



More Than 250 Religious School Students Earn Academic Awards



This year's "Celebrate Israel Parade" tee shirt design contest winner, seventh grader Jesse Smith, is congratulated by Waxman High School Director Danny Mishkin and Parade Committee Co-Chair Helen Wrobel. The Israel Affairs Committee sponsored a party for the winner and his grade on Lag B'Omer. Congregants are invited to participate and receive a complimentary tee shirt. To join the marchers on Sunday, June 3, call the Temple office, 482-7800. For more parade details see the Voice Guest Column on page 2.

Photo by Rebecca Sassouni

By Marc Katz, Editor

Temple Israel Religious School students are wrapping up their academic year by holding closing ceremonies this week.

The Waxman High School, which traditionally graduates students at the conclusion of their junior year in public school, this year opted to allow students an extra year of study and hold graduation ceremonies at the end of the next school year.

Religious School students were addressed by School Director Rabbi Tracy Klirs, as well as Rabbis Howard Stecker and Seth Adelson, at dual ceremonies held this past Tuesday and Wednesday in the Sanctuary. More than 250 students received awards of recognition for their work, as they prepare to continue their studies at the Waxman High School and Youth House.

The title of "Judaic Scholars," the highest honor a student can achieve during elementary school, is awarded by METNY, the Metropolitan New York District of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, to "students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, behavior and class attendance, and who meet or exceed the school's requirements for participation in services and Family Education programs. Receiving the distinction were Jared Astrof, Zachary Astrof, Rebecca Bernstein, Amelia Blumberg, Brett Figelman, Aliza Fine, Simona Fine, Hannah Gal, Sophia Gal, Aaron Geula, Alexander Geula, Clara Goldberger, Eli Goodwin, Emily Greiff, Jordan Greiff, Delilah Harounian, Leila Hawa, Yoel Hawa, Spencer Horowitz, Nathaniel Hyman, Barrett Kanfer, Eden Katz, Talia Katz, Benjamin Kobliner, Gabriel Lefkowitz, Evan Lipp, Mikaela Lipp, Limor Makhani, Jessica Nahavandi, Aaron Newman, Eli Newman, Emanuel Nysenbaum, Allison Parnes, Amanda Putter, Jonathan Rothbaum, Joshua Rothbaum, Scott Rothbaum, Emma Sassouni, Leila Sassouni, Amanda Volk, Brian Volk, Elie Weitzman, and Sophia Wotman. Joseph Taied was named a Keter Torah honoree.

Students who attend a minimum of eight services and five Family Education Programs are named to the 13 Mitzvot Club. Earning this distinction were Benjamin Ajodan, Jonathan Ajodan, Natalie Aminzadeh, Nicole Aminzadah, Juliet Eshagoff, Lauren Farkas,

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Beth HaGan Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary

By Elisabeth Frankel Reed

It's been 50 years of learning, friendship, and fun at Beth HaGan. Recognizing what the school has meant to thousands of current and former students, on May 6th Temple Israel welcomed members of the community to celebrate the milestone.

Arriving at the courtyard outside the school building for the event was reminiscent of pick-up and drop-off—there were children running and jumping off the outside stoop and climbing on railings. But many of those little eyes were also on the raffle jars, which kept filling with tickets as more and more guests showed up.

The nearly 200 attendees included

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Past and present Beth HaGan teachers joined Rabbi Howard Stecker, right, for the nursery school's recent 50th anniversary celebration.

Voice photo by Kitty Dadi

Celebrating Israel's 64th Birthday

By Rebecca Yousefzadeh Sassouni and Helen Wrobel

EDITOR'S NOTE: Temple Israel Celebrate Israel Parade Committee Chairs Rebecca Yousefzadeh Sassouni and Helen Wrobel urge the congregation to march up Fifth Avenue on June 3 behind a Temple Israel of Great Neck banner, in this Voice Guest column.

Spring 2012 marks the 64th anniversary of the modern State of Israel and the ongoing miracle of her existence. Israel's security is never far from our consciousness nor is she a stranger to news headlines.

*Once again,
our Temple Israel
contingent
will proudly march...
at the
Celebrate Israel Parade.*

Just last week, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of the Likud party forged a coalition with Kadima's Shaul Mofaz. Here at Temple Israel of Great Neck

we, too, forge alliances for Israel's sake. Once again, our Temple Israel contingent will proudly march in tandem with the Gahelit community, as well as other groups from Great Neck, in the line of march at the Celebrate Israel Parade.

Once again, the Israel Affairs Committee will generously underwrite the costs of round trip bus transportation and tee shirts for registered participants. For the last two years, we have boasted the largest contingent from any Conservative synagogue in New York. Let's make it three!

"Now more than ever, we have to instill the love of Israel in ourselves, our kids and our grandchildren," said Temple Israel's Israel Affairs Committee Chair Lee Harounian. "What better way than by joining Temple Israel in this grand event, along with the whole family."

Every year Celebrate Israel Parade

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FROM THE RABBI

What Is Torah? A Shavuot Postulate

By Rabbi Seth Adelson

When I applied to the Rabbinical School of the Jewish Theological Seminary in the spring of 2004, I was just completing the cantorial program there, and was eager to find ways to connect my cantorial and soon-to-be rabbinical sides. In preparation for the dreaded committee interview, I prepared a d'var Torah on a musical topic. (The topic was the similarity of the Ashkenazic and western Sephardic melodies of *Shirat Hayam*, the Song at the Sea of Reeds, and how this wandering tune tells an appealing historical tale of our people.)

One of the deans of Rabbinical School challenged me. "Is that Torah?" he asked, implying that addressing an issue within Jewish music was beyond the realm of an acceptable d'var Torah. His tone of voice suggested that I might as well have been discussing the exhaust system of the 1960s-era Israeli-manufactured car, the Susita.

"Why, yes," I said. "Whatever connects us to our tradition, to Jewish life and learning, is Torah." His head made

a dubious motion, but he let it go. They accepted me to the program, so I suppose that I must not have been that far off.

Literally, the word "Torah" means

*Whatever connects us
to our tradition,
to Jewish life and
learning, is Torah.*

"instruction," and is a cousin to the Hebrew word "morah," a teacher. It appears in the Five Books of Moses many times, referring not to those books as the collected body of stories and law, but in the narrower sense of God's instruction on a particular matter. Even in the case of the most invoked of those occurrences, "*Torah tzivvah lanu Mosheh, morashah qehillat Yaaqov*," ("Moses charged us with the Teaching/As the heritage of the congregation of Jacob," Deuteronomy

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Deserving Support

By Alan Klinger

This column typically addresses events happening within Temple Israel, as we strive to ascertain ways to increase congregants' involvement in synagogue activities. This time, we look "external" to organizations that merit our support. For, while our synagogue—and community—offer much, we don't live in a vacuum. We need to support groups that work towards making Conservative Judaism more vibrant. While there are many organizations that are contributing meaningfully to this goal, I would like to focus on two.

*We need to support
groups that work
towards making
Conservative Judaism
more vibrant.*

The first is the Jewish Theological Seminary, the intellectual home of our movement. JTS graduates rabbis, cantors and educators, along with fielding an undergraduate group engaged in Jewish learning. Last week I had the pleasure of attending graduation ceremonies as my spouse, Susan Wagner, received her Masters in Judaic Studies. I saw the effort put in by Susan and other students to tackle a wide array of subjects, all with the goal of bringing Jewish learning to better light. It is no secret that JTS has been engaged in a restructuring under the leadership of Chancellor Arnie Eisen. JTS offers lectures and cultural events open to all, and is looking to better integrate with synagogues like ours. We need to support JTS in its attempts to lead a resurgence in Conservative Jewish life.

Looking beyond our national border is the second group, Masorti Olami, and its Zionist arm, Mercaz Olami. Masorti Olami sponsors more than 135 *kehillot* (communities) in 41 countries, advancing the principles of traditional Conservative Judaism worldwide. Mercaz Olami promotes Zionist education and activities, and together these organizations strive to enhance religious pluralism in Israel and other parts of the world. For our movement to avoid the attempts by some to marginalize it, and instead gain strength, we need to have influence beyond the United States. These organizations serve that purpose.

In the coming weeks you will be receiving information about these groups. Please review the material and, if your circumstances permit, contribute to their efforts.

IN MEMORIAM

Temple Israel extends condolences
to the families of:

DR. DAVID ROTHBAUM

son of Paul Rothbaum and
brother of Drs. Hal and Steven Rothbaum

ABRAHAM ALTMAN

father of Karen Ashkenase

May their memories be for a blessing.

MAZAL TOV TO . . .

- **Wendy and Jeffrey Maurer** on the marriage of their son, Craig, to Shari Neufeld.
- **Sherry and Robert Modlin** on the marriage of their daughter, Tara Eve, to Josh King.
- **Rachel Mathless** on the marriage of her daughter, Soochie, to Pinny Kievman.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Kindle the Sabbath Lights!

Friday, May 25.....7:56 P.M.

Friday, June 1.....8:02 P.M.

Membership Meeting Set for Monday, June 4

Congregants will vote on a new slate of members of the Board of Trustees at the Annual Membership Meeting, to be held Monday, June 4, at 8:15 P.M. in the Crystal Ballroom.

Also scheduled for a vote is a proposed operating budget for the congregation for the coming year.

Nominated for a first term of three years on the Board are Andrew Bloom, Brent Greenspan and Lynn Weitzman. Nominated for a second term are Eleanor Askari, Dr. Laura Gal, Daniel Goldberger, Brian Zeitlin and Dr. Michael Ziegelbaum.

Upcoming Events at Temple Israel

May	26	Erev Shavuot	
	26	Tikkun Leyl Shavuot	7:00 P.M.
	27	Religious School Family Adventure	10:15 A.M.
	27-28	Shavuot	
	31	Men's Club Meeting and Beer Tasting With Rabbi Adelson	7:30 P.M.
June	3	"Celebrate Israel" Parade in Manhattan	
	4	General Congregational Meeting	8:15 P.M.
	5	Sisterhood Lunch and Read Club	Noon
	8	Last Day of Beth HaGan Classes	
	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		

Fly, Little Bird!

Helping Our Children Navigate Their Lives As Budding Adult Jews

Two home learning sessions on the following topics:

- Dating & Marriage
- Relationship with Israel on Campus & Beyond
- Evolving Jewish Identity & Observance

SUNDAYS: JUNE 3 & 10 • 7:00 P.M.

Taught by:

Rabbi Stecker & Rabbi Adelson

Please note that this program is meeting in a private home.

All are welcome, **but SPACE IS LIMITED!**

To guarantee a spot, **YOU MUST RSVP** to Angela
in the Synagogue office: 482-7800 ext. 1108 or ajones@tign.org

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, by Israel's Technion Institute Vice President

for Research Oded Shmueli, was submitted by Karen Ashkenase. The Technion is embarking on a multi-billion dollar joint venture with Cornell University to build a new technology institute of higher education in New York City.

*"If you look at science and technology today,
it's no longer a local affair.
Our scientists cooperate
with scientists worldwide."*

B'nai/B'not Mitzvah In Our Temple Israel Family

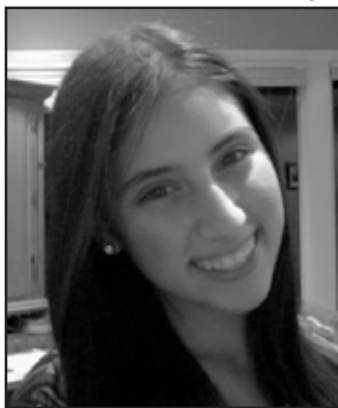
Wrapping Up a Busy Year

By Rabbi Tracy G. Klirs



Jacob Portnoy

Jacob Portnoy will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* on June 2. He is the son of Robin and Kevin Portnoy. His brothers are, Benjamin, 14, Matthew, 12, and the late Zachary, who passed away in 2007. Jacob is a seventh grade student at Great Neck South Middle School. He enjoys basketball, soccer, bike riding, and music. He will be attending the Waxman High School and Youth House.



Rachel Pourmoradi

Rachel Pourmoradi will be celebrating her *Bat Mitzvah* on June 2. She is the daughter of Moji and Omid Pourmoradi and has three sisters, Amy, 15, Dayna, 8, and Layla, 4. Rachel is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. She enjoys singing and taking pictures. She celebrated her *Bat Mitzvah* in Israel last December, with Rabbi Adelson officiating. Rachel is currently attending the Waxman High School and Youth House.



Jillian Horowitz

Jillian Horowitz will be called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah* on June 9. She is the daughter of Helene and Kenneth Horowitz, and has a younger brother, Spencer, 10. Jillian is a seventh grade Honor Roll student at Great Neck South Middle School. She enjoys dancing, singing, reading and tennis. Jillian will be attending the Waxman High School and Youth House and plans to visit Israel with her family in the near future.



Jacob Leventhal

Jacob Leventhal will be celebrating his *Bar Mitzvah* on June 9. He is the son of Nancy Bader and Michael Leventhal and has a brother, Zachary, 14. Jacob is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. He enjoys playing lacrosse, soccer, tennis, basketball and golf. Jacob also enjoys skiing, wrestling and wake boarding. He visited Israel for the first time in 2010 and recently celebrated his *Bar Mitzvah* in Jerusalem.

Hidon Hatorah

On May 6, Temple Israel Religious School sent a team of six Vav (6th grade) students to compete in METNY's annual *Hidon Hatorah*, or Bible Contest, culminating a year of intensive study of the Book of *Sh'mot* (Exodus). Under the dedicated coaching of Vav Religious School teachers *Morah* Connie Reichman and Ross Fine, our team members, Aaron Hakimi, Benjamin Kobliner, Gabe Lefkowitz, Oliver Pour, Jonathan Sasson and Brian Volk, prepped hard for the *Hidon*. Despite very fierce competition and hair-splitting decisions, our team steadily advanced, making it to the finals, and ending up tying for third place. *Yasher koach* to our team!

Israel Parade Tee Shirt Design Contest

Dozens of students submitted entries, and the Israel Affairs Committee was very impressed with the creativity and quality of the designs! It was tough choosing, but the committee decided that the design which best reflects our theme of "Israel Goes Green" was the entry submitted by Zayin (7th grade) student Jesse Smith. His design features a tree whose branches are bent into the shape of a *Magen David* (Star of David). It will be printed on all the tee shirts worn by Temple Israel members who march with us at the parade, and Jesse's Youth House class was rewarded with an ice cream party. All of the design entries will be on display on a bulletin board in the school wing. We hope you'll be able to join us for the parade on June 3!

Honoring All Chai Club Members

On *Shabbat* morning, May 19, we held our final *Shabbat Ha-Mishpachah* service of the year. At the end of the service we brought all the *Shabbat Ha-Mishpachah* families into the Sanctuary to honor the members of the Chai Club, those students who had attended a minimum of 13 services and five family education programs during the current school year. A record 64 children in grades K-7 made it into the Chai Club this year. They were each presented with a beautiful certificate and a unique members-only gift, custom-designed TIGN Chai Club key chain.

Vav Mitzvah Projects

During the Vav (6th grade) year, each student is expected to research and select a meaningful, hands-on *mitzvah* or *chesed* project. At the end of the school year, they are asked to create a final project (generally a poster) and make a presentation to their class to inform others of what they accomplished. The Vav students worked hard on their *mitzvah* projects this year, and have created beautiful posters, which are prominently displayed on a bulletin board in the Religious School. Please make a point of coming to view them!

Tefillah Enrichment Program Culminating Shabbat

On Friday night, May 12, the Vav students who participated in the Tefillah Enrichment Program (TEP) this year ably demonstrated their skills in leading the *Kabbalat Shabbat* service. For the past eight months, this group of dedicated students, together with their parents, have been meeting with Cantor Frieder after Religious School each Sunday to learn the prayers of the Friday evening *Kabbalat Shabbat* service: Emily Citron, Simona Fine, Joshua Gal, Ariel Gold, Clara Goldberger, Charlie Goodwin, Benjamin Kobliner, Gabe Lefkowitz, Deborah Meiorowitz, Jonathan Sasson, Leila Sassouni, and Brian Volk. Following the service, the families joined together in a delicious celebratory *Shabbat* dinner, organized by Dr. Laura Gal. *Mazal Tov* to our TEP students.

Gimmel Kabbalat Siddur

On Sunday, May 20, the Gimmel (3rd grade) students all participated beautifully in their culminating ceremony, known as the *Kabbalat Siddur* (receiving of the *siddur*). The students worked

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TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT

Saturday, May 26
First Night of Shavuot

An evening of Torah and food

“Soul Train: Inner Jewish Journeys”

Generously sponsored by Jacqueline and Hilbert Eshaghpour

- 7:00 P.M. *Minchah*
7:30 P.M. *Se'udah Shelishit*
(light meal followed by singing with Cantor Frieder)
8:15 P.M. **Study Session I: “Windows on our Worlds - An Open Conversation Among Our Clergy About Their Own Spiritual Journeys”** Rabbis Stecker and Adelson and Cantor Frieder will be featured on this no-holds-barred panel discussion of their own connections with Jewish tradition, God, prayer, and whatever else comes up!
9:00 P.M. *Ma'ariv*
9:30 P.M. **Study Session II - “Moses’s Journey Up the Mountain: A Close Encounter with Exodus 19-20”** Dr. Eve Keller leads a guided close reading with commentary, with the goal of working out what Cecil B. DeMille left out (which are, of course, the most interesting bits).
10:20 P.M. **Study Session III – “Perspectives on Ruth”**
Learning led by the Waxman High School and Youth House students.
11:00 P.M. **Late Night Learning: Maimonides’s *Hilkhot De’ot* – the Laws of Personality and Character Traits** with Rabbis Stecker and Adelson. (Teens are expected at the 10:20 P.M. session and then break off to the Youth House for special teen programs at 11:00 P.M.)

From the Religious School: Wrapping Up a Busy Year

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hard with their teachers to master many *t'fillot* (prayers), which they sang expertly at the program. At the end of the program each Gimmel student was presented with his or her own personalized copy of the Conservative movement’s children’s prayer book, “Siddur Shema Yisrael.” The children had each decorated their own colorful *siddur* cover with their Hebrew names and individualized designs. Parents had contributed a personal message to their child, which were affixed to the inside cover of the child’s *siddur*, along with his or her photograph. As always, it was a wonderful conclusion to a very productive year.

End of School *Yom Yerushalayim* Picnic

In recent years the Religious School has held a picnic on the last Sunday of the school year. This year the last Sunday, May 20, coincided with *Yom Yerushalayim*, the day celebrating the re-unification of Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty following the 1967 Six-Day War. This year the Religious School celebrated the 45th *Yom Yerushalayim* with a picnic featuring fun Jerusalem-themed games, PJ Library promotion and a drum circle led by Sara Shonfeld of Musical Minds. The Parents’ Association of the Religious School provided drinks and desserts. *Todah Rabbah* to Miriam Kobliner for organizing the picnic!

Shavuot Family Adventure

Even though the Religious School year is officially over, we still have plenty of holidays and opportunities for families to enjoy fun and exciting programming here at Temple Israel. You won’t want to miss this year’s Shavuot Family Adventure; our theme is “Biblical Superhero Smack-Down!” Come join us on the first day of Shavuot, Sunday, May 27, from 10:15 A.M. -12:15 P.M. in the Youth House. You will get to meet a dozen different biblical superheroes, and help decide who is the greatest of all time. Double-duty bonus: every child who attends with a parent will receive both service attendance and family education credit!

Teacher Appreciation Dinner

On Wednesday evening, June 6, the Parents’ Association will again honor all of the Religious School staff and *B’nai Mitzvah* tutors at the annual Teacher Appreciation Dinner, which will be held at Bijan restaurant. *Todah Rabbah* to the PA for organizing a much-deserved tribute to our teachers!

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

To Be DEDICATED
Second Day of Shavuot
Monday, May 28

AGHAJON KAHEN
RACHEL REFAEL KAHEN
Parents of Kombiz Kahen

ATAOLLAH KALIMIAN
Husband of Lili Kalimian
Father of Jacqueline Kalimian Nesenoff
Brother of Elias Kalimian,
Minu Ohebshalom, Hana Sarraf

HANNY MULTER
Mother of Ann David
and Daniel Multer

FRANK SESKIN
Brother of Dr. Leonard Seskin

MARCIA WEISS
Wife of Leonard Weiss
Mother of Frederica Kadden
and Dr. Jonathan Weiss

Congregation Thanks Many of the Recent Kiddush Sponsors

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

The congregational *kiddush* on April 21 was co-sponsored by Jodi and David Harouche in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Noah, and by Sima and Shahram Homapour in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Amanda.

A contribution toward the *kiddush* on April 28 was made by Marjan and Shahram Taied in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Joseph.

The congregational *kiddush* on May 5 was sponsored by Rachel and Dr. Geoffrey Epstein in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Ashley. A contribution toward the *kiddush* was made by Sherry and Sam Husney in honor of the 50th anniversary of Mr. Husney’s *Bar Mitzvah*.

The congregational *kiddush* on May 12 was co-sponsored by Elena and Babak Mirjani in honor of the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Michelle, and Sepideh and Elyas Monahemi in honor of the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Levi. A contribution toward the *kiddush* was made by Vivian Brash on the *yahrzeit* for her mother, Camille Katz.



It was a great day for a celebration of Beth HaGan in the Courtyard. Voice photo by Kitty Dadi

Beth HaGan Celebrates 50 Years

—Continued from front page

Rabbi Howard Stecker, Beth HaGan Director Rachel Mathless, current students and faculty, as well as former students from as far back as the school's inaugural year. All guests were offered the opportunity to have their names etched into a new playground fence. Anyone still interested in purchasing a fence picket is encouraged to contact Temple Israel Board member and Beth HaGan parent Joanna Eshaghoff, the organizer of the anniversary celebration, at <joannaesh@optonline.net>. Forms can also be obtained from the main office.

Green bracelets were given out to everyone who showed support by attending the event. The bracelets entitled guests to lunch, which included pizza, sushi, wraps and drinks. Next to the refreshments was a video slide show featuring clips of life at Beth HaGan. Class pictures from previous years were also on a bulletin board nearby, much to the amusement of students who enjoyed seeing how much their teachers had changed through the years.

After lunch, it was time for Cirque du Oy Vey. The "Twins From France," as they are known, had wowed Beth HaGan students earlier in the year, and their return engagement did not disappoint. They performed a series of routines containing both acrobatics and mime. One particularly entertaining routine involved one of the twins pretending to hypnotize the other, then move him around as if he were asleep, culminating in an amazing balancing act on top of a folding table that they leapt from just as it collapsed. The sheer energy of the acrobatic duo riveted the crowd when they

leapt through the curtain dressed as a horse and rider and galloped and danced around the stage.

The children really responded when the twins brought audience members (both children and adults) on stage—helping some flip, ride around on a unicycle, or up on the "horse" as their friends cheered them on. The show ended with a little surprise, as the brothers threw Twins From France cards to their very young and enthusiastic fans.

But the celebration wasn't over yet. There was a cake commemorating the anniversary as well as ice cream, cookies and fruit. It was also time for the raffles and some very lucky guests went home with a range of prizes, including a one-year membership to Kosher Advantage, tickets to Phantom of the Opera and a Disney vacation. All of the raffle money will go toward enhancing the school playground.

Although there were only a limited number of guests who went home with prizes, there will be many young winners in the future, once the new playground is complete.

Celebrating Israel's 64th Birthday

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organizers identify a theme and sub-theme. This year's theme and sub-theme are, "Israel Branches Out" and "Israel Goes Green." Our Religious School and Waxman High School and Youth House students, as well as Gaheret students, have worked with art teacher Lisa Weinblatt to create a spectacular new banner bearing words and images of a variety of Israel's green energy sources.

In addition, seventh grade Waxman High School student Jesse Smith designed the winning tee shirt design and his artwork will appear on the tee shirts our contingent will wear as they walk up Fifth Avenue on June 3rd. On Lag B'Omer, Jesse celebrated his win with the entire seventh grade class at an ices party. As a neat bonus, all the children who attend the parade with our group will be entered into a raffle contest and drawing for a cool prize.

We each lead busy lives and have a variety of places we can choose to be at any given time. Surely, on the afternoon of Sunday, June 3, there will be no better place to choose than New York City's Fifth Avenue to consecrate our own commitment to Israel, to model it for our children, our families, friends, Jews, non-Jews and, ultimately, to demonstrate it to a worldwide audience.

It is our pleasure to co-chair this event. Please contact us for your tee shirt and bus reservations, as well as if you have questions regarding the expected departure, step off, and return times. You may reach us at <rebecassouni@gmail.com> and <hwrobel21@aol.com>.

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., May 26	8:45 A.M.	7:00 P.M.
Sat., June 2	8:45 A.M.	7:40 P.M.
Sunday	8:15 A.M.	8:00 P.M.

A Shavuot Postulate

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33:4) it is not clear that "Torah" refers to our Torah or just the book of Deuteronomy.

In rabbinic literature, the word takes on a greater meaning: not just specific instruction, or the Five Books of Moses, but the full body of Jewish learning. For example, Avot 1:1:

"Moses received Torah from God at Sinai. He transmitted it to Joshua, Joshua to the Elders, the Elders to the Prophets, the Prophets to the members of the Great Assembly. They formulated three precepts: Be cautious in rendering a decision, rear many students, and build a fence to protect Torah" (Translation from "Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals").

Torah is far more than what is mounted on the two wooden poles, the scroll that we parade around on various occasions and honor by kissing and teaching our children to chant from. It is, rather, the entire institution of learning that the rabbis of the Mishnah interpolated all the way back to Moses, the building of fences and the teaching of students and the debating of the most esoteric points of language and context. It is a living tradition, one that we continue to learn and teach and review and embrace and challenge today. Everything in our tradition can ultimately be traced back to the Torah (although occasionally via convoluted hermeneutic paths); everything that we do that makes us Jewish is Torah.

As such, the festival of Shavuot is far more than just a commemoration of the events at Mt. Sinai. It is the anniversary of the gift of Judaism in all its forms, from the ritual to the cultural to the political offshoot of Zionism. This is the birthday of Jewish life; join us as we learn Torah together on Saturday night to celebrate.

TEMPLE ISRAEL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Mark D. Birnbaum

EDITOR'S NOTE: Temple Israel has many members who hold elective office, including Town supervisor, a member of the Town Board, a number of mayors and members of village boards, members of the School and Library Boards, judges, as well as a newly elected member of the Great Neck Park District Board. During the coming months, the Voice Member Spotlight will focus on the congregation's elected officials.

By Marc Katz, Editor

Mark D. Birnbaum—a ten-year trustee of the Village of Great Neck—has frequently used knowledge acquired as a long-time member and officer of Temple Israel in his role as a community elected official.

"Being familiar with catering at Temple Israel, for example, has helped me better judge the many catering requests by the various houses of worship being made of the Village of Great Neck," said the former Temple Israel first vice president, who was deeply involved with negotiating the contract with recent Temple Israel caterers.

He became involved with Village government many years ago, when attending a public meeting of the Board of Zoning and Appeals. He was concerned about an application the Board was considering to expand commercial use of a building near his house. Shortly after expressing his concerns, a member of the Village's Better Government Party asked if he would be willing to serve on the Zoning Board the next time there was an opening. In the mean time, he was appointed a commissioner of the Village Housing Authority. A short time later he was appointed to the Board of Zoning and Appeals, eventually becoming its chairman.

In 2002, when an opening became available on the Village Board of Trustees, he was asked to make his first run for public office. He is now the second longest serving trustee currently on the Village Board.

"Being Jewish has helped me in many ways in my role as a trustee," he said. "With our heavily Jewish village population, it helps me better understand the applications that have been made by many of the temples in the village. It helps me better understand their needs."

In the Village of Great Neck, he serves as the public safety commissioner and police commissioner. During his term of office the village has faced a number of major issues, including discussion of the diversion of sewage, dealing with the aftermath of the micro burst that hit the community almost two years ago, the rezoning of East Shore Road along the waterfront area, the concentration of synagogues in the village, and the rapidly changing demographics of the community.

Besides his roles in the village, he is a member of the Great Neck Village Officials Association and the Nassau County Village Officials Association, and serves as the volunteer legal counsel to the Great Neck Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to serving as first vice president of Temple Israel, he has also been president of the Couples Club and Men's Club, and served as the chair of three dinner dance committees along with his wife, Ellen. The couple has also been Simhat Torah and dinner dance honorees. Mr. Birnbaum has been an active behind-the-scenes member of the Temple Israel Players for the past 20 years, and has served as a High Holy Days usher for 25 years. He has served on the Building Renovation Committee and chaired the Catering Committee. In addition to being a member of the Board of Trustees, he was a vice president for four years and first vice president for an additional four years.

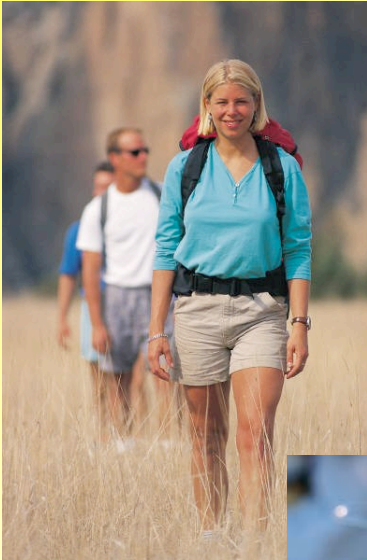
Mr. and Mrs. Birnbaum have three children, Deborah, 28, an attorney in Washington, D.C.; Jonathan, 26, a trader for Morgan Stanley; and Laura, 23, who works in marketing.

"Complainers are a dime a dozen," he said. "But, complainers don't have the right to complain about Temple activities if they don't get involved with congregational activities. That's why I want to put my time and effort into making things better at Temple Israel."

*I want to put
my time and effort
into making things
better at
Temple Israel.*

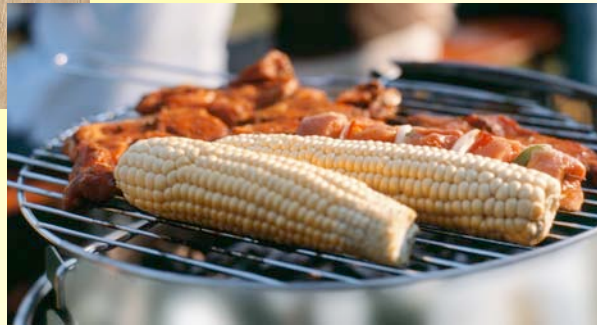
BIKE, HIKE AND BARBECUE

Co-sponsored by the Men's Club and Sisterhood

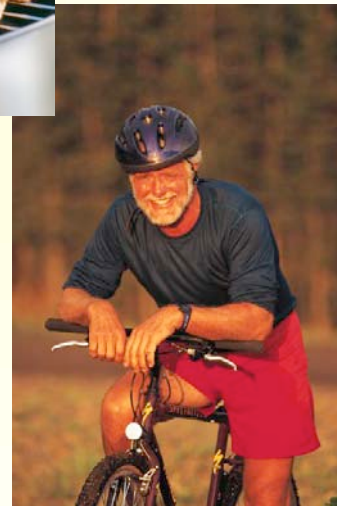


Sunday, June 10, 2012
1:00 P.M. — 4:00 P.M.
Barbecue begins 4:00 P.M.

Bethpage State Park
99 Quaker Meeting House Road
Farmingdale, NY 11735



- 3 bike trails (leisurely, intermediate, challenging) to Jones Beach and several hiking trails to explore!
- Tire and bike repair services on site for your convenience!
- Discount bike rental reservation are available by calling Jacob Stern at Bicycle Planet (516) 364-4434.



Cost: \$18/person and children (under 13) are free.
Please call Susan in the Synagogue office to register!

More Than 250 Religious School Students Receive Academic Awards

—Continued from front page

Matthew Farkas, Brett Figelman, Clara Goldberger, Spencer Horowitz, Daniel Itzkowitz, Justine Khadavi, Kevin Khadavi, Evan Lipp, Mikaela Lipp, Zachary Lipp, Layla Modlin, Chloe Nabatkhorian, Hannah Nahavandi, Jessica Nahavandi, Rebecca Nahavandi, Kelsey Nathan, Aaron Newman, Ryan Rokhsar, Harry Scheidt, Noah Scheidt, Avital Sclar, Daria Scolnick, and Nicole Victory.

Students attending a minimum of 13 services and five Family Education program are named to the Chai Club. They are: Serena Askari, Sophia Askari, Jared Astrof, Zachary Astrof, Jeremy Bernstein, Rebecca Bernstein, Ethan Bloom, Matthew Bloom, Alec Blumberg, Amelia Blumberg, Samuel Chiche, Michael Cohenmehr, Aliza Fine, Simona Fine, Emily Gal, Hannah Gal, Joshua Gal, Sophia Gal, Aaron Geula, Alexander Geula, Rena Geula, Eli Goldberger, Benjamin Goodwin, Charles Goodwin, Eli Goodwin, Emily Greiff, Jordan Greiff, Delilah Harounian, Joseph Harounian, Leila Hawa, Yoel Hawa, Nathaniel Hyman, Roger Hyman, Daniel Itzkowitz, Barret Kanfer, Eden Katz, Talia Katz, Benjamin Kobliner, Joshua Kobliner, Sarah Kobliner, Gabriel Lefkowitz, Elizabeth Lev, Martin Lev, Natasha Mahfar, Karina Makhani, Limor Makhani, Cayla Mirjani, Talia Mirjani, Emanuel Nysenbaum, Allison Parnes, Samantha Parnes, Amanda Putter, Jonathan Rothbaum, Joshua Rothbaum, Scott Rothbaum, Emma Sassouni, Leila Sassouni, Nancy Schoen, Sam Silberg, Matthew Somekh, Maya Somekh, Kate Tehrani, Amanda Volk, Brian Volk, Elie Weitzman, Sigal Weitzman, and Sophia Wotman.

Receiving *Shabbat* Service Recognition for attending eight or more services are: Brooke Bakhshi, Kayla Bakhshi, Kyle Bakhshi, Jacob Botesazan, Arielle Daskal, Noa Daskal, Ashley Epstein, Allison Erlich, Cyrus Eshagoff, Brandon Farajollah, Justin Farajollah, Jonathan Farkas, Aaron Hakimi, Eric Hakimi, Kayla Hakimi, Mikayla Hendizadeh, Sophia Hendizadeh,



Men's Club Honorees

The New York Metro Region of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, representing Conservative Jewish men's clubs from throughout the metropolitan area, recently honored Temple Israel Men's Club outgoing President Gary Sazer, left, and Student of the Year Ari Panzer, son of Ofra and Dr. Robert Panzer, at its annual dinner. More than 450 people attended the event, held at the Shelter Rock Jewish Center. *Photo by Ofra Panzer*

Amanda Homapour, Elliot Horowitz, Jillian Horowitz, Julia Hyman, Michael Kahen, Solly Kasab, Gabriella Khorshad, Zoe Khorshad, Leah Klempner, Jessica Lalehzar, Michelle Lalehzar, Sarena Mahfar, Sophia Mahfar, Adam Manesh, Matthew Manesh, Michelle Mirjani, Kayla Monahemi, Levi Monahemi, Matthew Nabatkhorian, Benjamin Newman, Eli Newman, Ari Picker, Joshua Picker, Dayna Pourmoradi, Joshua Putter, Sophie Rokhsar, Daniella Sabetfard, Joshua Sabetfard, Michelle Sabetfard, Jared Schwartz, Jake Sedaghat, Alexandra Sedgh, Daniel Sedgh, Jordan Shavolian, Matthew Shavolian, Amanda Shirazi, Leila Shirian, Kimberly Shokrian, Dylan Solomon, Jaren Solomon, Jasmine Tabaroki, Maya Tabaroki, Benjamin Taied, Joseph Taied, Alexander Victory, Lauren Victory, and Eric Yachbes.

Students who attended five or more Family Education Programs, but are not in

the 13 Mitzvot Club, are Rachel Breidbart, Emily Citron, Ethan Citron, Noah Hanover, Katrina Itchkow, Jonathan Kirshner, Ariella Lerner, Deborah Meirowitz, Dylan Meirowitz, Chloe Noghreh, David Oginski, Lauren Perlman, Ella Rastegar, Isabella Rastegar, Jacob Rastegar, Eric Rosenbaum, Jonathan Sasson, and Elliot Tabaroki.

Recognized for Sherut/Community Service, for completion of the Vav Mitzvah Project, were Cara Becker, Katie Berman, Samuel Chiche, Emily Citron, Samantha Damaghi, Lauren Farkas, Simona Fine, Joshua Gal, Ariel Gold, Clara Goldberger, Charles Goodwin, Roger Hyman, Benjamin Kobliner, Jessica Lalehzar, Gabe Lefkowitz, Ariella Lerner, Talia Levy, Daniel Mayeri, Deborah Meirowitz, Marisa Menist, Hannah Nahavandi, Kelsey Nathan, Daniella Ohebshalom, Lauren Perlman, Oliver Pour, Leila Sassouni, Jordan Shavolian, Kimberly Shokrian, Brian Volk, Ashley Youssefi, and Shayna Zeitlin.

Members of the Hidon Hatorah Team were Aaron Hakimi, Benjamin Kobliner, Gabriel Lefkowitz, Oliver Pour, Jonathan Sasson, and Brian Volk.

Many additional students were recognized for their excellent attendance. They will be listed in an upcoming issue of *The Voice*.

Congratulations, Graduates!

Under this heading, in an upcoming issue of *The Voice* will publish the names of the children of congregants who will be receiving college and postgraduate degrees. To be listed, parents of students should send graduation to: *The Voice*, "Congratulations Graduates," c/o Temple Israel office.

YAD B'YAD FUND*In honor of:*

The birth of Brett Nathan
Sahn, great-grandson of
Thelma and Jack Sahn
Harriet Seiler

For the recovery of:

Rochelle Klempner
Carol and Steve
Smolinsky

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Ray Smith
Al Smith
Susan and Dr. Arden
Smith

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Keller on the publication
of Millie Werber's memoir
"Two Rings"
Renee and Elliot
Fleischer

In memory of:

Mordecai Schottenfeld
Renee and Elliot
Fleischer

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Abraham Altman
Bunny North

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In memory of:

Abraham Rosenfeld
Roberta Harounian

USHERS FUND*In honor of:*

Susan Wagner-Klinger's
graduation from Jewish
Theological Seminary
Nancy and Sid
Freedman

In memory of:

Louise Rastegar
Alfred Tawfik
Manijeh and Dr. Jack
Moallem

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND*In honor of:*

Michael Eric Zuller and his
new law office
Randi Zuller
Eliane Cristian and
Family

From Generation to Generation



Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

**RABBI STECKER'S
DISCRETIONARY FUND**
In appreciation of:

Rabbi Stecker's kindness
and support
Mojl and Omid
Pourmoradi
Rabbi Stecker's kindness
and compassion during
the funeral of
Sigmund Iscowitz
Estelle Iscowitz
Sheila and Richard
Stark and Family
Arlene and Alan
Sorkowitz and Family
Linda and Garry Stark
and Family

In memory of:

Mitchell Brucker, M.D.
Karen Covitt
Seymour Rosenbaum
Harriet Rosenbaum

**RABBI ADELSON'S
DISCRETIONARY FUND**
In appreciation of:

Rabbi Adelson's kindness
during the funeral of
Sigmund Iscowitz
Estelle Iscowitz
Sheila and Richard
Stark and Family
Arlene and Alan
Sorkowitz and Family
Linda and Garry Stark
and Family
Rabbi Adelson's kindness
and support
Mojl and Omid
Pourmoradi

**BETH HAGAN NURSERY
SCHOOL FUND**
In appreciation of:

The kindness and support
of Rachel, Marie and the
entire staff at
Beth HaGan
Mojl and Omid
Pourmoradi

**CANTOR FRIEDER'S
DISCRETIONARY FUND**
In appreciation of:

Cantor Frieder's
leadership of the *minyán*
for Sigmund Iscowitz
Estelle Iscowitz
Sheila and Richard
Stark and Family
Arlene and Alan
Sorkowitz and Family
Linda and Garry Stark
and Family
Cantor Frieder teaching
their son, Brian, in the
T.E.P. program
Deborah and Judd
Volk
Cantor Frieder's guidance
during the T.E.P. program
The Goodwin Family
Sheryl and Martin Fine
Natalie Meirowitz
Dr. Laura and
Dr. Robert Gal
Cantor Frieder leading
their son, Gabe, in the
T.E.P. program
Donna and Lawrence
Lefkowitz

**SAMUEL BARON
MUSIC FUND**
In honor of:

The birth of Samuel
Bennett, grandson of Carol
and Steve Smolinsky
Anne and Jerry Hirsh

In memory of:

Albert Tawfik
Mojl and Omid
Pourmoradi

MEN'S CLUB FUND*In honor of:*

Gary Sazer being honored
as "Man of the Year" by
the Federation of Jewish
Men's Clubs
Gayle and George
Monaster

**KELLER FAMILY
EDUCATION FUND**
In memory of:

Abraham Altman
Shirley Keller

PRAYER BOOK FUND*In honor of:*

The birth of Samuel
Bennett, grandson of Carol
and Steve Smolinsky
Helen Wrobel and Tal
Eyal

In memory of:

Liza Markus
Susan and Max
Jarolem

DAILY MINYAN FUND*In appreciation of:*

Martin Werber and
Dr. Robert Panzer for their
leadership of the *minyánim*
for Sigmund Iscowitz
Estelle Iscowitz
Sheila and Richard
Stark and Family
Arlene and Alan
Sorkowitz and Family
Linda and Garry Stark
and Family

RITUAL KIDDUSH FUND*In honor of:*

Joshua and Scott
Rothbaum's achievement
in becoming members of
the Chai Club
Susan and Dr. Hal
Rothbaum
Elie and Sigal Weitzman
becoming Chai Club
members
Lynn and Dr. Gil
Weitzman

**TORAH
RESTORATION FUND**
In memory of:

Miriam Miller
Dr. Monte Miller

TEMPLE ISRAEL FUND*In honor of:*

Chloe Sahn, granddaughter
of Thelma and Jack Sahn,
becoming *Bat Mitzvah*
Basami Ferber
Lois and Dr. Arnold Illman
Esther Vickers

In memory of:

Charles Orenstein
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Temple Israel has numerous funds dedicated to supporting a wide variety of congregational needs. Following are some of those funds. They all welcome your financial support.

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D'VAR TORAH

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Bemidbar

Saturday, May 26

In this portion we begin the Book of Numbers. For about a year, the Israelites had been camped at the foot of Sinai, where they witnessed the revelation, built the *Mishkan* and were instructed in its operation. Now they are ready to resume the journey through the wilderness to the Promised Land. The people are organized into a military camp to enable them to undertake a march through hostile environments, both natural and human. The first order of business is a census of all males over 20, except Levites. The tribes are then assigned positions in a square surrounding the *Mishkan*. Finally, the Levites are assigned special duties in connection with the *Mishkan* and numbered separately. The physical arrangement of the camp will serve to remind the people on the march of the monumental events they have recently experienced. The *Mishkan* will become a "mobile Sinai," and its location at the center of the camp will provide focus for the Israelites on their journey.

Naso

Saturday, June 2

We continue the final preparations at Sinai for the resumption of the journey through the wilderness to the Promised Land in this portion. The numbering of the Levitical families and assignment of portage duties for the *Mishkan* is concluded. Several laws dealing with the purity of the camp and the family are then promulgated, including a trial by ordeal for a woman suspected of adultery. These are followed by a description of the restrictions incumbent upon any person who takes a Nazarite vow as an act of special piety. Nazarites must refrain from drinking wine or alcohol, from cutting hair and coming into contact with the dead for a specified period of time. Moses is then instructed to teach Aaron a special three-fold blessing which he is to use in blessing the people. The portion ends with a detailed account of the gifts brought by the princes of the tribes on the occasion of the dedication of the *Mishkan*. The gifts were identical, yet they had different symbolic meanings for each tribe. The offering of identical gifts by the tribes, regardless of their size, emphasized the equality of each tribe and each person before God.

SABBATH SERVICES

Friday, May 25

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, May 26 - *Erev Shavuot*

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Bemidbar*; Numbers 1:1 – 4:20

Haftarah: Hosea 2:1 – 22

Sabbath Service Officers: Miriam Kobliner & Rebecca Friedman-Charry

Bar Mitzvah

DYLAN DAMAGHI

son of Mitra and Nader Damaghi

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Minchah 7:00 P.M.

Havdalah 8:59 P.M.

Ma'ariv 9:00 P.M.

Friday, June 1

Nitzanim Family Connection Service & Dinner 6:00 P.M.

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, June 2

Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

Weekly Portion: *Naso*; Numbers 4:21 – 7:89

Haftarah: Judges 13:2 – 25

Sabbath Service Officers: Dr. Parviz Khodadadian & Sam Husney

B'nai Mitzvah

JACOB PORTNOY

son of Robin and Kevin Portnoy

RACHEL POURMORADI

daughter of Moji and Omid Pourmoradi

"*Shabbat Morning Tefillot*: The Whys & Wherefores" Service 10:30 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

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

Havdalah 9:02 P.M.