



## 'Did You Hear The One About The Rabbi...?'

Sure, three professional comedians had the audience laughing at what many are calling the funniest Temple Comedy Night ever.

But the crowd really roared when Rabbi Howard Stecker did his stand-up act, followed by President Richard Kestenbaum. Comedians Ross Bennett, Jon Fisch and Lenny Marcus had plenty of competition from the Temple's own comedy duo.

Following the Temple's sixth Comedy Night last Saturday in the Crystal Ballroom, all were treated to an elaborate dessert buffet. The event, a creation of Dr. Robert Lopatkin, was co-chaired by Dr. Robert Panzer and Howard Spun.



**Rabbi Stecker, the comedian.**

*Photo by Dr. Robert Lopatkin*

## A Bar and Bat Mitzvah For the 13-Plus Crowd



**By Marc Katz, Editor**

Thirteen adult members of Temple Israel—women and men who had never observed one of the major milestones in the life of a Jew—will mark a turning point in their lives when they celebrate their *Bat* or *Bar Mitzvah* with the congregation this weekend.

"It is a lot easier to do when you are 13," said Rabbi Seth Adelson, who has worked with the group for more than two years to prepare them for this observance. "I told them our goal was to recreate the *Bar* and *Bat Mitzvah* experience of a 13-year old from an adult's perspective.

"It required making a long-term commitment with a lot to learn. These people had to be self-motivated. They had to put in a lot of time and energy. The fruits of their efforts are nothing less than spectacular."

The group will celebrate the occasion with a *Shabbat* dinner with their families this Friday evening, followed by the Saturday morning service which they will conduct, including the recitation of the *Haftarah*, Torah reading and D'var Torah. They will co-sponsor a luncheon for the congregation following the service in celebration of their accomplishment.

The students are Eleanor Askari, William Dunckley, Dr. Wendy Fried Oginsky, Dr. Laura Gal, Andrea Katz, Natalie Levine, Dr. Karen Lewkowitz, Deborah Moslin, Dr. Lois Sazer, Patty Schneider, Carol Smolinsky, Marilyn Torodash and Maria E. Weinstein.

The class plans to present a gift, permanent *bimah* flower stands, to the congregation during the service.

— — Continued on page 4

## The Havurah Alternative

By Edie Robbins and Ruthe Golden

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Temple members Edie Robbins and Ruthe Golden, active participants in the congregation's *Shabbat* Havurah Service, invite your participation in this Voice Guest Column.

One of Temple Israel's best-kept secrets is the Havurah. This alternative *Shabbat* morning service was established in 1993 by Rabbi Marim Charry and parents who had experienced a Machon-like service with their children as they prepared for their *Bar* and

*Our Havurah  
service fosters  
a sense of  
community...*

*Bat Mitzvah* and wanted to keep it going. They welcomed the idea of an abridged participatory service in which there is a lot of singing, and one which had a participatory Torah discussion in place of a sermon. From

the beginning until now, the Havurah has been fortunate to have as its guide and mentor, Rabbi Charry.

Twice a month on *Shabbat* mornings the Havurah service begins at 10 A.M. Usually the service is preceded at 9:30 A.M. by a study session on some aspect of *tefilah*, either the content, practice or evolution of the liturgy, led by Rabbi Charry.

Our Havurah service fosters a sense of community, serious participation in thoughtful discussion and spiritual awareness through *tefilah*. It provides a non-threatening environment where individuals are encouraged to develop new skills in either leading *davening*, reading Torah or leading the Torah discussion. Havurah participants nurture each other's spiritual awareness and personal Jewish growth. If, or when, attendees feel ready to take on new skills, help is available for them to do so.

— — Continued on page 5

FROM THE RABBI

## Elijah and Tarantino at the Seder

By Rabbi Howard Stecker

Are you looking for interesting ideas to spice up your *seder*? Here's one. Invite Quentin Tarantino to the *seder* table. He may be less likely to show up than Elijah. But, discussing his latest film might be an interesting way to explore Jewish attitudes toward revenge as they apply to the Passover story and other realms.

In his film "Inglourious Basterds," Tarantino presents a revenge fantasy aimed at the Nazis. Trying not to spoil it for those who haven't yet seen it, I will simply say that the film presents a suspense-filled, often violent and occasionally funny window into what might have happened to Nazi Germany had events taken a different turn. If you haven't seen it, there are still a few days left before Passover.

Purim, which we recently celebrated, has elements of revenge expressed in its narrative. Haman intended to hang Mordecai and instead was hanged on the gallows he had prepared. He sought to kill the Jews, but instead the Jews ended up killing many of

the inhabitants of the Persian Empire. The book of Esther uses the phrase, *na'hafoch hu*, meaning "it was reversed," to indicate how events were overturned.

How about the Passover story? Pharaoh intended to subdue the Israelites but in the

*What are the costs  
and benefits  
of revenge?*

end, the Egyptians were the ones brought to their knees. Pharaoh ordered that the Israelite children be cast into the river; ultimately, the Egyptian soldiers drowned in the Sea of Reeds. The rabbinic expression *middah k'neged middah*, one measure deserves another, is invoked to describe these turns of events.

— — Continued on page 9

## Making Us Proud

By Hon. Richard Kestenbaum

This *Shabbat*, a group of adults will be completing two years of study together as they observe their *Bar* and *Bat Mitzvah*. As is with every other life experience, the journey is personal to the individual, but the accomplishment and celebration belongs in part to our congregation.

I now attend scores of *B'nai Mitzvah* for our young adults throughout the year. I am proud of each student who successfully completes his or her portion with excellence, but no ceremony will make me as proud as this one, when each of the adults completes this process at this point in their lives.

*...the accomplishment  
and celebration  
belongs...  
to our congregation.*

Having the opportunity to watch someone complete a difficult task because he or she wants to, and not because he or she has to, adds a certain sweetness and meaning to their effort. Although the motivation of each may be grounded in different reasons, their long and hard efforts make their experience special.

Being a little older (okay, a lot older!) and more mature than our typical *Bar* and *Bat Mitzvah* teenagers, also makes the experience spiritual. For many, it is the first time that they have worked closely with a cantor or a rabbi. History has shown that this closeness that they develop with our clergy and with the *shul* does not end after the *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah*. Many of our past adult *B'nai* and *B'not Mitzvah* have continued to read Torah for us and have become more regular *shul* attendees at both spiritual and lay events.

So, on behalf of our entire congregation, I want to commend and thank each of the adults for his or her hard work, as well as each of the clergy who helped get them to this point.

### Next Voice Issues, Deadlines

The next issue of The Voice, the Yom HaShoah issue, will be published on Thursday, April 1. The deadline for that issue is Monday, March 22.

The following issue will be published on Thursday, April 15. The deadline is April 2.

## MAZAL TOV TO . . .

- **Nancy and Manny Alani** on the engagement of their son, David, to Shira Dinar.
- **Louise and Dr. Yousef Soleymani** on the birth of their granddaughter, Gemma Leah Soleymani.
- **Jeanette and Nadar Ohebshalom** on the birth of their granddaughter, Gemma Leah Soleymani.
- **Marcia Shapiro** on the birth of her granddaughter, Hailey Alyssa Shapiro.

## 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., March 20	8:45 A.M.	6:25 P.M.
Sat., March 27	8:45 A.M.	6:35 P.M.
Sunday	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.

## Nominating Committee Looking for Board Members

The Temple Nominating Committee is looking for members who are interested in serving on the Board of Trustees.

Requirements:

- committed to Conservative Judaism,
- active within the Temple Israel community,
- interested in enhancing Temple Israel's fundraising, membership, ritual and education programs, and community outreach,
- able to work side-by-side with other members as well as Temple employees and clergy in a leadership capacity.

If you are interested in being considered for a seat on the Board, or know someone you would like to recommend, contact Executive Director Leon Silverberg at the Temple office, 482-7800.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

March	20	Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah	8:45 A.M.
	21	Pesach University Program with Rabbi Stecker	10:00 A.M.
	23	Men's Club Scotch and Seder Program	7:00 P.M.
	26	Congregational Pre-Passover Dinner	7:30 P.M.
	29	Erev Pesach	
	29	First Born <i>Siyyum</i> (Fast of the First Born)	6:30 A.M.
April	11	Yom HaShoah	
	12	Men's Club Rabbinic Dialogue at Great Neck Synagogue	
	15	Temple Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	17	Temple Israel Players production of "The Pajama Game"	9:00 P.M.
	18	Temple Israel Players production of "The Pajama Game"	2:00 P.M.
	19	Yom Ha'atzmaut	

## Temple Israel's Pre-Pesach Dinner

- *Done preparing for Passover?*
- *Looking to have Shabbat dinner with friends?*
- *Wish someone else would do the cooking?*

**Friday, March 26 6:30 P.M.**

N'ranenah Service followed by dinner

\$30 for adults

\$20 for children under 12

Call 482-7800 for reservations

## 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 taken from "Meditations Upon Lighting Festival Candles for Pesach" in Siddur Sim Shalom. Send your favorite quote to The Voice, c/o the Temple office.

*" Springtime. Sundown.  
After all the hurried preparations,  
the long-awaited moment has come.  
From slavery to freedom we will relive an  
ancient story, one that has relevance in our time. "*

## Passover and Grandparents at Beth HaGan

By Rachel Mathless

# A Bar and Bat Mitzvah For the 13-Plus Crowd

—Continued from page 1



Beth HaGan's Bears class celebrated "Grandparents' Day" with much singing, dancing and other special activities for grandparents and special invited guests. Teachers Sara Shonfeld (playing the guitar) and Siona Kamel helped the children prepare special gifts for their grandparents, who were beaming with pride and joy for their grandchildren.

Well, it certainly feels like Passover at Beth HaGan. The *kiddush* cups are drying on the windowsill, the hand-painted and decorated matzah covers are finished, the *afikomen* bags have all been sewn, the Haggadahs are being assembled, Elijah's cup has been fitted with sparkling jewels, the frogs are croaking and the haroset is being mixed. Soon we will clean our classrooms of *chametz*. The sound of Passover songs resound throughout the school and the bulletin boards are a visual delight. In short, we are ready!

Tu Tzivot Hashem Matzah Factory will visit next week and the children will experience first hand the entire process from wheat to grinding to mixing and baking Shmura Matzah. Each child will take home a handmade matzah to grace the *seder* table. Our model *sedarim* will be held March 23rd and 24th, and parents are invited.

### Honoring Grandparents

March is "Grandparents' Month" at Beth HaGan. Each class hosts grandparents or a spe-

cial elder "someone." The children prepared gifts and a musical presentation for all to enjoy. It was wonderful for all grandparents to participate in this annual inter-generational event and get a feel for the joy and fun their grandchildren experience every day. It is also a basic Jewish ethical value under the heading *Vehadarta P'nai Zakain*, honoring the elderly, which is taught in Beth HaGan.

### Celebrating Purim

Our Purim celebration, which took place on *erev* Purim, was the best yet. The creativity displayed in the costumes was simply outrageous! They were fanciful and whimsical, some were tyrannical (Haman), some were inspired (Queen Esther). We were entertained by Rabbi Stecker and a group of young Jewish jugglers who thrilled the audience of pre-schoolers with a plethora of magic tricks and juggling acts. A happy Purim celebration was had by all.

Registration is now underway. Please stop in the school office to pick up forms for Beth HaGan and our new after-school program.

"No one is sorry they embarked on this project," said Mrs. Smolinsky, one of the students. She said the group bonded, and everyone became "respectful of each other, supportive of each other. The nicest thing is that we all began to root for each other."

The core curriculum was provided by the Melton Center for Jewish Education, an affiliate of the Jewish Theological Seminary, targeted at adult *Bat Mitzvah* students. The lengthy study each week included one hour of Hebrew study each week with teacher Sherry Husney, who became a *Bat Mitzvah*, herself, in a similar class several years ago.

An additional hour-and-one-quarter of weekly study, with Rabbis Adelson and Stecker covered prayer, theology, holidays, Jewish texts, Israel, songs, Psalms, holiday celebrations, poems and the reading of short stories. Twice the group met in Rabbi Adelson's sukkah. All students made their own tallit in the Adelson home, where they also learned how to tie their own tzitzit knots. During their last nine months of study, Cantor Raphael Frieder taught the group to read *haftarah* and Torah.

In addition, this Saturday has been declared "Global World Hunger Shabbat" by the American Jewish World Service. To raise awareness of world hunger, members of the class are planning to deliver a prayer to help find a solution to hunger throughout the world.

Rabbi Adelson said this is the first time he has ever worked with an adult *Bar* and *Bat Mitzvah* class and "the experience has been wonderful.

"I love working with adults," he said. "They are there because they want to learn and that is so inspiring. I appreciate the opportunity to have developed these relationships."

He said the goal of the class was to get adults in the congregation to investigate and re-establish their commitment to Judaism and the Jewish people, "and I think that is just what we accomplished."

Rabbi Adelson said a new class is in formation and would be starting next year.

## 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*.

Contributions toward the *kiddush* on March 6 were made by Helen Wrobel and Tal Eyal in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Ronni, and by Lottie and William Blye in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary.

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



### Sarina Zarnighian

Sarina Zarnighian will be called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah* on March 27. She is the daughter of Dorit and Shahram Zarnighian and has two sisters, Davina, 17, and Bianca, 7. Sarina is a seventh grade student at Solomon Schechter Middle School. She enjoys gymnastics, swimming, dancing and soccer. Sarina plans to continue her Jewish education following her *Bat Mitzvah* and visit Israel this summer.

*It's Time To Go To School!*

# Attend Pesach University

A workshop to explore themes and customs of the seder guaranteed to enhance your own seder experience.

**Sunday, March 21  
10-11:15 A.M.  
with Rabbi Stecker**

## Guest Column: *The Havurah Alternative*

—Continued from page 2

The Havurah also provides another venue for celebrating Temple Israel members' milestones. For example, recently, at our February 6th service, two of our number, Dr. Milton Rosen and Marty Werber, celebrated the anniversaries of their *Bar Mitzvah*—77 years ago and 50 years ago respectively. Each led part of our service. We were proud and happy to have had the opportunity to celebrate these special events in their lives.

Occasionally, the Havurah gets together for a shared meal and an extended discussion. About a month ago we met at the Charry's home for *minchah/seudah shlishit* (*Shabbat's* third meal), *ma'ariv* and *havdalah*. This was followed by a lively discussion exploring "What we are doing right and what we think we can do better." One conclusion that emerged is that we have not done the best job of letting the rest of the Temple Israel community know of our existence. A small, lay-led service is not for everyone, but we welcome all who wish to explore this option.

Come visit the Havurah. Our services are listed on the e-mailed Temple Israel weekly schedule and in *The Voice*. We believe that you will find it a rewarding and meaningful experience.



*Havurah Bar Mitzvah* anniversary celebrants Dr. Milton Rosen and Marty Werber.

*Photo by Rabbi Marim Charry*

# Temple Israel of Great Neck **SECOND NIGHT SEDER**

Sponsored by the Men's Club



Join us on  
**Tuesday, March 30, 2010**  
**7:15 P.M.**  
**Crystal Ballroom**  
Led by Rabbi Seth Adelson

Members: \$45/adult and \$25/child(ren) 12 & under  
Non-members: \$50/adult and \$30/child(ren) 12 & under  
(Catered by Great Neck Glatt)

RSVP by mailing or bringing a check to the Temple office made out to **Temple Israel Men's Club** by **Tuesday, March 23.**



.....  
*Passover Second Night Seder – Tuesday, March 30, 2010.*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ #of Adult(s) \_\_\_\_\_ #of Child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_

# of Vegetarian meal(s) \_\_\_\_\_  Member  Non-member Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_



108 Old Mill Road • Great Neck, NY 11023  
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# Pesach 5770: When We Were in Egypt's Land

*‘Those people are us. We are them. We are former slaves.*

**By Rabbi Seth Adelson**

When I was in Hebrew School, one of the popular songs of the *Pesach* season was the old spiritual, “Go Down Moses”:

When Israel was in Egypt's land—let my people go.  
Oppress'd so hard they could not stand—let my people go.  
Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land  
Tell ol' Pharaoh, “Let my people go.”

The song is a sort of musical *midrash* on the phrase found repeated several times during the Exodus story, for example in Ex.7:26: “The Lord said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, “Thus says the Lord: Let My people go that they may worship me.”” When I was young, I was sure that this was a *Pesach* song, written by Jews for Jewish kids like me; nobody ever told me that it was a folksong written and sung by African slaves in the American South, or that it was popularized by the black bass-baritone activist Paul Robeson.

What strikes me today about the song is that it was written by real slaves—people who were actually “owned” by other people. And in the mournful tones of the song, even without the lyrics, one hears the yearning for freedom. In retrospect, it makes perfect sense for Jews to sing this song around *Pesach*, not merely because it invokes the tale of the Exodus that we retell during the *seder*, but also because of the following piece of wisdom from the Mishnah, *Pesachim* 10:5: *Bekhol dor vador hayyav adam lir'ot et atzmo ke-ilu hu yatza miMitzrayim*. In every generation, each person must see oneself as having personally come forth from Egypt. We read this during the *seder* to remind ourselves that we were slaves, and now we are free people, but this is true not only for our ancestors. Those people are us. We are them. We are former slaves. We are Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass.

This piece of rabbinic wisdom brings into focus an essential piece of being Jewish. None of us should feel as though we are so important, so high-and-mighty, as to think that we are above having been slaves. Our identity as Jews is tied to our deep-seated appreciation for freedom, so much so that we will never forget the humiliation of slavery. It is something of an equalizer—each of us, no matter his or her station in life, recalls our journey from bondage to liberty on this festival—and as we recline and drink four cups of wine and dine on the Bread of Affliction, we should all pause to visualize how hard that bondage was, and how much we appreciate freedom.

Given that, here is something we can all do at our own *seder* tables to help us see ourselves as having personally come forth from Egypt. Try this right after the Four Questions, just as you begin to tell the story of *Pesach* with “*Avadim hayyinu*,” we were slaves:

Sing the song described above (if you know it). The leader then asks the following questions. Each question can be discussed briefly or at length by the *seder* participants.

- What does it mean to be a slave, literally and /or figuratively?
- In what way are we slaves today (i.e. to the clock, to work, to societal expectations, to money, etc.)?
- Who or what is your Pharaoh?
- Envision not being a slave to these things. What would that feel like? What is the downside?

If you want to really mix things up, make this an extended conversation, and skip from *Avadim hayyinu* to *Dayyenu*. As long as

you get back to the *haggadah* in time to discuss the symbols of *Pesach*, *Matzah* and *Maror*, you will have fulfilled your obligation and then some.

Enjoy your freedom, and *hag kasher vesameah!*

## PASSOVER SERVICE SCHEDULE

<b>Monday, March 29</b>	
<b>Fast of the First Born</b>	
Morning Service, <i>Siyum</i> and Breakfast	6:30 A.M.
Evening Service	6:30 P.M.
•	
<b>Tuesday, March 30</b>	
<b>First Day of <i>Pesach</i></b>	
Morning Service	9:00 A.M.
<i>Mincha-Maariv</i>	6:30 P.M.
•	
<b>Wednesday, March 31</b>	
<b>Second Day of <i>Pesach</i></b>	
Morning Service	9:00 A.M.
<i>Mincha-Maariv</i>	7:15 P.M.
•	
<b>Thursday, April 1</b>	
<b><i>Hol Hamoed</i></b>	
Morning Service	6:45 A.M.
<i>Mincha-Maariv</i>	8:00 P.M.
•	
<b>Friday, April 2</b>	
<b><i>Hol Hamoed</i></b>	
Morning Service	6:45 A.M.
Evening Service	6:30 P.M.
•	
<b>Saturday, April 3</b>	
<b><i>Shabbat Hol Hamoed</i></b>	
Morning Service	8:45 A.M.
Waxman High School Students lead the service in the Sanctuary	
<i>Mincha-Maariv</i>	6:45 P.M.
•	
<b>Sunday, April 4</b>	
<b><i>Hol Hamoed</i></b>	
Morning Service	8:15 A.M.
<i>Mincha-Maariv</i>	7:00 P.M.
•	
<b>Monday, April 5</b>	
<b>Seventh Day of <i>Pesach</i></b>	
Morning Service	9:00 A.M.
<i>Mincha-Maariv</i>	7:15 P.M.
•	
<b>Tuesday, April 6</b>	
<b>Eighth Day of <i>Pesach</i></b>	
Morning Service	8:45 A.M.
<i>Yizkor</i> Memorial Prayers and Dedication of Memorial Plaques	
<i>Mincha-Maariv</i>	7:20 P.M.

# SOLO SEDER PLUS ... Now in our 20<sup>th</sup> year!



!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**This Passover, as you and your family and friends gather around the Seder table, we ask you to remember three special groups of people.**

**☆SOLO SEDER** - Our Jewish military personnel serve at United States military installations across the globe in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Korea, often isolated from the organized Jewish community. For more than 90 years, in times of peace and in times of war, JWB Jewish Chaplains Council has provided for the religious, educational, and morale needs of Jewish men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces, and your generosity helps fulfill that sacred commitment. Today with more military serving throughout the world and several war fronts, we reach out to you to become a sponsor so that every Jewish serviceman and servicewoman in our armed forces will receive a Passover Package.

**☆PANTRY FUND** - In these hard economic times, with an increasing number of people, including Jews, out of work, more of our people depend on community food pantries to feed themselves and their families. With so many people out of work, the need is greater than ever. We reach out to you to help support these critical needs in the METNY community so that every Jewish family can celebrate Passover appropriately.

**☆YOUTH FUND** - Families are faced with tough choices today. While some may view youth activities like USY and Kadima as extras, we strongly believe that it's fundamental to the present and future vitality of the Jewish people and Conservative Movement. We ask you to contribute to the METNY USY Scholarship fund, so our youth will have opportunities to strengthen their Jewish identities.

**Return this form with your payment by March 22, 2010**

Please make check(s) payable to METNY, United Synagogue, Attn: Solo Seder Plus  
820 Second Avenue, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10017

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I (we) will sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Passover Package(s) for Jewish Military Personnel

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I (we) will sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Passover Package(s) for Kosher Pantries

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I (we) will support \_\_\_\_\_ our METNY Youth Scholarship Fund.

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.00 for \_\_\_ "Solo Seder Plus" Gift at \$18.00 each

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include a personal note on this form.** \_\_\_\_\_



**Metropolitan New York Region - United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism**  
820 Second Avenue, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10017 - Phone: 212 533-0800 • Fax: 212 533-0400  
Website: <http://www.uscj.org/metny> • E-mail: [metny@uscj.org](mailto:metny@uscj.org)

## MEMORIAL PLAQUES

To Be Dedicated  
Tuesday, April 6

**JOHN L. ENGLANDER**  
Father of Jeffrey Englander

**SOUFER FROUZAN**  
Father of Keyvan Frouzan,  
Kamran Frouzan, Keyhan Frouzan,  
Mahshid Danialian, Mahdokht Frouzan  
and Mahroo Simantob  
Husband of Shams Frouzan

**ROSE KASENETZ**  
Mother of Jerrold Kasenetz,  
Dr. Iver Kasenetz, Dr. Patricia Kasenetz,  
Bruce Kasenetz  
and Barbara Snyder Kasenetz  
Grandmother of Darren, Brett, Eric  
and Dr. Pamela Kasenetz

**LEIBU (AKA CALI) KATZ**  
Father of Dr. Daniela Spector

**SARA LAUFER**  
Mother of Renee Hoffman

**SALMAN I. MICHAEL, M.D.**  
Father of Myra Michael

**DR. SHA MOALLEM**  
Father of Theodore, Serena  
and Andrew Moallem

**MORTON MORRISON**  
Father of Laura Bardash  
Grandfather of Karen Bardash  
and David Bardash

**FRANCES PERNICK**  
Mother of Jill Friedman  
Wife of David Pernick

**MARC S. ROBERTS**  
Cousin of Paul Bloom

**RUZIA STOLZENBERG**  
Aunt of Albert Morgenstern

**NORBERT WEINBERG**  
Husband of Effie Apelast Weinberg

**DAVID YEDIDSON**  
Husband of Afshid Yedidsion  
Father of Roya Nazarian,  
Elham Mehraban,  
Ramesh and Parham Yedidsion

# Temple's Museum Will Feature Special Exhibit During Passover

A special collection to celebrate Purim and Passover is now on exhibit in the front case of the Temple Israel Museum.

Of special interest is a pewter container from France which held matzah meal for Passover and which has won prizes for its beauty. The small silver German *seder* plate, 1890, and the large German pewter plate, 1690, as well as the large, three-tiered *seder* plate, emphasize the many forms of holiday family services.

For Purim, there are two silver groggers as well as a beautiful gold *megillah* case from England, 19th century, encrusted with paste gems (The original jewels were lost.), which contains a hand-written text with illustrations depicting the Story of Esther.

The Temple Museum is open by appointment. To schedule a visit, call the Temple office, 482-7800, or Gert Gross, 487-9579.

## Passover Begins with Siyyum, Breakfast and Service for First Born

The Board of Trustees and officers express thanks once again to Emily and Isaac Taitz for their generosity in sponsoring the annual *Siyyum* and breakfast following the Service for the First Born on Monday, March 29.

Because the first-born Israelites were saved during the Tenth Plague, all first-born men and women are required to fast on *erev Pesach* until the *seder*. This fast is called *Taanit Bechorot*. However, the fast is not required when one performs a *mitzvah*, such as a *siyyum*, the completion of a portion of study. It is then customary to celebrate with a *seudat mitzvah*, a meal that accompanies an impor-

tant religious duty. Rabbi Howard Stecker will be leading the study session that morning.

The service, beginning at 6:30 A.M. in the Sanctuary is, of course, not limited to the first-born alone. All children are welcome, together with their parents.

Adults without children are also welcome to attend.

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*Don't forget to sell your chametz!*  
Pick up a form from  
the Temple office.

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## *Elijah and Tarantino at the Seder*

—Continued from page 2

Tarantino's film deals with the story of the Nazis and the *Shoah*, which is obviously different in many respects from the Passover and Purim stories. The major difference, clearly, is the outcome—Hitler succeeded to a large extent where Pharaoh and Haman did not. *Hal'vai*, if only Hitler's plans had been foiled in reality as they were in the film! If only the story of European Jewry had ended like the Passover and Purim stories.

I wonder if "Inglourious Basterds" was consciously based on any Jewish precedents. Sitting around the *seder* table, we can wonder aloud about parallels we might draw. We can also raise questions about the parameters of revenge. The rabbis discouraged excessive joy over the downfall of the Egyptians, which is one reason why we shed "tears" at the recitation of the Ten Plagues by removing drops of wine from our cup. Would the rabbis have felt the same way about our reactions to the Nazis? Somehow, I don't think so.

I wonder how our commemoration of the *Shoah* will continue to evolve. What les-

sons will we encourage the next generation to derive from the *Shoah*? What place will anger and revenge hold in our approach to the *Shoah*?

Then there are questions about the nature of revenge. Many who watched the film cheered when they saw violence done to the Nazis. Would those same people cheer if they watched that in real-life? Would those same people inflict the violence themselves? What are the costs and benefits of revenge?

I imagine that Jews and non-Jews, those who survived the *Shoah* and those who were not involved, would have a range of reactions regarding these questions. Given the complexities of the Jewish experience from ancient times until today, there are far more than four questions to be asked at a *seder*.

So, invite Tarantino if you like, and by all means, don't forget to invite Elijah, traditional protector of the Jews and harbinger of the Messianic Era. If you're wondering how a revenge fantasy and a redemption fantasy can coexist within the same holiday, within the same people, you've just asked the next question.

## CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

*Kindle the Sabbath Lights!*

Friday, March 19.....6:47 P.M.  
Friday, March 26.....6:55 P.M.

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# From Generation to Generation



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## D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

### Vayikra

Saturday, March 20

In this portion we begin the Book of Leviticus. The last chapters of Exodus detailed the construction of the *mishkan*, the portable wilderness sanctuary, and the designation of the priests who were to serve in it. Leviticus constitutes an instruction manual for the priests, as well as setting forth rules to achieve personal holiness and the sanctification of human life. The reading describes five main types of sacrifices that were to be brought: the burnt offering, the meal offering, the peace offering, the sin offering and the guilt offering. For each type, details are provided on the circumstances under which it is to be brought, who brings it and of what it consists. The Hebrew word translated "sacrifice" or "offering" is *korban*, from the root k-r-v, "to draw near." The offerings were a means of drawing near to God and, in a sense, drawing Him near to the offerer. Although we no longer offer sacrifices in the way our ancestors did, the goal of the system, to move one to a more Godly life, is still to be pursued.

### Tzav

Saturday, March 27

We find further details concerning the burnt offering, the meal offering, the guilt offering and the peace offering, as well as details of the thanks offering, in this portion. With the types of sacrifices fully described, we now move to a description of the institution of the service in the *mishkan* and the consecration of Aaron and his sons to the priesthood. The ceremonies consist of dressing the priests in their special vestments, anointing the *mishkan* and all of its furnishings with oil, offering sacrifices and putting blood of the sacrifices upon the right ears, the right thumbs and the right toes of the priests. The aim of the entire proceedings was to highlight the special duties and responsibilities of the priests as representatives of the people before God. The pattern which is described here continued to be the manner of anointing the priests for over a thousand years.

## SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, March 19

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.

•

Saturday, March 20

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Vayikra*

Leviticus 1:1 - 5:26; *Haftarah*: Isaiah 43:21 - 44:23

Sabbath Service Officers:

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Waxman High School and Youth House Service 10:30 A.M.

•

Friday, March 26

N'Ranenh/Evening Service 6:30 P.M.

Followed by Congregational Dinner

•

Saturday, March 27

*Shabbat Hagadol*

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Tzav*

Leviticus 6:1 - 8:36; *Haftarah*: Malachi 3:4 - 24

Sabbath Service Officers:

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*Bat Mitzvah*

SARINA ZARNIGHIAN

daughter of Dorit and Shahram Zarnighian

Havurah Service 9:30 A.M.

Machon Alone 10:30 A.M.