



Beth HaGan Graduates Largest Class In Years

Almost double last year's number of Beth HaGan students marked the completion of their introduction to Jewish studies this week, when three classes of pre-schoolers celebrated their graduation in the Sanctuary.

Rabbi Howard Stecker and Beth HaGan Director Rachel Mathless addressed a record crowd of parents, family and friends Thursday, as the pre-school students—wearing caps and gowns—came to the *bimah* to accept their diplomas and *kiddush* cups, a gift from the PTA.

"This graduation sadly brings to a conclusion the participation

in school activities of many families who have been involved with the school for up to 12 years," Mrs. Mathless said. "But we now look forward to having them join Nitznaim and the Religious School."

Other graduation participants included PTA President Amy Kalter and Joanna Eshaghoff, who recently chaired the 50th anniversary celebration of the school, and Marie Contento, the school administrative assistant.

To entertain guests, the graduating Butterflies, Dolphins and

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Temple Israel Marches for Israel



It was a great day for a parade (despite a little rain), and Temple Israel members turned out in force last Sunday for New York City's "Celebrate Israel" Parade. More than 140 congregants marched in the Temple Israel contingent (two busloads and 20 who joined the group there), behind the Temple Israel banner and another designed by Religious School art

teacher Lisa Weinblatt and students. Marchers wore tee shirts designed by seventh grader Jesse Rubin. Ninth grader Brian Tehrani won a raffle, a gift certificate to 16 Handles donated by the Sassouni family. The marchers were organized by Helen Wrobel and Rebecca Sassouni of the Temple Israel Israel Affairs Committee.

Photo by Dan Goldberger

College Grads and Temple Israel

By Shira Klayman

EDITOR'S NOTE: A group of college graduates and young professionals have recently been meeting at Temple Israel for Friday evening services and dinner. Shira Klayman, an organizer of the group, tells how they evolved, in this Voice Guest Column. The group welcomes others to join them at their next get-together, on Friday evening, June 22. For details, call the Temple Israel office.

I was not looking forward to returning to Great Neck after I graduated from the University of Maryland in 2010. I longed to return to the large sprawling campus, good friends, and my own apartment. In the midst of these transitions and changes, one ques-

...why could I not find a young, vibrant Jewish community in Great Neck...

tion always lingered in the back of my mind: where will I find a Jewish community now?

It was impossible for me not to connect with Judaism at the University of Maryland, College Park. Friday night services were filled with beauty and passion, Jews could be seen

walking all around campus to attend *Shabbat* services and meals, and the unparalleled aroma of *Shabbat* dinner permeated the halls of many apartment buildings. The University of Maryland was a comforting atmosphere to explore after spending a year in Israel, where I had worked so hard to build an extended community of Jewish family and friends. Before Israel, I was extremely involved in United Synagogue Youth and my school, Solomon Schechter, where I spent years and years learning, singing, dancing, and smiling with old and new friends.

Essentially, I have been surrounded by built-in, young Jewish communities my entire life. When I began graduate school at Fordham University ("The Jesuit University of New York") and had to live at home rather than the ever popular and trendy Jewish communities of the Upper West Side or Washington Heights, I knew my

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FROM THE RABBI

Marching Toward Freedom

By Rabbi Howard Stecker

At the recent Celebrate Israel Parade, Dr. Ruth Westheimer was interviewed by Channel 9. She graciously thanked the anchors for their time and reminisced about her role as a sniper in the Hagana around the time of Israel's independence. She observed how the parade demonstrates support for Israel within and beyond the Jewish community. She also spoke about how parades like this one reveal the pervasive blessing of freedom in America. How fortunate we are, she remarked, that Jews, Latinos, Indians and others can march proudly up "fancy Fifth Avenue," fully integrated into American society while able to embrace the unique aspects of their respective cultures.

Bravo, Dr. Ruth. You always seem to find the right words for the occasion. Indeed the Celebrate Israel Parade is not only about Jewish support for Israel, it's about world recognition. Moreover, it is one of many ethnic parades that convey an important message about our country, namely the freedom and equality that every group deserves.

Unfortunately, in the State of Israel, religious freedom still eludes many Jews as the Conservative and Reform denominations of Judaism do not receive equal treatment under Israeli law. Recently, an important development took place that will hopefully begin to change that reality.

...religious freedom still eludes many Jews...

In response to a petition submitted in 2005, Israel's Attorney General recently agreed to recognize Masorti (Conservative) and Reform rabbis in Israel and to fund their salaries in limited circumstances. It only applies to rabbis in small towns and the funds are taken from the Ministry of Sports and Culture, rather than the Ministry of Religion. Moreover, the rabbis are still not allowed to exert influence regarding *halakhic* issues.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Congregational Report

By Alan Klinger

EDITOR'S NOTE: This column is adapted from the remarks made by President Alan Klinger at the opening of the recent congregational meeting.

I would like to give you a brief update on what has been achieved this past year.

We accomplished the hiring of a Director of Congregational Learning to achieve better continuity for our three school programs. We would like each year's curricula to build on itself to achieve a more robust learning experience. We believe this will improve the likelihood that more students will move from one program to the next. This initiative was started under former President Richie Kestenbaum,

We have...been gratified by the strengthened participation in synagogue committees.

where we determined that having an overall director of education would facilitate these goals. This year, a search committee headed by Trustee Miriam Kobliner oversaw a process in which dozens of resumes were received; more than a half dozen candidates were interviewed and, ultimately, a selection was made of Rabbi Amy Roth. Rabbi Roth will be here shortly to meet with teachers and members of our Religious School Education Committee and EVT Committees, to start the transition.

With change, however positive, comes some real sadness. Rabbi Klirs spent seven productive years with us, greatly improving our Religious School programming and becoming an important part of our *kehillah*. We wish her success in her next endeavor and ask you to join us at *Shabbat* services on June 16th, where we will recognize her devoted service.

We also accomplished, for the first time, reviews of clergy and our executive director. Former executive committee members reached out to various arms of the synagogue and interested congregants to solicit their views. The senior professionals were accorded the opportunity to express their thoughts as well. Your lay leadership found this to be a productive and meaningful process and believe that both the congregation and the senior professionals will benefit from it. Indeed, we have already seen progress from the exchange of ideas and obser-

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IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences to the family of:

HARVEY SHEFREN
husband of Fradelle Schefren
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

May his memory be for a blessing.

DAILY MINYAN TIMES

Attend the Daily Minyan!

Mon. & Thurs.	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 9	8:45 A.M.	7:45 P.M.
Sat., June 16	8:45 A.M.	7:50 P.M.
Sunday	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.

NOTE: The morning *minyan* is in desperate need of participants. If you can attend, it would be greatly appreciated by those congregants who are in mourning and are in need of saying *kaddish* every day.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Kindle the Sabbath Lights!

Friday, June 8.....	8:06 P.M.
Friday, June 15.....	8:09 P.M.

Congratulations Graduates!

Following is a list of congregational college graduates, as supplied to The Voice:

- **Eric Joshua Abraham Khorshad**, grandson of Rachele and Dr. Ebby Ohebshalom, graduated from Baruch College.
- **Joshua Stecker**, son of Deanna and Rabbi Howard Stecker, graduated from the University of Vermont.
- **Kathy Reccia**, assistant to Rabbi Stecker, graduated from York College, CUNY, with a B.A. in Psychology, Magna Cum Laude.

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 "Kaddish D'Rabbanan" recited every morning after the study of Torah. What is your favorite quote? Submit it to the synagogue office c/o The Voice.

“Grant lasting peace...to our people and their leaders, to our teachers and their disciples, and to all who engage in the study of Torah in this land and in all other lands.”

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

June	10	Men's Club and Sisterhood "Bike, Hike and Picnic" At Bethpage State Park	1:00 P.M.
	11	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 A.M.
	18	Beth HaGan Summer Program Begins	
	21	Board of Trustees Meeting	8:30 P.M.
	22	Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Dinner For College Grads and Friends	7:30 P.M.
	28	Men's Club Meeting	7:30 P.M.
	29-30	Shalom Club Shabbaton Weekend	

Rabbi Tracy Klirs will be recognized for her seven years of dedicated service as the director of the Temple Israel Religious School at Shabbat services on June 16.

Rabbi Klirs' creative programming, professionalism, and her being a valued member of the Temple Israel community will be noted.

Take this opportunity to personally convey your gratitude to Rabbi Klirs at a special kiddush following the service.

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



Jared Kaiman

Jared Daniel Kaiman will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* on June 16. He is the son of Kim and Hon. Jonathan Kaiman, and has a brother, Shaun, 16, and a sister, Iyana, 7. Jared is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. He will be receiving the "4 Sport" award this year for making the school's football, basketball, volleyball and baseball teams. Jared enjoys playing the saxophone. For the past several years he has volunteered in local community programs such as Ecofest, Spookywalk and Earth Day Community Clean-ups. Jared has participated in the Israel Day Parade since he was 5 years old and marched again this year.



Benjamin Newman

Benjamin Newman will be celebrating his *Bar Mitzvah* on June 23. He is the son of Claudia and Bruce Newman and has two brothers, Aaron, 10, and Eli, 7. Benjamin is a seventh grade honor student at Great Neck South Middle School. He is the recipient of the first place award in the Magnetic Levitating Cars Competition at Brookhaven Laboratories. Benjamin enjoys playing tennis and baseball, as well as being in the school band. He is currently attending the Waxman High School and Youth House and plans to visit Israel in the near future.

FROM THE BETH HAGAN NURSERY SCHOOL

An Open Letter to the Beth HaGan Staff

By Rachel Mathless

EDITOR'S NOTE: As the school year draws to a close, Beth HaGan Nursery School Director Rachel Mathless wrote the following letter of thanks to all who made this a successful school year.

Dear Staff:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for a most wonderful year, but mere words fail to convey my gratitude for the outpouring of love, compassion, patience and humanity you dispense with grace every day.

- I watch as you frame a task for a child and see him master it and I am pleased.
- I listen as you sing to a child while changing her diaper and I am peaceful.
- I feel your excitement when a child achieves her "aha" moment and the realization of accomplishment dawns on him.
- I smile as you giggle together with a child when a goal is finally achieved
- I fill with tears when a child holds you tightly and waves goodbye as he conquers the fear of separation and I know the trust and bond you have established will prevail.
- I marvel at the constant and varied iterations of creative projects and artifacts, which the children produce with such pride and excitement.

So, humbly, I thank you for cuddling and comforting a child who feels sick or sad or afraid or just needs your special touch.

- Thank you for arriving each day excited and energized. Looking forward to a new adventure.
- Thank you for your creative sparks which keep stimulating and inspiring every day.
- Thank you for believing in the sacredness of the work you chose as your profession.
- Thank you for giving hugs and "high fives" and a little victory dance every time an obstacle is overcome.

Religious School Attendance Awards

The following Religious School students were recognized for outstanding attendance, having attended 80 percent of all classes. Students with an asterisk following their name attended at least 90 percent of Religious School classes.

Saul Ades, Juliette Ahdoot,* Alexandra Ahdoot,* Jonathan Ajodan,* Benjamin Ajodan,* Ashley Aminzadeh,* Natalie Aminzadeh,* Ryan Aminzadeh,* Nicole Aminzadeh,* Aaron Asherian, Alexis Asherian, Sophia Askari,* Serena Askari,* Zachary Astrof,* Jared Astrof,* Brooke Bakhshi,* Kayla Bakhshi,* Kyle Bakhshi,* Samantha Becker,* and Lily Becker.*

Also, Lauren Benhuri, Rebecca Bernstein,* Jeremy Bernstein,* Matthew Bloom,* Ethan Bloom, Amelia Blumberg,

- Thank you for understanding that what is learned in the sandbox will influence the children for years to come.
- Thank you for guiding the children through the small things, which have become huge milestones.
- Thank you for giving the children space to grow, to dream, to explore, to experiment and to experience the world with all its possibilities.
- Thank you for knowing that you need to trust in the resilience of all children and in their ability to figure it out.
- Thank you for your constancy and consistency in working until successful conclusions are attained.
- Thank you for making me proud of you every day and making it a joy to come to work.

I am acutely aware of your going the extra mile again and again and I know that in you I am truly blessed.

To our incredible maintenance staff, who anticipate our every need, grant our wishes with smiling countenances even when we ask them to scale the walls and hang moonbeams from the ceiling.

And buckets and buckets of thanks to Marie for all you do always, the myriad activities far too numerous to mention here. You give much more than is expected, but that is your inimitable style.

My best wishes for a happy, healthy restful summer, time to reflect and renew, rejuvenate and revivify for the coming Beth HaGan school year. Stay well.

Love,
Rachel

Alec Blumberg,* Jacob Botesazan, Ashley Chaman,* Nathaniel Charasz, Adin Charasz,* Samuel Chiche,* Ethan Citron,* Emily Citron,* Michael Cohenmeh,* Michaela Damaghi, Samantha Damaghi, Joshua Davidson,* Bradley Delafraz,* Brandon Delafraz,* Joseph Eshaghoff,* Hanna Eshaghoff,* Juliet Eshaghoff,* Justin Farajollah, Matthew Farkas,* Lauren Farkas, Brett Figelman,* Aliza Fine,* Simona Fine,* Reid Fleishman,* Sophia Gal, Emily Gal,* Joshua Gal, Aaron Geula,* Alexander Geula,* Rena Geula, Ariel Gold, Eli Goldberger, Clara Goldberger, Benjamin Goodwin,* Eli Goodwin,* Charles Goodwin, Emily Greiff, Joshua Haghani, Kayla Hakimi,* Eric

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Attendance Awards

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Hakimi,* Aaron Hakimi, Sophia Hanover, Noah Hanover,* Jessica Harouche,* Jordan Harouche,* Aaron Harouche,* Joseph Harounian,* Leila Hawa,* Yoel Hawa,* Gabriella Hedvat,* Alexis Hedvat,* Ashley Hedvat,* Chloe Hedvat,* Mikayla Hendizadeh,* Spencer Horowitz,* Julia Hyman,* Nathaniel Hyman,* Roger Hyman,* Daniel Itzkowitz,* Michael Kahen,* Iyana Kaiman,* Barrett Kanfer,* Eden Katz,* Talia Katz,* Kevin Khadavi,* Justine Khadavi,* Zoe Khorshad,* Jonathan Kirshner,* Benjamin Kobliner,* Joshua Kobliner,* Sarah Kobliner,* Jessica Lalehzar,* Jacob Landerer,* Benjamin Landerer, Gabriel Lefkowitz,* Jordana Lerner, Elizabeth Lev,* Martin Lev,* Talia Levy,* Charles Linden, Evan Lipp,* and Mikaela Lipp.*

In addition, Zachary Lipp,* Ari Lissack,* Zoe Mahfar,* Natasha Mahfar,* Karina Makhani,* Limor Makhani,* Matthew Manesh, Sean Manesh, Daniel Mayeri, Remy Mehdyzadeh, Jake Mehdyzadeh, Dylan Meirowitz,* Deborah Meirowitz, Harry Meirowitz,* Cayla Mirjani,* Talia Mirjani,* Layla Modlin,* Kayla Monahemi, Hannah Nahavandi, Jessica Nahavandi, Rebecca Nahavandi,* Jack Nathan, Jason Nejat,* Matthew Nejat,* Aaron Newman,* Eli Newman, Alexis Nogreh,* Chloe Nogreh,* Emanuel Nysenbaum,* David Oginski, Aaron Ohebshalom,* Adam Ohebshalom,* Ashley Ohebshalom,* Daniella Ohebshalom, Jared Ohebshalom,* Noah Oralevich, Allison Parnes, Samantha Parnes, Lauren Perlman,* Ari Picker,* Joshua Picker,* Alexandra Pour, Oliver Pour, Dayna Pourmoradi, Ella Pourmoradi,* Noa Pourmoradi,* Amanda Putter,* Isabella Rastegar,* Ilan Rastegar, Jacob Rastegar, Sophie Rokhsar, Chloe Roofeh,* Sharon Roofeh, and Jonathan Roofeh.

Also, Eric Rosenbaum, Jonathan Rothbaum,* Joshua Rothbaum,* Jonathan Sasson, Emma Sassouni,* Leila Sassouni, Harry Scheidt,* Noah Scheidt,* Nancy Schoen,* Alexander Schwartz, Daniela Schwartz, Avital Sclar,* Daria Scolnick, Jake Sedaghat, Alexandra Sedgh,* Daniel Sedgh,* Daniel Shahery, Matthew Shavolian,* Jordan Shavolian,* Kimberly Shokrian, Sam Silberg, Dylan Solomon,* Jaren Solomon, Matthew Somekh,* Maya Somekh,* Alexander Tabaroki,* Elliot Tabaroki,* Jasmine Tabaroki,* Maya Tabaroki,* Valerie Tabaroki,* Benjamin Taied,* Kate Tehrani,* Alexander Victory, Lauren Victory,* Nicole Victory,* Amanda Volk,* Brian Volk,* Jaden Weissner, Elliot Weissman, Sophie Weissman,* Elie Weitzman,* Sigal Weitzman,* Sophia Wotman,* Adam Wright,* Gabriella Wright,* Eric Yachbes,* Noah Young, Emma Young, Ethan Youssefi, and Shayna Zeitlin.*



Waxman Youth House teens were well represented at the Celebrate Israel Parade.

College Grads and Temple Israel

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religious and spiritual life was going to suffer.

For a year, I searched for temporary solutions. I visited my friends in Jewish communities in the City and became a frequent *Shabbat* guest. I started going with my friends to the Hofstra Chabad. However, my frustration only grew every time I had to return home: why could I not find a young, vibrant Jewish community in Great Neck, the most Jewish town I knew?

There was no official committee or meeting to jumpstart the "Great Neck College Grads *Kabbalat Shabbat*." It began slowly and informally, when Cheryl Moin suggested the idea and came up with a date for our first *Kabbalat Shabbat*. I created a Facebook page and event, and Erica Moin coordinated several logistical details. We both invited friends and discussed the upcoming event with Danny Mishkin. After talking to some of the future attendees, we decided to have a *Kabbalat Shabbat* service before the catered dinner.

I had no idea what to expect for that first Friday night. All I knew was that I was leading a service, some of my friends were attending, and some of Erica's friends were attending. We did not know how people would respond to the service or even to one another. After assembling the chairs in a circle, I awkwardly introduced myself and Danny suggested interspersing introductions into the service.

Erica and I both found that there were several people neither of us knew who had heard about the event through the Temple Israel Voice or other friends. It was clear that many people were unfamiliar with some of the prayers, but everyone was paying attention and following along. Once the service was over, the tension and unfamiliarity quickly dissipated: some of us began rekindling friendships with people we had not seen for years, and others sat with strangers and became fast friends by the end of the night. We had about 25 people, and it seemed as if everyone had the space to feel comfortable.

We mingled over good food and wine, and no one left until about 10:30. If we had been able to stay longer, I have no doubt that we would have. Our first *Shabbat* dinner was a success.

Over the course of the next few weeks, several discussions took place in terms of how to structure the evening and organize the events. After talking to various attendees, we decided to have a more abbreviated service and encouraged participants to include their own suggestions and opinions about the service. Erica created a Facebook event for the next *Shabbat* dinner and has continued to facilitate the Facebook events ever since.

Each *Shabbat* dinner has been different, with new themes and ideas (such as a beer-tasting with Rabbi Adelson) and new participants

*people all around me...
are all here for the same
reason I am: to connect.*

each time, but a core group of young Jewish professionals have returned every time. We continue to have informal, casual services, along with introductions and icebreakers such as "highlights of the week." People have slowly begun to be more familiar with the services and have suggested different tunes and songs. No one ever leaves before 10 P.M., and many of these friendships have already extended beyond Friday night *Shabbat* dinners.

It is unclear whether or not this group will expand to celebrating other Jewish and social events or if it will remain as it is: a space for young Jews to come together and celebrate *Shabbat*, learning and friendship. Either way, the community and atmosphere that we have all created is special and valuable. I always anticipate these *Shabbatot* with excitement and enthusiasm, as I imagine reuniting with old friends, creating new ones, eating, laughing and even praying with people all around me who are all here for the same reason I am: to connect.

From the President: A Report to the Congregation

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uations. We expect that the review exercise will extend to the remainder of our senior professionals and be continued on a periodic basis, involving the congregation in the endeavor.

We have also been gratified by the strengthened participation in synagogue committees. To highlight just a few:

- Adult Education – Led by Rabbi Adelson, Trustee Rebecca Charry and Susan Wagner, the committee has worked to expand to a greater variety of programs. The goal is to recognize – and serve – the needs of our various constituencies.

- House Committee – Led by Marty Werber, the group has focused on better utilization of our building space, starting with a re-opening of the third floor. We are working now on reclaiming the old Board Room and plans are in the works for a new handicap accessible bathroom. (I am also learning more about a/c systems, dry wells and plumbing than I ever cared to.)

- Beth HaGan – You will hear from Rachel Mathless about the year's activities at the nursery school. But I would like to thank Trustee Joanna Eshaghoff for her leadership in our two-part Beth HaGan 50th Anniversary Celebration. It was a pleasure to see so many people be there for the *Shabbat* service and to see engaged families attend the celebration. As part of the effort's fundraising, we are hoping to secure sufficient funds for a new playground, complete with a rubberized resurfacing. (It is still possible to purchase commemorative pickets with your family's names for the new playground fence; contact Joanna or the office if interested.)

- Website – We thank Trustee Jose Nebro for

Beth HaGan Graduates Largest Class In Years

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Gazelles classes each sang songs and then, as a finale, sang three songs together: "Worship God With Joy," "Todah, A Song of Thanks," and "Amen, A Prayer for all of Israel." The program was under the musical direction of *Morah* Ruthe Golden, who has presided over Beth HaGan graduations for the past 12 years.

Graduating Butterflies, led by *Morah* Rebecca and *Morah* Shulamid, include Noah Ahdoot, Jayden Haghani, Ryder Hakimian, Kayla Kahen, Aaron Kashani, Celine Khani, Jordan Laleh, Asher Livian, Jaden Livian, Jacob Maslavi, Jordan Maslavi, Abigail Monasebian, and Maya Ohebshalom.

The Dolphins class, led by *Morah* Connie and *Morah* Hilda, includes Hannah Adelson, Natan Babae, Aiden Bacshi, Nathaniel Davidson, Daniel Elashvili, Aaron Ganjian, Ariel Ganjian, Noah Ganjian, Kayla

his hard work getting a website up and running for us. Recently, work has continued as we expand the content, aiming for greater on-line capabilities for event and school registration, payments and donations.

- Security Committee – Led by Joe Farber, we have been focused on better use of technology to improve our safety. Working with the committee, head of security Jerry White and Executive Director Leon Silverberg, we have applied to Homeland Security for a grant to fund new hardware.

- EVT/RSEC – Representatives largely of these committees, led by Trustee Bracha Werber, worked this past year to "re-evaluate" our "Re-Imagine" project. The goal was to assess the program after some four years; that is, evaluate whether the judgments that were made as to what to emphasize/de-emphasize prove out. The group recently issued a survey for parents and teachers to assess these matters. The information will be furnished to Rabbi Roth as part of her orientation to the program.

- Communications Committee - This new committee is looking at how we communicate with our members and potential members in the 21st Century. How do we best use The Voice, e-mail and social media?

From the Rabbi: Marching Toward Freedom

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MK Nitzan Horowitz of the Meretz party, head of the lobby for Civil Equality and Religious Pluralism, was quoted recently in Ha'aretz as follows: "The time has come to recognize all streams of Judaism and release it from the grip of the *haredi* politicians."

In an opinion piece, also for Ha'aretz,

Golyan, Maytal Imani, Leah Malekan, Yuval Saportas, Ethan Shirazi, and Talia Soto.

Gazelles, led by *Morah* Miriam and *Morah* Michelle, include Ester Bazon, Jolie Dilmanian, Julia Hakimi, Ava Hakimian, Bailey Hakimian, Parker Hakimian, Andrew Hirschbein, Sarah Kalimi, Isabelle Kamali, Shirel Kashimallak, Gavriel Noy, Layla Pourmoradi, Chanel Tehrani, and Aidan Yadidi.

A reception was held for the graduates and their guests in the Blue Room following the ceremony.

"The school operated at capacity, with 141 students, during the current school year," Mrs. Mathless pointed out. "There are limited openings in some classes for the next school year," she said. "We expect the same number of students next year as we have had during the current year."

Please let us know if you would be interested in joining this (or any other) group.

Looking ahead to the High Holidays, we have concentrated on:

- Obtaining new *machzors*, to allow for better integration of commentary;
- Continuing to improve the sound systems in the main venues; and
- Procuring a new ark for the Main Ballroom.

We expect to complete these items shortly.

Looking a bit further ahead, you will soon receive the date for our annual gala, which will be held in the fall.

And, finally, an update on Rabbi Adelson's status. As you know, Rabbi Adelson is being considered for the senior position at Sutton Place Synagogue. He has made it to the final two candidates. We are proud of him and wish him well. We will have with us this coming *Shabbat* Rabbi Bluman, a candidate for the assistant rabbi position should Rabbi Adelson be selected. He will deliver the sermon at the service and be with us for other events. Please try to participate in these activities and share your impressions with us.

Rabbi Julie Schoenfeld wrote that she hopes for the day when Judaism in contemporary Israel will embody the rabbinic dictum that recognizes multiple ways of fulfilling the Divine will: "These and those are the words of the living God." One indication of the embrace of truly pluralism will be equal funding for all approaches to Judaism.

It's crucial that we continue to support Israel in multiple ways. We are indebted to Rebecca and Sassan Sassouni, Helen Wrobel, Lee Harounian and the Israel Affairs Committee, Lisa Weinblatt, Jesse Smith and all who coordinated and participated in the Celebrate Israel Parade. Thanks to the efforts of Mike Delefrac and others, we hosted a successful Israel Bonds program last month. At the end of August, I will be joining a number of Temple Israel families on an action-packed trip to Israel.

Israel needs our support as she makes increasing strides in technology and confronts internal and external challenges. We will continue to march, visit and invest in Israel's future.

Finally, through our advocacy of Mercaz and our relationship with Kehillat Netzach Yisrael, our sister Masorti synagogue in Ashkelon, we will continue to support religious freedom for all Jews in Israel.

Our support in all these areas is crucial. As Dr. Ruth would say, we are all "on the air."

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*An Open Invitation From
Karen & Don Ashkenase*

Please join us and invite interested friends to learn about the wonderful and affordable programs for your family at the Samuel Field "Y" on Little Neck Parkway.

Here are just a few of the terrific programs:

- dementia & Alzheimer family respite programs (my uncle attended)
- children's birthday parties in the gym (our grandson Micah had a great party there)
- excellent programs for children with autism and other special needs
- adult exercise & strength training
- after school programs for students (transportation available)
- and much more

**Join us at our home on Wed. June 20th
at 7:30 PM R.S.V.P.: 487-3048**

This message is paid for by Karen & Don Ashkenase

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

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D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Behaalotekha

Saturday, June 9

The march to the Promised Land finally begins in this portion. Among the last details dealt with at Sinai are preparation of the lamps of the menorah, dedication of the Levites to their duties, observance of Passover on the 14th day of the first month in the second year after the Exodus and the making of two silver trumpets to be sounded as a signal to assemble, to break camp or to take note of other special occasions. As soon as the people began their march, they began to complain. In response to Moses' cry for help, God instructs him to gather 70 elders to assist him in leading the people. Miriam and Aaron then challenge Moses' role as prophet. God vindicates Moses by punishing Miriam. These incidents of selfishness, even in the face of God's miracles, set a pattern that becomes a prominent theme of Scripture—the struggle to raise man above himself.

Shelah

Saturday, June 16

In this portion, the Israelites approach the border of Canaan, and Moses sends 12 princes of the tribes to scout the land. Among them are Caleb and Joshua. The scouts' mission is to investigate the natural properties of the land and evaluate the strength of its people. After 40 days, the scouts return bearing a single cluster of grapes so heavy that it takes two men to carry it on a pole between them. They report that the land is indeed bountiful, but it is inhabited by powerful people living in fortified cities. The scouts maintain that the Israelites are too weak to conquer the land, but Caleb and Joshua argue that, if the people have faith in God and His promise, they will be able to overcome the inhabitants. The people accept the majority report, thus incurring God's wrath. He decrees that they will spend 40 years in the wilderness, until an entire generation dies out and a free generation grows up.

Worship at Temple Israel this Shabbat!

SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, June 8

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, June 9

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Behaalotekha*; Numbers 8:1 – 12:16

Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14 – 4:7

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

B'nai Mitzvah

JILLIAN HOROWITZ

daughter of Helene and Kenneth Horowitz

JACOB LEVENTHAL

son of Nancy Bader and Michael Leventhal

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

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

Havdalah 9:07 P.M.

Friday, June 15

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, June 16

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Shelach*; Numbers 13:1 – 15:41

Haftarah: Joshua 2:1 – 24

Sabbath Service Officer: Seth Horowitz

Bar Mitzvah

JARED KAIMAN

son of Kim and Hon. Jonathan Kaiman

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

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

Havdalah 9:10 P.M.