# TEMPLE ISRAEL OF GREAT NECK





Vol. LV, No. 10 February 14, 2013 4 Adar 5773

# Israeli High School Music Students Planning Return Visit and Performance In Great Neck



Israeli high school choral and orchestra students are making a return engagement to Great Neck as part of a musical experience sponsored by Temple Israel, Gahelet and Temple Beth-El.

Sixty young musicians from the city of Afula in northern Israel are coming to Great Neck for a weekend in March, their first stop as they travel to several U.S. communities. The students will stay with local families who will open their homes to the students.

Saturday evening, March 9, is opening night for Gal Alterovich, conducting the Afula Youth Orchestra and Yoram Zadok, conducting the Youth Chorus. "This performance weaves connections between American and Israeli students and families, as music is the common language understood by all," said Ofra Panzer, who is co-chairing the program.

The Afula students will arrive in Great Neck on Thursday, March 7. On Friday, the Hebrew-speaking musicians will spend the day with Great Neck North High School music students in teacher Joseph Rutkowski's instrumental band and orchestra classes.

The students and their hosts will join the congregation for the Men's Club's annual Friday night *Kabbalat Shabbat* service and dinner on March 8. Men's Club members will conduct the

——Continued on page 11

Israeli high school music students from the Afula Youth Chorus, above, and the Afula Youth Orchestra, right, will spend a weekend in March as guests of Temple Israel and its members. They will join the congregation at the Men's Club's annual Shabbat Dinner on March 8 and perform at a free concert at Temple Beth-El on Saturday evening, March 9.



# EMPTI Nesters Are Off and Running What's Going On

- By Barbara Spun

By Alan Klinger

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The EMPTI Nesters, the congregation's newest group, began a planned series of events with a Hanukkah progressive dinner, as described in this Voice Guest Column by one of the founders of the group, Barbara Spun. The next group event is a bowling night on Saturday, March 2. For details call 482-7800 ext. 1105.

Oh, what a night! There is no other way to describe the EMPTI Nesters kick-off event! A progressive dinner on December 15th, the last night of Hanukkah, helped make the Festival of Lights even brighter. What a wonderful way to celebrate our

# What a wonderful way to celebrate our Jewish Heritage...

Jewish heritage and the approach of the New Year. Kudos to all those who helped to make it possible.

It was a beautiful December evening when approximately 50 people, couples and singles, enjoyed their first course of hors d'oeuvres and wine. Lois and Gary Sazer graciously hosted half of the group, while Toby and Gary Noren hosted the other half. Thanks to them, the evening got off to a wonderful start. While munching on a delicious variety of cheeses, canapés and crudités, old acquaintances were re-acquainted and new friendships were sparked. Just when you thought you knew everyone at our *kehillah*, a new face appeared. Though no one wanted to leave, we convinced them that the next part of the dinner would be just as good.

The main course was hosted by many "Top Chefs." A delicious dairy dinner was prepared at the homes of Annie and Jerry Hirsh, Joyce and Burton Weston, Cheryl and Seth Moin, and Elise and Richard Kestenbaum. In keeping with the tradition of the holiday, potato latkes were enjoyed

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FROM THE RABBI -

# Getting to the Other Side

· By Rabbi Howard Stecker

Sammy comes home from Hebrew school and his parents ask, "What did you learn today?" He says, "The teacher told us a story about how a long, long time ago the children of Israel were being chased by Pharaoh and his soldiers. They got to the edge of the sea and they were trapped. All of a sudden, God sent Apache helicopters and the Israelites got on them. As they were flying away, the Egyptians began firing semi-automatic rifles. The Israelites fired back with Uzis, and before long, they landed safely on the other side of the sea where they boarded 747s and flew first-class, straight to Tel Aviv."

Sammy's parents are a little surprised by the story. "Is that what your teacher actually told you?" "Not exactly," says Sammy, "but if I told you the story my teacher told us, you'd never believe it."

About the Biblical story of the splitting of the sea and the Israelites' safe passage through it, many students of all ages have asked the question, did it happen? Is the story true?

Elie Wiesel once wrote that there are

some things which happened which are not so true and some things which may or may not have happened that are very true.

Speculation and archaeological research notwithstanding, it's not likely that we will ever determine the degree of historical truth behind this pivotal story in the Torah.

# The truth of that moment... is undeniable.

I challenge us, instead, to consider its emotional truth.

If we have ever felt that we are trapped and unable to move forward, the story of the crossing of the sea can give us hope that we might find a path where we didn't imagine once existed.

If we allow the story of our ancestors' finding a path, walking through that path, and singing a song of thanksgiving

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While we may be in the depths of winter (and finally have a snow storm to show for it), there is plenty of activity in the synagogue.

On the adult education front, we have clergy-led classes, featuring the most recent new forum led by Rabbi Stecker focusing on principles of moral justice. Last Sunday evening marked the second showing of our new Israeli film series with the presentation "For My Father." Rabbi Adelson led a post-showing discussion of the sensitive points raised in the movie of Israeli/Arab relations (and was feted by the group for his birthday). The third movie, "Footnote," is scheduled to be shown on March 10. Other upcoming events include an evening with the noted Iranian author and lecturer Gina

# ...please take advantage of these offerings.

Nahai (April 4), who speaks on contemporary issues in the Middle East and will offer her observations on Iranian-Jewish matters.

On the music front, we recently cosponsored an evening of cantorial music in a "Salute to Israel," held at Queens College. Among the featured performers was Cantor Mordecai Sobol, a mainstay of our High Holy Day worship. Next *Shabbat* afternoon we will be hosting a concert by Shir Appeal, a co-ed a capella group of Tufts University students. Later in the spring, look for our Hazamir program and, of course, on April 27 and 28, this year's Temple Israel Players presentation of "Fiddler on the Roof."

On the Chesed front, we, in conjunction with UJA-Federation, AmeriCorps and the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, are participating in a community-wide effort to feed the hungry. Consider this part of the Purim spirit of mishloah manot. In that regard, Sisterhood is participating in a nationwide mishloah manot project, mailing holiday packages nationwide. Our next Midnight Run, providing food and clothing to the needy, is scheduled for Saturday night, March 2. Donations can be dropped off at the synagogue office. In addition to food and clothing, our community needs to maintain an adequate supply of blood. In this regard, the annual Men's Club Blood Drive will be held on Sunday, March 10, from 8:30 A.M. to 1 P.M.

On the religious services front, our ——Continued on page 11

# In Memoriam-

Temple Israel extends condolences to the family of:

# JEROME RABIN

brother of Dr. Sheldon Rabin

May his memory be for a blessing.

# Mazal Tov To . . .

• Parvaneh and Dr. Parviz Khodadadian on the birth of their grandson, Etai Nathan Khodadadian.

# Temple Lites . . .

• Ilene Jarolem, daughter of Temple Israel members Susan and Max Jarolem, has been selected as the director of the 2013 Summer Pre-School Program at the Educational Alliance on the Lower East Side of New York City. Miss Jarolem received her B.A. degree from SUNY Albany in 2005 and an M.S. degree in Education, with distinction, from Hofstra University in 2007. She has been teaching pre-school for six years, and has been working at the Educational Alliance since September, 2012.

# CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Friday, February 15......5:11 P.M. Friday, February 22.....5:20 P.M.

Daily :	Minyan	TIMES
Mon. & Thur.	6:45 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Tues. & Wed.	7:00 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Friday, Feb. 15		6:30 P.M.
Friday, Feb. 22	7:00 A.M.	5:30 P.M.
Sat., Feb. 16	8:45 A.M.	4:50 P.M.
Sat., Feb. 23	8:45 A.M.	5:30 P.M.
Sunday	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.

# Next Voice, Deadlines

The next issue of The Voice will be published on Thursday, February 28. The deadline for that issue is Monday, February 18.

The following issue will be published on March 14. The deadline for that issue is Friday, March 1.

	ΙΙD	COMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAI	71 ——
Feb.	18	Bagels n' Box Program	11:00 A.M.
		Sponsored by Temple Israel and PJ Library	
	21	Men's Club Meeting	7:30 P.M.
	23	Erev Purim	7.00 1.1.11
	23	Purim Service Followed by Congregational Celebration	5:30 P.M.
	23	Purim Costume Contest for Adults and Children	7:00 P.M.
	24	Purim	
	24	Shalom Club Dinner and Lecture	6:30 P.M.
		With Guest Speaker Howard Stoffer	
	25	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 A.M.
	28	Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.
March	2	Midnight Run	7:30 P.M.
	2	EMPTI Nesters Bowling Night	7:15 P.M.
	3	New Member Spiritual Welcoming	10:00 A.M.
	8	Men's Club <i>Shabbat</i> Service and Dinner,	6:30 P.M.
		Waxman High School and Youth House Family Service,	
		and Afula Conservatory Program	
	9	"Shabbat Talk"	12:45 P.M.
	9	Afula Conservatory Concert at Temple Beth-El	7:30 P.M.
	10	Men's Club Blood Drive	8:30 A.M.
	10	Temple Israel Dinner and a Movie	6:30 P.M.
	15	Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Dinner	7:30 P.M.
		For College Grads and Friends	
	17	Rabbinic Dialogue at Great Neck Synagogue	10:00 A.M.
	17	Pesach University Led by Rabbi Stecker	11:00 A.M.
	17	Shalom Club Meeting	6:30 P.M.
	18	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 A.M.
	19	Waxman High School and Youth House	
		Chag Squad Program	
	10	//XA7: XA7:	0.15 DM

Join the Shalom Club for Dinner & Discussion

"Wine and Wisdom" Program

Men's Club "Scotch and Seder"

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# 'The Politics of Israel Today, The Future of Israel Tomorrow'

with Special Guest Howard Stoffer Sunday, February 24

optional dinner, wine & dessert: \$25 per person Dinner - 6:30 P.M. Program - 7:45 P.M.

# 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 recited after reading the *Megillah*. Happy Purim! What's your favorite quote? Send your suggestion to The Voice, c/o the Temple Israel office.

8:15 P.M.

6:30 P.M.

•• Praised are You Adonai our God, who rules the universe, championing our cause, avenging the wrongs done to us, liberating us from our enemies, and bringing retribution upon our persecutors. • 99

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



# Daniella Ohebshalom

Daniella Ohebshalom will be celebrating her *Bat Mitzvah* on March 2. She is the daughter of Tina and David Ohebshalom and has two younger brothers, Jared, 9, and Dylan, 4. Daniella is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. Daniella currently attends the Waxman High School and Youth House and plans to visit Israel this summer.

Dinner & A Movie at Temple Israel

"Footnote"
Sunday, March 10
7:30 P.M.

Reserve Now! For details call 482-7800

# El-Al Travel Points Needed

A wheelchair-bound child with Cerebral Palsy is coming back from Israel for *Pesach*. She needs an upgrade to travel Business Class to accommodate her needs. If anyone has points which are going to expire or would like to donate some, please contact Jessica Smooha at 376-8191.

# Torah Science Fair: Fun Meets Learning

By Rachel Mathless

It's freezing cold outside, but you'd never know it with all the plants steadily growing out of the soil and showing their green color in honor of *Tu B'Shevat*. Our *seder* took place on Friday, January 24th, when all the classes drank "wine" and sampled all kinds of exotic fruits. Our *Tu B'Shevat seder* was a celebration in the "rejoicing of the trees," in the reawakening of the earth after the winter rains in Israel. It is another connection we make between the Beth HaGan children and Israel. All the children made bird feeders to celebrate *Shabbat Shira*.

Of course, our annual Torah Science Fair was the highlight of the month of January, and what an outstanding event it was! Twelve classes displayed creative work linking it all to a topic studied in the Torah. The Tiny Toddlers made a beautiful ark for Noah, replete with all their own stuffed animals floating in their water table. Then they began to discover which items around their classroom float and which sink. They charted their experiments and shared their knowledge.

The Seals class replicated a huge tent of Avraham, complete with four doors which opened in all directions. They invited everyone in to have a rest and a cookie. As part of the Seals social science curriculum, the children studied habitats of other climates and each child built a house of their own choosing. Among the selections were igloos, log cabins, house boats, trailers, Japanese pagodas, and a tree house.

The Butterflies' topic was the creation of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Class parents who are in the medical field came to teach the children about how the human body works and they were amazed at how much our children knew. The Butterflies drew their own skeletons and clothed them with full-size body portraits. Then they charted what they knew, what they wanted to know and what they learned. Each child was profiled in pictures, showing their various stages of growth and the developmentally appropriate activities for each stage were shown in beautiful pictures.

The Gazelles topic was "Famine, Plenty, and the Dreams of Pharaoh." The class was divided into teams to plant and chart the growth of several types of seeds. Conditions both favorable and unfavorable to plant growth were imposed and all the changes were observed and graphed. Children charted the progress as they watched their germinating seeds grow. The seven "fat" cows which consumed the seven "skinny" cows were well executed. Joseph interpretations were articulated and accepted by a drowsy King Pharaoh.

——Continued on page 5



The entrance to the Beth HaGan 12th Annual Torah Science Fair.

# Torah Science Fair

—Continued from page 4

The Dolphins focused on the Third Day of Creation, when "Let There Be Light" was declared. The children spent several weeks investigating sources of light. They built a dark room discovering what gave off enough power to light up a small bulb and experimented with many fruits and vegetables. They tested their own hypotheses and came to many interesting conclusions.

The bats, snakes and scorpions hanging in and around the cave of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai were scary, but fun to make. All the pictures and documentation tell us how much fun the Kangaroos had learning about the lives of Rabbi Shimon and his son, Eliejar.

Our guest rabbi, who always brings interesting and diverse hands-on projects for all the fair goers, this year made beautiful hand-dipped colorful *Havdalah* candles and spice balls studded with delicious smelling cloves, as part of the Lambs display.

The fair had many more interactive projects and exhibits. Additional pictures can be seen on the new Temple website.

Beth HaGan students are now hard at work preparing for their gala Purim Costume Party and feast on February 21. Kugel is coming to entertain, and our Rabbis will play Purim songs.



Kangaroo class members sat in the cave of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, dodging snakes and scorpions.



The Tiny Toddlers class and their display, called "Noah's Ark."



The Bears class proudly exhibited all they learned about the Fifth Day of Creation.



The Kittens class used the five senses for their exhibit, called "Why I Like Shabbat."

# *Getting to the Other Side*

-Continued from page 2

on the other side, to encourage us to believe that we, too, might find a path and sing a song, then we have embraced the truth of this story.

A century and a half ago, even the most enlightened anti-slavery proponent believed that Black Americans were not equal to Whites in any way. A few weeks ago, the nation's first African American president was inaugurated for the second time.

Months ago, the Israeli public wondered if the only option for the direction of the nation was more extremism and more intransigence. A few weeks ago, they discovered that, due to their own efforts, they managed to find a more moderate and sensible path.

The seventh grader who wonders how he or she will survive the social pressures of middle school one day makes it to young adulthood and realizes that the things that are traumatic at 12 and 13 don't matter so much at 20.

The person who feels fully disconnected from Jewish tradition discovers, if the community is sufficiently welcoming, that there are many ways to enter and engage.

There is a rabbinic teaching that comes from "Masechet Brachot," the passage of the Talmud that deals with blessings, which goes as follows: Whoever sees a passageway in the sea ought to give thanks to God.

Literally, the teaching enables us to recall the crossing of the sea, described and immortalized in the book of Exodus.

But it also reminds us that transitional opportunities are a gift. They propel life forward and are the engine behind societal growth.

We may often not know how we'll get to the other side but, surprisingly often, we do get there. The truth of that moment, lived and recalled, is undeniable. And, just as we did long ago at the other side of the sea, we say "thank you."

# EMPTI Nesters Events

—Continued from page 2

by all. At dinner we got to know each other better, had many laughs and exchanged new recipes. Soon it was on to our final course.

We all reconvened at the home of Nancy and Larry Greengrass. By this time we didn't think anything could surpass the first two courses, but dessert was the pièce de résistance. The highlights were the lighting of Hanukkah candles, with all of us participating, as well as the beautiful piano playing by Larry. Many of us joined in by singing to popular show tunes. How much better can it get! Delicious home baked desserts were served, but the warmth we all felt inside was not from the tea or coffee. It was from having celebrated a Hanukkah evening together at the homes of friends. Thanks to all who participated that night. We look forward to seeing you at our next event.

YOUR BLOOD CAN SAVE LIVES
—and it's a mitzvah to give blood.

Men's Club Blood Drive

Sunday, March 10
8:30 A.M.-1 P.M.
Crystal Ballroom

A photo ID and your Social Security number are needed. All ages 17-75 welcome.

For further information contact Dr. Charles Adler at 482-4481 or ciadler@aol.com

₹........

Calling All Women for Shabbat Kol Ishah

Shabbat Kol Ishah will be held on Shabbat Tazria-Metzorah, April 12 and 13. Kabbalat Shabbat, Shabbat morning and Mincha services will be led by women of the congregation.

> Join Cantor Frieder on Wednesday evenings at 8:15 P.M. for classes to prepare for leading services, chanting Haftarah and more!

For further information. contact Lori Oppenheimer at Lso@verizon.net or Rebecca Sassouni at rebeccasassouni@gmail.com

# Celebrate Purin at Temple Israel

# Purim and The Power To Do What Is Right

By Rabbi Seth Adelson

This year, Purim falls on the earliest possible date that it can on the Gregorian calendar: February 24, when winter will still be in full swing. As I write this, a snowstorm of apparently epic proportions is churning its way across the continent, headed our way. Frantic, alarmist headlines are appearing in bold caps on Internet weather sites: "HISTORIC, EXTREME SNOW," "YOU MUST PREPARE NOW"!

Snow in the month of Adar reminds me of a story. Once it happened that snow fell in Chelm, the famous Polish *shtetl* inhabited by the dimmest bulbs in the electric menorah. The whole town was so awe-struck by the beautiful, crystalline layer of Divine white powder that when they realized that the *shammash* (synagogue caretaker) had to trample across the snow to get to the *shul* to open it and turn on the heat, the townspeople raised a ruckus.

"But he'll ruin this gorgeous gift from God!" they cried. Ideas were proposed and rejected. Then one wise sage proposed the fol-

God's physical and spiritual presence are manifest ...in the actions of Esther and Mordecai... lowing: "Let's put him on a table, and then four of us will carry him to the synagogue. That way, the *shammash*'s feet will never touch the lovely snow!" And everybody agreed that this was the best solution.

Taking the matter into their own—rather silly—hands the wise

people of Chelm preserved the fine snow from the corrupting feet of their *shammash*, according to the extent of their wisdom and ability. Likewise, the story of Esther demonstrates how a bad outcome can be turned around using human ingenuity. It is notable that God is not mentioned in the entire book of Esther, nor is any Torah-based ritual practice of Judaism described (we are left to wonder if Esther maintained the dietary laws in the king's palace by ordering in from the local kosher Chinese place, Shu Shan Dynasty).

God's physical and spiritual presence are manifest not in the actual events or dialogue of the book, but rather in the actions of Esther and Mordecai in their efforts to save their people. As Rabbi Alan Lucas puts it in the Conservative movement's fantastic new compendium on Jewish practice, "The Observant Life": "The Book of Esther, unlike other biblical works, describes salvation as coming not from a God acting above and beyond the natural order, but from a God who appears to work through and within history."

"Esther," one of the latest books in the Hebrew canon, and one of only two that describes our people as "Jews" (rather than Israelites), represents a paradigm shift in our understanding of how God works. We are God's hands; we do the holy work that God demands of us. Perhaps the joyous celebration and unabashed fun associated with Purim is partially owed to the realization that God has given us a measure of power to do what is right and just: to work for change, for freedom, for our people, and for the world.

# PURIM SERVICE SCHEDULE

# Pre-School & Kindergarten Service

At 6:15 P.M. there will be a service for pre-schoolers, kindergartners, and their families in the Crystal Ballroom. The service will be led by Religious School teachers Jennifer Khoda and Donna Lefkowitz, and will feature singing and stories, followed by refreshments.

# Megillah Reading

From 6:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. there will be a Megillah Reading in the Sanctuary. The service will be led by Rabbis Stecker and Adelson, and will include participation by students of the Waxman High School, a sing-a-long, video presentation, and a costume contest for adults.

Mincha, Ma'ariv & the Whole Megillah!

Mincha, Ma'ariv and a full Megillah reading will start at 5:30 P.M. in the Blue Room. Cantor Frieder will lead the service, with participation by students from the Waxman High School.

Bring a box of rice, macaroni and cheese or other pasta to use as a grogger! When the service is over, the groggers will be placed in a collection box to be donated to a local food pantry by the Temple Israel Chesed Connection.

Following the Blue Room and Sanctuary services, refreshments will be served and music provided by Cantor Frieder and the Temple Israel Band.

# Congregation Thanks Recent Shabbat Kiddushim Sponsors

A contribution toward the *kiddush* on January 5 was made by Maggie and Daniel Goldberger in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Clara.

The congregational *kiddush* on January 12 was sponsored by Dr. Michal Gombos and William Perlman in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Lauren.

# Passover Wine Sale Raising Funds for the Congregation

Now is the time to plan for your 2013 Passover wines! Everyone needs delicious kosher wines for Passover—for the four cups and for *kiddush* during *Pesach* and for *kiddush* and house gifts throughout the year. All profits from the Wine Sale go to Temple Israel.

Wonderful kosher wines are now available from Israel, the United States, Australia, France and Italy. The Shalom Club is once again managing the annual Temple Israel Passover Wine Sale. Wines are delivered to your door.

A great selection of exceptional and prize winning reds and whites are on the wine list, as well as several traditional sweet sacramental wines and kosher-for-Passover brandy and vodka. Special requests can also be accommodated.

It's easy! Look for the order form on page 9 of this issue of The Voice, fill it out and return it with payment to the Temple Israel office.

# Passover Candy Sale

sponsored by the Beth HaGan PTA

All candy and confections have a certification of "Kosher for Passover." Please fill out this order form and mail or bring it to the Beth HaGan school office with checks, made payable to the "Beth HaGan PTA." Checks must accompany order. FILL IN SCHOOL CODE 700924 ON LAST LINE BELOW.

Thanks for your support!

NOTE: ALL ITEMS CAN BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBSITE.							2642 CHOCO. COV. MATZAH CRACKERS (P)	2591 RASPBERRY CHOCO. JELLIES (P)	2564 CHOCOLATE COV. MACAROONS (P)	2560 ALMOND BARK (P)	2541 SEDER MINTS (P)	2529 FRUIT SLICES (P)	2501 COCONUT MACAROONS (P)	ITEM# PASSOVER ITEM DESCRIPTION (
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The marriage of Dr. Stephen Gould, son of Drs. Madelyn

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The Pastoral Committee's kindness and support during the shiva period for her mother, Jessie Freedman Donna Ludwig and

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In honor of:

Susan and Dr. Arden Smith for their community service Anonymous

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*In honor of:* 

The marriage of their son, Ilan, to Brandi Siegel William Ungar's 100th

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Tina and Sonny Tito The birth of Max Jordan Tannous, great-grandson

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In honor of:

Roger Hyman, son of Sheila and Douglas Hyman,

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*In memory of:* 

Joe Tune Helen Traub

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# **RUTH AND RABBI MORDECAI WAXMAN**

Gessin

**MEMORIAL FUND** In honor of:

William Ungar's 100th

birthday Laura and Manny Bardash

In memory of:

Jack Stein

Dr. Mordecai Gabriel

Rose Rudich

# Israeli High School Music Students Planning Return Performance In Great Neck, Stay With Congregation

——Continued from front page

service and welcome the students and their hosts. The choral students from Afula will perform during the dinner.

In the spirit of welcoming *Shabbat* together, each hosting family is invited to bring two adults to the Men's Club dinner free of charge.

Their main performance will be a free concert at 8 P.M. on Saturday evening at Temple Beth-El. The community is invited to participate in Havdalah, followed by the performance. Concert details will be in the next issue of The Voice.

On Sunday the student musicians will have breakfast with Gahelet students at the Waxman Youth House before heading to their next stop on their tour.

"We are currently seeking Great Neck families to host two Israeli visitors each," said Rob Panzer, who is co-chairing the event. Hospitality is needed for ten adults and 60 students.

Hospitality requirements are:

- A cozy bed for three nights (Thursday, Friday, Saturday);
- Meals for dinner on Thursday, a quick breakfast on Friday, and three meals on Saturday;
- Meeting and picking-up students and their luggage at Temple Israel on Thursday, dropping them off at North High School on Friday morning, dropping them off at Temple Beth-El on Saturday evening for the

concert and picking them up following the performance, and dropping them off at the Waxman Youth House on Sunday morning.

For additional details and to volunteer to host students, contact event organizers Ofra and Rob Panzer at 840-2848 or cpanzerwizardo@gmail.com>.

The Afula students came to Great Neck two years ago for a similar weekend visit,

meeting students from Great Neck North High School and members of the congregation, followed by a performance for the community.

"The boys who stayed with us were charming," said one of the host families about their guests in 2011. "Our kids are still connected via Facebook...We became close and even planned a visit to our Afula student's family when we were in Israel..."

# From the President: What's Going On

—Continued from page 2

Purim celebration will begin at 5:30 P.M. on Saturday, February 23. There will be a separate service for young children and their families beginning at 6:15 P.M., and all are invited to participate in a costume contest to reflect this joyous occasion. The Men's Club will lead *Shabbat* services on Friday evening, March 8, and our next iteration of *Shabbat Kol Ishah* will be held April 12-13.

On the affinity front, our long-established Shalom Club is hosting a discussion on international relations, especially the Middle East, with former United Nations diplomat Howard Stoffer, a frequent guest at our annual Jacob Stein Yom Kippur Forum. The program, which includes an optional dinner, is on February 24. And, the newly established EMPTI Nesters group is seeking participants for a bowling night on Saturday, March 2.

And, on the Great Neck Jewish community front, the annual Rabbinic Dialogue, featuring the rabbis of Beth-El, Great Neck Synagogue and Temple Israel, is scheduled for Sunday, March 17, at 9:15 A.M. (hosted this year by Great Neck Synagogue). On the Israel/Great Neck community front, as featured in this issue of The Voice, we look forward to a return visit by the Afula Conservatory Orchestra and Chorus, comprised of Israeli high school teens. They will be spending several days with us, which will include a concert, a visit to Great Neck North High School and a mixing with our own teens at the Waxman Youth House as we look to build bridges between these students and our own.

Besides programming, watch also for continued development of our new website. The goal is to make it easier for you to learn all that we have to offer. Let us know if you have any suggestions for new activities and, please, take advantage of these offerings.

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# SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, February 15

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

Saturday, February 16

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Terumah*; Exodus 25:1 – 27:19 *Haftarah*: I Kings 5:26 – 6:13

Sabbath Service Officers: Dr. Zina Rutkin-Becker and Gary Sazer Machon Alone Family Service 10:30 A.M. Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M. Toddler Service 11:00 A.M. "Shir Appeal" Performance 12:45 P.M.

Mincha and Ma'ariv4:50 P.M.Havdalah6:12 P.M.

Friday, February 22

Evening Service 5:30 P.M.

Saturday, February 23 Erev Purim - Shabbat Zakhor

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Tetzaveh

Exodus 27:20 - 30:10; Deuteronomy 25:17 - 19

*Haftarah:* I Samuel 15:2 – 34

Sabbath Service Officers: Barbara Erlich and Shahram Delafraz

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Mincha, Ma'ariv and Megillah Reading 5:30 P.M.

Led by Cantor Frieder

Purim Pre-School and Kindergarten Service 6:15 P.M.

Led by Jennifer Khoda and Donna Lefkowitz

Havdalah 6:18 P.M.

Megillah Reading Led by Rabbis Stecker and Adelson 6:30 P.M.
Followed by Congregational Purim Celebration in the
Reception Area of the Main Ballroom

# D'VAR TORAH By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

# Terumah Saturday, February 15

In this portion, we find a description of the *Mishkan*, the portable sanctuary which was built in the wilderness to house the ark with the tablets of the Ten Commandments. The purpose of the *Mishkan* was to serve as a sign that God dwelt among His people. Moses is directed to gather from the Israelites a free will offering of all manner of precious metals, jewels, fine wood, fine materials and spices to use in constructing the *Mishkan* and its appurtenances. Specific instructions are then given for building the furnishings of the *Mishkan* and the special tent that housed them. The *Mishkan*, as a whole, was meant to be a symbol, a portable Sinai, reminding the Israelites on their journey through the wilderness of their unique experience at the mountain. The *Mishkan* evolved by way of the Temple in Jerusalem into the synagogue, but the purpose remained the same. To this day, whenever we open the ark and look upon the Torah scrolls, we stand again at Sinai.

## Tetzaveh Saturday, February 23

We move from instructions for the creation of the physical Mishkan to details concerning the officiants in this portion. At the outset, Moses is directed to see to it that a light is kept burning in the Mishkan, a task that is to be performed by priests. He is then directed to appoint Aaron and his sons to the priestly office. There follows a detailed description of the vestments of the High Priest and the ordinary priests. Finally, the rituals of installation for the priests are laid out. The Mishkan, as sacred space, is differentiated from profane space by its design. In like manner, its officiants are to be distinguishable from the laity by their attire and insignia of office. In particular, the High Priest is to wear vestments which symbolize his role as representative of the entire community before God. The High Priest, who presided over sacrificial rites, evolved into the prayer leader of today's synagogue. That individual is still designated shaliach tzibur, the representative of the congregation.