



Shalom Club members celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Temple arm.

## Shalom Club Marks 50 Years of Friendship

By Marc Katz, Editor

They came together as new members of Temple Israel; recently married couples looking for others to share religious and social experiences within their new community and congregation.

From that desire was born Temple Israel's Shalom Club more than 50 years ago. Over the years the group thrived, grew, and nurtured a generation of congregational leadership. Members bonded, with many forming lifelong friendships. "The membership had—and still have—wonderful, wonderful warmth for each other and for Temple Israel," said Eileen Putterman, one of the founders of the Shalom Club and a past president of both the club and the congregation. "It is simply a group of very caring people."

The Shalom Club's golden anniversary was marked recently at a celebration held at the Waxman Youth House. Under the leadership of Mickey Putterman (both the group's first and current president), members reminisced about past group activities, sang songs and danced together, remembered members of the organization no longer with them, and

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Shalom Club founders at the group's 50th anniversary included, left to right, Stan Goldfarb, Mickey Putterman, Eileen Putterman and Dr. Renee Fleischer. Photos by Laura Bardash

## New Temple Israel Parent Group Forms First Event, a BBQ, On August 1

A new Temple Israel social group—Temple Israel Bonds—is forming for parents of school-aged children. Their first event, "a casual but chic catered barbeque," is scheduled for Thursday evening, August 1, and open to all members of the congregation and their friends.

"We realized a need for a group like this at Temple Israel," said Robin Fleishman, an organizer of Temple Israel Bonds. "We thought the group would both bring the congregation's younger couples together and also attract younger couples to the congregation." Anyone with school-aged children is welcome, including both couples and single parents.

The group began more than a year ago as a small group of acquaintances that began meeting regularly for dessert. As more and more friends joined in, they eventually grew to 20 couples.

The barbecue is the first event open to the entire congregation. Other planned events will be for families, while some will just be for adults.

In the planning stage are a series of events "to allow us to learn together, travel together, socialize together," said Rebecca Yousefzadeh Sassouni, another group organizer. "Our goal is to make people comfortable with each other and with Temple Israel."

A steering committee led by Jackie Einstein Astrof formed with the goal of making the group an official arm of the congregation. "We hope to become a younger version of the Shalom Club, similar to Temple Israel's old Couples Club," Ms. Sassouni said.

Members of the steering committee include Gina Ajodan, Eleanor Yomtobian Askari, Jackie Einstein Astrof, Ronda Bloom, Deborah Clayden, Larisa Davidson,

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## Shalom Club Celebrates 50 Years

By Eileen Putterman

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The Shalom Club looks back at 50 years of congregational life in this Voice Guest Column by Past President Eileen Putterman. For membership information, call her at 516-482-6527.

This 50th anniversary is dedicated to Rabbi and Ruth Waxman. Their extraordinary friendship, coupled with their excitement of transmitting knowledge, was our key to a lifetime of ongoing fulfillment.

*Let it be known to all  
our door is always open  
to bid you shalom!*

Please sing the following verse to the tune of "If You Wore a Tulip!" Here goes: "If you joined Shalom Club and I joined Shalom Club, we all had a real good time. The members are charming, they're also disarming, when they've had a glass of wine! You'll always feel cheery and never get

FROM THE RABBI

## Av: The Month of Uprisings

By Rabbi Seth Adelson

My summer travels have found me gallivanting through multiple airports, and while trying vainly to find a wi-fi signal in Ataturk International (i.e. Istanbul, where a violent anti-government protest was in progress, although thankfully nowhere near Gate G-11), it occurred to me that if Israel is ever at peace with all of her neighbors, Ben Gurion Airport could be an international hub that rivals the big European airports. Peace produces prosperity.

Meanwhile, the drama in Egypt has been working up for a few weeks now, and I must confess that I am following it with slightly more interest than I would the average Middle Eastern uprising. I suspect that instability in Israel's largest and most powerful neighbor is, at least in the short term, good for the Jewish state. First, the Egyptian military is interested in maintaining peace, and honoring prior agreements is the best way to do so. Second, the leaders of this coup are mostly former allies of Hosni Mubarak, the deposed president, who (despite his many failings) did keep those agreements during his tenure. Third, we can be sure that just about any ruling party that will succeed the Muslim Brotherhood and now-deposed president Mohamed Morsi will be better for

teary 'cause you will have friends galore. It will seem sweeter than tsimmiss, discussions, no limits, Shalom Club forever more."

You are always invited to join the creative world of Jewish life that Shalom Club brings to Temple Israel through 50 years of outstanding cultural events and programs designed to introduce members and have them fully enjoy the benefits of Jewish tradition, encompassing dialogues on current political issues, theater, art literature, ritual and for the relationship to and the benefit of the State of Israel. The Shalom Club opened membership to young Jewish couples already at Temple Israel and to those who had not yet joined a temple. As part of the by-laws, you could not hold office in the Shalom Club or serve on the Temple

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relations with Israel. But in the long term, stability will be far more valuable.

As we are now into the Nine Days of the month of Av, the somber lead-up to Tisha B'Av, I am reminded that uprisings and their aftermath tend to come during the hot summer months (think the Fourth

*After the destruction  
of the Second Temple,  
Judaism was  
fundamentally  
changed...*

of July or Bastille Day, July 14th, in France). True, the Jewish rebellion against the Romans had been raging for three years, only to be crushed on the ninth day of Av in the year 70 CE with the destruction of the Second Temple; the Babylonian destruction of the First Temple on the same day in 586 BCE followed a siege that may have lasted the better part of a year. But the dramatic

—Continued on page 4

## On Volunteering

By Alan Klinger

This column is not about our talented clergy. Neither is it about our able educators and the improved programs being undertaken in our schools. Nor, even the upgraded work being performed by our executive director and his dedicated staff. Rather, the focus of this piece is on the importance of you, as volunteers, in facilitating our being able to function, day in and day out, 365 days a year.

While we support a healthy budget of \$5.2 million per year, we couldn't provide our rich array of activities (religious, educational, cultural and social) if we had to pay for all the tasks needed to support them. Instead, we benefit from the expertise and diligence of scores of congregants who de-

*...we benefit from  
the expertise and  
diligence of scores  
of congregants...*

vote significant amounts of time in a wide range of areas. To name just a few (always a risk, but others will be featured in future articles), we profit from a hard-working Finance Committee, led by Sue Lopatkin, which helps us make the hard choices in assessing revenue/expense levels. We have a House Committee, led by Marty Werber, which considers needed improvements to the building plant (not the sexiest of matters, but significant to providing the proper foundation for our activities). We have a Security Committee, led by Joe Farber and Alan Itchkow, that is involved in evaluating the utilization of new technologies to make us safer without making us feel like we exist in a fortress. We have a Religious School Education Committee, led by Miriam Kobliner and Rachel Geulah, which works with Rabbi Roth to enhance the experiences of our children in this mission so critical to the future of our faith. We have an Adult Education Committee, led by Rebecca Friedman-Charry, that is intent on opening new doors for learning that will interest a greater percentage of our *kehillah*. Along with these groups and our long-established arms (Men's Club, Sisterhood and Shalom Club, whose efforts shouldn't go unrecognized), we've added a new Communications Committee, led initially by Dan Goldberger and Sam Husney, to advise on how we can

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## IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences  
to the families of:

**LAURA SCHWEBER**

esteemed member of Temple Israel

**ANNE SPUNBERG**

mother of Howard Spun

**ARTY BARKAS**

father of Daryl Schulman

**JERROLD SHAMES**

brother of Jordan Shames

May their memories be for a blessing.

## MAZAL TOV TO . . .

• Lida and Dr. Moosa Nejat on the birth of their grandson, Eric Ezra Nejat.

## CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

*Kindle the Sabbath Lights!*

Friday, July 12.....8:09 P.M.

Friday, July 19.....8:05 P.M.

Friday, July 26.....7:59 P.M.

## 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.

Tues., July 16 6:45 A.M. 8:00 P.M.

(Tisha B'Av)

Friday 7:00 A.M. 6:30 P.M.

Sat., July 13 8:45 A.M. 7:50 P.M.

Sat., July 20 8:45 A.M. 7:45 P.M.

Sat., July 27 9:00 A.M. 7:40 P.M.

Sunday 8:15 A.M. 8:00 P.M.

## Next Voice Issue, Deadline

The next issue of The Voice will be published in three weeks, on Thursday, August 1. The deadline for that issue is Friday, July 19.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

July	15	<i>Erev</i> Tisha B'Av	
	16	Tisha B'Av	
	19	<i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> Service and Dinner	7:30 P.M.
		For College Grads and Friends	
August	1	"Temple Israel Bonds" Barbeque	8:00 P.M.
		For parents with school-aged children	
	29	Waxman High School and Youth House Geniza Day	
	31	Selihot	
Sept.	4	<i>Erev</i> Rosh Hashanah	
	5	Rosh Hashanah	
	7	<i>Shabbat Shuvah</i>	
	13	Kol Nidre	
	14	Yom Kippur	

## Sisterhood Summer Luncheon

Monday, July 29

11:30 A.M.

at the home of

Brenda Kopelowitz

33 Hickory Drive

- Delicious homemade foods
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Members Free - Guest Fee \$5

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## TEMPLE ISRAEL INVITES YOU TO OBSERVE TISHA B'AV

Commemorating the Destruction of the First Temple (in 586 BCE), the Second Temple (in 70 CE) in Jerusalem, and the Exile of the Jewish People.

This solemn day reflects the greatest tragedies of Jewish history (including the Holocaust), but also serves as a reminder that the Jewish tradition of renewal is alive in Israel and in America. It is customary to fast from sunset until dark the following night.

### Monday Evening, July 15 - 8 P.M.

Minhah, Ma'ariv and the reading of *Eikhah* (the Book of Lamentations), led by Rabbi Seth Adelson and Cantor Raphael Frieder, and members of the congregation who will chant *Eikhah* and other selections.

*It is traditional to sit on the floor and sing mournful melodies, but chairs will also be available.*

**Tuesday, July 16 - Shahrith 6:45 A.M.** (without *tallit* and *tefillin*), including Torah reading and *kinot* (poems of lament)

**Minhah 1 P.M.** (with *tallit* and *tefillin*) - **Ma'ariv 8 P.M.** Fast ends at 9:08 P.M.

# Shalom Club Celebrates 50 Years

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Board without being a member of Temple Israel. We always had one or two couples in our midst that were not members of the synagogue, but they ultimately joined the Temple family and remained for a lifetime!

“Why?” you might ask. We’ll be delighted to tell you.

Please take a look at a small part of typical programming:

- Concern regarding the social and cultural problems of the American Jewish community. We collectively discussed the Task Force Report of the Future of American Jewry under the leadership of two of our club members who are not only certified social workers, but are also familiar with the topic.

- “The Jewish Dream Machine” Example: Do you dream of being Henrietta Szold, Eddie Cantor, Sarah Bernhardt, or perhaps David Ben Gurion? Come dressed as your favorite Jewish dream personality and be prepared to tell why you chose that individual.

- “A Day on the East Side of New York City” Rows of pushcarts selling eyeglasses, food stops, clothing and linens, all in costumes of the early 1900s, accordionist playing on the street, eating potato latkes, and ice cream cones.

- “An Evening of Agnon—Israel’s Poet Laureate” Listen to Robert Alter, noted author, Guggenheim Fellow, and well known critic, whose articles regularly appear in Commentary, Book Week and elsewhere, who spoke on “Agnon: Tradition and the Modern Experience.”

We regularly traveled to retreats for our own *Shabbatons*, held our own services, wrote our own songs to sing around campfires in the evening. We traveled hither and yon to see great examples of synagogues, museums of Jewish interest, the oldest syna-

agogue on Long Island, and traveled together overseas to Israel, Barcelona, Budapest and Prague. And, then, on to Jordan and Israel, the diamond in the Crown which none of us will ever forget!

We were and still are involved in many committees in the synagogue. Spawned at least seven presidents of Temple Israel, among them Alan Greenblatt, Jack Stein, William Ungar, Dr. Mordecai Gabriel, Emanuel Bardash, Milton Putterman and me. We helped in fund raising via contributions and involvement, attended all Temple programs, sit on several committees, are Life Members of the Temple Israel Players, attended and created several of the Adult Ed classes—and events—sent our children all the way through the Religious School education system and sit on the committees to maintain its excellence all these many years.

You will find many of us *Shabbat* after *Shabbat* immersed in the spirituality and exhilaration of the Sabbath, and at the *Shabbat* lectures with hands raised to ask questions and to listen to responses.

Our current officers are Mickey Putterman, president; Naomi Schulman, vice president; Dr. Ellen Rosen, secretary; Dr. Milton Rosen, treasurer; Elliot Fleischer, speaker of the house; Betty Lager and Estelle Nadler, hospitality; Dr. Renee Fleischer, director; Bela and Mel Schoenfeld and Elinor Gabriel, board members-at-large; Stan Goldfarb and Eileen Putterman, program chairs.

In addition, Deanna and Rabbi Stecker, Judy and Rabbi Adelson, Judy’s dad, Ervin Hoenig, Cantor Frieder, Paula and Rabbi Charry, Rabbi and Mrs. Fenster and Rabbi Eckstein are all members in good standing of the Shalom Club, as well as every past president of Temple Israel.

Let it be known to all that “our door is always open to bid you ‘Shalom!’”

# Av: The Month of Uprisings

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conclusion in both cases on the same day suggests that Av is the season for rebellion.

As Israeli strategists try to divine what all of this might mean for border security and concerns for the viability of long-term peace in the region, we should not forget the Egyptian people, with whom the people of Israel have a relationship that stretches back at least 3,000 years. Let us hope that whatever stumbling blocks they face as a more ideal democracy unfolds on the Nile River Valley will be minimal, so that Egyptians can soon go about their worldly pursuits with some modicum of safety and security. In the long run, a stable democratic government that empowers the Egyptian people will afford them better lives and greater satisfaction, and satisfied citizens do not wage reckless wars against their neighbors.

After the destruction of the Second Temple, Judaism was fundamentally changed, and for the better. Scholars of ancient Judaism tell us that it took several hundred years of commentary and learning and debate for normative rabbinic Judaism to emerge as the standard of Jewish practice, but it is worth noting that this model is far more democratic with respect to our individual relationships to God than the sacrificial Temple cult that preceded it. May the *Qadosh Barukh Hu* help raise the democracy quotient in Egypt, speedily and in our days.

# D’VAR TORAH

—Continued from back page

The “cities of refuge” expresses the Biblical theological postulate that the divine presence cannot abide in a land so polluted by murder; the offense leads to pollution of earth and abandonment by God of His sanctuary and people. Thus, homicide and asylum are mentioned here, as issues and institutions regaining attention on the eve of entering the Promised Land. Asylum was necessary because of the prevalence of blood vengeance in the ancient Near East. The narrative of the *sedrot* is preoccupied with the final events preceding the entering of the Promised Land. Israel turns its attention to the conquest and apportionment of Canaan. The Divine instructions to Moses are clear and logically sequential: conquest and apportionment of the land, definition of precise boundaries, designation of chieftains, the appropriation of 45 towns for the Levites, and six Levitical towns as cities of refuge. As religious functionaries, the Levites always received special dispensation, in this case receiving no permanent property, but permanent residences and pasturage for their livestock, via towns and their surrounding fields.

# On Volunteering

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utilize advances in website design and social media to better communicate with members, all while working with existing organs like The Voice to develop a coherent message. We expect this group will work together with the Membership Committee, headed by Ofra Panzer, also to assess new ways to market ourselves to prospective members. Further, as needed, we set up ad hoc groups to consider specific matters, like the ongoing Tefillah ReImagine Project, currently led by our Ritual Committee co-chairs, Sherry Husney and Brent Greenspan.

Again, these are just a sampling of the committees that assist the clergy, the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees in carrying out the affairs of the synagogue. All the committee chairs and their members deserve our thanks. They also need your help. There is more that we could accomplish with greater assistance. (It also affords an easy way to meet people, make friends and get more involved in the synagogue—one of our ultimate goals.) As we did at the beginning of the prior term, included in this issue of The Voice is a listing of our committees. Please take a moment to examine them and check-off ones that you would like to join, returning them to the office, or, if easier, simply e-mail Executive Director Leon Silverberg (lsilverberg@tign.org) or me (aklinger@stroock.com) with your preferences, and we will work with committee chairs to include people as appropriate. Should you have ideas for new areas to consider, please let us know. We look forward to working with you to make Temple Israel a place that truly meets your needs.

*Get involved!*  
*Volunteer for a Temple Israel Committee or Arm!*  
*A great way to support our community!*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT TEMPLE ISRAEL COMMITTEES AND ARMS  
AND TO CONTACT COMMITTEE CHAIRS DIRECTLY, VISIT [WWW.TIGN.ORG/JOIN-COMMITTEE](http://WWW.TIGN.ORG/JOIN-COMMITTEE)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> CEMETERY              | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS SCHOOL<br>EDUCATION COMMITTEE         |
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## TEMPLE ISRAEL FUND

*In honor of:*

The engagement of Eric Shepsman, son of Debra and Steven Shepsman, to Vanessa del Aguila Zachary Stecker, son of Deanna and Rabbi Stecker, graduating from The Heschel High School

Elise and Hon.

Richard Kestenbaum and family

Seth Moin being honored by the Federation of

Jewish Men's Club Eileen and Mickey Putterman's 65th wedding anniversary

The birth of Grayson Max Baily, grandson of Fran and Marc Langsner

Susan and Dr. Dennis Brustein

The birth of Arden Celine Alter, granddaughter of Vivian and Yuval Brash Basami Ferber

*For the recovery of:*

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*In memory of:*

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Malkah Schulman

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Abner Ohebshalom

# From Generation to Generation



## Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

Beverly Weston  
Burton Weston  
Andrew Scheiner  
Joyce Weston  
Emery (Imi) Lauber  
Dr. Victor Mandon  
Mark Reisfeld  
Carmella Mandon  
Rose Fried  
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Stuart Sylvan  
Dr. James Sylvan  
Max M. Miller  
Muriel Hyman  
Malek Brookhim  
Yousefzadeh  
Elise and Hon.  
Richard Kestenbaum  
and family

### WAXMAN HIGH SCHOOL AND YOUTH HOUSE FUND

*In memory of:*

Trudy Schwartz  
Parvaneh and Dr.  
Parviz Khodadadian

### USHERS FUND

*In memory of:*

Trudy Schwartz  
Nancy and Sidney  
Freedman

### ISRAEL EMERGENCY FUND

*In memory of:*

Andrea Haimovitz  
Kathleen Mitterway  
Peggy and Steven  
Jaeger  
Suzette Gray

### HARRIET SCHIFF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FUND

*In memory of:*

Hermina Schiff  
Jacob Schiff

### SAMUEL BARON MUSIC FUND

*In honor of:*

Allison Lopatkin,  
daughter of Hon. Susan  
and Robert Lopatkin,  
graduating from the  
University of Rochester  
Elise and Hon.  
Richard Kestenbaum  
and family  
Anne and Jerry Hirsh

David Weisfeld, son of  
Edith and Norman  
Weisfeld, receiving his  
Master's Degree from  
NYU  
Barbara Hirsch receiving  
her Master's Degree in  
narrative medicine  
Elise and Hon.  
Richard Kestenbaum  
and family  
Jacob Englander, son of  
Alise Kreditor and Jeffrey  
Englander, graduating  
from Brooklyn Law School  
Debra and Steve  
Shepsman  
Anne and Jerry Hirsh

### LIBRARY FUND

*In memory of:*

Frances Rogers  
Adele Warren

## PRAYER BOOK FUND

*In honor of:*

The baby naming of  
Mia Eve Weston,  
granddaughter of Joyce  
and Burton Weston  
Sima and Elias Taeid

*In memory of:*

Elyhoo Amirian

Sima and Elias Taeid

## DAILY MINYAN FUND

*On the occasion of:*

Completing 11 months of  
saying *kaddish* for  
her brother, Seymour  
Silberberg  
Estelle Nadler

## YAD B'YAD FUND

*In honor of:*

Marissa Taney, daughter of  
Dr. Frances and Richard  
Taney, graduating from  
Harvard Law School  
Carol and Steve  
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*In memory of:*

Jean Louise Dalton, N.D.  
Lori and Peter  
Oppenheimer

## SHALOM CLUB LIBRARY SHELF FUND

*In memory of:*

Andrea Haimovitz  
Trudy Schwartz  
Eileen and Mickey  
Putterman

## PASTORAL BOOK FUND

*In memory of:*

Anne Spunberg  
Vivian and Yuval  
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## RABBI STECKER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

*In honor of:*

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*In memory of:*

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Sue Darwish  
Trudy Schwartz  
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# Shalom Club Marks 50 Years of Friendship

—Continued from front page

took turns speaking about what the Shalom Club has meant to them and their families through the years.

"The Shalom Club has played a much larger role in the success of Temple Israel than their size would indicate," said Richard Kestenbaum, the immediate past president of the congregation, who attended the celebration. "It is remarkable how much the group has accomplished for the congregation."

The Shalom Club was initially nurtured by Rabbi Mordecai Waxman and his wife, Ruth, who both fully participated in group planning and activities. "They cajoled, comforted and engaged us all with large doses of their wisdom and humor," Mrs. Putterman said. The Shalom Club went on to produce seven past presidents of Temple Israel: Alan Greenblatt, Jacob Stein, William Ungar, Mordecai Gabriel, Mickey Putterman, Manny Bardash, and Eileen Putterman.

But the success of the group can also be measured by their many activities, including their popular series "Growing Up Jewish." Members told of their experiences growing up as Jews locally, in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens, and internationally, in Jerusalem, Shanghai, South America, and elsewhere around the world.

The club also has taken trips to places of Jewish interest, including Israel, Hungary and Spain. Holocaust centers in Nassau County, as well as at Queensboro College were the subject of visits. Members

toured the Jewish Theological Seminary and Temple Beth Shalom, in Elkins Park, Philadelphia, designed by renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

Discussions have focused on intermarriage, Jewish gangsters, Israeli politics, and conversion, among many others. Annual Shabbaton weekend retreats provide time for additional bonding.

"Our goal," Mrs. Putterman said, "was to give members a sense of belonging to a close group of friends, a warm organization, and an even warmer synagogue. We are very Conservative Movement oriented, very *chesed* oriented."

At the last Temple Israel Board meeting, Rabbi Howard Stecker and President Alan Klinger presented a certificate of appreciation to Eileen and Mickey Putterman for the group's contribution to congregational life.

Richard Kestenbaum told the Shalom Club celebrants that throughout his presidency he has believed that Temple Israel is "really all about its membership."

He said: "The cross involvement of different affinity groups create one large, solid congregation. At Temple Israel, it really is all about the people. I have always believed that the vibrancy and strength of the synagogue is its people. What keeps people coming back is not our building, not our world-class clergy, but our people. Members want to associate with people they like, people they enjoy, people they have something in common with. It is what we call affinity groups, and one of the earliest and most successful affinity groups at Temple Israel is the Shalom Club.

"May the Shalom Club continue to imbue this synagogue with their presence and their active involvement for many years yet to come."

## New Temple Israel Parent Group Forms

### First Event Is a BBQ Planned for August 1

—Continued from front page

Joanna Eshaghoff, Robin Fleishman, Maggie Goldberger, Lisa Goodwin, Wendy Oginski, Harriet Picker, Moji Pourmoradi, Rebecca Yousefzadeh Sassouni, and Lynn Weitzman.

The fully catered tablecloth-barbeque, for adults only, to be held at Temple Israel rain or shine, includes wine and dessert. The cost is \$30 per person or \$60 per couple. Checks, made payable to Temple Israel of Great Neck, should be brought or sent to the synagogue office, attention Jodi Engel. Credit card payments can also be made by calling her at 482-7800, ext. 1105.

For further information about the barbecue, contact Eleanor Askari at <easkari123@aol.com> or 481-6658 or Maggie Goldberger at <maggiegold@optonline.net> or 466-8695.

*Thank you to all who offered consolation and who made contributions to Temple Israel and other worthy causes when I lost my sister Jean Dalton.*

*In gratitude for those and the emotional support, letters, cards and e-mails as well, I have made a contribution to Yad b'Yad in your honor.*

*Today rabah.  
Edie Robbins*

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# D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

## Devarim

Saturday, July 13

In this portion Balak, King of Moab, becomes alarmed at the victory of the Israelites over the Amorites. Fearing that the Israelites are too powerful to defeat in battle, Balak sends messengers to the renowned prophet Balaam in Mestopotamia to summon him to Moab in order to curse the Israelites. At first God instructs Balaam that he is not to go. Balak, however, sends a second set of messengers to plead with Balaam, and God agrees that the prophet can go to Moab on the clear understanding that he will only speak as God commands him. Once in Moab, Balaam blesses the Israelites three different times instead of cursing them. Balak is furious and sends the prophet home, but Balaam first prophesies the destruction of Moab and the neighboring countries. The future of Israel now seems bright, indeed, but the promise is immediately dashed when the people are enticed to participate in the idolatrous cult of Baal-peor. The unique relationship with God is still not firmly enough established.

## Va'ethannan

Saturday, July 20

We read that Pinehas, the grandson of Aaron, is rewarded for his zeal in dealing summarily with the idolatry of Baal-peor by having the priesthood become the possession of his descendants for all time, in this portion. We now turn to the preparations for the conquest of the Promised Land. Moses takes a census of the generation born in the wilderness to determine the number of fighting men and the number of families who would share in the division of the land. God gives Moses instructions for apportioning the land, and we learn of a decision affirming the right of daughters to inherit property when there are no sons. Moses is told to ascend the mountain to prepare to die and to designate Joshua as his successor. The reading concludes with a calendar of the festivals of the year and the public sacrifices that are to be offered daily and on every *Shabbat* and festival after the Israelites have entered the land. Maintaining this calendar is to be a means of tying together God, the land and the People of Israel.

## Ekev

Saturday, July 27

With the double portion Mattot-Mas'ey, the Book of Numbers concludes. The *sedrot* deal with a variety of laws and occurrences evolving around the conquest of the Promised Land.

—Continued on page 4

# SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, July 12

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, July 13

*Shabbat Hazon*

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Devarim*; Deuteronomy 1:1 – 3:22

*Haftarah*: Isaiah 1:1 – 27

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

*Minhah* and *Ma'ariv* 7:50 P.M.

Friday, July 19

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.

*Kabbalat Shabbat* Service and Dinner 7:30 P.M.

For College Grads and Friends

Saturday, July 20

*Shabbat Nahamu*

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Va'ethannan*; Deuteronomy 3:23 – 7:11

*Haftarah*: Isaiah 40:1 – 26

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

*Minhah* and *Ma'ariv* 7:45 P.M.

Friday, July 26

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

Saturday, July 27

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Ekev*; Deuteronomy 7:12 – 11:25

*Haftarah*: Isaiah 49:14 – 51:3

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

*Minhah* and *Ma'ariv* 7:40 P.M.