TEMPLE ISRAEL OF GREAT NECK

VOICE

Vol. LIV, No. 9 December 22, 2011 26 Kislev 5772

Temple Israel is Heading to Israel!

Rabbi Howard Stecker is organizing a synagogue trip to the Promised Land next summer and is inviting the congregation to join him. Planned is a busy 11-day trip which he will lead, organized by Da'at Educational Expeditions, a 20-year old firm specializing in customized guided tours of Israel.

The tour leaving August 19, includes a rafting trip on the Jordan River, an archaeological dig, participation in *tzedakah* projects, a sunset Jeep tour of the Golan Heights, and a sound and light show.

Included as part of the trip are round-trip flights from New York to Tel Aviv, nine nights of accommodations, eight days of touring in a luxury, air conditioned bus along with a licensed English speaking tour guide, a walking tour of Jerusalem, breakfast daily, lunches and dinners.

The group will stay at Tel Aviv's Carlton Hotel, located in the heart of the city and overlooking the Mediterranean. Another stop brings the Temple Israel travelers to the Kibbutz Hagoshrim Kibbutz Hotel, situated in the center of the Galilee, with views of Mount Hermon. Located in a pastoral landscape, it offers comfortable accommodations and facilities, as well as an array of nearby activities.

"This is a comprehensive, action-packed trip," said Rabbi Stecker. "It is ideal for members of all ages who are eager to travel with friends in the congregation or who want to make new friends as part of our group. All are welcome."

The group will leave Kennedy Airport on Sunday evening, August 19, and arrive in Tel Aviv the next day. That night they will go to dinner at a popular Middle Eastern restaurant in the Yemenite Quarter of the city. In the days to follow, the group will visit the Ayalon Institute, near Rehovot, for a tour of a clandestine munitions factory used during the British Mandate, and visit Independence Hall, the site of David Ben Gurion's proclamation of the State of Israel in May of 1948. They will visit excavations around Caesarea and walk through the 2,000 year-old underground water tunnels at Alona, which once brought water to Caesarea. Also scheduled is a visit to Kibbutz Hanaton, the Masorti Movement kibbutz in Israel to meet with its founders, and then check into the kibbutz guesthouse.

The next day will feature kayaking on the Jordan River and a sunset Jeep tour of the Golan Heights for insight into the strategic complexity of the Golan, followed by a barbeque dinner. The trip to Jerusalem includes a stop at Mt. Scopus to recite traditional blessings when entering the city. On *Shabbat* the group will visit United Synagogue's Fuchsberg Center, The Kotel, and The Temple Mount. The next day will feature stops at Yad Vashem, the Avenue

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Temple Israel Members Are Helping Those In Need

Temple Israel members are working to fight hunger as well as the cold of winter.

Helping the poor in the area, members of Temple Israel will participate in the Tikkun Alliance of the North Shore's Third Annual Campaign Against Hunger on January 8. Volunteers will be packaging food at Temple Israel and giving it out that afternoon at the Manhasset/Great Neck Economic Opportunity Council in Manhasset, as well as distributing coats and winter clothing. In addition to adults, children over age 12 are welcome to join the groups.

Additional donations are needed of packaged snack food, pasta, and peanut butter and jelly, as well as new reusable plastic shopping bags. To volunteer to help with the drive or sort contributions, contact Dr. Laura Gal at <chesedtigngmail.com> or 466-0170.

Sorting some of the many donations, at right are, left to right, Eleanor Askari, Dr. Laura Gal and Rebecca Sassouni.

Temple Israel members will also be participating in Midnight Run, bringing food and clothing to New York's homeless, on Saturday evening, January 7. Volunteers are needed for this effort, too, including children over age 12. For further information, call Dr. Rob Panzer at 487-0515.

A VOICE GUEST COLUMN

Sam Fink, Of Blessed Memory

By Eileen Putterman

EDITOR'S NOTE: Temple Israel member, Sam Fink, grew up with Past President Eileen Putterman, and her husband, Mickey. Later, they re-discovered each other as members of Temple Israel and shared many fond memories, as recalled in this Voice Guest Column.

As Hanukkah is pushing me with its daily reminders of superb recipes, coupled with gaining additional weight, some serious thoughts of a little *gelt*-giving rather than lots of gift-buying, I got a call from my son, Charles, who has been living in Raleigh for years (for which I only recently forgave him for having moved there with his beautiful family.). Sam Fink was with me at this moment in thought and spirit while standing in my own library (alright, the den), trying to remember if I gave a gift of the Sam Fink version of the Declaration of Independence to each of my kids? If not, it can be a meaningful Hanukkah gift. Sam quoted the document as being "A Declaration of Spirit and Brilliance," and I say along with his thousands of admiring fans, so, too, was our dear friend, Sam Fink, a man of spirit and brilliance!

We were delighted and honored to share extraordinary memories together with Sam Fink!

Sam and I grew up in the same neighborhood in The Bronx (the only borough for which you must capitalize the word "the" before Bronx). Although he was about the same age as my older brother, we would reminisce about the local stores, went to the same public school, P.S. 82, hung out with friends at "the benches" on University Avenue, were passionate about the local ice cream parlor, Ruschmeyers,

——*Continued on page 6*

FROM THE RABBI

No Easy Shortcuts

By Rabbi Howard Stecker

"Your children will remain Israeli. Their children? No." That was the culminating message of several brief video ads created by Israel's Absorption Ministry. The ads were aimed at the parents of Israelis who immigrated to the United States, urging them to encourage their children to return to Israel. In one ad, a young girl tells her Israeli grandparents via Skype that the upcoming holiday is Christmas, rather than Hanukkah.

Many American Jews were offended by the ads and believed they reflected a simplistic view of American Judaism. Following significant pressure from Diaspora Jewry, the ads were withdrawn.

While I understand the impulse that prompted the creation of the ads, I agree that they were problematic. First of all, the relationship between Israeli and Jewish identity is complicated and the ads implied that they are one and the same.

Secondly, the ads failed to acknowledge the huge challenges inherent in instilling Jewish identity. If only Jewish commitment could be ensured with a plane ticket back to Israel.

On both sides of the Atlantic, a strong Jewish identity is not a given. It has to be cultivated in an ongoing, thoughtful way.

In the United States, the challenge is compounded by the reality that we are not living in a Jewish country. Right now, 'tis the season that we realize this most dramatically.

This time of year presents unique challenges and opportunities.

I said recently during a *Shabbat* sermon that there are no shortcuts when it comes to complicated challenges like instilling meaningful Jewish identity. So much of our congregational program is aimed at

——*Continued on page 6*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our Library

By Alan Klinger

When we contemplate what the synagogue has to offer, our thinking typically turns to *Shabbat* and holiday services, to sermons and lectures, and to education classes and concerts. However, an under-utilized resource that merits more attention is our library.

I recently had the pleasure of a tour by long-time librarian Rona Lupkin. The library, complete with some 8,000 books and periodicals, truly provides something for everyone. For those interested in the best of new Jewish-related works, we have David Bezmozgis' "The Free World," Simon Sebag Montefiore's "Jerusalem: The Biography," and Erik Larson's "In the Garden of Beasts." For those wanting something more concrete (and not wanting to wait for it at the public library), try Amos Oz's memoir, "Scenes from Village Life."

…drop in to see what the library has to benefit you and your family.

The library also subscribes to thought-provoking magazines, such as "Commentary," "Moment" and "The Jerusalem Report." For those looking to jump-start conversations during this season's holiday parties, the periodicals will be a plus!

Those interested in Jewish history will find ample choices, ranging from one-volume tomes to multi-volume treatises moving from Biblical times to the present. Other works focus on particular events in our history, such as the Holocaust, the founding of the State of Israel, and the Six Day War.

Also found on our shelves are works pertaining to cultural subjects like Jewish art, music, and cooking. We even have a "How-To" section, replete with advice on raising Jewish children and celebrating Jewish holidays. (Looking to host your first *seder*, you can borrow a full set of *Haggadot*.) For the more esoteric among us, you can select one of the books on the history of prayer.

For the adventurous, the library hosts a section on travel to Jewish points of interest all over the world, including numerous guidebooks on Israel. Another area to

——*Continued on page 6*

In Memoriam

Temple Israel extends condolences to the family of:

EUGENE MOSER
brother of Dr. Harvey Moser

May his memory be for a blessing.

Mazal Tov To . . .

• **Rona and Joseph Lupkin** on the engagement of their son, Daniel, to Nityda Coleman.

• **Sayeh and Peter Khorshad** on the birth of their daughter, Emily Sarah.

Temple Lites . . .

• **Dan Nachmanoff,** the former mayor of the village of Russell Gardens, was elected a commissioner of the Great Neck Park District last week. Mr. Nachmanoff, the former president of the Great Neck Village Officials Association, is also an active member of the Nassau County Village Officials Association.

Candle Lighting Times

Friday, December 23….....…...4:13 P.M.
Friday, December 30.....…...4:17 P.M.
Friday, January 6.....…….....4:24 P.M.

Daily Minyan Times

Mon., Dec. 26 & Jan. 2	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Mon., Jan. 9	6:45 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Tues., Dec. 27	6:45 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Tues., Jan. 3 & 10	7:00 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Wed., Dec. 28	6:45 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Wed., Jan. 4 & 11	7:00 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Thurs.	6:45 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Fri., Dec. 23	6:45 A.M.	4:15 P.M.
Fri., Dec. 30 & Jan. 6	7:00 A.M.	4:30 P.M.
Sat., Dec. 24 & 31	8:45 A.M.	3:55 P.M.
Sat., Jan. 7	8:45 A.M.	4:05 P.M.
Sunday	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.

Upcoming Events at Temple Israel

Jan.	3	Sisterhood Lunch and Read Club Meeting	Noon
	3	Temple Israel Players Auditions	6:30 P.M.
	4	Temple Israel Players Auditions	6:30 P.M.
	4	Israel Affairs Committee Program Featuring Sgt. Benjamin Anthony	8:00 P.M.
	7	Midnight Run	7:30 P.M.
	9	Temple Israel Players Cast Call-Back	7:00 P.M.
	13-16	Waxman High School and Youth House Ski Trip Retreat	
	15	Great Neck Clergy Interfaith Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Service	3:30 P.M.
	17	Music Program with Cantor Frieder	8:15 P.M.
	19	Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	22	Men's Club Breakfast	9:00 A.M.
	23	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 A.M.
	26	Beth HaGan Science Fair	
	26	Men's Club Meeting	6:30 P.M.
Feb.	3	Congregational *Tu B'Shevat Seder*	7:30 P.M.

TEMPLE ISRAEL PLAYERS PRESENT

JEWSICAL THE MUSICAL!

AUDITIONS:
TUESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 3
WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 4
6:30 - 7:30 P.M. - Children 7 years & older
7:30 - 10:00 P.M. Adults
****Bring a rehearsed song with you to the audition****

ALL TEMPLE ISRAEL MEMBERS WELCOME!

Questions? Call:
Eileen Putterman: 482-6527 • Lois Sazer: 466-5419
Carol Smolinsky: 773-4309 • Barbara Spun: 773-4116

Performance Dates:
Saturday Night April 28 & Sunday Afternoon April 29

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 "A Hanukkah Meditation" in Siddur Sim Shalom. What's your favorite quote? Send it to "The Voice," Temple Israel, 108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023.

"Praised are You Adonai our God...
instilling in us the holiness of mitzvot
by commanding us
to light the lights of Hanukkah."

B'nai/B'not Mitzvah In Our Temple Israel Family

Michelle Lalehzar

Michelle Lalehzar will be celebrating her *Bat Mitzvah* on January 7. She is the daughter of Fariba and David Lalehzar and has two sisters, Deborah, 14, and Jessica, 11. Jamie is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School where she plays the viola in the school orchestra. She also enjoys reading. Jamie is currently attending the Waxman High School and plans to visit Israel in the near future.

Hear

Sgt. Benjamin Anthony

Combat Veteran & Reservist
Israel Defense Forces

Topic:

"A War Worth Waging-- The Fight for Israel Within Our Borders & Beyond"

at Temple Israel
Wednesday, January 4
7:30 P.M.

program funded by
The Dina Khorshad Harounian
Israel Education Fund

Temple Israel In Action

Thanking Terry Bernstein

In appreciation of his devotion to the success of the daily *minyan*, regular attendees of the Sunday morning *minyan* presented Terry Bernstein with a new *talit* and made a donation in his honor to Hatzilu last Sunday. "We feel that he deserves the thanks of all of the members of Temple Israel because he is the stalwart of the *minyan*," said Dr. Edith Robbins, an organizer of the group. "He insures that there is a *minyan* for all who are in mourning, observing a *yartzeit* or marking any momentous occasion. We want to say: 'Thank you, thank you, thank you, Terry!" With Mr. Bernstein, trying on his new *tallit*, above, are Cantor Raphael Frieder and Patty Schneider, who made the presentation on behalf of the *minyan* group. *Photo by Dr. Edith Robbins*

Congregations Comparing Notes

Rabbi Gustavo Suraszki of Temple Israel's sister congregation, Kehillat Netzach Israel in Ashkelon, Israel, spent a day at Temple Israel recently, exploring ways the two congregations can benefit from the work they each do. Kehillat Netzach Israel is a Masorti Conservative congregation with a membership with diverse backgrounds, much like Temple Israel. Rabbi Suraszki, who is also a Torah scribe, met with Rabbis Howard Stecker and Seth Adelson, Beth HaGan Director Rachel Mathless, Religious School Director Rabbi Tracy Klirs and Waxman High School Director Danny Mishkin. Plans are in place to facilitate mutual learning between the two congregations' schools. Temple Israel's trip to Israel next summer will include a visit to Kehillat Netzach Israel. The relationship between the two congregations was sparked by the efforts of Temple Israel Board Member Jackie Astrof and Vice President Rebecca Sassouni.

Letter to The Editor

Thanks from Hatzilu

Between Thanksgiving and Hanukkah is the perfect time for the Men's Club to say 'thank you!' to the many members of our congregation who so generously responded to the Hatzilu food collection drive held during the High Holy Day period. The food collected, with a few other additions from Hatzilu's warehoue (including a frozen kosher turkey), provided nice food packages that were delivered to five homes in Great Neck in October and November.

It's also the perfect time for me, as a member of the Hatzilu Executive Board, to say 'thank you' to the Men's Club for underwriting, once again, the cost of the annual appeal on behalf of Hatzilu. You have recently received the Men's Club's letter soliciting your contributions to Hatzilu. Enclosed with that letter is an article describing its 36-year history of Hatzilu and the major role that the Men's Club and our congregation's membership have played in it. Please read the article and be generous in your reply. Temple Israel's members have always been the largest financial supporters of Hatzilu, providing over 10 percent of its annual budget. It's a leadership role we should be very proud of and maintain for many years to come.

If you have any questions concerning the Hatzilu Rescue Organization, please contact me at 466-4297 or <mbardash@ieee.org>.

Manny Bardash

Congregation Thanks Kiddush Sponsors

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

The congregational *kiddush* on November 5 was sponsored by Bianca Kattan and Robert Aizer in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Noah. Contributions toward the *kiddush* were made by Lisa and Andrew West in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, David, and Hilda and Edward Azizi in honor of the marriage of their son, Michael, to Aviva.

A contribution toward the *kiddush* on November 12 was made by Simone and Robert Kahen in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Joshua.

The congregational *kiddush* on November 19 was sponsored by Carol Shahmoon and Marc Seidenberg in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Jacob. Contributions toward the *kiddush* were made by Gail and Jeffrey Zahler in honor of the *Auf Ruf* of their son, David Noah Goldman, and Marcy Alexandra Kellerman, and by Vivian Brash in memory of her father, Joseph Katz.

Temple Israel Staff Spotlight

Patricia Montenegro

By Marc Katz, Editor

A smiling, always-helpful member of the congregation's maintenance staff, Patricia Montenegro says she is proud to work at Temple Israel.

She is also proud of her Colombian heritage. She came to the United States in October of 2002. On December 19, 2002—exactly ten years ago—she joined the Temple Israel staff, serving in a number of capacities over the years. In addition to general cleaning, she helps set up rooms for meetings, opens the building at 6:30 A.M. for the daily *minyan*, and locks the building up at night. She lives in the apartment located within the building. "Living in the building, I feel as though I am living with God," the deeply religious Ms. Montenegro said. "I consider it a privilege to be living in God's house. People have asked me if I am concerned about living in such a big building and I tell them I am not worried because God lives here, too."

She attended the University of Bogota, studying hotel management, and worked as a journalist and photographer for a New York based South American newspaper before coming to Temple Israel.

When asked: "Has being the only woman on the maintenance staff been a problem for you?" she emphatically answered: "Not at all! I appreciate my co-workers and they appreciate me. We look out for—and help—each other; we work as a team. They respect and care for me, and I do the same for them."

She sadly remembers the devastating fire that struck Temple Israel a few years ago. She said that while firemen were still in the building, she entered the front door, anxious to check on the safety of parts of the building for which she was responsible. "The firemen told me to leave," she said. "They told me it wasn't safe and to come back later."

She said that during her tenure at Temple Israel she has met many members. "I like them," she said. "They are very friendly."

"I am proud to be able to do maintenance at Temple Israel," she said. "It is like I am doing maintenance on God's house."

Rabbi Stecker Will Be Leading a Family Congregational Trip to Israel This Summer

——*Continued from front page*

of the Righteous, and the Children's Memorial. Also scheduled is a tour of Masada, a float in the Dead Sea, and a short hike to Nahal David, the freshwater spring at the Ein Gedi Nature Reserve in the Judean Desert overlooking the Dead Sea.

"This trip is a fantastic opportunity to tour Israel," said Rabbi Stecker, "and a chance for the Temple Israel community to bond as we experience Israel together."

He urges the congregation to learn more about the trip by visiting the website at http://www.daattravel.com/ and typing in Temple Israel for the search, or calling him at 482-7800.

Guest Column: Sam Fink, Of Blessed Memory

——*Continued from page 2*

and often noshed a frank with mustard and sauerkraut from the kosher deli opposite the school. We saw all the local movies in the Park Plaza Theater, where Mickey was an usher, and went to the "H," the Hebrew Institute of University Heights for our Hebrew school education though the girls were only allowed to attend on Sunday. He studied at the National Academy and the Art Students' League, worked for two decades as an art director at Young and Rubicam, a well-known advertising agency, and taught at Pratt Institute.

On his 90th birthday, Sam released his work, "The Constitution of the United States of America" to great acclaim. He published "The Declaration of Independence: The Words That Made America," "The Book of Exodus," inscribed and illustrated by Sam Fink and did the illustrations for the Pulitzer Prize poet and writer, Annie Dillard's book "Give It All Give It Now."

We met many years later in our beloved Temple Israel when Mickey and I became involved with Sam Fink in the completion of some artwork for the recognition of a Torah scroll, a meaningful piece of Judaica which hung on the wall of the chapel for many years, and can now be seen gracing the Temple Israel walkway. Inscribed on it by Sam, are the names of many people who contributed to this effort. Some years later, Sam created the artwork, which he titled "A Woman of Valor." It became a masterpiece cover for the dinner dance journal held in my honor in 1997. The original work was given to me as a gift and it remains a personal treasure.

Temple Israel member and noted artist Sam Fink, right, standing in front of one of his pieces, with Guest Column author and Past President Eileen Putterman and her husband, Past President Mickey Putterman.

I can also recall a lovely spring day in April, more than 13 years ago. It was the time of our 50th wedding anniversary. Sam came to the door and in his arms he held a gold-framed painting of his version of an "Etz Chaim," whose trunk was two very thick halves named Eileen and Mickey. His treasured white birds of peace and of love were scattered among the branches on which all the Putterman family names branched out into the sky around them. The *Schecheyanu* prayer is written across the bottom and a golden sun smiles from out of the uppermost branches. I can see Sam in front of me with that shy grin on his face, and I can hear him say in his quiet and warm voice, " *Mazel tov*, hope you like it."

We met every *Shabbat*, in Temple at the *kiddush*, standing and leaning against the stage where Sam seemed to hold his court. He was opinionated, bright and fair, and we really liked seeing and sharing information with each other. He was always looking forward to living in Israel surrounded by his son, David, and family, and so he did. He died shortly thereafter, with love all around him…

Many people in this community were given a rare gift, an opportunity to know Sam Fink, who was continually inspiring, thoughtful and exceptionally talented. He was at every age a boundless source of inspiration and productivity.

We were delighted and honored to share extraordinary memories together with Sam Fink! We miss his presence among us.

No Easy Shortcuts

——*Continued from page 2*

deepening Jewish connections in multiple ways across the lifespan.

This time of year presents unique challenges and opportunities. Jewish children may well imagine what it would be like to celebrate Christmas and they may even yearn to participate in Christmas activities. This is an opportunity for parents to reinforce the pleasure of Jewish observance, to emphasize that we can appreciate the customs of others while maximizing our commitment to our own.

Hanukkah need not be seen as competing with Christmas. Instead, we should celebrate it in its own right with intensity and joy, just as we celebrate *Shabbat* and other Jewish holidays. The more our children and grandchildren feel energized by our authentic celebrations, the less strongly they are likely to yearn to co-opt the celebrations of others.

There is no single video or one-liner that will magically solidify a strong Jewish identity in a child or in an adult. No one class or trip will do the trick, though they may stimulate further exploration.

Significantly, our liturgy refers to Jewish tradition as *hayeinu v'orekh yameinu,* our lives and the length of our days. Once we realize that, we understand that we have to "join the party" all year round and all life long.

Hanukkah is the perfect time for us to dedicate ourselves to this realization. There are no good shortcuts when it comes to nurturing Jewish identity. Fortunately, we have time, if only we use it wisely, to build castles of Jewish commitment within our families and well beyond.

In this spirit, I wish everyone *Hag Urim Sameah,* a Happy Festival of Lights!

Our Library

——*Continued from page 2*

peruse is the impressive section containing works written by congregants, reflecting a wide array of talent.

Finally, for those looking to start (or expand) their own Jewish library at home, Rona is available to offer her guidance. The ever-present carts loaded with books for sale—at bargain prices—is an excellent place to begin. So, drop in to see what the library has to benefit you and your family. The library's comfortable chairs, with a good book, will make for a pleasant respite.

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In memory of:

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Manouchehr Marhyan
Navid Farajollah
Jacob Bernstein
Paul Bernstein
Jacob Miller
Maxine Miller

From Generation to Generation

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D'var Torah

——*Continued from back page*

Ephraim and Manasseh, thereby effectively elevating them to the status of Israelite tribes. Jacob then calls in all of his sons and delivers his testament in which he characterizes them and predicts what the future will bring each of them. Upon Jacob's death, the brothers bury him in the Cave of Machpelah and return to Egypt where they beg Joseph's forgiveness for the way they treated him. Joseph reassures them again that it was all part of God's plan. The concluding verses remind us of God's promise that the Israelites would return to the land of Canaan and prepare us to move to the Book of Exodus with its account of the enslavement and redemption.

Sabbath Services

——*Continued from back page*

Friday, January 6

Evening Service 4:30 P.M.

•

Saturday, January 7 - *Shabbat Hazak*

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Vayehi;* Genesis 47:28 – 50:26; *Haftarah:* I Kings 2:1 – 12

Bat Mitzvah
MICHELLE LALEHZAR
daughter of Fariba and David Lalehzar
Sabbath Service Officers: Barbara Erlich and Larry Greengrass

"*Shabbat* Morning *Tefillot*: The Whys and Wherefores" 10:30 A.M.
Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service 11:15 A.M.
Minhah and *Ma'ariv* 4:05 P.M.
Havdalah 5:29 P.M.

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TEMPLE ISRAEL VOICE

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D'var Torah

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Miketz **Saturday, December 24**

The Joseph narrative is continued in this portion. Pharaoh has two dreams which no one can interpret. The cup-bearer finally remembers Joseph, who is called from jail and interprets the dreams to mean that there will be seven years of plenty, followed by seven years of famine. Joseph advises Pharaoh to store up food during the years of plenty, as a reserve for the famine. Pharaoh designates Joseph to implement such a plan. When the famine comes, Jacob sends his sons to Egypt for food. By way of testing their character, Joseph, whom they don't recognize, although he recognizes them, puts his brothers through a series of tests involving their father and youngest brother, Benjamin. In these episodes we see the prediction of Joseph's dreams realized as God moves His plan inexorably forward through human agency.

Vayigash **Saturday, December 31**

In this portion, the Joseph narrative is continued as Judah makes a moving appeal to Joseph, still unrecognized by his brothers, on behalf of his brother, Benjamin, who had been accused of stealing Joseph's goblet. Judah's words convince Joseph that his brothers truly changed since they sold him. He reveals himself to them, inquires about his father's health and assures them that their action was part of God's plan to put him in a position to save lives. He invites the entire family to come to Egypt to live out the five remaining years of the famine. When Jacob arrives, Joseph presents his father at court and settles the family in a choice area of the land. In the following years, he continues his work and brings great benefits to the crown. Jacob's journey to Egypt connects him with Abraham, who also went to Egypt because of famine, but is also the first step in the transformation of the patriarch's family into the people of Israel.

Vayehi **Saturday, January 7**

We conclude the cycle of Jacob stories and the Book of Genesis in this portion. After 17 years in Egypt, Jacob feels that his end is approaching. He makes Joseph swear that he will bury him with his forebears in the land of Israel, and he blesses Joseph's children,

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Sabbath Services

Friday, December 23

Evening Service 4:15 P.M.

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Saturday, December 24
Shabbat Hanukkah

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.
Weekly Portion: *Miketz*
Genesis 41:1 – 44:17; Numbers 7:30 - 41
Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14 – 4:7
Sabbath Service Officers:
Miriam Kobliner and Dr. Robert Lopatkin

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.
Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service 11:15 A.M.
Minhah and *Ma'ariv* 3:55 P.M.
Havdalah 5:18 P.M.

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Friday, December 30

Evening Service 4:30 P.M.

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Saturday, December 31

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.
Weekly Portion: *Vayigash;* Genesis 44:18 – 47:27
Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15 – 28
Sabbath Service Officers:
Ron Klempner and Shahram Delafraz

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.
Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service 11:15 A.M.
Minhah and *Ma'ariv* 3:55 P.M.
Havdalah 5:23 P.M.

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