

## FROM THE PRESIDENT *Stay Apart, Stay Connected*

By Burton Weston

Rarely, if ever, have we lived such conflicted lives. On the one hand, we rely on each other to stay away—“socially distanced”—in order to save ourselves, our relatives, friends and colleagues, and the wider community. On the other, we urgently need to stay connected to preserve our psychological, emotional and spiritual health. These conflicting needs are not mutually exclusive—our survival requires we embrace both.

The gross uncertainty as to how the Covid-19 virus can attack is not merely concerning, it is downright frightening. We owe it to our

**...we have been there  
for our community  
and are working  
extremely hard at it.**

neighbor, to all the people around us, to respect their space and demand corresponding respect. That, in some measure, is the easy part—behavior that one can control and avoid.

The harder part is bearing the radical change in our daily lives. Aloneness can quickly pass to isolation, structure to chaos. Staying connected can help us manage our feelings of loneliness, anxiety and stress. A simple call to someone who might be suffering in silence can be a lifeline. An outward expression of kindness will not only

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## Temple Israel During Covid-19 Is Here for You In Virtual Programs

By Marc Katz, Editor

At a time when families are turning inward by staying home and businesses are having employees work from home or closing their doors altogether, Temple Israel has been expanding its offerings and services to keep the membership united.

The congregation is providing a wide range of offerings using the Zoom online platform, livestreaming the daily morning and evening minyan, *Shabbat* services, *bar* and *bat mitzvah* ceremonies, memorial services, Board of Trustees and committee meetings, *seder* how-to classes followed by Passover *seders* conducted by Rabbi Howard Stecker one night and Rabbi Daniel Schweber on the other, the annual Yom Hashoah Memorial Service featuring a Holocaust survivor as guest speaker, adult education classes, book discussions, baking classes, movie discussions, yoga classes, current events talks, *siddur* discussion classes, and a sing-a-long with Cantor Raphael Frieder. In addition, Temple Israel's three schools—the Beth HaGan Pre-School School, Religious School and Waxman High School—are conducting regular online classes.

Plans are underway to hold the annual Rabbinic Dialogue on May 31, featuring a lively discussion with the spiritual leaders of Great Neck's largest congregations, online, as well. Talks are about to be held as to how to conduct High Holy Day services in September.

“This programming is designed to bring solace, connection and hope to our

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Temple Israel school classes have continued to meet despite the Coronavirus outbreak. Using Zoom, a recent class prepared for Shabbat with music and prayer.

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## We Are Here for You

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**A Voice Guest Column** By Jamey Kohn

EDITOR'S NOTE: Temple Israel Executive Director Jamey Kohn speaks about the extraordinary efforts to keep the congregation running which the staff is making during the Coronavirus crisis in this Voice Guest Column.

It's hard to believe how much has changed in the past 45 days. Schools are out, and working from home is the new norm. Going to the supermarket is an ordeal with new rituals, safety

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**There are lessons...  
we have learned about...  
new and creative ways to  
bring programs and services  
to members where they reside.**

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precautions, and anxieties. I have actually daydreamed about finding a shelf fully stocked with hand soap, and a produce section that has, well, anything in it that's fresh. Would you like to take a walk? Be sure to put on a mask and stay six-feet away from everyone. Dinner and drinks with friends

are now conducted via satellite using the latest Zoom technology or Facetime.

Some things have not changed, though. The Temple Israel office is (remotely) open for business and has not been closed for even one day since the mandate to close facilities was announced. Thanks to the foresight of our leadership, the majority of operations can be conducted off-site. While businesses and other non-profits have been scrambling to gain remote access to their files, from day one every synagogue employee has been able to work from their home computer as though they are at their office desk. Even our physical phones are transportable, allowing for a near

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## Choosing Empathy

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**From the Rabbi** By Rabbi Howard Stecker

As of my submission of this column, the United States has had over 800,000 COVID-19 cases and over 40,000 related deaths. We have been practicing social distancing for over a month. Some of us in the congregation have been ill with the virus and many of us have family and friends who have been ill and even succumbed. Through all of this we have likely been feeling dejected, frustrated and afraid.

For the past month, we at Temple Israel have done our best to keep the community connected by creating a "virtual" synagogue of online programs and services and reaching out to individual members to see how we can help. We will also be turning to the congregation to ask for financial support from those who are able to provide it. This will enable us to offset the very real financial challenges that we are facing as a result of this crisis and to continue to fulfill our vital mission of supporting and uplifting the community.

Jewish tradition encourages us to use our personal circumstances to cultivate empathy toward others. The anxiety that some of us have been feeling in connection with this crisis may help sensitize us to the chronic anxiety that many people live with for a whole variety of reasons. The isolation that we

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**This crisis...may encourage us  
to see and help those around us...**

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feel from mandated social distancing may enable us to appreciate those for whom isolation is a regular fact of life.

I say "may help" and "may enable" because empathy requires intention. We can potentially experience the negative effects of the current situation without thinking so much about anyone else. We can become preoccupied with our own anxiety, inconvenience and suffering without looking, as the Torah puts it, "to the right or the left."

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## From the Editor

By Marc Katz

It has been a long time, but I'm glad to be back! These last few Voice issues have been the first that I have missed in the approximately 30 years that I have served as the editor. Both Coronavirus and personal issues have left Temple Israel members without the newsletter it has come to regularly count on. But, now we are attempting to get back to our regular publication schedule. Or, at least as regular as the current pandemic will allow.

This issue is being mailed, as well as being emailed, to all members of the congregation because the Temple Israel leadership thought the messages it carries are extremely important and that it is necessary, in these trying times, to keep the congregation together using all means possible. In this issue of The Voice you will find important information about virtual efforts Temple Israel is using to continue regular programming as well as adding new events and services.

I hope you enjoy reading The Voice as much as I enjoy bringing it to you. Your comments are always welcome. I look forward to hearing from you!

## From the President

—Continued from front page

be appreciatively received, it is equally fulfilling to the giver. It is not complicated—it does not take much time or effort—but the effects can be enormous.

This drives the institutional focus of our synagogue, and the daily agenda of our clergy and lay leadership. We closed our walls to foster safe spaces for our congregants. But, we have created a virtual environment for our community. Our clergy, lay leaders and Board members have taken to the phones to contact a large number of our congregants to learn what they want and need—to simply connect.

It has not been without its challenges. It is never perfect, but we have been there for our community and are working extremely hard at it. We are there for each of you. We will one day turn to you and ask that you be there for us. Our synagogue has, and for a long time to come will continue to be, the beating heart of our community. In the meantime, stay apart, stay connected.

## In Memoriam

*Temple Israel extends condolences to the families of:*

### MADLINE GOLDBERG

esteemed member of Temple Israel

### ESTELLE ITSCOWITZ

mother of Sheila Stark,  
Arlene Sorkowitz and Linda Stark

### MANSOUR DAMAGHI

brother of Nasser Damaghi

### ALICE JACOB

esteemed member of Temple Israel

### DORIS KATZ

mother of Andrea Katz  
and Patty Katz  
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

### RONNIE KATZ

wife of Marc Katz  
mother of Amy Kardon and Jacob Katz  
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

### PHYLISS REIF

sister of Robert Levine

### GEDALE HOROWITZ

father of Seth Horowitz and Ruth Horowitz  
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

### JACQUES GOULD

father of Melissa Gould and Roger Gould  
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

### MILTON (MICKEY) PUTTERMAN

husband of Eileen Putterman  
father of Sharon Panisch,  
Louis Putterman, Charles Putterman,  
Anne P. Summers, Amy Pearlman,  
and William Putterman  
esteemed member and Past President  
of Temple Israel

### FLORENCE GERTLER

mother of Nancy Gertler

### CLAIRE CAHN

mother of Charles Cahn,  
Sidney Cahn and Miriam Cahn  
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

### IRVING KIZNER

brother of Maurice Kizner and George Kizner

### JOAN KEPPLER

mother of Suzanne Keppler Stratton,  
Juliane Keppler, Andrea Scott,  
and Alison Adams  
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

### MIRIAM HAROONI SHIRAZI

mother of Moshe Shirazi

### LILLIAN SOLOMON

mother of Richard Solomon

### EDITH CHERNOFF

mother of Randy Navo

*May their memories be for a blessing.*

## Do Your Grocery Shopping at Temple Israel!

In response to the difficulties many congregants have had obtaining kosher food for their family during the Coronavirus outbreak, the congregation has set-up an "Easy Pick Grocery Service," enabling members to order food basics and pick them up contact-less from the Temple Israel parking lot.

Among the items available are bags of assorted vegetables and fruit, basmati rice, potatoes, a raw whole chicken, milk, orange juice, cold cereal, sugar, pasta, tuna fish, snacks, cheeses, eggs, challah and whole wheat bread, cookies and ruggelah.

"So many people told me they were having a hard time getting food," said Rabbi Daniel Schweber. "They said they didn't want to go out shopping and deliveries were hard to get or unreliable." He said he was able to arrange for food to be available at wholesale prices from Benz, a wholesaler which normally supplies restaurants, caterers and institutional users.

During the first week of offering the service Temple Israel received more than 30 orders, indicating a need for the service. "We will continue to offer these groceries as long as the need continues," Rabbi Schweber said.

For the complete list of grocery offerings go to the Temple Israel website, [www.tign.org](http://www.tign.org) or call 482-7800. The deadline for placing orders by phone is on Friday by 2 P.M. and online by Sunday at Noon. All purchases are certified kosher, sales are final and no refunds or exchanges are possible.

Orders must be picked up on Thursdays between 3-4 P.M. Purchasers simply enter the parking lot, display their name in their car's passenger side window, open their trunk or car rear door, and a volunteer wearing a mask will place the groceries in the car. For grocery selection information and to place an order, call the Temple Israel office at 482-7800.

Volunteers are needed to sort the groceries and prepare them for pick-up. For further information about the food service or to volunteer to prepare the orders for pick-up, contact Rabbi Schweber at [rabbischweber@tign.org](mailto:rabbischweber@tign.org) or 482-7800.



Temple Israel volunteers packaged groceries recently, preparing them for members who used the congregation's "Easy Pick Grocery Service."

*Voice Photo by Ofra Panzer*

# Temple Israel Schools Are Busy Despite Pandemic

EDITOR'S NOTE: There may be a pandemic out there, but that hasn't stopped Temple Israel's schools from functioning and keeping up the interest of students. The congregation's three schools—the Waxman High School, Temple Israel Religious School and Beth HaGan Nursery School—have been keeping up a busy schedule, as detailed in this report from the school directors.

## Waxman High School and Youth House By Avi Siegel, Director

When sitting down to write this article, I found myself having a hard time coming to terms with what went on this past month. To think that the last time I stepped foot in the Youth House was six weeks ago makes my heart ache. However, thankfully, the community we built together inside those four walls has kept us anchored to one another. Maintaining those bonds of *achdut* has served as the life raft ensuring that we all don't drown in the waves of sorrow and despair. I am so proud of my students and teachers who have shown that together we shall make it out of this darkness and into the light.

When we entered the beginning of this pandemic, the amount of fear and unknown that was held among the teens was palpable. Unsure if school would open the following Monday. Unsure of what their teachers would do for lessons. Unsure if they would have APs and Regents. Even unsure if some would walk in their graduation ceremony. As reality set in and the new medium for education and socialization was through the computer, the youth house opened its virtual doors to provide a sense of connection, normalcy and spirituality. Through this crisis we have had multiple programs a week where the teens can come together and share their frustration, tension and drain that the situation is putting on them. We continued our celebrations and commemorations of holidays and historical events as a community. We are showing that there is nothing in this world that can sever the ties that bind us together as a holy community—that physical sanctuary transcends space itself. Whether you need to laugh, cry, ask for help, offer a hand, or just be seen and heard, the Youth House is still the place at which you can just show up.

What has been another silver lining through this whole process is the engagement that I have spent with the community at large. Teaching to people who normally wouldn't have the opportunity to join my classrooms has been wonderful. Lighting candles for the entire congregation with my family has added a spark to my *Shabbat* experience that wasn't there before. Spending time on the phone with parents who are lost as to what they can do for their children at this time has led to some of the most powerful conversations. Temple Israel is a place where you know that you never have to feel alone.

I hope that, as we turn the page on this chapter and enter the next phase of what will come, we all remember the powerful words: "We are never alone even in the darkest of times."

## Temple Israel Religious School By Rabbi Amy Roth

We are community in so many ways. Even in these times of virtual everything, our school community has been able to stay connected through a variety of means.

Since we all know the importance of proper handwashing, especially during this time, we inaugurated the "hand washing challenge": children and teachers made videos of themselves washing hands while singing a Hebrew song! We saw many creative entries, including some prayers and Passover *seder* favorites. As a way of participating in the greater community while also performing a *mitzvah*, many of our families also participated in our effort to thank the healthcare workers at North Shore—we sent them artwork, photos and other heartfelt messages from the Temple Israel family. Keep them coming!

Ah, the magic of technology. Since our Religious School has been meeting virtually, we are able to see one another, share art, prepare holiday foods and

just be together. Classes have individual Zoom sessions, and we have been offering drop-in Hebrew review Zoom sessions. In addition, we have been able to bring some of our *ruach*, spirit, to the virtual sphere with our weekly school-wide musical celebrations. While class Zooms have been reviewing Hebrew, singing songs, and creating *seder* table additions, our communal Zoom meetings incorporate our signature *Rosh Hodesh* experiences, with some added "spice," such as our salute to baseball (even without a baseball season).

As we enter the new month of *Iyyar*, with its celebration of *Yom Ha'atzma'ut*, Israel's 72nd birthday, we are issuing a new challenge: as we view the videos: "Where in Israel is...Rabbi Roth???" Children of all ages are called upon to connect to Israel and engage in some questions and activities. Whether it be creating a picture of well-known locations in Israel or answering questions about facts about Israel, we entered *Iyyar* with a sense of hope, joy and continued learning.

## Beth HaGan Nursery School By Rachel Mathless, Director

All classes, even the tiny toddlers, are connecting daily through Zoom, Google Classroom, What'sApp, or Facebook. Teachers Facetime every child individually at least twice a week. We have prepared *Haggadahs* and model *sedarim*, we have celebrated virtual birthday parties, exciting dance parties, and *Yom Ha'azma'ut*.

We continue to do "Circle Time," *tefillah*, yoga, art, and reading readiness despite the limitations of remote learning. We applaud the parents who participate with their children to facilitate the learning process. We send home many links and sites that parents can access which contain many helpful ideas and programs. We are acutely aware that this mode of learning can be difficult for some students, nevertheless we are offering a daily potpourri of stories, science, art, and Judaic activities. Our *Shabbat* parties and *oneg Shabbat* with the teachers and rabbis continue each Friday at 11 A.M.

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



**Mitchell Bloom**

Mitchell Bloom celebrated his *bar mitzvah* on March 14. He is the son of Michelle and Jonathan Bloom and has two brothers, Jacob, 9, and Ari, 5. Mitchell is a seventh-grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. He plays on the Great Neck Travel Soccer team and enjoys playing tennis, basketball and baseball. He will continue to attend the Waxman High School as well as Camp Ramah in the Berkshires.



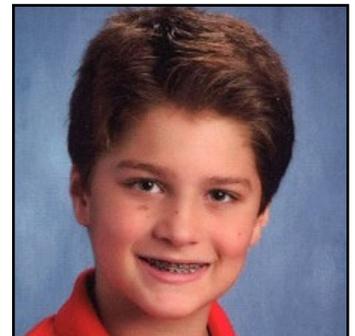
**Cyrus Sedgh**

Cyrus Sedgh was called to the Torah as a *bar mitzvah* on March 21. He is the son of Neda and Farid Sedgh and has two sisters, Victoria, 20, and Alexandra, 16, and a brother, Daniel, 17. Cyrus is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School and is a seventh grade All County Champion in track. Cyrus enjoys cross country and track as well as auto racing. He is currently attending the Waxman High School and Youth House.



**Maya Ohebshalom**

Maya Ohebshalom marked her *bat mitzvah* on March 28. She is the daughter of Shadi and Michael Ohebshalom and has two brothers, Aaron, 15, and Joseph, 7, and a sister, Talia, 11. Maya is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. She participates in her school's cross country and winter track teams and basketball team. Maya is now focusing on mastering hurdles. She has visited Israel twice and is planning another trip next summer.



**Matthew Bloom**

Matthew Jamie Bloom was called to the Torah as a *bar mitzvah* on April 25. He is the son of Sharon and Adam Bloom and has a brother, Ian, 9. Matthew is a seventh grade honor student at Great Neck North Middle School. He plays ice hockey on the Great Neck Bruins team and the new Great Neck North Middle School team. Matthew plans to visit Israel this summer.

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## Schools Are Busy Despite Pandemic

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Plans are being formulated for a virtual art fair. We are also planning a unique schoolwide end-of-the-year project.

Summer program planning is continuing in the hope that we will be able to open. Stay tuned, stay safe, stay healthy. We can't wait to go back to our Temple Israel "home" and

## Mazal Tov to...

**Rebecca and Malcolm Phillips**

on the birth of their grandson, Evan Ariel Fogelman, son of Lauren Phillips Fogelman and Daniel Fogelman.



**Kayla Kahan**

Kayla Hoori Kahan will be celebrating her *bat mitzvah* on May 16. She is the daughter of Cherie and Jon Kahan and has a brother, Michael, 16, and a sister, Serena, 5. Kayla is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School, where she is in an honors math class. Kayla enjoys art and recently created a beautiful piece for the healthcare workers at North Shore Hospital. She will continue to attend the Waxman High School.



**Jayden Haghani**

Jayden Eliyahu Haghani will be called to the Torah as a *bar mitzvah* on May 23. He is the son of Niloofar (Nilu) and Amir Haghani and has a brother, Joshua, 14, and a sister, Julia, 6. Jayden is a seventh grade honor student at Great Neck North Middle School and is on his school soccer team as well as a travel soccer team. He also enjoys playing tennis and basketball. Jayden plans to visit Israel in the near future.



**Noah Ahdoot**

Noah Ahdoot will mark his *bar mitzvah* on June 6. He is the son of Michelle and Allen Ahdoot and has three sisters, Alexandra, 16, Juliette, 14, and Vivienne, 9. Noah is a seventh grade honor student at Great Neck North Middle School, where he serves as secretary of the Student Organization. He plans to join Waxman Youth House Mitzvah Projects and hopes to reschedule his family trip to read Torah at the *Kotel*.

# Men's Clubs Sponsoring Rabbinic Dialogue May 31st

Great Neck's Annual Rabbinic Dialogue, featuring the senior rabbis from the community's leading Orthodox, Conservative and Reform congregations, will be held as planned on Sunday, May 31, at 10:30 A.M.—but with an unusual twist this year due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

The lively, often heated discussion comparing and contrasting the different branches of Jewish observance, this year will feature Rabbis Dale Polakoff of Orthodox Great Neck Synagogue, Howard Stecker of Conservative Temple Israel, Yaacov Lerner of Orthodox Young Israel, and Tara and Meir Feldman of Reform Temple Beth-El.

The synagogues' Men's Clubs or Brotherhoods sponsor the program. This year it was Temple Israel's turn to host the event, but due to the Covid shutdown the program will be conducted via Zoom

with all member congregations participating via their computer.

Rabbi Stecker has suggested that the clergy address questions dealing with the Coronavirus outbreak:

- What have you found most challenging about the current crisis personally and professionally?
- Describe a few steps you and your synagogue have taken to address the challenges.
- How have you navigated the demands of the crisis with the Halakhic and ideological boundaries of your respective movement?
- How, if at all, has this crisis changed your view of the role of the rabbi and the role of the synagogue?

The clergy will also take questions from the audience. Details about how to participate in the Zoom program will be announced shortly.

## From the Rabbi: Choosing Empathy

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Or we can choose the path of empathy, a path which begins with looking carefully at the people around us. This crisis, so horrible in so many ways, may encourage us to see and help those around us more, but only if we choose to see and to help.

For generations, *bar* and *bat mitzva* students have responded less than enthusiastically when their assigned Torah portion is the one that deals with skin ailments. That portion, *Metzora*, is generally read at this time of year and it speaks of diagnosis and quarantine among the ancient Israelites. The *Kohen*, the priest, would determine if a person needed to be quarantined and when the person could rejoin the community.

Rabbi Harold Kushner observed years ago how significant it is that the *Kohen*, one of the busiest and most exalted people in the community, invested the time and effort to be with a person throughout his or her physical and emotional ordeal. That attentiveness alone, he reasoned, must have provided some solace to an individual enduring considerable distress.

Imagine how much good we could do if we each thought of ourselves as a *Kohen*, busy with our lives to be sure, but willing to transcend our own circumstances enough to be present for someone else. Imagine if we could use our own experience of anxiety and vulnerability as an invitation to consider, and address, the anxiety and vulnerability of others.

I don't necessarily believe that we are given challenges in order for us to learn from them, but I do believe that we can learn from our challenges. One of the lessons we can learn is that of empathy.

During this exceedingly challenging time, I

## Guest Column: We Are Here for You

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seamless transition to taking calls from the kitchen counter. The investment in this technology just a few years ago has certainly been well spent.

If you call the office, Jennifer Marks, the office administrator/receptionist, will answer the phone and help you in any way she can, or transfer you to say, Lynda Kaufman, controller, for a billing question, or maybe Kathy Recckia to schedule an appointment with Rabbi Stecker. Jodi Engel continues to use her creativity to assist with programming, and Marion Stein's expert office management helps maintain the day-to-day. Angela Jones has been perhaps the busiest, managing all of Temple Israel's electronic communications and the majority of our social media posts, which have doubled and tripled since we have been forced to become all digital. I would be remiss if I did not mention the continued efforts of our security team, who maintain an on-site presence to ensure the safety of our building, and our maintenance staff, who have been working on improvement projects (keeping socially distanced).

urge all of us to ask for the help we need. I also urge us to do our best to choose to feel and act with empathy. In addition to helping others, it may have the benefit of reducing our own sense of anxiety and vulnerability. May we have the largesse during this difficult time to choose empathy.

There are increasing needs for assistance, including technical support for our new online programs and services (this can be a rather lengthy process for those who are new to video conferencing), finding volunteers to help deliver groceries to homebound congregants, and reaching out to members to be of service.

Staff deliver prayer books to homes, provide support for prayer services, and assist our Religious School and Beth HaGan Pre-School teachers with their classes. Our staff are dedicated, hardworking, and nimble and continue to be there for the membership in this time of crisis. If you need—anything—call the office at 482-7800. We will be there to help you.

We simply cannot wait for things to return to normal. There are lessons, however, we have learned about caring for one another and new and creative ways to bring programs and services to members where they reside, which I hope we can continue to provide into the future.

Wishing everyone health and safety!

# During Pandemic Temple Israel Needs You, Too!

The Covid-19 crisis has brought severe strains to Temple Israel's operating budget.

"Our congregation has proven itself to be exceedingly nimble by observing time-honored traditions while embracing necessary change," according to Temple Israel Vice President Sam Husney. "We have created a virtual environment that is vital and expressive of the traditions of our congregation."

He went on to explain how the congregation has adapted to virtual programming. "Our clergy and administrative staff are working tirelessly to provide for our basic and spiritual needs, even though we can't be in our physical space together. Our teachers continue to educate our children, *b'nai mitzvah* are now being called to our virtual *bimah*, and *tzedakah* is being given more than ever before to those in need.

Despite the congregation's extensive online programming, Temple Israel is losing income from a number of sources which is projected to cause a major budget shortfall. "For those of you who haven't yet fulfilled your financial

obligation this year, whether it's your membership dues, Kol Nidre pledge, school tuition, or other fees, now is the time for Temple Israel to hear from you," Mr. Husney said.

"We ask you to please make every effort to remit open balances at your earliest convenience. If you have an economic hardship and need our assistance, we will be there for you. Just call Executive Director Jamey Kohn. If you would like to set-up a monthly payment plan or simply charge your balance by phone, call Controller Lynda Kaufman. Both can be reached at 482-7800.

"Now more than ever, we are turning to you to help us keep the flame burning, to maintain the *ner tamid*, so we can continue to be there to provide the spiritual uplift, guidance and support for our community, many of whom are in need at this time," he said.

"We're here for you. Now we need you to be here for us, for your congregation. With your continuing support, we will get through this together."

## During Pandemic Temple Israel Is Here for You—Virtually

—Continued from front page congregation," said Rabbi Daniel Schweber. "We are looking for ways for the congregation to stay together and to break the monotony of the quarantine, both intellectually and socially, during this crisis."

Rabbi Schweber said programming in this way "may very well change the way Judaism is practiced in the future, but I don't know how yet because we are living through this experience. It is too soon to tell what effect this type of Jewish programming will have because we are currently paving new pathways."

Temple Israel's last in-synagogue *Shabbat* service, which featured the *bar mitzvah* of Mitchell Bloom, the son of Michelle and Jonathan Bloom, was highlighted in a Newsday full page article titled "Keeping the Faith and Keeping Safe" because it was conducted in the sanctuary without the congregation being present, but rather live-streamed to a large audience.

"What we are experiencing can really transform our synagogue in positive ways," said Rabbi Howard Stecker. "Our reach through online programming

of all types extends Temple Israel far beyond our four walls. It raises questions such as 'who is our message for' and 'how we can make our services accessible to the widest possible audience.' Just the other day someone from Florida found our daily *minyán*. I told them I was glad and honored that they discovered us."

"We are not changing Jewish law," Rabbi Schweber said. "We are tempering it with the unique needs of our times. This is truly adapting 'tradition and change.' It is our intention to go back to in-person services and programming as soon as possible, recognizing when this crisis is over we may still have a need for a virtual service as well. We do a disservice to the *Shabbat* experience to go 25-hours without being together as a congregation. Temple Israel members know that *Shabbat* morning means coming to our synagogue. I hope and expect that we will soon be back together in person."

He credited much of the Zoom programming to the skills of Executive Director Jamey Kohn. His technical background was put to the test as he had to learn the intricate details

of Zoom under pressure. "I wanted to handle the details of 'live' events so that our clergy wouldn't have to," Mr. Kohn said. "I wanted them to do what they do so well without having to worry about the technical aspects of our programming." He said each event put on Zoom was a learning experience that made it easier to plan for the following event. "I was frequently faced with figuring out how to make an event possible, knowing there always had to be a way."

He has been involved with all Temple Israel programs on Zoom. "This has become a seven-day-a-week job during all hours of the day and night," he said. "But, I love this place and will do anything I can to make it succeed."

Mr. Kohn said he is considering conducting a technology class for the congregation in the near future covering the use of Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Google Docs. "In this economy, it would be very useful for all members of the congregation to improve their basic computer knowledge to be able to increase their resume and interview skills. No one should be hesitant about participating," he said. "I am happy to help."

# From Generation to Generation

Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

## ESTHER AND SAMUEL BROCHSTEIN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:

Sarah Brochstein  
Samuel Brochstein  
Lois B. Illman

## YAD B'YAD FUND

In honor of:

The birth of Brody Max Kestenbaum, grandson of Elise and Richard Kestenbaum  
Carol and Steve Smolinsky

Rabbi Amy Roth for the Jewish Theological Seminary honor she received

Monika and Paul Bloom

Helene Schachter's special birthday  
Harriet Seiler

In memory of:

Florence Hodes  
Pearl Hammer Hymes  
Sylvia Hymes  
Kenneth Hymes  
Lauren Beth Soshnick  
Cindy and Harold Soshnick

## LIBRARY FUND

In honor of:

Nelly Mizrahi becoming a *bat mitzvah*  
Rona and Joseph Lupkin

In memory of:

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Rose Rudich  
Norbert Holler  
Jean Doktofsky  
Mary Fischler  
Anne Lupkin  
Sylvia Lupkin  
Stanley Lupkin  
Ruth Feder  
Milton (Mickey) Putterman  
Mickey and Allan Greenblatt  
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Philip I. Silverstein  
Harriet Seiler  
Esther Sapir Mendick  
Mickey Greenblatt

## RABBI SCHWEBER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of:

Rabbi Schweber's support during the *shiva* period for David Klinger

The Klinger family

Rabbi Schweber's support during the funerals of Fereshteh and Parviz Shenassa

Philip Shenassa and family

Rabbi Schweber's participation in the funeral services and all other matters in relation to their mother, Diana Dunn Dolgin

The Dolgin family

All of Rabbi Schweber's help and guidance  
Shirley Goldfeder

Rabbi Schweber's support and kindness during Michael Fishman's funeral and mourning period  
Marilyn Schneider and family

In memory of:

Ed Goldfeder  
Ellie Schweber

## SHOAH REMEMBRANCE FUND

In appreciation of:

Fanny Narotzky's powerful presentation at this year's Kristallnacht program  
Lori and Peter Oppenheimer

In honor of:

Ofra and Rob Panzer  
Carol and Steve Smolinsky  
Ed Goldfeder's 92nd birthday  
Lori and Peter Oppenheimer

In memory of:

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Abi Kalimian  
Ed Goldfeder  
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For the recovery of:

Kevin Lipstein  
Lori and Peter Oppenheimer

## RABBI STECKER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of:

Temple Israel with gratitude and continued support

Kalmon and Neil Dolgin and family

Rabbi Stecker for officiating at the wedding of her daughter, Danielle, to Alyssa Zauderer  
Lesli Giglio

Rabbi Stecker for officiating at the wedding of their daughter, Eliana Pollack, to Nate Satin

Daniela and Eli Pollack

Rabbi Stecker for officiating at her wedding to Alyssa Zauderer  
Danielle Giglio

Receiving a Yom Kippur honor

Annette Nager

Rabbi Stecker for officiating at the wedding of their children, Shauna Delafraz and Daniel Gabay

Ester and Robert Gabay

Farnaz and Shahram Delafraz

All of Rabbi Stecker's help and guidance

Shirley Goldfeder

Rabbi Stecker's friendship and support and for officiating at the funeral of Milton (Mickey) Putterman

Eileen Putterman and family

Rabbi Stecker for

officiating at the funeral of Estelle Iscowitz and for his friendship and support  
The Stark and Sorkowitz families

In memory of:

Diana Dolgin  
Pepi and Stuart Stein  
Susan and Sidney Krugman

Sonia Savitzky  
The Ratner family

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Judith Vine  
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## SAMUEL BARON MEMORIAL MUSIC FUND

In honor of:

The birth of Lorenzo Cole Davis, grandson of Alise Kreditor and Jeffrey Englander  
The birth of Brody Max Kestenbaum, grandson of Richard and Elise Kestenbaum

Lois and Gary Sazer

In memory of:

Howard Krimko  
Manijeh and Jack Moallem

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Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

## TEMPLE ISRAEL FUND

In appreciation of:

The support and friendship of Brenda Kopelowitz in bringing *Mishloach Manot* to their family during the *shiva* for Estelle Iscowitz  
The Stark and Sorkowitz families

In honor of:

David Eshaghoff becoming a *bar mitzvah*  
Jamey Kohn  
The 93rd birthday of Leonard Weiss  
Marli Rachman Somerstein  
Barbara Rachman  
Receiving an *aliyah*  
Sandra Geller and Evan Cooper  
The engagement of their son, Andrew, to Samantha Netkin  
The Brash family  
Michael Sloyer  
The Myron and Barbara Bloom Philanthropic Fund  
Andrea Katz  
Thelma Benjamin  
Adria Benjamin  
The engagement of Amanda Greenspan, daughter of Linda and Brent Greenspan, to Matthew Ackerman  
The birth of Lorenzo Cole Davis, grandson of Alise Kreditor and Jeffrey Englander  
The birth of Olivia Schiff, granddaughter of Elissa and Joel Schiff  
Judy Axelrod's special birthday  
Nellie Mizrahi becoming a *bat mitzvah*  
David Eshaghoff becoming a *bar mitzvah*  
The marriage of Shauna Delafraz, daughter of Farnaz and Shahram (Mike) Delafraz, to Daniel Gabay  
Joyce and Burton Weston

In memory of:

Phillip Kramer  
Noelle Paret

Sara Shalom Rokhsar  
Joseph Rokhsar  
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Jonathan Lurvey  
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Jane Salzberg

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Temple Israel Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Contributions

## CANTOR FRIEDER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of:

All of Cantor Frieder's help and guidance  
Shirley Goldfeder  
Cantor Frieder's friendship and support and for singing psalms of comfort at the funeral of Estelle Iscowitz  
The Stark and Sorkowitz families  
Cantor Frieder for his friendship and support and co-officiating at the funeral of Milton Putterman  
Eileen Putterman and family

In honor of:

The engagement of Jacob Englander, son of Alise Kreditor and Jeffrey Englander, and Alexandra Tawfik  
The birth of Georgia Lily Noren, granddaughter of Toby and Gary Noren  
Lois and Gary Sazer

Contribution:

Elisa Nemirow

## TEMPLE ISRAEL MUSEUM FUND

In honor of:

Their grandson, Matan, becoming a *bar mitzvah*  
Nadine and David Feingold

In memory of:

Doris Katz  
Judy Vine  
Jesse Feingold  
David Feingold

## ANNE AND MILTON SNITKOFF EDUCATION FUND

In memory of:

Jacob Schlosberg  
Elaine V. Wolfe

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Jill and Mitchell Friedman

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Sali Rothschild  
Jacob Schiff

## JEAN WALTON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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Susan Tomback

## WAXMAN HIGH SCHOOL AND YOUTH HOUSE FUND

In honor of:

Mahvash Abitbol  
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Nahid Mashih  
Nelly Mizrahi  
The engagement of Amanda Greenspan, daughter of Linda and Brent Greenspan, to Matthew Ackerman  
The engagement of Nicole Adhami, daughter of Mitra Mirjani, to Daniel Frankel  
The engagement of Daniel Frankel, son of Laurie and Van Frankel, to Nicole Adhami  
The engagement of David Mirjani, son of Mitra Mirjani, to Shereen Rashidi  
The birth of Lorenzo Cole Davis, grandson of Alise Kreditor and Jeffrey Englander  
The birth of Damian Shay Lozada, Gavin Noah Lozada, and Ella Stagliano, grandchildren of Helene Schachter  
Parvaneh and Parviz Khodadadian

In memory of:

Rita Emanuel  
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Howard Krimko  
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## SHALOM CLUB LIBRARY SHELF FUND

In memory of:

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Max Putterman  
Milton Putterman  
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Naomi Schulman  
Milton (Mickey) Putterman  
Madelaine and Mitch Koepfel  
Harriet Seiler

## ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In memory of:

Abi Kalimian  
Ashraf Kahen  
Estelle Iscowitz  
Milton (Mickey) Putterman  
Cheryl Eisberg and Seth Moin

## ABRAHAM ROSENFELD MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:

Moshe ben Shelemo  
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Parviz Shenassa  
Abi Kalimian  
Ashraf Kahen  
Marilyn Sopher  
Mansour Damaghi  
Roberta and David Harounian  
Marlene Harellick  
Roberta Harounian

For the recovery of:

Jake Harellick  
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In memory of:

Ronnie Katz  
The Hoffman family

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In memory of:

Ronnie Katz  
Varda and Alan Solomon

## ISRAEL SOLIDARITY FUND

In honor of:

The engagement of Andrew Brash, son of Vivian and Yuval Brash, to Samantha Netkin  
Eliane and Adrian Cristian and family  
Elizabeth Matalon, daughter of Natali and David Matalon, becoming a *bat mitzvah*  
Lori and Peter Oppenheimer  
Susan and Robert Lopatkin  
Shirley Goldfeder  
Cheryl Eisberg Moin and Seth Moin  
Rebecca and Sassan Sassouni

In memory of:

Ed Goldfeder  
Eric Frank  
Michael Fishman  
Rena and Jonathan Horwitz  
Fereshteh Shenassa  
Parviz Shenassa  
Fariba and Hercel Harounian

## USHER'S FUND

In appreciation of:

Michael Sloyer's continued flawless Torah readings  
Manijeh and Jack Moallem

In honor of:

Mahvash Abitbol  
David Eshaghoff  
Nahid Mashih  
Nelly Mizrahi  
Manijeh and Jack Moallem

In memory of:

Moussa Dayan  
Milton Rosen  
Abi Kalimian  
Ed Goldfeder  
Manijeh and Jack Moallem  
Louis Emanuel  
Trudy Emanuel

## SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of:

Harriet Orenstein  
Joan Schussheim and family

## Equality In Illness, Health and Holiness

**By Rabbi Daniel Schweber**

“You stand this day, all of you, before the Lord your God—your tribal heads, your elders and your officials, all of Israel, even the stranger within your camp, from woodchopper to water drawer—to enter into the covenant of the Lord your God” (Deuteronomy 29)

A few High Holy Days ago I spoke about our relationships with grocery clerks and how we need to acknowledge our shared humanity with the people who quietly make the “world turn.” One of the few “silver linings” to shine out of this

**...we need to acknowledge our shared humanity with the people who quietly make the ‘world turn.’**

horrendous and deadly Covid-19 crisis is the lesson of our shared humanity. In the past we may have ignored the supermarket workers, cleaning crews, food service workers, and nursing home staff. Today we can no longer ignore them, as the people doing these jobs are the thankless heroes on the front lines while we remain at home.

The Coronavirus only knows human

cells. It does not know if those cells belong to a rich or poor person or what their skin color and religious beliefs are. To address this virus, we, all of the globe’s citizens, must unite in our common humanity. No person’s blood runs redder than the other’s. We must cooperate and accept that our behaviors have consequences for all of us. When we stay home as instructed and wear a mask, we are literally saving lives.

I have no doubt that we will get through this crisis. When we do, it will be up to us to heed the lessons of equality in health and in holiness as we do during illness.

The above quote, from Deuteronomy, describes how every person, regardless of gender, age and station in life, stands before God in the covenant. Each and every individual is holy and made in God’s image.

When we complete reading one of the five books of the Torah we say “*hazak hazak v’nithazek*,” “Be strong, be strong, and we will be strengthened.” When we are united we are strong and strengthen each other.

## Daily Minyan Times

**Friday**

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

**Friday, May 30 - Shavuot Day 1**

9:30 A.M. 6:30 P.M.

**Sunday**

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

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday**

7:30 A.M. 8:00 P.M.

## Congregation Says Thanks To Recent Kiddush Sponsors

A contribution towards the *kiddush* on November 16 was made by Monte Miller in honor of the *auf ruf* of his son, David Miller, and Barie Salmon.

Contributions toward the *kiddush* on November 23 were made by Alfred Sedaghat in memory of his father, Mansour Sedaghat, and by Vivian Brash in memory of her father, Joseph Katz.

The congregational *kiddush* on November 30 was sponsored by Amy and Andy Dorf in honor of the *bat mitzvah* of their daughter, Alexis. Contributions toward the *kiddush* were made by Shirley Goldfeder and family in honor of Ed Goldfeder’s 92nd birthday, and by Afsoon, John and Gilbert Berookhim in memory of their mother, Battia Berookhim.

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## Shabbat Services and Candle Lighting Times

### Friday, May 8

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.  
Candle Lighting 7:40 P.M.

### Saturday, May 9

*Shaharit* Morning Service 9:30 A.M.

Weekly Portion:  
Emor

Leviticus 21:1 – 24:23  
Haftarah: Ezekiel 44:15 – 31

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.  
*Ma'ariv/Havdalah* 8:45 P.M.

### Friday, May 15

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.  
Candle Lighting 7:47 P.M.

### Saturday, May 16

*Shaharit* Morning Service 9:30 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Behar/ Behukkotay  
Leviticus 25:1 – 27:34  
Haftarah: Jeremiah 16:19 – 17:14

*Bat Mitzvah*: Kayla Kahen  
daughter of Cherie and Jon Kahen

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.  
*Ma'ariv/Havdalah* 8:50 P.M.

### Friday, May 22

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.  
Candle Lighting 7:54 P.M.

### Saturday, May 23

*Shaharit* Morning Service 9:30 A.M.

Weekly Portion: Bemidbar  
Numbers 1:1 - 4:20  
Haftarah: I Samuel 20:18 – 42

*Bar Mitzvah*: Jayden Haghani  
son of Niloofar (Nilu) and Amir Haghani

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.  
*Ma'ariv/Havdalah* 9:00 P.M.

### Friday, May 29 - Shavuot Day 1

*Shaharit* Morning Service 9:30 A.M.

Torah Portion:  
Exodus 19:1 – 20:22;  
Numbers 28:26 - 31  
Haftarah: Ezekiel 1:1 – 28; 3:12

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.  
Evening Service 6:30 P.M.  
Candle Lighting 8:00 P.M.

### Saturday, May 30 - Shavuot Day 2

*Shaharit* Morning Service and  
*Yizkor* 9:30 A.M.  
First Mourners' *Kaddish* 10:10 A.M.

Torah Portion:  
Deuteronomy 14:22–16:17;  
Numbers 28:26 - 31  
Haftarah: Habakkuk 3:1 – 19

Junior Congregation 10:30 A.M.  
*Ma'ariv/Havdalah* 9:05 P.M.

### Friday, June 5

Evening Service 6:30 P.M.  
Candle Lighting 8:05 P.M.