



Congregation Marks the Passing of Past President, Presidential Advisor Jack Stein



Former Temple Israel President Jacob Stein, who died December 8, points to a photo showing him with world leaders, which appeared in *The Voice* in 2011. *Photo by Mickey Putterman*

By Marc Katz, Editor

Jacob Stein—the former president of Temple Israel who went on to leadership positions in world Jewry and United States government—died Saturday, December 8. He was 95.

Speakers at his funeral, held in the Sanctuary, included Malcolm Hoenlein, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, a post Mr. Stein once held, as well as representatives from United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Jewish Theological Seminary, organizations greatly impacted by Mr. Stein.

His three children, Stuart, Richard, and Linda Whalen, and two of his six grandchildren also spoke.

“He was a mentor, a guide, a friend to me,” Mr. Hoenlein said. “He was a reliable ally, a sounding board.” He cited the first Hanukkah party celebrated in the White House, which took place when Mr. Stein served as President Reagan’s advisor on Jewish affairs.

Rabbi Paul Drazen, an official of United Synagogue, called Mr. Stein “a proud, observant Jew... who lived a full life. He left an impact on generations past and on generations future.”

Reading a letter from Jewish Theological Seminary Chancellor Arnold Eisen, Rabbi David Hoffman said, “Jack Stein demonstrated how much light one person

—Continued on page 7

Hanukkah At Temple Israel



Hanukkah is a holiday of song and dance, as demonstrated at the congregation’s Hanukkah party and menorah lighting last Sunday, left, and by Beth HaGan Bet children, above, led by *Morot* Elizabeth Khakshouri and Liora Tabaria, when they sang Hanukkah songs for residents of the Atria assisted living facility on Great Neck Road, to help seniors celebrate the holiday.

Photo by Jackie Einstein Astrof



Voice photo by Dr. Robert Lopatkin

Speak Out, Act Out—Exert Influence

By Rabbi Howard Stecker

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Guest Column contains excerpts from Rabbi Howard Stecker's sermon, delivered during the High Holy Days. This, and other sermons, are available on his blog, "Torah for Our Day."

By and large, Jews are talkers. And that's often been a source of our influence.

A month ago, I was sitting in the back of a jeep with some awesome teens from Temple Israel, touring the Golan Heights as part of a phenomenal Temple Israel trip to Israel.

*To live quietly
is not
the Jewish way.*

The tour guide related the following story, well known to many of us. In 1967, the Israeli Army needed extra time to seize control of the Golan Heights. Abba Eban, the famous Israeli diplomat who spoke the Queens English, spoke for hours to the

Security Council of the United Nations. During that time, Israel completed the necessary military operation. But the speech wasn't just a time-saver. Abba Eban emphasized the necessity of Israel's defense and her ultimate desire for peace.

Since our inception, we have tried as a people to exert positive influence in the world, not just to defend ourselves, but to improve the circumstances of others. We exert influence through talk and action and it goes way back.

Abraham was told by God, "through you, all of the families of the earth will be blessed."

Centuries later, Isaiah told the people, "keep speaking out *Ad yetze khangoga tzidkiah* until Israel's righteousness bursts forth like a flaming torch!"

—Continued on page 6

FROM THE RABBI

Accountability

By Rabbi Howard Stecker

A recent article in the Style section of the Times berates the younger generation for using text messaging to avoid taking full responsibility for their actions. For example, it has become wide practice for people to send a text message expressing regret for not being able to attend an event, often an hour or so before the event begins. Occasionally this is done using abbreviations like SSSCU ("so sorry something came up").

The author of the article claims that text messaging makes people feel less accountable than they might if they had to, say, pick up the phone to express their regrets.

It seems that human beings have always been hardwired to dodge accountability. Witness Cain's famous question, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

The answer to that, of course, is yes, and Biblical and Rabbinic passages across the millennia emphasize the point in ways both subtle and direct. Important figures like King David and Judah, son of Jacob, discovered, through the twists and turns of their respective lives, that their actions have profound implications for others. In rabbinic tradition, witnesses in a capital case were

responsible for administering whatever punishment would be imposed on the accused. Ideally, this caused them to consider their testimony with great care.

Again and again, our tradition emphasizes that our tongues, hands and pocketbooks can afflict or uplift, depending on how we use them. As our tradition puts it, we are *areivim ze bazeh*, accountable to one another.

*...our tongues,
hands and pocketbooks
can afflict or uplift...*

There is also good news to report regarding our nature. We are also wired to acknowledge our accountability, especially if the community we are part of reinforces that message.

A few weeks ago, a busload of teenagers from our synagogue went down to Long Beach, a town hard hit by Hurricane Sandy, to volunteer at a distribution center. Turns out, the "text message generation" filled a

—Continued on page 4

The Week That Was

By Alan Klinger

It started with the passing of our former president, Jack Stein. Known to many and as reported in this issue of The Voice, Jack was a true luminary both in the Jewish world and the community at large. Former president of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Jack also served as a special advisor to the White House for President Reagan and was a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations. Partnering with Rabbi Waxman, Jack helped formulate significant policies for our movement, including promoting principles of egalitarianism and inter-faith dialogue. I recall

*...the feeling
of sadness gave way
to the brightness
of a life well-lived.*

Jack speaking fervently to the congregation in favor of patrilineal descent as a way of addressing societal changes, knowing that approach had been rejected by our mainstream leaders; whether you agreed with him or not, all found Jack capable of broad thinking and unafraid to tackle hard issues. While his passing was not unexpected, the first reaction to the news was a sadness that we would no longer hear his firm voice. Yet, in listening to the tributes paid to him at his funeral (of which there were many, including that of Malcolm Hoenlein, the current chairman of The Conference), those that resonated most to me were those of his family, who depicted in heartfelt ways his essence as a role model to two generations. At the end, the feeling of sadness gave way to the brightness of a life well-lived. (We felt further pangs of loss later that week with the passing of another former synagogue president, Mordy Gabriel. A professor of biology, Mordy was known for his keen insight and left a lasting legacy by participating in the selection process for two of our rabbis.)

We also experienced a different type of event that week, a debate between Professor Peter Beinart and Rabbi Shlomo Riskin concerning issues of Zionism and Israel. Temple Israel was one of ten synagogues from the Great Neck community that co-sponsored the dialogue emanating from Beinart's work, "The Crisis of Zionism,"

—Continued on page 4

IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences to the families of:

BETTY HERMELE
wife of Cyril Hermele

JACK STEIN
esteemed member
and past president of Temple Israel

FREDI QUEEN
esteemed member of Temple Israel

HELEN TRAUB
step-mother of Marjorie Hoffman

MORRIS GOLDSTEIN
father of Eric Goldstein

FRANKLIN LITTMAN
esteemed member of Temple Israel

BERTHA FIEDLER
sister of Joseph Tanenbaum

DR. MORDECAI GABRIEL
husband of Elinor Gabriel,
esteemed member
and past president of Temple Israel

May their memories be for a blessing.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Kindle the Sabbath Lights!

Friday, December 21.....4:12 P.M.
Friday, December 28.....4:16 P.M.
Friday, January 4.....4:22 P.M.

Next Voice, Issue Deadline

The next issue of The Voice, the Tu B'Shevat issue, will be published on January 10. The deadline for the issue is Friday, December 28.

Happy (secular) New Year!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

Jan. 3	Men's Club Meeting	7:30 P.M.
5	Midnight Run	
6	Waxman Youth House USY Event	4:30 P.M.
8	Sisterhood Lunch and Read Program	Noon
11	Waxman High School and Youth House Dinner	6:30 P.M.
11	<i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service and Dinner For College Grads and Friends	7:30 P.M.
13	Israel Trip Orientation	Noon
17	Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.
18-20	Waxman Youth House USY Trip	
20	Community Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Service	3:00 P.M.
21	Waxman High School and Youth House Holocaust Museum Trip	
24	Men's Club Meeting	7:30 P.M.
25	Congregational <i>Tu B'Shevat</i> Dinner and <i>Seder</i>	7:30 P.M.
26	<i>Tu B'Shevat</i>	
28	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 A.M.

WANT TO LEARN NEW SKILLS?

DEEPEN YOUR SPIRITUALITY?

BUILD COMMUNITY?

ELEVATE YOUR JEWISH COMMITMENT?

Join Cantor Raphael Frieder on January 2 at 8:15 P.M.
in the Crystal Ballroom as he introduces
a new three-year cycle of study for lay-led services:

***Shabbat Kol Isha* for women, scheduled for April 12-13, 2013;**
***Shabbat HaGever* for men, scheduled for 2014;**
and *Shabbat Koleinu* for men and women, scheduled for 2015.

Men and women are invited to the session on January 2, which will gather interested members and form classes to prepare for leading services, chanting Torah and *haftarah*, and more.

Contact Bob Lopatkin at <rlopatkin@optonline.net> or
Sherry Husney at <shusney01@aol.com> for further details.

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

“As long as the heart of a Jew beats,
And as long as the eyes of a Jew look eastward,
Then our 2,000 year hope is not lost:
To be a free nation in Zion, in Jerusalem.”

B'NAI MITZVAH IN OUR TEMPLE ISRAEL FAMILY



Clara Goldberger

Clara Goldberger will be called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah* on January 5. She is the daughter of Maggie and Daniel Goldberger and has a brother, Eli, 9. Clara is a seventh grade honor student at Great Neck South Middle School. She is the recipient of the Judaic Scholar Award from the Temple Israel Religious School. Clara plays the viola in both the school orchestra and the Great Neck Music Conservatory Orchestra. She also performs in school plays and enjoys singing, reading and bicycling, as well as playing basketball, softball and running cross-country. Clara will be attending the Waxman High School and attends Camp Ramah in the Berkshires. She plans to visit Israel with her family in the near future.



Lauren Perlman

Lauren Perlman will be celebrating her *Bat Mitzvah* on January 12. She is the daughter of Dr. Michal Gombos and William Perlman and has a brother, Jonathan, 14. Lauren is a seventh grade honor student at Great Neck South Middle School. She enjoys cooking, as well as playing soccer and tennis. Lauren is currently attending the Waxman High School and Youth House and plans to visit Israel in the near future.

From the President: The Week That Was

—Continued from page 2

in which he argues, stated (perhaps too) simply that Israel, in “occupying” the West Bank, was becoming “undemocratic” in a way that risks alienating America’s college-aged Jews who, over time, would withdraw their support for Israel in a country essential to her survival. Emotions ran high concerning whether Israel has any choice, given threats to her security; whether the present Israeli government genuinely is interested in a two-state solution; and whether the Palestinian Authority, not to mention Hamas, would ever actually accept the existence of Israel as a Jewish State. Given the strong feelings elicited in our own congregation’s discussions of the book as the launching of our Am HaSefer program, the heat of the discourse was unsurprising. But what resonated most wasn’t the fact of dispute, but the respect showed by each speaker to the other despite their fundamental disagreement and their recognition that people can disagree and still talk to each other. This was a lesson not lost on those attending. And it was especially poignant given that the event showed something all too rare: synagogues of all denominations joining together. We can only hope this was a forerunner of more interaction.

While not Great Neck-centered, we cannot forget the horror in learning about the massacre of 26 innocent elementary school students, teachers and administrators in Newtown, Connecticut. We as yet have little clue as to what motivated the shooter, though it is hard to fathom how anyone can mow down so many, so innocent. While murder is, of course, never acceptable, no parent can see young children killed without experiencing the utmost depths of sadness.

Finally, the week concluded with our annual dinner dance. There, too, emotions were plentiful, though here in a positive vein. We

Accountability

—Continued from page 2

but only a few hours after the request was sent. They also capably staffed a carnival at our Hanukkah party to raise money for storm relief.

At its best, Judaism strengthens our most positive inclinations. At Midnight Runs to provide food and clothing for the homeless, and in so many other settings within and beyond our synagogue, we have multiple opportunities, across the generational span, to demonstrate our accountability to others.

To temper SSSCU, let’s add a new message: SGT BATH. So glad to be able to help.

How fortunate we are to be heirs to such a longstanding tradition of accountability.

celebrated two wonderful couples, who reflect the beautiful diversity of our *kehillah*. One couple, Bracha and Marty Werber, have established themselves as leaders not only in our synagogue but also on the national and international front, with involvement in activities of JTS, Solomon Schechter, United Synagogue, Mercaz USA and the Fuchsberg Center in Jerusalem. The other, Joanna and David Eshaghoff, have emerged as leaders of the next generation, with activities ranging from Beth HaGan programming and fundraising to issues of building maintenance and development. They participate in many of our family-oriented events, bringing others with them to broaden their involvement. We couldn’t help but feel the high esteem in which both couples are held by their friends and family in the remarks made to them. That warmth continued through the balance of the evening, where the hard work of the Dinner Dance Committee, couldn’t be missed, in arranging an elegant affair. It exemplified what makes our synagogue so special.

Congregation Says Thank You to Many 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*.

Contributions toward the *kiddush* on November 10 were made by Lisa and Martin Ghatani and Diana and Steve Kadan in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Benjamin, and Tina and Avraham Kasab in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Solly.

A contribution toward the *kiddush* on November 17 was made by Neda and Farid Sedgh in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Victoria.

Contributions toward the *kiddush* on November 24 were made by Kitty and Haim Dadi in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Michael, and Fariba and Sam Shamouilian in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Sally.

DAILY MINYAN TIMES

Mon. & Thur.	6:45 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Tues. & Wed.	7:00 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Tues., Dec. 25	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Tues., Jan. 1	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Fri., Dec. 21	7:00 A.M.	6:30 P.M.
Fri., Dec. 28	7:00 A.M.	4:30 P.M.
Fri., Jan. 4	7:00 A.M.	4:30 P.M.
Sat., Dec. 22	8:45 A.M.	3:50 P.M.
Sat., Dec. 29	8:45 A.M.	3:55 P.M.
Sat., Jan. 5	8:45 A.M.	4:00 P.M.
Sunday	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.

MAZAL TOV TO . . .

- Eileen and Mickey Putterman on the birth of their great-grandson, Max Jordan Tannous.
- Laurie and Gary Damast on the birth of their twin granddaughters, Abigail Paige and Madeline Rose Damast.
- Abraham Damast on the birth of his twin great-granddaughters, Abigail Paige and Madeline Rose Damast.
- Tina and Sonny Tito on the engagement of their son, Ilan, to Brandi Siegel.
- Ellen and Martin Domnitch on the engagement of their daughter, Shayna, to Matthew Angrist.

SABBATH SERVICES

—Continued from back page

Friday, January 4

Evening Service 4:30 P.M.

Saturday, January 5

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Shemot*

Exodus 1:1 – 6:1

Haftarah: Isaiah 27:6 – 28:13; 29:22 – 23

Sabbath Service Officers:

Barbie Erlich and Dr. Robert Lopatkin

Bat Mitzvah

CLARA GOLDBERGER

daughter of Maggie and Daniel Goldberger

Shabbat Up Close & Personal 10:30 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Mincha and *Ma'ariv* 4:00 P.M.

Havdalah 5:23 P.M.

D'VAR TORAH

—Continued from back page

***Shemot* Saturday, January 5**

The book of Exodus begins in this portion and moves from the account of the history of a clan to the history of the Hebrew nation. A new king, who does not know Joseph, ascends the throne of Egypt and enslaves the Israelites. Moses is born to Israelite parents, but owing to a set of strange circumstances, he grows up in Pharaoh's palace as an Egyptian prince. He goes out to observe the Israelites at work and kills an Egyptian taskmaster for beating a slave. He is then forced to flee for his life to Midian where he marries and becomes a shepherd for his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. While tending his flock at Mt. Horeb (Sinai), Moses encounters God in a burning bush and is commissioned to return to Egypt and free his people. Accompanied by his brother, Aaron, he makes an appeal to Pharaoh, which is totally rejected. Events are thus set in motion, which will lead to the Exodus and Moses' life-long task of bringing his people back to their land.

COME TO TEMPLE ISRAEL FOR DINNER & A MOVIE

**SPONSORED BY TEMPLE ISRAEL LIFELONG LEARNING (TILL),
THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE & THE EMPTY NESTERS**

*Sunday evening has just gotten better! Finish off your weekend
with dinner and a movie with friends at Temple Israel.
Three outstanding Israeli films will be shown the second Sunday
in January, February and March, followed by a discussion.
Come to one, come to all!*

The films are FREE to Temple Israel members, family and friends,
with an optional dinner preceding the show.
Israeli dinner provided by Kriza, \$20/person.
Dinner at 6:30 P.M. Movie at 7:30 P.M.

● ● ● ● MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR ● ● ● ●

JANUARY 13 - "WALK ON WATER"

Eyal (Lior Ashkenzai), in the Israeli Secret Service, is in the business of killing terrorists. After the death of his wife, however, he gets a new assignment: to track down and take out an aging Nazi war criminal "before God does." The Nazi's gay grandson, Axel (Knut Berger), will soon be visiting his sister, Pia (Caroline Peters), who has left Berlin to live in a kibbutz in Israel. Eyal poses as an employee of "Horizon Tours Israel" in order to get close to the German brother and sister in an effort to find their grandfather. The movie follows Eyal as he grows from a methodical killer to someone else entirely. In addition to outstanding acting, it features a great soundtrack including music by Bruce Springsteen, Buffalo Springfield and Gigliola Cinquetti.

*Discussion following the film will be led by David Newman,
executive director of the Long Island Jewish Community Relations Council.*

FEBRUARY 10 - "FOR MY FATHER"

Terek, a Palestinian forced on a suicide mission in Tel Aviv to redeem his father's honor, is given a second chance when the fuse on his explosive vest fails to detonate. Forced to spend the weekend in Tel Aviv awaiting its repair, Terek must live among the people he was planning to kill. To his surprise, he connects with several Israelis on the outskirts of society, including the beautiful Keren, who has cut off contact with her Orthodox family and upbringing. With nothing to lose, Terek and Keren open up to one another, and an unlikely love blooms between two isolated and damaged individuals, raised to be enemies. Spending this time with Keren and his new friends, Terek discovers the spark of life returning to fill his soul, but when the weekend ends, Terek must make the decision of his life.

MARCH 10 - "FOOTNOTE"

The story of a great rivalry between a father and son, both eccentric professors in the Talmud department of Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The son has an addictive dependency on the embrace and accolades that the establishment provides, while his father is a stubborn purist with a fear and profound revulsion for what the establishment stands for, yet beneath his contempt lies a desperate thirst for some kind of recognition. The Israel Prize, Israel's most prestigious national award, is the jewel that brings these two to a final, bitter confrontation.

Please include us in the Israeli dinner before the movie at \$20/person:

Name(s): _____

Number of People for Dinner: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

DROP OFF THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT to the Temple Israel office.

For further information call 482-7800

or e-mail Susan at <SMundhenk@tign.org>

Guest Column: Speak Out, Act Out—Exert Influence

—Continued from page 2

Centuries after that, Esther was told by Mordecai, “*umi yodea*, who knows, maybe you became queen so that you could step in right about now.”

And in our own time, Golda Meir said, “pessimism is a luxury that a Jew can never afford.”

From the time of Abraham to the initial entry into the land of Canaan, through long periods of exile, and right up through and beyond the establishment of the modern State of Israel, we’ve spoken out and acted out in order to influence the course of history for ourselves and others.

I’m afraid we’re getting too quiet, and I don’t know if that’s because we’re complacent or afraid or both.

*By and large,
Jews are talkers.
And that’s often been a
source of our influence.*

I could give many examples, but one area in which we are too quiet, which I’d like to address, pertains to the treatment of women.

Perhaps you saw the recent article in the Times. In Egypt, a professor of botany led a premarital class sponsored by the Muslim Brotherhood and he turned to the women in a mixed gender class and asked, “Can you, as a woman, make a decision and handle the consequences of your decision?”

At that point, apparently, a number of women shook their heads no, even before he provided his answer, and then he said to the women, “No you can’t make a decision and handle the consequences. But men can. And God created us this way because a ship cannot have more than one captain.” The overall message of the class was that women should submit to the authority of their husbands.

What can we do to influence that conversation which is potentially damaging for women and men? Perhaps it’s hard to influence a conversation in Egypt directly. But at least we should understand that a rising political group in Egypt is capitalizing on conservative values in ways that are potentially harmful to the nation and to the region.

Closer to our realm, we have more potential influence.

In Israel, a group of women gather monthly to pray at the Western Wall, the Kotel, as they have been since 1988. They are routinely arrested for reading from the

Torah, based on a decision rendered by the Israeli Supreme Court.

In this instance, we can exert influence. We can and should protest this travesty by visiting the Women of the Wall website and showing our support.

Which brings me even closer. Here we are in a community where numerous religious perspectives are competing for the attention and loyalty of our children and grandchildren, and it seems that we’re too tentative about our support for our approach, which features the full and equal participation of women in religious life such as it takes place here at Temple Israel.

Will we find the courage to say, to our friends and neighbors and aunts and uncles and cousins who may feel differently: “Our approach, which gives equal legitimacy to the voices of men and women, where women and men bring the words of the Torah to life through study and through beautiful traditional chanting such as we heard this morning—our approach is authentic and true and just what we should be doing.”

In the Torah, Rebecca had no less of a voice than Isaac—to the contrary. And the Mishnah itself records how women were called to the Torah. And even if all that weren’t the case, which it is, we believe that God wants us to keep Torah alive and just in each generation.

So what we are doing is authentic and true—the way we include women and, moreover, the intellectually open way in which we embrace Torah are authentic and true.

We should say that out loud.

We’re not supposed to be quiet.

To live quietly is not the Jewish way.

If we are involved in the practice of medicine, we can advocate, despite economic pressure to the contrary, for careful, compassionate care for each patient.

If we are teachers, we can be the voice for individualized learning despite pressure to standardize.

Whatever our role in running a business, let ours be the voices on behalf of honest practice and fair treatment of employees.

If we are a student in elementary or middle or high school, we can summon up the courage to say, when we see someone being ostracized or bullied, “That’s not right. It’s just not OK.”

And finally, we can’t be afraid to exert influence within our own families. I know full well that there is a lot of pressure on us to give children and grandchildren their space and not to impose. Space is nice—who doesn’t want space? But children and grandchildren don’t just need their space, they also need our influence.

What are we afraid of? That our loved ones won’t like us? That they’ll run away? And suppose they say, directly or indirectly, get out of my face. Does that mean we should withdraw immediately and permanently?

I don’t think so. It runs counter to Jewish tradition—the Hebrew word for parents, *horim*, is related to the word for teachers, *morim*. A parent should offer guidance and not just be a casual friend and grandparents offer an even grander perspective that should not be withheld.

We should not be afraid to let our children and grandchildren know, through words and actions, what we value in terms of behavior, ethics, dating and child-raising. And if they move in different directions, we need to continue to embrace them and to keep listening and talking. Sometimes we need to navigate creatively.

We don’t want to become pests to the next generation, but neither should we withdraw completely. And I don’t think they want us to withdraw. My own limited experience as the father of emerging adults reinforces that. We can find the right approach, the right tone, so that we exert positive influence.

And by the way, children can influence their parents and grandparents, too. Respectfully, in the right context. I’ve seen it happen. And spouses, and siblings—with

*Since our inception,
we have tried
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positive influence
in the world...*

common sense and respect and finding the right balance—can appropriately influence one another, as well.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, brings the following teaching:

“There are those who see the world as it is and accept it. That is the stoic way.

“There are those who see the world as it is and flee from it. That is the mystic, monastic way.

“But there are those who see the world as it is and change it. That is the Jewish way.”

My friends, we are a nation of talkers and doers, the proud children of Abraham and Sarah. Through our words and our actions, let all the families of the earth be blessed.

Congregation Marks the Passing of Former President Jack Stein

—Continued from front page

could bring to a community." He recalled Mr. Stein's fund raising efforts, which helped to "save" the Seminary during a financial crisis.

Temple Israel Senior Rabbi Howard Stecker referred to Mr. Stein as a visionary. "He was and will remain an immense source of illumination for our people," Rabbi Stecker said.

His many years in the public eye began simply enough, when he and his wife, Jean, joined Temple Israel 69 years ago, according to an interview with Mr. Stein published in *The Voice* last year.

"We discovered Temple Israel, which was founded the year before, and soon became the young congregation's 35th member family," he said. He became chairman of the Education Committee, Temple Israel vice president, and then the seventh president of the new congregation.

The presidency introduced Mr. Stein to the larger sphere of Jewish involvement. He became active in what is now the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, the organization of Conservative congregations, first as president of METNY, its New York region, and then as international president.

His election to that position was not without controversy. It was the same controversy rocking Temple Israel. Both the congregation and the Conservative Movement were wrestling with issues that would define the Movement: participation in the service by women, the degree of religious education to be afforded girls, and the format of the *Shabbat* service, among others. "The congregation was a microcosm of the issues fac-

ing the Conservative Movement," he said in *The Voice*. He became the only person to challenge the recommended slate of officers in the organization's history and in 1969 began a four-year tenure as president of United Synagogue.

The Yom Kippur War broke out during his term as chairman of The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, which he went on to lead. Seeking to put American Jewry in the best possible light, he came in frequent contact with the then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and members of the Nixon administration. He participated in meetings with President Nixon and Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir and played a significant role in having American munitions urgently shipped to Israel to enable it to fight off the then encroaching Arab armies.

He and his late wife, Jean, became friendly with the then ambassador to the United Nations, George H. W. Bush, and his wife, Barbara. They worked closely together to lobby for the release of four Israeli soldiers being held prisoners by Syria. When Mr. Bush became vice president, he would, on occasion, call upon Mr. Stein for guidance on matters relating to Israel and the American Jewish community. Mr. Stein was appointed a special advisor to President Reagan, serving in the White House during that administration. His calm and thoughtful demeanor and sage advice made him a valued advisor to President Reagan during battles over the sale of AWACS military aircraft to Saudi Arabia.

In 1986, he visited Israel with Vice President Bush and a group of Jewish supporters who encouraged presidential can-

didate Bush to reach out to Jewish voters.

Imagine the surprised *Bar Mitzvah* boy when Mr. Stein brought Vice President Bush to Temple Israel to join the congregation during a *Shabbat* service. The vice president sat in the Sanctuary, listening intently as Rabbi Waxman delivered his sermon.

During the Bush presidency, Mr. Stein was appointed a member of the United States delegation to the United Nations. He also served as a U.S. delegate to the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland.

A tour of the Stein Great Neck home in Harbor Hills includes walls of framed certificates of appreciation from Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin "for distinguished service to the State of Israel," from President Reagan "for serving as special advisor to the White House," and from his "dear friend," President George H. W. Bush. Another wall contains a ceremonial sword originally belonging to a captured Syrian general, presented to him in appreciation by Israel's 22nd Brigade in the Golan Heights in December, 1973.

Also on his wall is a certificate presented by the U.S. Congress, through the efforts of Rep. Gary Ackerman, containing remarks made by the congressman on the floor of Congress in 2008. "I use today to seek Congressional recognition of the lifetime of achievement of Jacob Stein," it says. "During his distinguished career, Jacob, or Jack as his friends refer to him, has made a lasting impact on our community and our nation. As a public, religious, civic and moral leader, his lifetime of achievement deserves both recognition and appreciation."

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D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Vayigash

Saturday, December 22

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, in this portion. 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, December 29

In this portion we conclude the cycle of Jacob stories and the Book of Genesis. After 17 years in Egypt, Jacob feels that his end is approaching. He makes Joseph swear that he will bury him with his forebearers in the land of Israel, and he blesses Joseph's children, 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, in the Book of Exodus, with its account of the enslavement and redemption.

—Continued on page 5

SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, December 21

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

Saturday, December 22

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Vayigash*

Genesis 44:18 – 47:27 *Haftarah*: Ezekiel 37:15 – 28

Sabbath Service Officers:

Pargol Khadavi and Miriam Kobliner

Bar Mitzvah

MATTHEW WEINSTEIN

son of Maria and Dr. Michael Weinstein

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Shabbat Game-a-Palooza 3:00 P.M.

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

Havdalah 5:13 P.M.

Friday, December 28

Evening Service 4:30 P.M.

Saturday, December 29

Shabbat Hazak

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Vayehi*

Genesis 47:28 – 50:26 *Haftarah*: I Kings 2:1 – 12

Sabbath Service Officers:

Larry Greengrass and Shahram Delafraz

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Mincha and *Ma'ariv* 3:55 P.M.

Havdalah 5:17 P.M.

—Continued on page 5