



United Synagogue Meeting at Temple Israel

By Marc Katz, Editor

Members of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism Board of Directors will spend this weekend at Temple Israel, holding their quarterly national Board meeting, a series of meetings and conferences, study sessions with the congregation's clergy, and a dinner with Temple Israel leadership.

"Temple Israel is a very important congregation in the Conservative Movement," said Rabbi Steven Wernick, CEO of United Synagogue, which represents Conservative congregations in North America. "That is why we have chosen to come to this *shul*,"

United Synagogue Board members will join the congregation for Friday evening services and host a *Shabbat* dinner for the Temple Israel officers and clergy. The Board members will also join the congregation for *Shabbat* services and sponsor the *kiddush* that follows.

Rabbi Howard Stecker will conduct a "learning session" for the Board members on Saturday afternoon and Rabbi Seth Adelson will conduct another during the afternoon *Seudah Sh'lishet*. The

Board members will conduct meetings at Temple Israel on Sunday and Monday and will join METNY, its New York division, for that group's annual dinner, being held at Temple Israel on Monday evening. Temple Israel member Marc Katz, a member of the METNY Executive Committee, is an honoree at the dinner.

Rabbi Wernick said: "Temple Israel is not only a flagship congregation of Conservative Judaism, it is also the congregational home of our international past president, Jack Stein, z'l." He said it is also the home congregation of Martin Werber, the chair of the Fuchsberg Center Committee, United Synagogue's Jerusalem Center for Conservative Judaism.

He said the Board has a policy to interact with member synagogues "to help get the depth and breath of our congregational membership; we engage with our local communities."

Rabbi Wernick said United Synagogue is more congregation-focused than it had been. We are now framing many important conversations which are taking place not only in Conservative Judaism, but in the entire Jewish world."

Temple Israel for Israel



Temple Israel was well represented at New York City's Israel Day Parade last week, as scores of congregants marched up Fifth Avenue and cheered from the sidelines. Several busloads of marchers left the Temple Israel parking lot early in the morning for a full day of celebration in their bright green tee shirts.

Voice photo by Ofra Panzer

Sousa Mendes: Saving Jewish Lives

By Dr. Paul Freudman and Alison Freudman

EDITOR'S NOTE: Temple Israel member Dr. Paul Freudman is a driving force behind bringing the lifesaving efforts of Aristedes de Sousa Mendes to light, as he explains in this Voice Guest Column, which he wrote along with his daughter, Alison.

During World War II, a remarkable group of individuals fought to save the lives of the Jews who were being persecuted throughout Europe. When thinking about the righteous citizens who risked their lives

*...a remarkable
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the lives of the Jews...*

to help the Jews, the most common name that comes to mind is Oskar Schindler, who famously saved over 1,200 Jews. A less well-known name, however, is Aristedes de Sousa Mendes, a man who saved an estimated 30,000 Jews and non-Jews in 1940.

A Portuguese consul stationed in

Bordeaux, France during World War II, Sousa Mendes was well aware of the strict orders issued by the Portuguese government to deny a safe haven to refugees, including Jews. Although Sousa Mendes knew the economic and social consequences for himself and his family that would come with defying orders of superiors, he was unable to comply with what he believed to be inhumane laws. In May and June of 1940, Sousa Mendes' bravery and refusal to blindly comply with laws that he knew were immoral led him to help an estimated 30,000 refugees regardless of their nationality, race, or religion.

Sadly, Sousa Mendes' extreme act of heroism was not well received by the Portuguese government and Portugal's president, António de Oliveira Salazar. For defying his orders, Salazar stripped Sousa Mendes of his diplomatic title and

made it impossible for him to find a job to support his family. His family was black-listed, bankrupt, and its reputation was destroyed. Sousa Mendes spent the rest of his life attempting to plead his case to the Portuguese government, but his attempts were to no avail. On April 3, 1954, he died in poverty and disgrace.

A formerly honored and respected diplomat, Sousa Mendes died a scorned man. Ultimately, he was declared "Righteous Among the Nations" by Yad Vashem, honored by the United States Congress, and recognized by Portuguese President Mario Soares, who promoted him posthumously to the rank of ambassador.

However, many people believe that these honors are not enough; it is equally important to educate people about Sousa Mendes, because his moral decisions can serve as an example of the importance of standing up to intolerance. Thus, the Sousa Mendes Foundation was created to fix Sousa Mendes' tarnished legacy and to educate people about his courageous and heroic actions. In addition, the foundation looks to identify and locate families rescued by Sousa Mendes to obtain their testimonials and help them learn the story linked to their survival.

One way that the foundation commemorates Sousa Mendes' heroic deeds is through a film that chronicles the events of May and June of 1940, and the effects it had on the rest of the diplomat's life. The Temple Israel Shoah Committee is planning a screening of this film in the fall, with guest speakers, visa recipients, and possibly a member of the Sousa Mendes family.

The foundation is also looking for members of our community who may have been or know of Portuguese visa recipients in May and June of 1940 in the areas of Bordeaux, Bayonne, and Toulouse. Contact me at 516-384-0777 or <loripaul2@aol.com> if you have any information that could help the foundation continue to honor Sousa Mendes' incredible legacy.

Congregation Thanks Kiddush Sponsors

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

The congregational *kiddush* on May 11 was sponsored by Marlene and Morton Leichter in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their granddaughter, Kelsey Nathan. Contributions toward the *Kiddush* Fund were made by Joyce and Burton Weston and Susan and Ed Neumann in honor of the baby naming of their granddaughter, Mia Eve Weston; Rita and Mel Ortner in honor of the *Auf Ruf* of their daughter, Shari, and Dr. Matt Middleman; and by Kathrin Zelouf in memory of her husband, Yousef Zelouf.

FROM THE RABBI

The Changing and the Timeless

By Rabbi Howard Stecker

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following remarks by Rabbi Stecker were delivered at the annual congregational meeting on June 3.

It's hard to believe that my family and I are approaching our tenth year anniversary at Temple Israel. While it's always important to offer gratitude, the "accumulation of years," as one of Lincoln's cabinet members referred to the passage of time, sharpens my desire to do so.

I am extremely fortunate to work with Cantor Frieder and Rabbi Adelson, whose talents and dedication are a blessing to our community in so many ways.

I am thrilled to have Rabbi Roth, our director of congregational schools, presiding over our educational program with a spirit of innovation and joy, and to see Rachel Mathless and Danny Mishkin always deepening the engagement of our children and their families through their hard work and creativity. Their enthusiasm in turn inspires the teachers who nurture and enlighten our children.

I'm extremely grateful to Leon Silverberg and the administrative, security and maintenance staff, who tirelessly

provide the ongoing structure and support necessary for realizing our sacred mission.

I deeply appreciate the ongoing efforts of our lay leadership, spearheaded by our president, Alan Klinger, our Executive

*We want to make
a difference
to our families,
our community and
the world at large.*

Committee, the Board of Trustees, and the many volunteers who grace our congregation with their hard work, guidance and support every day.

Synagogues, as we know, face numerous challenges, some unique to the 21st

—Continued on page 7

IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences to the families of:

LILLIAN BRUCKER

mother of Karen Covitt and grandmother of Adam Covitt

ROBERT IONESCU

father of Lynn Frankel

ANDREA HAIMOVITZ

sister of Hon. Jon Kaiman

May their memories be for a blessing.

MAZAL TOV TO . . .

- **Linda and Douglas Rosen** on the birth of their daughter, Sydney Erin.
- **Ellen and Mark Birnbaum** on the engagement of their daughter, Deborah, to Joseph Zimm.
- **Jacqueline and Bert Eshaghpour** on the engagement of their daughter, Nicole, to Ariya Waxman.
- **Shohreh and Hillel Waxman** on the engagement of their son, Ariya, to Nicole Eshaghpour.
- **Debra and Steven Shepsman** on the engagement of their son, Eric, to Vanessa del Aguila.
- **Rachel Mathless** on the birth of her grandson, Moshe Yitzak Abrams.

DAILY MINYAN TIMES

Attend the Daily Minyan!

Mon. & Thur.	6:45 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Tues. & Wed.	7:00 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Friday	7:00 A.M.	6:30 P.M.
Sat., June 8	8:45 A.M.	7:45 P.M.
Sat., June 15	8:45 A.M.	7:50 P.M.
Sunday	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Kindle the Shabbat Candles!

Friday, June 7.....	8:06 P.M.
Friday, June 14.....	8:09 P.M.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

June	9	Men's Club and Sisterhood's Bike, Hike and Picnic at Bethpage State Park	10:00 A.M.
	13	Beth HaGan Graduation	9:30 A.M.
	13	Men's Club Meeting with Guest Speaker Jonathan Engel	7:30 P.M.
	14	Last Day of Beth HaGan Classes	
	16	Shalom Club Meeting	6:00 P.M.
	20	Board of Trustees Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	24	Beth HaGan Summer Program Begins	
	24	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 A.M.

Prayer in the Public School?

The landmark Supreme Court decision ruling that prayer in the public schools was an improper establishment of religion—and unconstitutional—originated in the neighboring Herricks School District. The son of a plaintiff in the 1962 case, Jonathan Engel, will discuss the decision with the congregation at the next Men's Club meeting, following a pizza dinner, free and open to the congregation, and...

you're invited!

Thursday, June 13 • 7:30 P.M.

The presentation will focus on three aspects of the separation of church and state:

- The historical background of establishing religious practices in this country.
- The legal particulars of the Engel v. Vitale case.
- The personal consequences of the lawsuit on the plaintiff families, and to the community as a whole.

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 the Aleinu prayer. What's your favorite quote? Send it to The Voice, c/o the Temple Israel office.

“*This is our God; there is no other. In truth, God alone is our Ruler, as it is written in your Torah...*”

TEMPLE LITES . . .

• **Lauren Phillips**, daughter of Temple Israel members Rebecca and Malcolm Phillips, has been ordained as a cantor by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music. She will be serving as the *chazzan* of Congregation Sinai in Milwaukee and welcomes all members of Temple Israel to stop by and *daven*. For more information about Lauren, visit her website, <cantorlaurenphillips.com>.

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



Jessica Lalehzar

Jessica Lalehzar will be celebrating her *Bat Mitzvah* on June 15. She is the daughter of Fariba and David Lalehzar and has two sisters, Deborah, 16, and Michelle, 14. Jessica is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. She enjoys playing the cello in the school orchestra, as well as playing on her school's soccer team. Jessica visited Israel last summer and is currently attending the Waxman High School.



Jared Rosenbaum

Jared Rosenbaum will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* on June 15. He is the son of Lisa Rosenbaum and Robert Rosenbaum and has a sister, Jacqueline, 18, and a brother, Brandon, 16. Jared is a seventh grade student at Friends Academy. He enjoys playing the saxophone in his school's jazz band. He is a member of his school's soccer and basketball teams. He plans on attending the Waxman High School and taking a trip to Israel with his family next summer.



Temple Israel Vav students, parents, and staff attended a weekend retreat at Camp Ramah.

FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Building Community a Memory at a Time

By Rabbi Amy Roth

What do you get when you put together a group of families, (all of whom have sixth graders in the Religious School, several of whom are also Beth HaGan parents, and others who also have children in the Youth House), the great outdoors and the peace of mind of *Shabbat*? The inaugural Vav Family retreat, of course—the first of what we hope will become a yearly tradition—took place from May 10-12 at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires in Wingdale, New York.

From festive communal meals, to inter-generational basketball games, to animated sessions run by Rabbi Adelson, Danny Mishkin and myself, the retreat was an extremely positive experience for everyone involved. With special programming tailor-made for Vav students, the retreat became a powerful bonding experience for all of the participants—including parents, as well as the older and younger siblings.

As part of our ongoing efforts to create significant milestone events within our three schools, we initiated the Vav Family Retreat to complement those already in place: Beth HaGan graduation, *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, Youth House *chesed* trips, and the Youth House Israel immersion trip.

It is our hope that the Vav Family Retreat becomes another Temple Israel tradition. In the words of some participants:

"I think it had just the right blend of activities (prayer, study, sports, and leisure)

to motivate and engage everyone. Holding the services outside (even with all the bugs) was great—it was a 'breath of fresh air' in a relaxed/peaceful setting away from it all. It was also nice to meet new people, and everyone was very nice and got along very well."

"It (retreat) took us away from everyday noise and problems and brought the whole family closer."

"The outdoor services (being in nature) were one of my favorite parts."

Vav families returned with a different connection to one another, to *Shabbat* and to Temple Israel. We look forward to many retreats in the future, each with a different "personality," different flavor, and each creating unique memories.

Time flies when you are creating Jewish memories and experiences! As the 2012-13 Religious School year closed with our *Zimriyot*, celebrations, we saw and felt the *ruach*, the spirit, of our 235 children, Nitzanim (kindergarten) through Vav. Children sang and presented some of the "greatest hits" from their music classes this year. I found it to be very moving as I watched the Religious School students in the audience join in with many of the songs, as a particular class led singing from the stage. Our children have an impressive repertoire of Jewish songs, which is one of the important avenues to cementing Jewish

—Continued on page 7



Beth HaGan Nursery Students Go Truckin'

By Elisabeth Frankel Reed

There are some days that simply stand out on the Beth HaGan calendar. Truck Day is one of those days—it's fun, educational, and children look forward to it months in advance.

This year, the festivities took place on Thursday, May 30, in the Temple Israel parking lot and gave young students the opportunity to explore six different trucks: a firetruck, unmarked police car, school bus, ambulance, excavator, and ice cream truck!

The children loved climbing on the different trucks with their classmates while they learned plenty of important information. An EMT instructed them to call 911 in the event of an emergency and taught them about all the special "beds" in ambulances. They saw seat belts on the school bus and were told that they would need to wear them when they rode to school in the future. They also learned the purpose of having undercover policemen on the roads. And the fireman certainly made quite an impression when he climbed up on his ladder.

"The fire truck guy was so cool! He climbed into the sky!" exclaimed a member of the Giraffes class, composed of three-year old children.

The kids had their share of questions and observations too. A boy in the four-year old Butterflies class wanted to know why firemen needed flashlights in their trucks.

His classmate informed everyone that "excavators are diggers, but can't go on the road."

Even the Lambs Class, for two-year olds, some of the very youngest students in the school, were active participants and eager to share what their favorite trucks were.

When asked who had fun and enjoyed the ice cream they received from the ice cream truck, each hand immediately went up along with a chorus of "me!" It's safe to say they spoke for every Beth HaGan student.



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Robert Koenigsberg, Esq.

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From Generation to Generation



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Seth Moin being honored
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Allison Lopatkin,
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Susan and Dr. Robert
Lopatkin, graduating from
the University of Rochester
Carol and Steve
Smolinsky

In memory of:

Nourollah Fouladian
Cheryl Eisberg Moin
and Seth Moin
Jean Louise Dalton, N.D.
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Louis Katz
Joyce and Burton Weston
Arthur Nemerov
Wendy Maurer

In honor of:

Kelsey Nathan, daughter
of Sari and Dr. Rodney
Nathan, becoming a *Bat
Mitzvah*
Susan Lehrhoff
The baby naming of Mia
Eve Weston granddaughter
of Joyce and Burton Weston
Susan and Dr. Robert
Lopatkin

For the recovery of:

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Yad b'Yad captains held a luncheon-planning meeting recently at the home of Eleanor Askari, and met with Temple Israel's social worker, Audrey Bernstein of the Sid Jacobson JCC.

Yad b'Yad Holds Leaders' Meeting

Yad b'Yad held a leadership committee meeting for existing captains and new captains recently, graciously hosted by Eleanor Askari.

The meeting was enhanced by Temple Israel's social worker, Audrey Bernstein, who is based at the Sid Jacobson JCC in Roslyn. She is available to offer support, resources and assistance to families who are experiencing challenges in their lives. There was an active interchange of ideas, including formation of bereavement groups and support for caregivers.

This is the *chai* year for Yad b'Yad, which was started 18 years ago as a project of Sisterhood. Yad b'Yad reaches out in many ways. When there is a death within the congregation, the group sets up the house for the *shiva*. They assist and advise concerning the meal after the funeral. They also offer a *Shabbat* or mid-week dinner when needed, and assist with grocery shopping and carpools when a member cannot drive.

Although Yad b'Yad receives information from the clergy and the Temple office about anyone in need of assistance, congregants are needed to reach out and let Yad b'Yad know of any member who is not well, or having difficulty coping. Information for Yad b'Yad should be sent to the Temple office.

Yad b'Yad captains include Iris Adler, Karen Ashkenase, Jackie Einstein Astrof, Robert Aizer, Eleanor Yomtobian Askari, Rebecca Cohenmeyer, Doris Delman, Ruthe Golden and Lee Levin. Rayma Feldman sends personal notes to members who have sent in donations to Sisterhood, which funds the project.

Building Community

—Continued from page 4

identity. As they belted out the "new" version of "Oseh Shalom," we in the audience, the community, joined with them in full force, complete with the strategically placed clapping and stomping. It speaks to the power of a community that is able to raise one unified voice in song and in prayer. We did this at the *Zimriyot* as we sang "Oseh Shalom" and "Hatikvah." And we listened to the beautiful voices of our children on a recording as we viewed the end-of-year slide show review of the year in pictures. We re-lived the year's highlights: Crazy Hat Day, *Rosh Hodesh Hagigot*, special grade level experiences through these photos, while children cheered as their classes and teachers appeared on the screen.

We are already in planning mode for the next school year (did you register yet?), and look forward to creating even more memories, through our "in-school" classroom programs as well as the other TIGN events and experiences of *Shabbat* and holiday programs.

Have a great summer or, as our Religious School students might say, "Tov, Tov, Tov, Kayitz Tov!!!"

The Changing and the Timeless

—Continued from page 2

century. Among other things, patterns of affiliation, demographics, attitudes toward authority and means of communication are rapidly changing.

What remains constant, however, is human nature. As always, we crave the companionship of other people. We want to feel supported and to offer others support. We yearn to understand ourselves and our world better and, toward those ends, we seek direction from tradition and from contemporary resources. And we want our lives to mean something. We want to make a difference to our families, our community and the world at large.

With creative acknowledgement of changing realities, we have taken steps to ensure that Temple Israel will continue to excel as a place where we find companionship and support, spiritual and intellectual guidance, and the encouragement to make a positive difference within and beyond our walls.

Below are a number of highlights from this past year that reflect a realization of these goals:

- An action-packed, educational family trip to Israel
- An extended Sandy relief effort spearheaded by our teen community
- A successful Dinner Dance honoring the Werbers and the Eshaghoffs
- A *Kol Ishah Shabbat* where women of our congregation led every aspect of the services
- A high-quality presentation of "Fiddler on the Roof" by our Temple Israel players
- Two excellent Beth HaGan pre-school fairs devoted to science, art and literature
- A highly well received *Shabbat* retreat at Camp Ramah for sixth graders and their families
- An array of social and educational programs for parents of first and second graders
- A Shavuot program with a renowned speaker and several engaging sessions
- Classes in Jewish texts and ethics geared toward adults
- Multiple successful programs spearheaded by the arms of our congregation

Over the coming year we will continue to hone our program, to encourage more people to join us, and to maximize opportunities for people to find companionship and inspiration within our *kehillah*.

We are analyzing our religious services, launching a significant development campaign, and always looking for ways to improve what we do.

Korach, the rebel whose attack on Moses's authority we will read about this *Shabbat*, got it right when he said: "Ki kol ha'eda kulam k'doshim. The entire congregation—all of them—are holy." What a blessing it is for me and my family to be part of this holy congregation. May God give all of us the strength to move forward together, sensitive to that which is changing and committed to that which is lasting.

Thank you all for your commitment to our *kehillah*. With any luck, the next ten years will go by a bit more slowly.

TEMPLE ISRAEL VOICE

Marc Katz, Editor

Associate Editors:

Rabbi Marim D. Charry, Paula Charry, Angela Jones, Ronnie Katz
 Photographers: Kitty Dadi, Dr. Robert Lopatkin, Milton Putterman
 Advertising Representative: Lottie Blye

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108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023

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D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Korah

Saturday, June 8

We find a major challenge to the leadership of Moses and Aaron in this portion. The reading details the rebellion lead by Korah, a Levite, and two members of the tribe of Reuben, Dathan and Abiram. They accuse Moses and Aaron of unduly raising themselves above the community of Israelites, all of whom are holy. Moses tells the people that God will resolve the issue by accepting or rejecting an incense offering. He further declares that if the rebels die an unnatural death it will be a sign of vindication for him and Aaron. Following the test, Korah and his associates are swallowed up by the earth and fire destroys 250 of the rebels. Aaron is further vindicated in a test involving his staff, which sprouts almond blossoms overnight. With the roles of Aaron, his sons, and the Levites, in connection with the Mishkan, firmly established, a list of emoluments is granted to them in return for their work. Thus, the leadership of the Israelites is made secure at a time when the people are still struggling to define and determine their destiny.

Hukat

Saturday, June 15

In this portion we cover the 38 years of the wilderness wandering. The reading opens with instructions for the most peculiar ritual in the Torah—the slaughtered red cow whose ashes mixed with water are used to purify anyone who comes in contact with a corpse. In the purification process, people who are already pure and touch the mixture become impure and must themselves undergo a different process of purification. The reading skips over most of the events of the wilderness wandering without comment and continues in the land of Moab. The people again complain of lack of water, and God tells Moses and Aaron to speak to the rock and produce water. Moses, however, strikes the rock with his staff. Water comes forth, but God declares that this action shows lack of faith, and neither Moses nor Aaron will be permitted to enter the Promised Land. The Israelites wage several battles and win, thus demonstrating that the new generation is ready to attempt the conquest of the land. However, the problems of obedience to God and understanding the responsibilities of leadership have still not been completely resolved.

SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, June 7

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

Saturday, June 8

Rosh Hodesh Tammuz

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Korah; Numbers 16:1 – 18:32; Numbers 28:9 -15

Haftarah: Isaiah 66:12 – 24

Sabbath Service Officers: Dr. Madelyn Gould and Dr. Laura Gal

Bar Mitzvah

ADIN CHARASZ

son of Diana Rozenblum

Shabbat HaMishpahah 10:15 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

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

Havdalah 9:06 P.M.

Friday, June 14

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, June 15

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Hukat; Numbers 19:1 - 22:1

Haftarah: Judges 11:1 – 33

Sabbath Service Officers: Seth Horowitz and Larry Greengrass

Bat Mitzvah

JESSICA LALEHZAR

daughter of Fariba and David Lalehzar

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

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

Minhah Bar Mitzvah

JARED ROSENBAUM

son of Robert Rosenbaum and Lisa Rosenbaum

Havdalah 9:10 P.M.