schultz
Charlotte Zavon
Rita and Mel Ortner

In memory of:

Dr. Abraham Fink
Dr. Simon Fink
Hy Carroll
Estelle Carroll and
family
Rowena Stecker
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Susan Wagner and
Alan Klinger
Robin and Jay Merker

D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Korah

Saturday, June 28

We find a major challenge to the leadership of Moses and Aaron in this portion. The reading details the rebellion led by Korah, a Levite, and two members of the tribe of Reuben, Dathan and Abiram. They accuse Moses and Aaron of unduly raising themselves above the community of Israelites, all of whom are holy. Moses tells the people that God will resolve the issue by accepting or rejecting an incense offering. He further declares that if the rebels die an unnatural death it will be a sign of vindication for him and Aaron. Following the test, Korah and his associates are swallowed up by the earth and fire destroys 250 of the rebels. Aaron is further vindicated in a test involving his staff which sprouts almond blossoms overnight. With the roles of Aaron, his sons and the Levites in connection with the Mishkan firmly established, a list of emoluments is granted to them in return for their work. Thus, the leadership of the Israelites is made secure at a time when the people are still struggling to define and determine its destiny.

Hukat

Saturday, July 5

In this portion, we cover the 38 years of the wilderness wandering. The reading opens with instructions for the most peculiar ritual in the Torah—the slaughtered red cow whose ashes mixed with water are used to purify anyone who comes in contact with a corpse. In the purification process, people who are already pure and touch the mixture become impure and must themselves undergo a different process of purification. The reading skips over most of the events of the wilderness wandering without comment and continues in the land of Moab. The people again complain of lack of water, and God tells Moses and Aaron to speak to the rock and produce water. Moses, however, strikes the rock with his staff. Water comes forth, but God declares that this action shows lack of faith, and neither Moses nor Aaron will be permitted to enter the Promised Land. The Israelites wage several battles and win; thus demonstrating that the new generation is ready to attempt the conquest of the land. However, the problems of obedience to God and understanding the responsibilities of leadership have still not been completely resolved.

—Continued on page 8

SABBATH SERVICES

	Friday, June 27	
Evening Service		6:30 P.M.
	•	
	Saturday, June 28	
Morning Service		8:45 A.M.
	Weekly Portion: <i>Korah</i> Numbers 16:1-18:32; <i>Haftarah</i> : I Samuel 11:14-12:22	
	Sabbath Service Officers: Ellen Klig and Marc Langsner	
<i>Havurah</i> Service		10:00 A.M.
	•	
	Friday, July 4	
Evening Service		6:30 P.M.
	•	
	Saturday, July 5	
Morning Service		8:45 A.M.
	Weekly Portion: <i>Hukat</i> Numbers 19:1-22:1 <i>Haftarah</i> : Judges 11:1-33	
	•	
	Friday, July 11	
Evening Service		6:30 P.M.

—Continued on page 8

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

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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.

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