

Ofra Panzer Selected to Head METNY



by Marc Katz, Editor

Ofra Panzer, Temple Israel's Membership Committee chair and the wife of the congregation's president, Rob Panzer, has been elected chair of METNY, the regional district of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

In her role, she will be the lay leader of a consortium of nearly 100 Conservative congregations in the metropolitan area, including Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester and Rockland counties, as well as the five boroughs of New York City. The organization works to mutually strengthen member congregations through lay leadership programs, training and other resources, as well as operation of the popular USY youth programs. She will take office January 1.

"Ofra will do wonderfully," said outgoing METNY Chair Joel Cutler of the Oceanside Jewish Center. "She is bright, intuitive, thoughtful, creative, very imaginative, and has good people skills. These are all good tools in dealing with congregation and lay leaders of

METNY and United Synagogue."

Born in the Boston area to parents who were Hebrew teachers and religious school principals, Mrs. Panzer attended Prozdor, part of Hebrew College in Boston, and New York University, where she earned a degree in nursing.

"It was during my college years that I formed my views on how I would like to live my Judaism," she recalled. She and her family joined Temple Israel in 1993. Mrs. Panzer became a Beth HaGan class parent, which led to becoming chair of the Religious School Education Committee, co-founder of the congregation's Accessibility Group, co-founder of the Health Advisor Group, multiple-time performer in Temple Israel Players' productions, the congregation's liaison to Merchant Marine Academy Conservative Jewish students, member of the Board of Trustees, and long-time

chair of the Membership Committee. Representing the congregation, she attended several METNY conferences where she said she experienced the feeling that "we at Temple Israel are not alone in our educational and synagogue issues. As a nurse, wife and mother of four, I seek to optimize the metaphorical 'health' of METNY. I want to promote hope to our children and grandchildren. I want them to feel safe and comfortable as Jews in the world.

"Most of our synagogue struggles are not easy to solve," she said. "But, as part of a cohort of United Synagogue staff and lay leaders we feel responsible for fostering the connection with Judaism and synagogue life in our communities."

The last leader of METNY from Temple Israel was former congregation President Jacob Stein, who became president of the group in the 1960s.

Persian-Hebrew Singer Performing Dec. 18

Jewish-Persian singer Maureen Nehedar will bring her popular music to Temple Israel at a free concert open to the community on Tuesday, December 18. The program, which begins at 7:30 P.M. in the Sanctuary, is being presented in collaboration with SHAI, the Sephardic Heritage Alliance Inc.

"I've listened to her music, her beautiful and haunting melodies in both Farsi and Hebrew," said Temple Israel Vice President for Programming Veronica Bisek-Lurvey, who organized the concert.

The singer has researched traditional Jewish-Persian piyutim, bringing back many long-forgotten poems.



Let's Not Attack One Another

From the Rabbi by Rabbi Howard Stecker

Several weeks after the horrific Pittsburgh shooting, I am struck by the positive outcomes that have emerged and by one negative outcome in particular that I'd like to address.

The positive outcomes have included an outpouring of support from the Jewish community worldwide and from other faith communities, including Christians and Muslims, within and beyond Pittsburgh.

A disturbing negative outcome has been the continuation and even widening of a rift within the Jewish community based on how we perceive the dangers of anti-semitism. Oftentimes, those who lean right ideologically will fail to call out anti-semitism on the right and, likewise, those who lean left will fail to call it out on the left.

Dr. Deborah Lipstadt, Professor of Modern

Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University, recently wrote: "Do not look for haters only on the other side of the political transom. Those on the political left who only see anti-semitism on the right have blinded themselves to what is happening in their own midst. Those on the political right, who are only concerned about the "lefties" on the campus and beyond, are blind to what

Let's not turn attacks on us into an opportunity to attack one another.

is happening next to them." (Lipstadt, Time Magazine, November 2, 2018)

Award-winning author and journalist Yossi Klein Halevi, who spoke recently at Temple Israel with Imam Abdullah Antepli, characterized anti-semitism as the phenomenon of accusing the Jews of the worst thing imaginable, whatever that

might be. In that regard antisemitism has been religion-based as well as secular and has emerged from settings that are conservative as well as liberal.

Thought leaders such as Dr. Lipstadt and Yossi Klein Halevi call upon us to oppose antisemitism whatever its source and to insist that our leaders do the same. While I believe that we can and should have important conversations about which forms of antisemitism are more dangerous than others, I urge us to expend at least as much energy opposing hatred toward all of us and toward others, whatever the source. Let's not turn attacks on us into an opportunity to attack one another.

A few years ago on Yom Kippur, when Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the ADL, addressed our congregation, he said repeatedly that we Jews have real enemies. Meaning, let's not turn each other into enemies. I would point out that the man who walked into Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh several weeks ago and killed 11 Jews (and wanted to kill more) didn't care if they were Orthodox or Reform or Conservative or Reconstructionist, Ashkenazi or Sefardi or Mizrachi. He didn't care who was a Republican and who was a Democrat. He just wanted to kill as many Jews as he could.

Let's think about that. Let's think about that the next time we use more energy attacking one another than fighting the hatred that is directed toward all of us and toward others.

At the Great Neck communal prayer gathering held two days after the shooting, the final psalm we chanted contained the words, "How good, how beautiful, for brothers and sisters to come together."

As we gather together to light the Hanukkah menorah, I encourage us to join forces with those outside the Jewish community who want this to be a land of liberty and justice for all. And, no less importantly, I encourage us to join with our fellow Jews in order to fight hatred no matter the object or the source. Within and beyond the Jewish community, we need brothers and sisters to come together.

Temple Israel Security

From the President by Rob Panzer

In light of the tragic events in Pittsburgh, I am writing to briefly discuss security at Temple Israel.

Many people have justifiably expressed concern for their safety and the safety of their families. For a number of years, our Safety and Security Committee has been hard at work, implementing many security

We have recently received a grant from the Department of Homeland Security...

improvements, some visible and some behind the scenes. We have implemented access control during off-hours, added surveillance mechanisms, and improved working relationships with the appropriate authorities, to name a few.

But, there is still work to be done. We have recently received a grant from the Department of Homeland Security which will be used to "harden

the facility." We are dealing with a bureaucracy, so it will take some time to receive those funds. Nevertheless, changes have already been put in place and we will continue to do so as we determine what our needs are.

For those who are regular attendees, you may notice increased security personnel. There will be training for staff, lay leaders, and congregants in appropriate actions to take in the unlikely event of an emergency.

There are other enhancements that, for security reasons, we are not at liberty to discuss, but please understand that we will continue to evaluate and improve as we continue to evaluate need.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Executive Director Leon Silverberg, at 482-7800.

I can always be reached at Robpanzer18@gmail.com.

In Memoriam

Temple Israel extends condolences
to the families of:

THELMA SAHN

esteemed member of Temple Israel

EVELYN BRAUNSCHWEIG

mother of Deborah Braunschweig and
esteemed member of Temple Israel

EVA ENGLANDER

mother of Jeffrey Englander

ILONKA BLAIR

sister of Edith Weinberger

SYLVIA BUTWIN

esteemed member Temple Israel

SYLVIA LEVINE

mother of Robert Levine

May their memories be for a blessing.

Upcoming Events at Temple Israel

December 10

Sisterhood Board Meeting 10:00 A.M.
Club TIGN Free Kids'

Robotics Class 4:00 P.M.

December 11

Sisterhood Lunch and Read Noon

December 13

Men's Club Meeting 7:30 P.M.

December 16

"Nutrition: Are We What We Eat?"

with Nutritionist Eleanor

Yomtobian-Askari 10:00 A.M.

Temple Israel Film Series Presents:

"Rock in the Red Zone" 7:00 P.M.

December 18

Maureen Nehedar Concert 7:30 P.M.

December 20

Board of Trustees Meeting 8:15 P.M.

January 7

Sisterhood Board Meeting 10:00 A.M.

January 12

Shabbat Talk: "Positive Aging: How
to Get Better with Age" featuring
Dr. Deborah Heiser 12:45 P.M.

January 13

Temple Israel Film Series
Presents: "Ida" 7:00 P.M.

January 21

Tu B'Shevat
Martin Luther King Day of Service

January 22

Board of Trustees Meeting 8:15 P.M.

January 24

Men's Club Meeting 7:30 P.M.

January 25

Tu B'Shevat Services 6:00 P.M.

Congregational Tu B'Shevat
Seder 7:00 P.M.

January 28

Sisterhood Board Meeting 10:00 A.M.

Sisterhood Making Donation In Memory Of Its Long-Time Member Susan Smith

by Marc Katz, Editor

Susan Smith, the late long-time treasurer of the Sisterhood, will be remembered on Saturday, December 15, when the organization dedicates a challah cover and plate in her memory during the Shabbat service.

The cover and wooden platter will be used every Shabbat at the conclusion of the service "and will remind us of Susan's devotion to Temple Israel," said Sisterhood President Karen Ashkenase, who will speak at the dedication. Both items will contain a calligraphy inscription in Mrs. Smith's memory by Temple Israel member Linda Abrams. "These items are both very bright and very beautiful. As soon as we saw them we knew they would be a proper way to remember Susan," Mrs. Ashkenase said.

Mrs. Smith, the wife of Kol Nidre Appeal Chair and former Trustee Arden Smith, passed away on August 1 following a long illness. An accountant, she had served as chair of the Finance Committee, financial secretary, and treasurer of the congregation, as well as a member of the Board of Trustees. She was also a member of the Strategic Planning Committee and Membership Committee. In addition to her involvement with the Sisterhood, Mrs. Smith was a 2011 Simhat Torah honoree and, along with her husband, was a dinner dance honoree in 2000. The Sisterhood had named her a "Woman of Achievement" in 1995, as did the Woman's League of Conservative Judaism in 1998. She served as treasurer of the Sisterhood for 25 years.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Smith is survived by the couple's two sons, Alex and Asher.



Susan Smith

The Temple Israel Shoah
Remembrance Committee
invites the congregation to
**a brunch honoring
the congregation's
Shoah survivors**

**Sunday, December 16
11 A.M.**

\$10 per person
Reservations & Details:
Call Jennifer at 482-7800
or jmarks@tign.org
or Lori Oppenheimer
at 448-2084
by December 13.

Mazal Tov To...

- **Rachelle and Ebby Ohebshalom**
on the engagement of their grandson,
Eric Khorshad, to Rachel Yeganeh.
- **Mickey and Allan Greenblatt**
on the engagement of their grandson,
Matthew, to Brooklyn Snow.

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



Rena Geula

Rena Geula will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on December 22. She is the daughter of Rachel and Kiumarz Geula and has two brothers, Aaron, 17, and Alexander, 15. Rena is a seventh grade honor student at Great Neck North Middle School. Rena is on the travel soccer team as well as her school soccer team. She also plays the violin. She is a recipient of the Judaic Scholar Award at the Temple Israel Religious School. Rena has chosen to do a fashion show for her Bat Mitzvah project, in which all the proceeds will go to The Safe Center Long Island which helps victims of domestic abuse.

Daily Minyan Times

Friday, December 14 & 21

7:00 A.M. 4:15 P.M.

Friday, December 28

7:00 A.M. 4:20 P.M.

Friday, January 4 & 11

7:00 A.M. 4:30 P.M.

Sunday

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

Monday

6:45 A.M. 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, December 11, & January 8 & 15

7:00 A.M. 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, December 18

6:45 A.M. 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, December 25 & January 1

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

Wednesday

7:00 A.M. 8:00 P.M.

Thursday

6:45 A.M. 8:00 P.M.

SKI, SNOWBOARD, TUBING TRIP

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2019
SHAWNEE MOUNTAIN, POCONOS, PA

Bus will depart Temple Israel at 6:30 AM SHARP!
(return to Temple Israel approx. 7:00 PM)

KIDS UNDER 18 YRS. OF AGE MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

PACKAGE PRICE PER PERSON

Package 1 - includes bus & all area lift ticket	\$95

Package 2 - includes bus & all area lift ticket plus ski or snowboard, boots, ski poles and helmet	\$130

Package 3 (Beginners package) - includes bus, lift ticket, ski or snowboard, boots, ski poles helmet and beginner lesson	\$135

Package 4 - includes bus and 4 hour tubing session	\$95

Full payment required upon registration

**Deadline to register is
Thursday, January 10**

**Make checks payable to:
Temple Israel of Great Neck**

**RSVP to Jodi Engel at the synagogue office or
jengel@tign.org**

**Questions? Contact Seth Kurpiel at
skurpiel@gmail.com or
(Cell) 718-578-7363**

NUTRITION ARE WE WHAT WE EAT?

Sunday, December 16

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

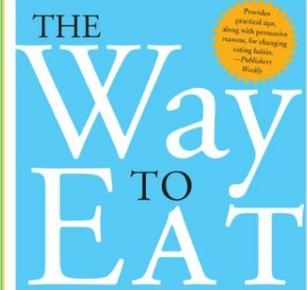
(at a private residence of a Temple Israel member)

ELEANOR YOMTOBIAN-ASKARI, MS, CNS, a certified licensed nutrition specialist, will help us learn how food impacts our children and our own health.

Using different resources, she will share and teach techniques for improving our life styles and reaching optimum health.

"The Way to Eat" by Dr. David Katz, would be one of the several resources of discussion.

In Cooperation with the American Dietetic Association



A Six-Step Path to
Lifelong Weight Control

DAVID L. KATZ, MD, MPH, FACP, FACP
Yale School of Medicine
and MAURA HARRIGAN GONZÁLEZ, MS, RD

To RSVP and get the location, please contact Jodi at jengel@tign.org or (516) 482-7800 ext. 1105.

Youth House Teens Making the World a Little Bit Better

From the Waxman High School and Youth House by Avi Siegel, Director

The most recent Midnight Run was an incredible night at the Waxman Youth House, with planning which started over a month ago.

We began a drive to collect men's and women's clothing, shoes, hats, coats, toiletries, etc. The outpouring of support from the community was inspiring. We came together on Veteran's Day to distribute food, drink and clothing to those in need. However, what we really gave was a part of ourselves. Watching teens and families go out into the night and spend time with people who often are considered invisible was heartwarming. The gift of letting a complete stranger know that they are seen, heard, and appreciated is transformative. I want to share one story with you:

One of our teens met a middle-aged man, born in New York City. He seemed to be in need of a good coat for the winter. Our teens brought him to the pile of coats and allowed him to take the lead in what he wanted to pick. Once he made his selection and tried it on one of the teens said, "Wow that looks amazing on you. What a perfect fit." You could see the light in the man's eyes. He did a little twirl and looked at himself over and over. The rest of the group jumped in and kept up the compliments to make sure that this man knew he wasn't just getting a coat, but was getting the approval that he is just as important as anyone else. Of course, it was done all while having fun and making our time together special. The man grasped hands with a teen and said to him, "I hope I win the lottery so I can go around and do what you guys are doing for others."

At the end of the night we decided to join with teens from Bet Torah in Mt. Kisco for a mega-stop. We took over Herald Square and set up a station that lined half a block. We saw that we are not alone in the charge to do good in the world, which echoes throughout all of Judaism. When we had our closing circle, I asked who met someone and heard their story and every hand was raised. I asked how many of our teens did the "run" last year and about half said they did. Then I asked who wanted to do it again next year. Everyone said, "Yes."

The Midnight Run is just one of our many programs that makes Jewish values a priority in our teens' lives. We also learn together every week, celebrate the holidays, put on weekend shabbatons, connect with other teens, and advocate for justice and equality. Our teens learn to turn their passions into realities. They are becoming the leaders of tomorrow and it starts here at the Youth House.

After spending the evening with our teens and seeing them see the world in a whole new way, I am reminded how fortunate we are to have the blessings we have in our lives. It helps me muster the courage to go out and help make the world a better place by making small impacts. The power of paying it forward allows one difference to change the world. I encourage all of you to see what small thing you can do to make someone's world a little bit better.



Sabbath Services

—Continued from back page

Se'udah Shelishit	4:25 P.M.
Evening Service	5:01 P.M.
Havdalah	5:17 P.M.

Friday, January 4

Evening Service	4:30 P.M.
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Saturday, January 5

Shaharit Morning Service	8:45 A.M.
First Mourner's Kaddish	9:25 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Va'era

Exodus 6:2 – 9:35; Numbers 28:9 - 15
Haftarah: Ezekiel 28:25 - 29:21

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters:
Brent Greenspan, Ezra Kassin,
Gail Zahler, Robert Lopatkin, and
Deanna Stecker

Junior Congregation	10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service	11:00 A.M.
Afternoon Service	4:00 P.M.
Se'udah Shelishit	4:30 P.M.
Evening Service	5:07 P.M.
Havdalah	5:23 P.M.

Friday, January 11

Evening Service	4:30 P.M.
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Saturday, January 12

Shaharit Morning Service	8:45 A.M.
First Mourner's Kaddish	9:25 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Bo

Exodus 10:1 - 13:16
Haftarah: Jeremiah 46:13 – 28

Sabbath Service Officers and
Greeters: Moji Pourmoradi, Audrey
Kent Itzkowitz, Mark D. Birnbaum,
Lisa Goodwin, and Andi Katz

Havurah Service	10:00 A.M.
Junior Congregation	10:30 A.M.
Toddler Service	11:00 A.M.
Shabbat Talk: "Positive Aging— How to Get Better With Age"	
With Deborah Heiser	12:45 P.M.

Afternoon Service	4:10 P.M.
Se'udah Shelishit	4:40 P.M.
Evening Service	5:13 P.M.
Havdalah	5:29 P.M.

D'var Torah

—Continued from back page

him with Abraham, who also went to Egypt because of famine, but is also the first step in the transformation of the patriarch's family into the people of Israel.

Vayehi Saturday, December 22

In this portion we conclude the cycle of Jacob stories and the Book of Genesis. After 17 years in Egypt, Jacob feels that his end is approaching. He makes Joseph swear that he will bury him with his forebearers in the land of Israel, and he blesses Joseph's children, Ephraim and Manasseh, thereby effectively elevating them to the status of Israelite tribes. Jacob then calls in all of his sons and delivers his testament in which he characterizes them and predicts what the future will bring each of them. Upon Jacob's death, the brothers bury him in the Cave of Machpelah and return to Egypt where they beg Joseph's forgiveness for the way they treated him. Joseph reassures them again that it was all part of God's plan. The concluding verses remind us of God's promise that the Israelites would return to the land of Canaan and prepare us to move to the Book of Exodus with its account of the enslavement and redemption.

Shemot Saturday, December 29

The book of Exodus begins in this portion and moves from the account of the history of a clan to the history of the Hebrew nation. A new king, who does not know Joseph, ascends the throne of Egypt and enslaves the Israelites. Moses is born to Israelite parents, but owing to a set of strange circumstances, he grows up in Pharaoh's palace as an Egyptian prince. He goes out to observe the Israelites at work and kills an Egyptian taskmaster for beating a slave. He is then forced to flee for his life to Midian where he marries and becomes a shepherd for his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. While tending his flock at Mt. Horeb (Sinai), Moses encounters God in a burning bush and is commissioned to return to Egypt and free his people. Accompanied by his brother, Aaron, he makes an appeal to Pharaoh which is totally rejected. Events are thus set in motion which will lead to

the Exodus and Moses' life-long task of bringing his people back to their land.

Va'era

Saturday, January 5

In this portion God reiterates His pledge to redeem His people from slavery and promises severe punishment for the Egyptian people. A contest then ensues between the will of Pharaoh. Moses and Aaron make another appeal to Pharaoh and in the process humiliate his magicians. The appeal, however, is again rejected. There follows the first seven of the ten plagues which God must inflict on the Egyptians in order to achieve the release of the Israelites. The plagues of blood, frogs, lice, swarms of insects, pestilence, boils and hail (as well as locusts, darkness and the slaying of the first-born, which are related in the next portion) demonstrate God's ability to manipulate nature and to protect His people. Since a number of the plagues were directed against Egyptian divinities, also present here is the beginning of the war by the Israelites on polytheism.

Bo

Saturday, January 12

We continue the account of the ten plagues with the last three, in this portion. The plagues of locusts and darkness are described and then the account is interpreted in order to record a detailed set of instructions which God gives to Moses and Aaron to prepare the Israelites for freedom. They are first directed to establish a calendar starting with the month of liberation, Nisan. The calendar is meant to provide social and religious cohesion as well as to symbolize the free man's ability, indeed responsibility, to make time. Then follow directions for offering the paschal sacrifice (to be eaten in haste) and for smearing blood on the door posts and lintels so Israelite houses will be spared the final plague. God then passes over the land and kills all the first born sons of the Egyptians, whereupon Pharaoh finally sends the Israelites out and they begin their journey toward Sinai. The Exodus is the key event in all Jewish history, and the instructions given here are by way of assuring that we remember God's role as redeemer to eternity.

Torah Values and Business Do Mix

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rabbi Schweber recently conducted a Temple Israel class on business ethics. This article is taken from his class material. He is always glad to discuss ethics with members of the congregation, business and otherwise.

by Rabbi Daniel Schweber

Imagine you are shopping for a mortgage or an auto loan or applying for a credit card and you tell the loan officer that you are a practicing Jew and the Bible prohibits you from paying interest. What do you think the response would be? I do not think you would get "sure, we will give you the 0 percent no interest discount!" In today's world, interest on loans and fees for using someone else's money is commonplace and necessary.

What are we supposed to do with the Torah's prohibition against the taking of interest? The Torah also calls for the cancellation of debts every seven years. Most of us take out mortgages for 20 or 30 years! As much as we might wish, the bank isn't going to rip up the mortgage at the end of the sabbatical year. (The next sabbatical year ends on September 2022.)

The ancient rabbis of the mishnah and Talmud (material covering 100 B.C.E. to 500 C.E.) grappled with these issues and many other questions about Jewish values and business. On first look, the results may be surprising. The ancient rabbis used creative interpretation and creative work-arounds to seemingly skirt the requirement to forgive loans at the end of the sabbatical year and the prohibition on interest.

The work-around the loan forgiveness was implemented by the famous Hillel around 100 B.C.E. Hillel narrowly interpreted the Torah text about forgiving loans as only applying to interpersonal loans. Hillel reasoned that a corporate entity such as a Jewish law court (beit din) did not have to cancel loans. Since then and to today, Jews who want to keep their interpersonal loans after the sabbatical year sign an instrument called "prozbul," assigning the loan to the law court.

The work-around the interest prohibition

is more complicated. Instead of a lender/borrower relationship, the parties enter a business partnership where one party is the capital partner providing the money and the other party is the labor partner. In the partnership agreement, the labor partner essentially guarantees a "profit" from the business that he/she will share with the capital partner. The amount of the promised "profit" conveniently equals a certain percentage of the principal investment.

What are we supposed to do with the Torah's prohibition against the taking of interest?

This business partnership is called "heter iska" in Hebrew and is utilized by Israeli banks. In the U.S. there are financial and legal firms that offer a rabbi's assistance to help people create one. This past summer some rabbis

helped Dan Gilbert, founder of Quicken Loans, sign a heter iska.

For centuries, more idealist and/or literal minded readers of the Torah challenged these work-arounds as nothing more than legal fictions. If they didn't violate the letter of the law, then they certainly violated the spirit of the law. The counter argument is that living an ethical and capitalist life requires some balance and compromise. All of the Torah's laws about loans and interest are presented as examples and particular rules as part of the general requirement to take care of the poor and needy. The Torah is teaching us not to use capitalism as a means to injure the poor. Within reason and with acknowledgment to the Torah's ideals, normal commercial enterprise such as interest bearing long-terms are necessary and okay.

If you want to live the Torah's values, the next time you arrange a mortgage payment also make a donation to tzedakah.

Join us for Shabbat Talk on

Saturday, January 12

following kiddush in the Blue Room

POSITIVE AGING - HOW WE GET BETTER WITH AGE

featuring

DEBORAH HEISER PH.D.

a TIGN member who holds a degree in Applied Developmental Psychology with a specialty in helping redefine what aging really means.



Dr. Heiser will share her insight that our emotional development increases with age, never to decline. Therefore, aging affords us the opportunity to leave a legacy of our choosing, continuing to cultivate meaningful relationships, and remaining productive.

From Generation to Generation

Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

TEMPLE ISRAEL FUND

In appreciation of:

Receiving a High Holy Day honor
 Renee and Martin Kimelman
 Rabbi Eckstein's Yizkor Service
 Helene Press

In honor of:

Bracha and Marty Werber's 50th anniversary
 Linda and Brent Greenspan
 Morton Leichter's 70th birthday
 Judy and Mario Zilberstein
 The birth of Walden June Englander-Weisskirk, granddaughter of Alise Kreditor and Jeffrey Englander
 Carol and Steve Smolinsky
 Emily and Isaac Taitz's 60th wedding anniversary
 Bela and Melvin Schoenfeld
 Mimi, Mark, Gabrielle and Noah Deitch
 Jane Cohen
 Morah Ronnie Katz and Tot Shabbat
 Alicia Torodash
 Marilyn Torodash
 Simhat Torah honoree
 Robert Aizer
 Naomi, Bob and Robin Lippert
 David Agler
 Shirley and Ed Goldfeder
 Anita Mosten
 Rabbi Marim Charry's Second Bar Mitzvah
 Shulamith Toback and Deborah Davis
 The engagement of their son, Benjamin, to Rebecca Broad
 Vivian and Yuval Brash
 Jordan Peltz, grandson of Roberta and David Harounian and son of Debra Harounian Peltz, becoming a Bar Mitzvah
 Rachelle and Ebby Ohebshalom
 Simhat Torah honorees
 Harriet and Neal Picker
 Sheila Picker

In memory of:

Henry Levy
 Stacey Yafeh
 Phelia Gillman
 Louis Gillman
 Eugene Gillman
 Gilan Ohebshalom
 Ebby Ohebshalom
 Joseph Schechter
 Joni Shames
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 Harriet Seiler
 Graham Goldberg
 Judith Greenstein
 Soltan Gabbay
 Nejat Gabbay
 Amir Gabbay
 Meyer Bonuck
 Frances Bellak
 Carole Anderman
 Sandy Aibel
 Merrill Ann
 Schneiderman

Rose Kasenetz
 Jerrold Kasenetz
 Roslyn Gingold
 Jane Townley
 Roselyn Miller
 Ira Miller
 Susan and Robert Miller
 Tillie Fagin
 Martin Fagin
 Abraham Altman
 Edith Altman
 Karen Ashkenase
 Rebecca Warren
 Adele Warren
 Annette Shames
 Jerrold Shames
 Abraham Shames
 Jordan Shames
 Philip Pross
 Cindy Eve Pross
 Michael Kanefsky
 Diane and Marty Kanefsky
 Morris David Forgasch
 Rosalind Forgasch
 Susan Lopatkin
 Leslie Andrew Nelkin
 Ruth Nelkin
 Anita Freudman
 Aaron Freudman
 Paul Freudman
 Jacob Propp
 Theodore Propp
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 Simon Fink
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 Lena Blum
 Molly Blum
 Joe Tune
 Marilyn Gessin
 Drazel Penberg
 Dena and Mark Hirsch
 Rita Wolf Emanuel
 Linda Emanuel
 David Emanuel
 Grace Barkas
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Eva Schreiber
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In appreciation of:
Rabbi Charry's kind and caring support during a difficult time and for officiating at Susan Smith's funeral
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Rabbi Geoffrey Goldberg being a guest speaker at the Sisterhood Shabbat Dinner
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Representing Temple Israel to AIPAC

A Voice Guest Column by Harold Citron

EDITOR'S NOTE: Temple Israel Men's Club Co-President Harold Citron recently represented the congregation at the AIPAC national convention in Washington, D.C. This Guest Column is his report on the meeting, taken from a presentation he gave to the Men's Club upon his return.

In a world where nations and terrorist organizations call for the destruction of Israel, while Israel is repeatedly condemned for defending its own border from HAMAS-led attacks in the halls of the UN and in newspaper editorials, one can wonder: is there any group out there that supports the world's only Jewish state in the face of multiple threats?

The answer is a resounding yes, and that group is AIPAC. This past March, I travelled to Washington, D.C. at the request of the Temple Israel Men's Club to participate in AIPAC's annual convention. There, I joined 15,000 others who believe that strengthening the relationship between the United States and Israel provides a great benefit to both nations.

The convention itself was fascinating. Part pep-rally, part learning, and part lobbying all wrapped up in a professional bow. Each day started and ended with a large gathering, presenting stories about Israel and the United States to an eager audience. It was on this stage that such national leaders as New York Senator Charles Schumer, United States ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley, Knesset member Natan Sharansky, and Israel Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu, took the stage to share their thoughts on both the importance of the relationship between the United States and Israel, and on events of the day.

It was in the many breakout sessions that that proved most insightful. Discussions ranged from international affairs and threats faced by Israel, including Iran's military adventures, the Syrian civil war, Russia's resurgence in the Middle East, and the ongoing conflict with the Palestinians. These presentations included many voices from all corners of the political

spectrum as part of their analysis and commentary. It was in these sessions that I was able to ask questions and discuss issues with such notable speakers as Labor Knesset member and former Israeli foreign minister Tzipi Livni, and United States peace negotiator and professor Alan David Miller, among others. As knowledgeable as the professionals were, the audience proved their equal, asking meaningful and pointed questions that lay bare the claim that AIPAC caters only to the right wing of both American and Israeli political points of view.

The final day included meetings with senators and representatives from

...is there any group out there that supports the world's only Jewish state in the face of multiple threats?

around the U.S. As part of the New York delegation, we met with Senator Kristin Gillibrand and Congressman Tom Suozzi, in addition to staff members from Senator Schumer's office. It was here that one could see the bi-partisan nature of the organization, as participants were schooled on the nature of its goals—develop long-term relationships with members of Congress, and that the long-standing friendship between the U.S. and Israel requires support from both sides of the political aisle. Indeed, it is this belief that relationships between the U.S. and Israel, between members and our political representatives, and between members of all political and religious backgrounds, that are critical to the well-being, not just of Israel, but here too, in the United States. During these fractured times that was the greatest lesson of all.

Congregation Thanks Kiddush Sponsors

A contribution towards the kiddush on August 4 was made by the Berookhim family in memory of Nejatollah Berookhim.

The congregational kiddush on August 11 was sponsored by Wendy and Bernard Gold in honor of the Auf Ruf of their son, Barrett, and Daria Frost.

The congregational kiddush on August 18 was sponsored by Nadine and David Feingold in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary.

The congregational kiddush on August 25 was co-sponsored by Paula and Rabbi Marim D. Chary in honor of Rabbi Chary's second Bar Mitzvah, and by Cheryl and Robert Sperber in honor of the Auf Ruf of their daughter, Dana, and Eric Wahrburg. Contributions toward the Kiddush Fund were made by Sofia and David Sohayegh in honor of the baby naming of their granddaughter, Delancey June Shirazi, and Fran and Marc Langsner in honor of Rabbi Chary's second Bar Mitzvah and in celebration of Mr. Langsner beginning his 26th year as B'nei Mitzvah chairman.

The congregational kiddush on September 1 was sponsored by Joanna and David Eshaghoff in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Joseph.

A contribution towards the kiddush on September 22 was made by Michelle and Allen Ahdoot in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Juliette.

A contribution towards the kiddush on September 29 was made by Natalie and Robert Nejat in honor of their son, Jason.

Contributions toward the kiddush on October 6 were made by Joanna and Steve Cronin in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Luke, by Nancy and Lawrence Greengrass in honor of the Auf Ruf of their daughter, Alyssa, and Matthew Sommer, and by Ellen and Martin Domnitch in honor of the IDF and visiting guest Sergeant Rachel.

Candle Lighting Times

Friday, December 14
4:10 P.M.
Friday, December 21
4:12 P.M.
Friday, December 28
4:16 P.M.
Friday, January 4
4:22 P.M.
Friday, January 11
4:28 P.M.

Temple Israel's TILL Film Series Presents "Ida" Sunday, January 13 • 7:00 P.M.

In 1962 Poland, Ida is a young postulate training to be a nun. She grew up in a convent orphanage and knows little of the outside world. Mother Superior informs her that she has an aunt who she should visit before taking her final vows. Her aunt, Wanda, informs her that she is Jewish. Together they set off to learn what happened to Ida's parents during the war and where they might be buried, a trip that has a profound effect on both of them. There is not charge for admission and complimentary film snacks will be served.

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D'var Torah

By Rabbi Marim D. Charry

Vayiggash Saturday, December 15

The Joseph narrative is continued as Judah makes a moving appeal to Joseph, still unrecognized by his brothers, on behalf of his brother, Benjamin, who had been accused of stealing Joseph's goblet, in this portion. Judah's words convince Joseph that his brothers truly changed since they sold him. He reveals himself to them, inquires about his father's health and assures them that their action was part of God's plan to put him in a position to save lives. He invites the entire family to come to Egypt to live out the five remaining years of the famine. When Jacob arrives, Joseph presents his father at court and settles the family in a choice area of the land. In the following years, he continues his work and brings great benefits to the crown. Jacob's journey to Egypt connects

— Continued on page 6

Temple Israel of Great Neck

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Sabbath Services

Friday, December 14

Evening Service 4:15 P.M.

Saturday, December 15

Shaharit Morning Service/Shabbat

Morning Group Aliyah 8:45 A.M.

First Mourner's Kaddish 9:25 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Vayisggash

Genesis 44:18 – 47:27

Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:15 – 28

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters: Veronica Bisek Lurvey, Lila Bernstein Schoen, Ellen Birnbaum, Gail Zahler, and Jeffrey Fleit

Bar Mitzvah: Raphael Kermani son of Plotit (Poly) and Payam Kermani

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Machon Alone 10:30 P.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Niggun Circle following kiddush

Afternoon Services 3:50 P.M.

Religious School Havdalah 4:00 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 4:20 P.M.

Shabbat Evening Services 4:54 P.M.

Havdalah 5:10 P.M.

Friday, December 21

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

Saturday, December 22

Shaharit Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

First Mourner's Kaddish 9:25 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Vayehi

Genesis 47:28 – 50:26

Haftarah: I Kings 2:1 - 12

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters: Toby Katz, David Eshaghoff, Jeffrey Fleit, and Diana Stein

Bat Mitzvah: Rena Geula daughter of Rachel and Kiumarz Geula

Havurah Service 10:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Afternoon Service 3:50 P.M.

Se'udah Shelishit 4:20 P.M.

Evening Service 4:56 P.M.

Havdalah 5:12 P.M.

Friday, December 28

Evening Service 4:20 P.M.

Saturday, December 29

Shaharit Morning Service 8:45 A.M.

First Mourner's Kaddish 9:25 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Shemot

Exodus 1:1 – 6:1

Haftarah: Isaiah 27:6 – 28:13; 29:22 - 23

Sabbath Service Officers and Greeters: Harold Citron, Ofra Panzer, Lynn Weitzman, and Ellen Birnbaum

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.

Toddler Service 11:00 A.M.

Afternoon Service 3:55 P.M.

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