



Congregation Marking Hanukkah at Celebration On Thursday, Dec. 22nd

Lots of Singing, Dancing and, Of Course, Latkes!

Temple Israel will officially mark Hanukkah on Thursday, December 22, when the congregation will celebrate at a joyous holiday party, to be held from 6-8 P.M.

Cantor Raphael Frieder will lead the lighting of the congregation's giant menorah, but all are invited to bring their own family menorah and join in the candle lighting.

Singing, dancing, lots of traditional food, and music by the Temple Israel Band will highlight the celebration of the holiday, which this year begins on December 20, 25 Kislev, and lasts for eight days.

"This is a chance to celebrate Hanukkah with the Temple Israel family," said Rabbi Howard Stecker. "All of the generations of the congregation will be able to come together as one to mark the holiday," he said.

Various activities, such as crafts, dreidel and other games for children will be available during the party. Family Education Credit will be given to

Religious School students if they are accompanied by at least one parent.

Cantor Frieder said he will lead the Temple Israel Band in singing and dancing to traditional Hanukkah songs, along with Israeli and Hassidic melodies, before and after the candle lighting.

Hanukkah commemorates the Jewish people's successful rebellion against the Syrian Greeks in the Maccabean War from 167-160 BCE. A ritual cleansing and re-dedication of the Temple occurred after the victory by the Jews. It is believed that there was only enough consecrated oil to keep a lamp burning for one day, but the small bottle of oil miraculously lasted for eight days.

Although there is no Hanukkah Party admission charge, it is requested that reservations be made with the office by December 19 to make sure there are enough latkes and Hanukkah gelt to go around. The office can be reached by calling 482-7800.

Religious School Students Relive Kristallnacht Through Bela Schoenfeld's Holocaust Story



Holocaust survivor Bela Schoenfeld told Religious School students of her experiences.

Voice photos by Mickey Putterman

Temple Israel member Bela Schoenfeld vividly told of the havoc the Holocaust brought to her and her family at a special Kristallnacht presentation to students of the Religious School and their families, as well as members of the congregation.

Her PowerPoint presentation was followed by numerous questions from inquisitive students, in the program organized by Religious School Director Rabbi Tracy Klirs and the congregation's Shoah Remembrance Committee.

Mrs. Schoenfeld was able to trace back many generations of her father's German ancestry. Nevertheless, on Kristallnacht he was taken to a

concentration camp, but eventually migrated with his family to Shanghai, Chile, and the United States. She and her brother were born in Shanghai. She and her husband, Mel, settled in Great Neck in 1979 and immediately joined Temple Israel.



Religious School students paid close attention when School Director Rabbi Tracy Klirs introduced survivor Bela Schoenfeld.

Imagination

By Rabbi Howard Stecker

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Voice Guest Column contains excerpts from Rabbi Howard Stecker's High Holy Day sermon on imagining possibilities. The complete sermon, as well as other writings, can be found on his blog, <torahforourday.blogspot.com>.

Back when I was in college, I took a walk by myself in Central Park. A man, who was taller and stockier than I came up to me out of the blue, stood in front of me and asked, "Are you worried?"

Imagination is the torch that illuminates the possible...

And I quickly swallowed and said, "No." And he said, "Well, you should be."

We are at the start of the New Year. And if I'm gauging my own mood and the mood of others accurately, we don't need anyone to tell us that we should be worried. We're plenty worried. We're worried about our children

and grandchildren, our nieces and our nephews. Will they find work? Will they find love? Will they embrace Jewish tradition?

We're worried about the United States. What will become of our great nation?

We're worried about Israel. How will she ensure her future at the beginning of the 21st century?

We're worried about ourselves. How will we withstand all of the challenges that face us—health, money, despair and downright exhaustion?

I'm not going to pretend to solve all these problems, though I have a suggestion. It's not a perfect suggestion, but I think it's an important and Jewish one.

It's expressed by one word—imagination. We think of imagination and perhaps

—Continued on page 6

FROM THE RABBI

The Future of Temple Israel

By Rabbi Seth Adelson

EDITOR'S NOTE: This column, by Rabbi Seth Adelson, contains excerpts from a presentation he made at the recent Congregational Meeting.

I have seen the light.

In August, I attended a two-day institute with LOMED, a program run by The Jewish Education Project through which our Religious School is continuing the work of Re-Imagine. I was there with Religious School Director Rabbi Tracy Klirs, Religious School teacher Jennifer Khoda and Beth HaGan Director Rachel Mathless.

The keynote speaker of this institute was Dr. Ron Wolfson, who is a professor of Jewish Education at American Jewish University in Los Angeles, and also one of the prime movers of Synagogue 3000, an organization that provides resources for synagogue transformation, so that synagogues can be equipped for current and future realities.

Dr. Wolfson's message at this program was simple: the successful synagogue of the future is the one that builds relationships between people. Judaism should be "relational," and that synagogues that fail to build relationships will never thrive.

The overarching message of the

LOMED Summer Institute was as follows: when synagogues offer programming, the central question surrounding each programmatic offering and its success should be: "Did this program, or service, or class, or *Shabbat* dinner build relationships?"

Dr. Wolfson is the author of the book,

...synagogues that fail to build relationships will never thrive.

"The Spirituality of Welcoming" (Jewish Lights, 2006), a book we all should read and perhaps commit to memory. In the introduction to the book, he notes that many synagogues (including Temple Israel) have the words, "*Da lifnei mi atah omed*" ("Know before whom you stand") written above the Ark. He quips that it should be replaced by: "But we've always done it this way!"

Ladies and gentlemen, I have seen the light.

—Continued on page 7

—2—

Moving Forward

By Alan Klinger

Rest assured, with the passing of the High Holidays and *Sukkot*, your synagogue continues to work for you.

Picking up from the High Holidays, you should have received a survey asking for your thoughts as to various aspects of the Holiday experience, ranging from the spiritual and intellectual side of the services to the physical surroundings in which you experienced them. If you did not receive the survey (either through e-mail or "regular" mail), please contact the office for a copy. We received some 170 responses within the first several days of the survey's issuance—a high percentage, we're

we welcome your thoughts and involvement...

told, for this type of survey. If you have received it but not yet completed it, please do so promptly so that we can gain your views and assess if and how we can improve your High Holy Day experience. (Given the seeming success of this outreach and the ease in use of Survey Monkey, keep your eye out for future surveys of your synagogue experience!)

Moving beyond the Holidays, we have several initiatives on the education front. While hard to believe for those involved, it's been four years since the Re-Imagining of our Religious Schools was effectuated. In moving from a three-day per week to two-day per week (plus *Shabbat* family programming) format, certain judgments were made as to what to focus on/what to de-emphasize. It's time to evaluate the results. Bracha Werber will be leading a group that will examine these issues, some of whom were part of the Re-Imagine program and some of whom were not. Should you have any particular thoughts, please reach out to her. We are also looking to re-start the quest for an overall director of education to help blend the directions of the three schools on our premises. Our Educational Vision Team, akin to a board of education and headed by Zina Rutkin-Becker with oversight by Vice President for Education Rebecca Sassouni, is already making strides in that area, fostering better collaboration by the heads of the three schools. On the adult side, home study sessions are scheduled for December Thursday mornings to discuss parenting issues in addition to the regular classes listed in the bulletin. Discussion is also being had for a *Shabbat* weekend learning experience as to better foster congregational values—stay tuned for further information on that front.

—Continued on page 4

IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences
to the family of:

INGRID EPSTEIN ELEFANT

wife of Jack Elefant
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

ERNEST VOGELMANN

father of Tina Tito

May their memory be for a blessing.

TEMPLE LITES . . .

• **Pia Shlomo**, daughter of Francine Spilke Epstein and the late David Spilke, and step-daughter of Irving Epstein, has published her first children's book, "Thank You for Everything," a book about thanking God. The fully illustrated book is available on amazon.com.

• **Jon Kaiman** was elected to a fifth term as supervisor of the Town of North Hempstead. A regular with the Temple Israel Players and member of the Men's Club, he won by more than 55 percent of the vote.

• **Anna Kaplan** was elected to the North Hempstead Town Board on Election Day, becoming the first member of the Board of Iranian descent. She currently serves as vice president of the Great Neck Library Board.

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.	4:15 P.M.
Saturday	8:45 A.M.	3:50 P.M.
Sunday	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Kindle the Sabbath Lights!

Friday, November 25	4:12 P.M.
Friday, December 2	4:10 P.M.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

Dec.	1	Israel Affairs Committee Presentation Featuring Sgt. Benjamin Anthony	8:00 P.M.
	8	Men's Club Meeting	7:30 P.M.
	9-11	Waxman High School and Youth House Kinnus	
	11	Temple Israel Players Audition	6:00 P.M.
	12	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 A.M.
	12	Temple Israel Players Audition	6:30 P.M.
	14	Temple Israel Players Call Back	7:30 P.M.
	15	Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	20	Waxman High School and Youth House Hanukkah Party	4:00 P.M.
	22	Congregational Hanukkah Party	6:00 P.M.
	29	Men's Club Meeting	7:30 P.M.

Teach Your Children Well: Parenting Wisely During Challenging Times

Join Rabbi Stecker and Rabbi Adelson
in a comfortable home setting
discussing insights from
traditional and modern experts.

Thursday Mornings
December 1, 8, 15 and 22
10:30 a.m. - Noon

Sessions will be held at the home of a Temple Israel member.
Call 482-7800 to R.S.V. P. and for the location.

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, submitted by Karen Ashkenase, is by Dr. Dan Shechtman, a professor at Technion Israel Institute of Tech-

nology in Haifa. He was the winner of the 2011 Nobel Prize in Chemistry and the tenth Nobel Prize winner in the 64-year history of Israel.

What's your favorite quote? Send it to "The Voice," Temple Israel of Great Neck, 108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023.

*“The main lesson that I have learned over time
is that a good scientist is a humble
and listening scientist and not one that is sure
100 percent in what he reads in the textbooks.”*

Getting Ready for Thanksgiving, Shabbat

By Rachel Mathless



Jamie Spiel

Jamie Spiel will be celebrating her *Bat Mitzvah* on December 17. She is the daughter of Alyssa and Michael Spiel and has an older sister, Lauren, 17. Jamie is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. She enjoys ice skating, field hockey, cooking and basketball. Jamie is currently attending the Waxman High School.

Moving Forward

—Continued from page 2

The Ritual Committee will focus much attention this year on issues involving a welcoming and participatory culture for the congregation. We look forward to its study and recommendations. Two subcommittees also have been formed. One will focus on the perennial issue of encouraging daily *minyan* attendance—we refuse to believe that improvements can't be made—and the other will address the maintenance and replacement if needed of our important ritual objects. In that vein, plans are underway for expanding the hours of the museum so that the objects displayed there can be seen by even more of our congregants. We thank Gert Gross and Charlotte Zavon for their time with the museum and Alise Kreditor for the steps she's taking in working with them.

We continue to concentrate on the technology front. Jose Nebro brought us into modern times with a functioning website and further attention is being given to expand its capabilities. Components of the synagogue are on Facebook and both of our Rabbis now maintain blogs so that we can expand our learning from them beyond *Shabbat* sermons.

Finally, we continue to look at short-term ways we can improve the use of space in the building—check out the new Aleph Room on the third floor—while we move to the next phase of looking at our long-term needs.

In summary, we have a lot going on and we welcome your thoughts and involvement in assisting the synagogue in moving forward.

We've put away our *sukkah* decorations and *Simchat Torah* flags and we're moving along at a rather brisk clip, exploring, experimenting and growing.

Thanksgiving is in the air, with the gobble gobble songs and the beautiful colorful turkeys that practically jump off the wall. The Native American costumes are coming along quite nicely, and each class is working on its iteration of tee-pees, Totem Poles, headdresses, beaded necklaces, drums, the Mayflower and girl and boy Pilgrim costumes. We will make corn bread, cranberry sauce and pumpkin mash, and have a great Thanksgiving feast. David Grover and the Big Beat Band are coming to entertain us during our Thanksgiving Dress-Up Party. We delight in the scope of knowledge that the children absorb—the reasons behind the journey to the New World, the struggle of the early settlers, and the kindness of the Native Americans to the Pilgrims.

We are deep into the study of the *parsha* of the week. The children are knowledgeable regarding Noah and the flood and ensuing *parshiot* about Avraham, his unique tent, his love of the *mitzvah* of *Hachnasat Orchim*, inviting guests and about the birth of Itzchak. We encourage parents to have children share with them all the wonderful lessons and songs learned during the week.

Concurrent with the study of Thanks-

giving, we have begun preliminary discussions about Hanukkah, especially about the idea of gifts for others. We will begin our toy drive on Monday, November 28. We will be collecting unwrapped toys for children of all ages for Hanukkah. Please feel free to drop off gifts in one of the bins outside the nursery school classroom doors.

In addition, Beth HaGan is joining with *Kebillat Nezach Yisrael* in Ashkelon, Israel to raise money to purchase a new pair of pajamas for every child in the children's wing of Barzilli Hospital. Schoolchildren of our sister school, *Kihillat Nezach, Israel* will deliver these pajamas to the hospital on Hanukkah. Every Beth HaGan student will create a Hanukkah card with a get-well wish and gift wrap the pajamas, with the help of teachers and parent volunteers. We are proud to instill values of *chesed* and thoughtfulness in our young people who are tomorrow's leaders. Anyone wishing to be a part of this beautiful *mitzvah* project, just contact the school office.

Friday continues to be a magical time in Beth HaGan. From the moment the fresh dough is brought into school till the last child leaves, the spirit of *Shabbat* transcends into our building, inspiring and exciting and permeating the environment, bombarding the senses. Come join us and experience the joy!

Warm Clothing and a Warm Heart: Temple Israel's Chesed Connection Is Distributing Winter Clothing

Members of Temple Israel's Chesed Connection visited the Manhasset EOC to distribute coats and clothing to local families in need, earlier this month. More than 50 grateful adults and children came away from the event with a warmed heart, a warm coat and warm clothes. The Temple Israel volunteers were joined in their efforts by the North Shore Synagogue, The Tikkun Alliance of the North Shore and the Manhasset Equal Opportunity Commission.

The event was the Chesed Connection's second clothing drive, and more are being planned. The next scheduled distribution is set for Sunday, January 8.

The Chesed Connection Steering Committee, chaired by Dr. Laura Gal, includes Rabbi Seth Adelson, Eleanor Yomtobian Askari, Maria Weinstein, and Rebecca Yousefzadeh Sassouni.

Chesed Connection welcomes your participation: Donate coats and clothing at bins located in the Temple Israel lobby. Monetary contributions to the Gemilut Chasadim Fund are also welcome. Chesed Connection members will be at the congregation's Hanukkah Party on December 22 and at a donation sorting party on December 13 seeking congregational support, and will return to the EOC in Manhasset again on January 8. For further information about the Chesed Connection call the Temple office.

MAZAL TOV TO . . .

- Sharon Kovacs Gruer and Dr. George Kovacs on the engagement of their daughter, Talia, to Philip Cohen.
- Drs. Ana and Ira Cohen on the engagement of their son, Philip, to Talia Kovacs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR My Son, The Biker!

To the Editor:

As of this writing, my son, Jeff, and daughter-in-law, Joanne, are probably near the end of the five-day bike ride in Israel in which he participated. Joanne is not involved in the ride. She goes along for moral support and to help the riders at the various stops. This is the 12th year of the ride and Jeff's fifth year of participation. It is called "The Wheels of Love," in which about 500 riders from all parts of the world are involved. They are doing this for needy handicapped and sick children, at the ALYN Hospital in Jerusalem.

I might add that the ride itself is not "a walk in the park." The riders go up grueling climbs and thankfully survive the desert roads in order to raise money for the ALYN Hospital, in an effort to help the children suffering from a broad range of disabilities such as trauma, injuries from terrorist attacks and various medical problems. Helping these children and the hospital would truly be the ultimate *mitzvah*. You can make your donation directly to the hospital. Please state that you are sponsoring rider #46 – Jeff Blye.

The following is a paragraph, which Jeff sent us on day 4: "It was exhilarating, but no less difficult. All the veterans agree this is the hardest challenge ever. It tests our resolve on every climb. I struggle to stave off the pain and fatigue. I keep pictures of the ALYN children on my handlebar to remind me why I should push the next pedal, instead of stopping. Tomorrow is our final climb, to Jerusalem. We will see you soon, dear children."

Needless to say, Bill and I are extremely proud of Jeff's efforts on behalf of this really worthy cause. When you see these beautiful children, your hearts will melt.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generosity.

Lottie Blye

P.S.—ALYN is an acronym from the Hebrew: *Agudah Le'ezrat Yeladim Nachim* – Organization to aid handicapped children. The English is: All the Love You Need.

They Made It Happen-II

Editor's Note: An incorrect version of the following letter was printed in the last issue of The Voice. The correct letter follows. We apologize for the error.

To the Editor

I want to extend a well deserved *yasher*

TEMPLE ISRAEL STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Jodi Engel



Voice photo by Mickey Putterman

By Marc Katz

If you receive mail from Temple Israel—and who doesn't?—it most likely passed through the hands of Jodi Engel.

The almost-five year veteran of the office staff is in charge of the congregation's mailroom, which handles thousands of pieces of mail every month. In addition, she processes donations made to various funds (responding to each with a thank you letter or acknowledgement card), and as the accounts receivable clerk, handles incoming Temple Israel payments. She is also generally the first person a congregant speaks to if they suffer a loss of a family member. She coordinates *shiva* arrangements, notifies the Pastoral Committee and Yad b'Yad, and alerts members who conduct the *minyán* at *shiva* homes.

"I like my position," she said, "because it is so diversified. The favorite part of my job is interacting with congregants."

Before coming to Temple Israel she worked at the Sid Jacobson Jewish Community Center in East Hills, where she coordinated membership, worked with new members and helped with program development.

During her non-Temple Israel time, she serves as the recording secretary of the Sisterhood of the Garden City Jewish Center, where her husband, Alex, is on the Executive Board. The couple, married for 19 years, met on a blind date in front of Radio City Music Hall on Alex's birthday. "Now," she said with her characteristically warm smile, "he is my best friend." The couple has one son, Andrew, who will be marking his *Bar Mitzvah* on December 3.

"I really enjoy my job," she said. "My position has continually evolved and I hope it continues to do so, enabling me to take on increasing responsibility. The people I work with here are great."

koach and *kol hakavod* to a group of volunteers organized by our High Holy Day Chairman, Howard Spun.

These volunteers gave up an evening during an especially busy time of year to put out each and every Kol Nidre Appeal Pledge Card, each in its appropriate place.

They are William Blye, Sam Husney, Marc Langsner, David Scherr, Abe Sheffy, and "Iron Man" Howard Spun who organized this effort.

We could not have done this "appeal" effectively without the pledge cards and the pledge cards would not have been there

without them. I hope their backs and their sciatica have recovered!

I also want to thank Marc Langsner for designing and producing our Kol Nidre Appeal donor boards and Marc Katz for designing and producing the pledge cards.

Last, but definitely not least a special *yasher koach* to our president, Alan Klinger, who so eloquently delivered "The Appeal."

To all of them, *todah rabah*. They made it happen!

**Dr. Arden Smith, Chairman
Kol Nidre Appeal Campaign**

—Continued from page 2

we conjure up fairy tales, flights of fancy. Imagination may seem like a luxury when times are hard.

It's not a luxury at all. For Jews it has been a necessity. To get through life, and to excel at living, we have always needed, and continue to need, imagination.

Imagination allows us to examine why things are as they are and to picture things as they might be.

It keeps tradition alive, it keeps nations alive, and it keeps us alive as individuals. At the beginning of 5772, I want to take us on a journey to explore the power of imagination.

We're worried about whether the younger generation will embrace Jewish tradition. If we hand it down like a fragile museum piece, they may not. They may say "This is important to mom or dad or grandma or grandpa" but they won't necessarily embrace it unless we demonstrate that Jewish tradition is a *tour de force* of imagination.

When the ancient Israelites said that the world was created in six days and God rested on the seventh, they most likely did not mean it literally. They knew what a day was, just like we know what a day is. They believed that there was a rhythm and a purpose to the world and that we could tap into it by observing six days of work and one day of rest.

In her book, "The Case for God," Karen Armstrong argues that it is only recently that anyone took the Bible's story of creation literally, or as an expression of scientific truth. I think that's fascinating.

The prayer, *un'taneh tokef*, speaks of our deeds and our fate recorded in a book. Who will live and who will die in the coming year.

I doubt that the author meant literally that there's a big book up in heaven. He likely understood that image, and the notion that our fate is determined during these days, as a way to focus our thoughts on our vulnerability and our potential.

Each generation has applied imagination in order to try to make sense out of life and to offer a plan for how to move forward.

Let the next generation of Jews do what Jews have always done—apply imagination to the challenge and exhilaration of leaving as a human being in the world.

I'm begging each of us—at the dinner table, at the *seder* table, in conversations with loved ones—to encourage questions, arguments and imagination.

I want to widen the lens now. Imagination brings nations into being and keeps them alive. We're worried about the U.S. and we're worried about Israel.

The founding fathers of the United States of America sought to create a nation based on the idea that "all men are created equal." Later it would include women and people of all races.

The founders of the State of Israel sought to create a nation that would be

Imagination

"open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles."

The declaration declared that the emerging nation "will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex."

The United States has struggled mightily to ensure equal treatment and equitable economic opportunity for all of its citizens and to manage her friends, her enemies and her status in the world community.

The State of Israel has struggled mightily to ensure that and to manage its friends, its enemies, and the claims of Palestinian leadership.

Imagination doesn't solve everything, but it can help. In the U.S., imaginative solutions are called for in the business world, in education and in government. It's exhausting, but everyone needs to keep trying.

In Israel, creative solutions are called for, as well. To be sure, the world must understand that Israel's existence and survival are non-negotiable: 60 years after Auschwitz and in the aftermath of the expulsion of Jews from numerous countries in the Middle East, a secure state of Israel ensures that Jews can live with full freedom and opportunity.

It also ensures that Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, atheists and so on live with full

Imagination doesn't solve everything, but it can help.

freedom and opportunity. When a mosque is set on fire as it was in the north of Israel, all people should protest. When a Jewish sacred site is desecrated, as Joseph's tomb was recently, all people should protest.

And it's time, with careful and imaginative negotiation, to move toward two states living side by side. It's not a new idea. It's what the United Nations proposed over 60 years ago. If strong leadership on both sides is ready; if it's what most thoughtful people on both sides want, then everyone needs to keep moving forward with appropriate care and imagination.

Finally, I want to focus the lens on each of us. I want to invite each of us to peer into our own souls as we face the New Year.

Imagination keeps us energized and hopeful. Without it, we would crawl under a blanket and stay there all day.

Throughout our lives, imagination is the torch that illuminates the possible.

It's hardwired in us from an early age. For children, imagination comes naturally. It's part of play. We grow older and it gets harder.

Finding love and expanding love re-

quires imagination. It's not about finding the perfect 10. I hope people who are dating understand that. Finding love and expanding love is about the playful embrace of another human being, with the good, the bad, the beautiful and the not so beautiful that each person brings.

Sometimes you look at a couple who have been together for many years and you see a sparkle. Their conversation is playful. Even if every minute isn't a rose garden, you see respect, admiration and imagination at work and in play.

Raising children requires imagination. However many children we might have, we often have to parent each one differently. We know that. And we have to figure out how to adjust, as they get older.

To navigate our dreams and their dreams, our reality and their reality, requires flexibility and imagination as our lives unfold in relationship to one another.

Facing loss requires imagination. With my mother and father no longer around, I seem to have found myself gravitating toward certain individuals who provide me with maternal and paternal support. Perhaps others have had that experience.

I also find myself with memories that are part recollections of the past and part reconstructions of the past. I'm not always sure where one ends and the other begins and I'm not sure if it even matters.

It's up to us whether we face life's challenges with rigid expectations and parameters that can often lead us to frustration, or with a playful, imaginative embrace of the possible as it constantly morphs before our eyes.

I'd like each of us to think about the following. Think about a situation that seems formidable, that worries you profoundly.

And I'd like us to ask, "Have I applied my imagination to this situation? Have I tapped into the imaginations of others?"

Perhaps it's just a different way of looking at the situation that might yield a little relief, or even a small opportunity. Or, perhaps, it's a major overhaul.

At the beginning of the New Year, let's sing old melodies and consider new ones.

At the beginning of the New Year, let's vow that we will invite the next generation to embrace Jewish tradition, not as a fragile relic on a silver platter, but as a palpable force that helps make life worth living.

At the beginning of the New Year, let's urge the United States and Israel to protect themselves appropriately while taking creative steps toward greater success, security and peace for all.

At the beginning of the New Year, let's look at our lives and wonder, are we living and loving and raising new generations with imagination? Are there possibilities regarding even our most worrisome challenges that we have yet to consider?

Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote, "Above

—Continued on page 7

The Future of Temple Israel

—Continued from page 2

I am convinced that today, when it's getting harder and harder to get people in the door, when synagogue dues seem an almost outrageous luxury, when the fastest-growing religion in America is "nothing," we cannot afford to do things exactly as we have always done them.

We have to re-examine, re-evaluate, and re-envision everything that we do.

To that end, I am pleased to report four items:

1. I am happy that I received the first evaluation since I have been here (now four years and change). I am sorry, however, that this was the first one. Evaluations of clergy and other senior staff should be conducted with far more regularity, and not just in advance of contract negotiation. Evaluation of everything needs to be part of our culture.

2. Related to this, in a matter of days every single member of the congregation will receive, for the first time, a survey form regarding the High Holidays. This represents a huge step—not only will the feedback be useful to the clergy, the office, and the other professional staff, but even more so it will send the message to you that we want to listen to you, and we care about what you think.

3. During *Sukkot*, we held the first meeting of the Nitzanim Family Connection, a pilot program for which we have received a \$6,000 grant to bring together parents of Nitzanim / kindergarten children in our

Religious School, to build connections between parents and give them the opportunities to discuss their Jewish experiences and the Jewish education of their children. The first meeting was in my *sukkah*, next door, and was by all accounts a resounding success.

We hope that this will be a model for building those relationships throughout the Religious School experience, and not only that this cohort will continue to meet, but that a new cohort will begin with next year's Nitzanim class, and onward and upward.

4. A final thing: On *Shabbat* mornings, one rabbi is now in the back of the sanctuary, and this has been not only a tremendous learning process for me (since the view from the back is quite different than the view from the *bimah*), but I think that this

has also helped to change the tone of the sanctuary environment. I try to greet every single person that enters the sanctuary for *tefillot* (prayer). Many have told me that they appreciate this.

To conclude, I strongly suggest that you buy Dr. Wolfson's book and read it. I have already purchased copies to give to members of the Ritual Committee and the Membership Committee. Furthermore, I am now in communication with Dr. Wolfson, and I hope that we will be able to bring him to Temple Israel as a scholar-in-residence and board-training weekend in May, so that he can bring this message to a much wider audience within our community. I am hoping that a few more of us will see the light, so that we can make Temple Israel the community that we all want and need it to be for the future.

Imagination

—Continued from page 6

all, remember to build a life as if it were a work of art."

Steve Jobs, addressing graduates of Stanford University in 2005, said, "Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary."

If I should happen to see that man in Central Park and he should happen to tell me I should be worried, maybe I'll answer him with a song. A song about imagination, performed 30 years ago by a group called the Pretenders: "Gonna use my arms, gonna use my legs. Gonna use my style. Gonna use my senses. Gonna use my fingers, gonna use my 'magination."

At the beginning of the Jewish New Year, we say, *hayom harat olam*, recalling the birthday of the world. Imagination called the world into being and keeps our manifold worlds fresh every day.

Let 5772 be a good year—a year of growth, blessing and imagination!

Honoring Memories. Celebrating Lives.

Riverside-Nassau North Chapel

- Funerals • Advance Funeral Planning
- Monuments & Inscription Services

www.riversidenassauorthchapels.com

516.487.9600

55 North Station Plaza, Great Neck

Photographer Available
for

Events, Parties,
Bar and Bat Mitzvah
or Family Portraits

Please call Kitty
at 646-823-3401

INVITATIONS

MAKE THE PARTY!

See the beautiful selection at

KC GRAPHICS

25 Cutter Mill Plaza, Great Neck

516-466-2434

Invitations • Calligraphy
Stationery • Business Cards
Business Printing

Shastone Memorials

~ MORE THAN A CENTURY OF SERVICE ~

MEMORIALS OF DISTINCTION ERECTED AT ALL CEMETERIES

112 Northern Boulevard • Great Neck, New York 11021

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

www.ShastoneMemorials.com

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

CUSTOM DESIGN and SHOP AT HOME SERVICES

MONUMENTS - FOOTSTONES - PLAQUES - MAUSOLEUMS - CLEANING - REPAIRS

YOUR AD

HERE REACHES ALL
TEMPLE ISRAEL

MEMBERS!

Call 482-7800

for details.

TEMPLE ISRAEL VOICE

Marc Katz, *Editor*

Associate Editors:

Rabbi Marim D. Charry, Paula Charry, Angela Jones, Ronnie Katz

Photographers: Kitty Dadi, Dr. Robert Lopatkin, Milton Putterman

Advertising Representative: Lottie Blye

TEMPLE ISRAEL OF GREAT NECK

108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023

Phone: 516-482-7800 • Fax: 516-482-7352 • E-Mail: info@tign.org

Web: www.TIGN.org

Published bi-weekly by Temple Israel of Great Neck, New York, from mid-August to mid-June. Periodicals postage paid at Great Neck, NY. Postmaster: Send address changes to Temple Israel Voice at address above. Publication No. USPS 078-740. Subscription \$5.00 per annum.

TEMPLE ISRAEL STAFF

Howard A. Stecker.....Senior Rabbi
 Raphael Frieder.....Cantor
 Seth Adelson.....Associate Rabbi
 Mordecai Waxman*.....Rabbi Emeritus
 Leon Silverberg.....Executive Director
 Rachel Mathless.....Director, Beth HaGan
 Rabbi Tracy Guren Klirs.....Director, Religious School
 Daniel Mishkin.....Director, Waxman High School

OFFICERS

Alan M. Klinger.....President
 Seth Horowitz.....Vice President
 Dr. Parviz Khodadadian.....Vice President
 Dr. Robert Lopatkin.....Vice President
 Dr. Robert Panzer.....Vice President
 Rebecca Yousefzadeh Sassouni.....Vice President
 Gary Sazer.....Vice President
 Steven Shepsman.....Vice President
 Irving H. Lurie*.....Honorary President
 *Deceased

AFFILIATED WITH

THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

TEMPLE
ISRAEL
OF
GREAT
NECK



VOICE

108 OLD MILL ROAD, GREAT NECK, NY 11023

Periodicals
Postage Paid
at Great Neck, NY

D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Toledot

Saturday, November 26

In this portion, we follow the events in the lives of Isaac and Rebekah. Twin sons—Esau and Jacob—are born, and their struggles before birth foreshadow later conflicts between the nations they are to find. Although Jacob is the younger, he tricks Esau out of his birthright. Isaac, like Abraham, meets a number of challenges and is assured by God that he will have many descendants and possess the land of Canaan. When Isaac feels his end approaching and arranges to pass the blessing of concession on to Esau, Rebekah connives to have Jacob trick his father and the blessing for himself. Jacob must then flee to the ancestral homeland to escape Esau's wrath, but before he leaves Isaac intentionally passes on to him the blessing of Abraham. This action attests that the leadership of the Jewish people depends on God's plan, not an accident of birth.

Vayetze

Saturday, December 3

We follow the fortunes of Jacob as he leaves the land of Canaan to travel to the ancestral home in Mesopotamia, spends 20 years there and leaves to return to Canaan. In this portion, Jacob fleeing for his life, stops for a night at a place near the border and has a dream in which the angels ascend and descend a ladder to heaven. God confirms the blessing of Abraham for Jacob, and Jacob, upon awakening, names the place Beth El, the House of God. Arriving in Mesopotamia, Jacob encounters Rachel, his cousin, at a well and falls in love with her. He negotiates with his uncle, Laban, for Rachel's hand, is tricked by Laban, and then decides it is time to return home. He leaves with two wives, two concubines, 11 sons, one daughter and much livestock. These events show how Jacob begins to become worthy of the blessing he has been given and of being a successor to Abraham and Isaac.

*Worship at Temple Israel
This Shabbat!*

SABBATH SERVICES

Thursday, November 24

Bat Mitzvah 9:30 A.M.

DANIELLE TARRAS

daughter of Andrea Lewis and Dr. Marc Tarras

Friday, November 25

Evening Service 4:15 P.M.

Saturday, November 26

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Toledot*

Genesis 25:19 – 28:9

Haftarah: I Samuel 20:18 – 42

Bat Mitzvah

SOPHIE SAIDMEHR

daughter of Beverly and Isaac Saidmehar

Sabbath Service Officers: Dr. Robert Panzer and Brian Zeitlin

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:15 A.M.

Minhah and *Ma'ariv* 3:50 P.M.

Havdalah 5:15 P.M.

Friday, December 2

Evening Service 4:15 P.M.

Saturday, December 3

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Vayetze*

Genesis 28:10 – 32:3

Haftarah: Hosea 12:13 – 14:10

Sabbath Service Officers: Helen Wrobel and Rebecca Sassouni

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:15 A.M.

Minhah and *Ma'ariv* 3:50 P.M.

Havdalah 5:14 P.M.