

April/May 2017



TEMPLE
ISRAEL

and Jewish Community Center



Reconstructionist
Congregation
Beth Israel A Contemporary
Look at Tradition

Temple Talk

News you can use from the TI-JCC community

A Message from Rabbi David Fine

Who Owns the Synagogue?

In the context of a broader discussion on a congregation's mission and vision, the question "who owns the synagogue?"—while seemingly obscure—suddenly becomes relevant. Of course a synagogue belongs to its members but do they own it? While members of a congregation are often compared to stockholders, the difference is that the membership of a congregation cannot decide to sell the synagogue and divide up the profits. Synagogue membership entails neither equity nor cash dividends.



I have been reading a volume I picked up at a rabbinical convention last month on religious leadership by a minister named Dan Hotchkiss, who explains that "the most fundamental legal principle of nonprofit corporations is that they must use their resources exclusively to serve the (institutions') purposes." If the members have no financial equity in the synagogue, then they are not truly the owners.

My newly found friend, Rev. Hotchkiss, makes a powerful point that I want to share (I make many friends through the turning of pages):

Who then is the owner of a congregation? Who plays the role of the stockholders in a business? Not the members. Not the board. Not the clergy or the bishop or the staff. All of these are fiduciaries (defined as "anyone whose duty is to act in faithfulness to the interest of another"), whose duty is to serve the owner. Symbolically, we might say God is the owner, and that might be a correct interpretation. But God is too big a concept to

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Words from Rabbi Jacob Lieberman

One of my very favorite teachings about Passover comes from Rabbi Yehudah Leib Alter of Ger, who is also known as the Sefat Emet, a Hassidic teacher. During rabbinical school and on occasion since I have the great joy of learning the Sefat Emet's teachings in the Hebrew and Rabbi Arthur Green's translation of it in *The Language of Truth*. Here is the teaching translated by Green (3:103):



[It is written in the Haggadah that:] "Even if we were all wise, all understanding, and all knowing the Torah, we would still be commanded to tell of the Exodus from Egypt. And one who goes to great lengths in telling this tale is considered all the more praiseworthy" ... This process is renewed each year: Pesach is the season of our freedom

Afterwards, on Shavu'ot, is the time when our Torah is given. Torah is renewed on Shavu'ot in accordance with the freedom that has been awakened on Pesach. Something like this happens every single day as well, as we recall both coming forth from Egypt and receiving the Torah. Even though we have already received the Torah, there is still a renewed revelation of Torah in each generation, each year, and each day--a revelation peculiar to that time. That is why freedom, too, needs to be renewed each year; through this we are able to renew our acceptance of divinity ...

Although there are many worthwhile points within this compact and rich teaching from the Sefat Emet, I have bolded the one I think of as the "main" point. Just as there is a meaningful and important connection between the holidays of Passover and Shavuot,

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President's Message:
Bob Obeiter



Although it can be difficult, envisioning a different (and rosier) future is part of synagogue leadership's job. As a board of trustees, we have moved beyond a focus on month-to-month operations to ensure a thriving future for Temple Israel that maintains our unique identity. As a part of this process, I am beginning the annual task of identifying chairs for each of our committees. One of the privileges of this office is the view I get of all the activities and all the work that is done by so many to make TI-JCC such a vibrant community.

As president, I am an *ex officio* member of every committee. Although I have not yet had the opportunity to participate in all of them, it has been humbling to witness the dedication, proficiency, and effectiveness so many of our members contribute to enhance our community and the surrounding world. And, when new needs arise, our members band together to undertake initiatives to meet them.

As you will read on page 3 of this issue of Temple Talk, we have recently done this. In the fall, I asked members of synagogue leadership to review our mission statement (which I am pretty sure most members did not know we had) and to create a vision statement for our community which accurately reflect the last three or four years.

I am proud that our shul is moving forward on many fronts, especially when it comes to embracing activities that brings together our two kehillot and especially the broader Bergen County Jewish community. In addition to fostering and leading the NNJA consortium and fully solidifying our partnership with RCBI we:

- Partnered with Temple Avodat Shalom to implement and support the Rabbi Selig Salkowitz Distinguished Speaker Program.
- Opened our doors to the wider community to celebrate Hanukkah in a grand way with over 250 members and nonmembers.
- Continued to lead the annual menorah lighting in Ridgewood.
- Shared both Sisterhood and Brandeis Men's Club events with neighboring synagogues.

In addition, we constantly look for ways to evolve in response to our members' needs. We carefully reviewed and adopted a new weekly triennial cycle Torah reading format, which we believe will provide a more enriching Shabbat morning service for all of us. Please join us on Shabbat mornings; share in our learning and stay for Kiddush with your friends. I guarantee you will not be disappointed.

Finally, I want to express how proud I am of the dedication that our board and our committees have for our

efforts—so much so that I would like to invite all members to get involved. I can say with confidence that whatever interests you, there is a group here at Temple Israel involved in it. Whatever skills you have, there is a role for you to play. And whatever committee you join, you will spend your time with friends, advancing shared goals. Not sure how to start? Drop me an email: president@synagogue.org.



SISTERHOOD NEWS AND EVENTS

Vashti's Feast

Thank you to Abbie Klein and Arlene Bernhardt for their making Vasti's Feast a very successful Ladies Night Out. Our sisters from Temple Avodat Shalom joined us for this fun evening, and we all had a great time. Attendees enjoyed having beautiful henna paintings applied to their hands.

Photo: Tova Samuels



Ongoing Activities

Mah Jongg and More: first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Join us on May 5 & June 7. Play mah jongg, learn to play, or just sit and schmooze.

Yoga: Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., with a professional teacher. *Women and men of all experience levels are welcome.*

Cost: \$40/month or \$15/session. This is a great opportunity for people who are new to yoga to try it out or for experienced yogis to get in additional practice time. Contact Debbie Cantor at debbiecantor@optonline.net.



Kippot orders: Order kippot for your simchas through Sisterhood by contacting Carla Vogel at cbuchalter@optonline.net.

Game Night/Annual Meeting

At our Ladies' Night Out on Wednesday, May 10, we will formally elect our slate of officers for 2017-19 as well as enjoy Game Night. Mah jongg, bridge, poker, canasta, Rummikub, Monopoly, Boggle—any game that we have enough people to play. Let us know your passion when you respond to the invitation. And of course, there will be wine and chocolate.

Continued on page 4

Board of Directors Adopts New Mission and Vision

In the first few months of his tenure, President Bob Obeiter decided it was time to update the mission of Temple Israel and Jewish Community Center (TIJCC) to better reflect the changes and current culture of TIJCC. We were no longer an exclusively Conservative synagogue but a community open to new ways to grow. Bob appointed a small team of board of director members to review and recommend a new mission and to develop a vision for TIJCC. The key criteria were to focus on the new TIJCC entity and to ensure both kehillot could operate within it.

The Board of Directors team included members who covered the following areas:

- ◆ Experience in the critical areas of our community [Ritual, Sisterhood and Brandeis Men's Club, School (NNJJA), Membership]
- ◆ Critical demographic cohorts (young families, empty nesters)
- ◆ History of our community (past presidents)
- ◆ Newer partners (RCBI)

The definitions for both the mission and vision had to be clear, succinct, and represent the values of our community. Specifically, the mission focuses on the present, who we are and what we do. The vision focuses on the future and is aspirational and hopeful with links to the mission.

The following mission and vision were unanimously approved at the January 2017 board of directors meeting and will serve as a lens through which we will evaluate our decisions and actions:

Mission

TIJCC offers a choice of Conservative and Reconstructionist services, and a variety of cultural, social, and educational programs for those who are committed to creating an evolving and vibrant Jewish community in Northern New Jersey.

Vision

TIJCC will be the first choice for those in northern New Jersey seeking a community that forges multiple paths into Jewish life for all generations.



HAZAK

Everyone ages 55 and up is invited to join TIJCC's Hazak group for older adults. Hazak is an acronym for the Hebrew words *hokhmah*, *zikhah*, and *kadimah*, which mean *wisdom*, *maturity*, and *looking ahead*.

Hazak offers synagogue members social and spiritually-oriented programs. The dues are \$15 per person. We ask you to join us and help direct Hazak's programs to bring further enjoyment of our senior-year experiences. We

ADULT EDUCATION

Sunday Morning Lecture Series with Rabbi Fine: Passionate Centrism

The series continues on April 16 from 10:30 a.m.-noon. In *Passionate Centrism: One Rabbi's Judaism*, (United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, 2015) Rabbi Fine shares his theology, exploring issues of Jewish law that affect contemporary life, crafted from years of writing and editing responsa for the Law Committee of the Rabbinical Assembly and experience in the pulpit. Among these are keeping kosher, driving to synagogue on Shabbat, music on Shabbat, liturgical changes, egalitarianism and same-sex marriage. With his historian's perspective on context and how legal interpretation has evolved through the ages and his always-lively presentation, Rabbi Fine will help us reflect on the Conservative movement's meaning and relevance for our time.

Wednesday Evenings with Rabbi Lieberman: The Great Guide to Jewish Practice

Rabbi Lieberman leads a hands-on series of classes to help you learn how to do Jewish things, from taking an aliyah to dancing the hora. Prepare for holidays, celebrations, and Torah services like a pro! You don't have to be Jewish to enjoy and learn. RSVP to rcbi@synagogue.org. Upcoming classes:

April 19: How the end of Shabbos can be the beginning of a Shabbat practice (Part I: *Seudah Shlishit* and *Havdalah* for families)

May 17: How the end of Shabbos can be the beginning of a Shabbat practice (Part II: scripture and song for families)

June 21: How to dance the hora (don't forget your dancing shoes!)

Thirty-six/24

Thirty-six/24 with Rabbi Lieberman continues on May 4 and June 8, 7:00 p.m.

It's Never Too Late to Join Rabbi Fine's Lively Tuesday Evening Talmud Study Group!

The next class is April 25. Come learn the laws of prayer along with a wealth of material on rabbinic theology, from the new user-friendly Steinsaltz edition of Tractate Brakhot, in an informal, interactive seminar-style class. All levels welcome; no Hebrew reading facility required and you can jump in any time!

Visit the TIJCC website and read weekly *Tidbits* for more upcoming dates.

TRIENNIAL TORAH READING COMES TO TEMPLE ISRAEL

The ritual committee was tasked with the challenge of finding more Torah readers each week. The committee felt it important to find a mechanism to include more people in the Torah reading and increase participation. In consultation with Rabbi Fine, the ritual committee had open discussions on March 17 and 18 to get input from all congregants. The feedback was distinctively in favor of this move, yet all opinions were honored.

The ritual committee made a recommendation to the board of directors to move to the triennial cycle beginning this month (April). It was also recommended that any family with a simcha may request a fully kriyah. We will continue to read the full Torah portion on all holidays. This new process will be reviewed at the April 2018 board of directors meeting to decide if it should continue or revert to a weekly full reading. The board of directors at its March meeting has voted to approve the triennial reading of the Torah.

Although we will be reading one-third of the Torah reading we will have a vibrant congregational discussion of the full Torah portion each week.

Bob Smolen and David Millman
Co-chairs, ritual committee



Sisterhood, cont'd. from p. 2

MORE SISTERHOOD NEWS AND EVENTS

Annual Pool Party

Check your weekly announcements and Sisterhood emails for news about the time and place of our annual pool party and general membership meeting. This is always a wonderful evening of wine, chocolate, and schmoozing.

Many Thanks to our Outgoing Board Members!

Many thanks to the current board members for their support over the past two years: Carla Buchalter, Rita Ben Ezra, Arlene Bernhardt, Irene Bressler, Debbie Cantor, Beth Freed, Joan Goldberg, Susie Goldstein, Shari Haber, Abbie Klein, Tricia Schreiber, and Elaine Silverstein. I couldn't have done it without you!

Stephanie Gottesman, President



Mishloach Manot Was a Success!

Thanks to all who participated in supporting our Mishloach Manot program this year. The proceeds are an important source of support for NNJA.

Special appreciation to the following people for making this year's effort a success:

Shana Siegel

Brian Della Torre

David Millman

Rachel and Stephen Halpern

Steve Ulin

And everyone who delivered Mishloach Manot. Thank you!



MUSICAL NOTES



Musical Shabbatot

Please join us for upcoming musical Shabbatot:

May 5: Shabbat with the Temple Israel lights bimah band at 8:00 p.m.

May 12: Shabbat with composer and song leader Amichai Margolis. BBQ dinner at 6:00 p.m. and service at 7:00.

June 30 and July 21: Shabbatot Under the Summer Sky.

Music at 6:30 p.m., service at 7:00, and dinner at 8:00.

Spring Music Sunday: "Music Around the World" on May 7, 2017, 3:00 p.m.

Join us for the classical concert *Music Around the World* on Sunday, May 7, at 3:00 p.m., followed by a festive reception. Our artists will be Annette Lieb, flute; Mike Lemma, guitar; and four Bergen County clarinetists: John Centenaro, Marci Phelan, Naomi Freshwater, and Jean Roughgarden. The concert will feature a special performance of *Quintet for Flute and Clarinets* by New Jersey composer John Centenaro.

America-Israel Cultural Foundation Concert

On Sunday afternoon, March 19, we were treated to an outstanding concert featuring Benjamin Goodman on piano and Inbal Milliger, mezzo-soprano. The concert was generously sponsored by Temple Israel member Richard Schnaittacher in memory of his father, Fred Schnaittacher z"l and in honor of the American-Israel Cultural Foundation.

Nanette Rosenbaum and Marc Cantor, Concert Chairs
Tamara Freeman, Sacred Music Chair

Nanette Rosenbaum and Richard Schnaittacher with performers Benjamin Goodman and Inbal Milliger at the America-Israel Cultural Foundation concert.



Exciting news from RCBI and Rabbi Lieberman

We are proud and delighted to announce that Rabbi Jacob Lieberman has been accepted into Clal's Rabbis Without Borders fellowship—and is the only Reconstructionist rabbi in this year's class. Rabbis Without Borders (RWB) is a national competitive rabbinic fellowship program now in its seventh year. The landmark initiative was developed within Clal, The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, to help rabbis innovate using Jewish wisdom as a source for wellbeing. It is the first rabbinic network in America that spans denominations, geography and experience. The impact of RWB is being experienced across the country through its programs in art and music, social justice, young adult outreach and education, reimagining synagogues and more. By adopting a "beyond borders" approach to their rabbinates, the rabbis report that:

- ◆ 96 percent of RWB Fellows have strengthened and increased their comfort crossing denominational and institutional boundaries.
- ◆ 91 percent of RWB Fellows have created new programs in their synagogue/organization.
- ◆ 81 percent of RWB Fellows have seen an increase in participation in programs and use of services in their synagogue or organization.



Congratulations, Rabbi Jacob! We look forward to discovering and sharing what you and your colleagues create this year, serving Jews wherever they are in terms of their connection to Judaism, in pluralistic, innovative ways. For more information about RWB's history, work and mission, visit <http://rabbiswithoutborders.org/about/#mission>.

Brandeis Men's Club

Our Mission

In an effort to enhance our visibility and emulate strategic initiatives of other similar nonprofits, the Men's Club executive committee recently selected a short but memorable mission statement to help promote the benefits of membership and generate greater participation. After extensively culling Talmudic, spiritual, historical, and literary references, we considered the following:

*We are here on earth to do good unto others.
What the others are here for, we have no idea.*

Although humorous and slightly wicked, our better selves understood that this mission statement conveyed a basic truth—that the mitzvahs we perform in service to our Temple Israel community need no acknowledgement, reciprocity, or even thanks. Who cares what the others are here for? Ultimately, we do what we do to benefit ourselves.

As for the Brandeis Men's Club, we believe this mission statement, if adopted, will act as an incentive for some of you to choose our fraternal club as your enlightened path for participating in Temple life. "Doing good unto others," BMC style, is big on fist bumps and light on schlepping. Anyone willing to put these thoughts to music will have their name displayed in *Temple Talk* and get a NNJFJMC raffle free of charge. I only hear silence Please, someone laugh.

Speaking of raffles, BMC is selling NNJFJMC raffle books (Northern New Jersey Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs for those of you who have no idea what NNJFJMCXYZ stands for). Quite a good deal at \$2 a raffle for an \$1,800 prize. Although this is a regional raffle, sales help finance both Temple Israel and Federation club programs. **Raffle tickets are available at the Temple office or through Joe Landau.**

Temple Israel's Man of the Year: Bob Dworkin

Expect Bob Dworkin to be wearing the Harry Grant bowler presented to him at our Man of the Year Breakfast. If you missed the breakfast, we anticipate he'll be strutting his bowler for the High Holidays.

Light the Candle

Brandeis Men's Club distributed yellow candles to all Temple members during Purim. This is the 24th year that we have participated. We hope that you will once again join with Jews around the world on Yom Ha Shoah and light this candle on Sunday evening, April 23. We appreciate your support. Donations cover our expenses and provide Holocaust programming for the Northern New Jersey Jewish Academy (NNJA).

Coming Up

Yom Ha'atzma'ut BBQ; Lag B'Omer BBQ; health lecture featuring Dr. Eli Kirshner; Meals on Wheels Bike Ride; BMC golf outing. Dates and times follow but always check weekly *TidBits* or the website for definitive place and time.

David Millman, Joe Landau, Howard Schreiber, Bob Obeiter, Bob Dworkin, and Rabbi Fine at the Man of the Year breakfast.



BMC Calendar (April-June 2017)

DAYS & TIMES		EVENTS
Sunday, April 23	10:30 a.m.	Health Lecture-Oncology
Monday, April 24		Yom Ha Sha'ah-Yellow Candle
Wednesday, May 3	6:00 p.m.	Yom Ha'atzma'ut BBQ
Friday, May 12	6:00 p.m.	Lag B'Omer BBQ
Sunday, June 11	varied	Meals on Wheels Bike Ride
Tuesday, June 20	1:00 p.m.	Golf Outing-Farmstead

Guess Who Said This

"I'm not a paranoid, deranged millionaire. Dammit, I'm a billionaire." I know what you're thinking, but you're wrong. And for all who believe in good government, let me remind you what John Glenn once said: "As I hurtled through space, one thought kept crossing my mind: every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder."

Membership

Since the last issue of *Temple Talk*, members have had a wonderful time partying at Temple Israel.

First, we had our gala honoring Tina Polen and Joe and Sandy Wechsler. A good time was had by all—lots of good food, dancing, and catching up with friends. And the party achieved our budget goal of raising monies needed for our shul. Second, we had a wonderful Purim celebration for adults and children of all ages. The Megillah reading and carnival were a great success with kids intently listening to the story of Queen Esther and then playing games. *Jo Rosen, Membership Chair; 201-805-3989*



Photos: Jo Rosen
Photography

See more photos on our
Facebook page and on the
website photo gallery
(www.synagogue.org)

Brandeis Men's Club

12th Annual Golf Outing!



Farmstead Golf and Country Club
Andover, New Jersey (about 60 minutes from Ridgewood)

www.farmsteadgolf.com

Date: Tuesday, June 20, 2017

Time: 1:30 PM shotgun start

(Arrive no later than 1:00)

Cost: \$60 — includes 18 holes and electric cart

Payable in advance to reserve your spot

Open to all members of Temple Israel and friends

Space is limited, so reserve your spot now

Prizes for:

Low gross

Low net (Callaway scoring, everyone has a chance)

Longest drive

Closest to the pin

RSVP by June 16th

bjg51@yahoo.com

Send your check payable to Brandeis Men's Club to:

Barry Goldberg

51 Spottswood Road

Glen Rock, NJ 07452

Tikkun Olam

The Tikkun Olam committee consists of members of both TI and RCBI who work together to try to repair the world. Our efforts focus on helping people in our community who are poor and homeless and on raising awareness about important national issues. New committee members are welcome: contact co-chairs Bob Rohrberger (rrohrberger@foxrothschild.com) or Elaine Silverstein (elasil@optonline.net) for more information. This spring we'll focus on our regular activities of feeding the homeless, collecting blood donations, and assisting battered women.

Family Promise Walk-In Dinners

Four times each year, our synagogue community cooks, delivers, and serves dinner at the Family Promise of Bergen County walk-in dinner program in Hackensack. Our winter/spring serving dates were Feb. 14 and April 24. Typically we serve 120 people a hot and hearty dinner. This large-scale endeavor is possible through the leadership of Sue Hill and Nadine Genet and the continued efforts of a large group of volunteers who donate food and prepare and serve the meals.



Mother's Day Dinner for Center for Hope and Safety

Each Mother's Day, with the help of Sisterhood members, we cook a festive meal for residents of the Center for Hope and Safety (CHS) shelter in Teaneck. CHS helps women and children escape the cycle of violence. If you would like to prepare a main dish, side dish, or dessert, please contact Sue Coleman (suecoleman@optonline.net).

Recent events:

Focus on JNF: March 5

On Sunday, March 5, Tikkun Olam presented a special program by Avnet Kleiner, a member of the Jewish National Fund's speaker's bureau and director of development for Aleh Negev-Nahalat Eran, a pioneering rehabilitation village in Israel's Negev; it provides severely disabled children and adults with a comprehensive framework for life and presents opportunities for inclusion into greater society. March is National Disabilities Awareness Month.

InterFaith Blood Drive, April 2

The tradition of multi-faith blood drives continues at Temple Israel! Tikkun Olam sponsored the semiannual Blood Drive, held jointly with St. Elizabeth's Church, on Sunday, April 2. Contact Jerry Birenz at JerzykB@aol.com to be on the donor list for future blood drives.

B'yachad

B'yachad would like to give a big thanks to James Goldfarb and Alyson Yashar who hosted our March potluck dinner. They welcomed the group into their home and were wonderful hosts. We had a great turnout and everyone had a fantastic time, including the kids who attended.

Over the next few months, we'll be having several more dinners. If you're interested in hosting one, please let me know: erinlindenberg@hotmail.com. And keep an eye on your email for specific event details.



NNJJA News

Tarbut (culture)

Some of the more recent **Tarbut (culture)** programs in which our students participated were:

- A Tu Bishvat Ice Cream Seder (with four flavors of ice cream symbolizing the four seasons of the year)
- Making and baking hamentaschen

Atid (family education)

Our most recent **Atid** session, our Saturday morning family education program, centered on Passover. The students and their parents enjoyed a simulation game highlighting the decision of the Israelites to follow Moses and leave Egypt, followed by an Escape-the-Room activity whose theme was escape from Egypt.

Our final Saturday morning family education program, scheduled for Saturday, May 13, will teach about Yom Ha'atzma'ut, Israel Independence Day, and will include a giant interactive Israeli map. *Please mark your calendars now for this event created for participation by all NNJJA students and their parents.*

Prayer

Prayer-Palooza, which attaches a special location or theme to certain service, continued with a Tu Bishvat service in which the students shared ways they could help preserve our planet; these ranged from recycling to countering global warming.

We also did a prayer parody with a Purim spiel led by our Daled and Hay students; all grades participated in leading the service. On April 2, we brought in a planetarium that filled the social hall, and students and parents explored our relationship with God and our responsibility to the universe. Coming up in May, we will be having a special Prayer in the Pool service as a fun way to end this school year.

In addition, NNJJA, with the support and generosity of the Membership Committee and the Brandeis Men's Club, hosted a Purim Carnival with over 18 games, lots of prizes, hot dogs, and hamentaschen. The carnival was enjoyed by all and brought some prospective students into our building.

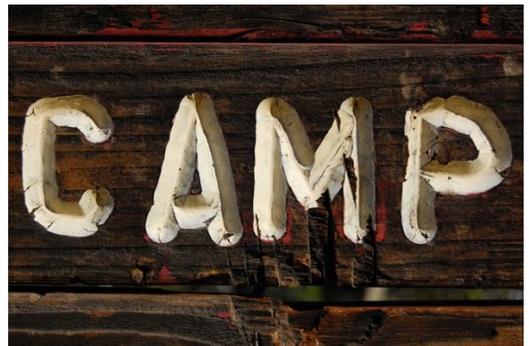
As always, I urge you to invite your neighbors and friends to come sample NNJJA. It is a fun and positive learning experience for our young people.

Warmly,
Rabbi Estelle Gottman-Mills

HAGALIL ENCAMPMENT – AUGUST 20-27

USY is the Conservative movement's teen-led program and Encampment is a great way to get involved and enhance your leadership skills before the new school year, bringing back to the chapter great experiences and programming ideas.

Campers in the USY and Kadima programs sleep in bunks with indoor plumbing and showers. All may participate in a variety of activities including sports, arts and crafts, color war, and social action programs, plus several educational classes during the week geared to age and interest. Youth-led religious services are held during the day at a variety of locations and with varying emphases. It is a highly subsidized program; last year the all-inclusive week of camp with bus transportation from Ridgewood, all programs, a t-shirt and more fun than you can imagine was only \$499. More information about this year's Encampment will be available in May.



For more information about any youth programs, contact TL-JCC Youth Chair Stacy Heit at sleeheit@yahoo.com.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS!

El Al (Third to Fifth Grade)

Join us for lunch and fun from 12:30-1:45 p.m.

Sunday April 30

Sunday May 21

For more information, contact El Al Advisor Rochelle at youth@synagogue.org

WHY JOIN SYNAGOGUE YOUTH PROGRAMMING?

This question comes up all too often. The answer is simple ... IT'S FUN! USY, Kadima, and El Al, Temple Israel's youth groups, are constantly living up to that expectation. Our exciting programming includes Shabbatons, lock-ins, full-weekend conventions, dances, tikkun olam, movie nights, video game tournaments, trips and more. Your children will find opportunities in leadership, social action, and even a little Jewish education.

Moving beyond the classroom, everything you thought was boring back in school just got revamped and reinvigorated. Want to learn how to wrap tefillin at a convention? Using Fruit by the Foot is definitely the way to go. A little rusty on the Passover Seder? Stop by a TI Youth Chocolate Seder for a refresher, and chocolate goodness! USY is entirely youth led—it's up to the teens to decide what they want to do. Many Temple Israel adults and youth are committed to ensuring high quality and fun programming time and time again. **NOW IS THE TIME TO JOIN US!**

ENCAMPMENT – THE BEST WEEK OF THE SUMMER!

Hagailil's Encampment, for current fifth through eleventh graders, is everything one would experience at summer sleepaway camp in seven special days! Meet Jewish teens from across central and northern New Jersey, build a network of new friends and share experiences with new friends that will make you look forward to Kadima and USY regional activities throughout the year. Mark your calendars for August 20-27. Registration opens in May.

Kadima (Sixth to Eighth Grade)

FLIPPER CHAPTER EVENTS

APRIL 23, 2:30-4:00 p.m.: LOUNGE TIME! Come hang out with Kadima at JCC-Paramus. Fresh baked cookies, pool table, video games, ping pong, air hockey and more!

MAY 21, 3:00-5:00p.m.: HUMDINGERS! Bowling, Arcade, Lazer Maze and Batting Cages!

HAGAILL REGIONAL EVENTS

May 19-21: SPRING CONVENTION

Catch up with your regional friends and make new ones! Spend Shabbat with Kadima followed by a dance and more!

August 20-27: ENCAMPMENT

Questions? Contact Kadima Advisor Revi Glasser at flipperkadima@gmail.com

USY (Ninth to Twelfth Grade)

FLIPPER CHAPTER EVENTS

May 21: JOIN USY FOR A HIKE! We are headed to Ramapo Reservation for a short hike – come join us!

June 11: POOL PARTY!

HAGAILL REGIONAL EVENTS

April 28-30: SPRING CONVENTION!

A weekend of non-stop fun at the Princeton Westin!

May 13: CLOSING DANCE!

August 20-27: ENCAMPMENT

Questions? Contact USY Co-President Mollie Bakal at flipperusy@gmail.com

For more information about any youth programs or to join the youth committee, contact TI & JCC Youth Chair Stacy Heit at sleeheit@yahoo.com

Our Ways & Means Dinner was a huge success—and lots of fun!



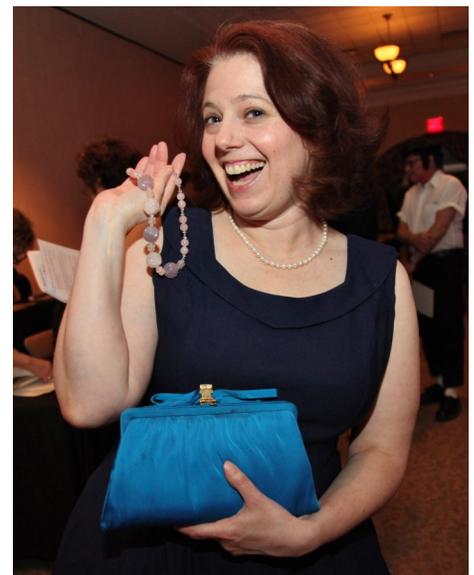
Conga lines, lots of laughs, dancing—and lots of Tina's family to cheer her on! Sharing warm remembrances with the Wechslers, bidding on silent auction items, and enjoying great food together ... thank you to Linda Paige and her committee for creating a great event for the TI-JCC community!



Photos: Jo Rosen Photography



Check our Facebook page or our photo gallery on our website for more photos from this fabulous evening.



guide decision-making. The specific “owner” that the board must serve is this congregation’s mission, the small piece of God’s will that belongs to it. Or to put it differently, the congregation’s job is to find the mission it belongs to—the real owner for whose benefit it holds and uses resources.

The primary measure of a governing board’s success is not the balance in the bank, the shortness of board meetings, or the happiness of congregants. A congregation’s bottom line is the degree to which its mission is achieved. The mission, like stockholders in a business, has the moral right to control the congregation’s actions and to benefit from them. Because the match between a congregation’s mission and a corporation’s stockholders is so close, it seems to me helpful to say that the owner of a congregation is its mission.

As a people we know what it means to be driven by a mission and vision statement. We have the oldest one there is: the Torah. We believe that the mark of the pious Jew is the extent to which he or she has measured up to the expectations of the Torah and tradition. And even as those expectations evolve from era to era as we continue to reread and reinterpret the meaning of the Torah’s vision for us, each of us, and each community can and ought to have an idea of what our purpose is, of what is being asked of us, and to what we are to aspire. The process of redefining a mission statement for a congregation is an element of the sacred task to hear and discern that which is being asked of us. We are trying to figure out our Instructions, which is another translation of the word *Torah*.

If the mission and vision is the owner of the congregation, then our job is to work toward it. This is a critical orientation in terms of knowing how to measure our success. Too often, synagogues and churches are “judged” on the basis of how many members they have. But a synagogue could be doing all the right things yet losing members for external reasons while another synagogue is gaining members for all the wrong reasons. Membership, revenue and balance sheets are necessary measures of a congregation’s sustainability, not its success. A better measure of success would be to evaluate performance against the mission. Does a surgeon, for example, measure success based on how much is billed, or the number of people helped and lives saved? Does a litigator measure success based on billable hours or successful verdicts? Or justice?

How well do we do in providing “a choice of Conservative and Reconstructionist services, and a variety of cultural, social and educational programs for those who are committed to creating an evolving and vibrant Jewish community in Northern New Jersey? That is our owner, at least for now.

so too there is an important and meaningful relationship between freedom and revelation. One *midrashic* interpretation of the Torah verses on revelation, attributed to Rabbi Yohanan, is that “when the [divine] Voice came forth, it did not come to all Israel, but rather according to the strength of each individual.” In other words, each of us receives Torah according to our individual strength. But what is our strength and how is it determined? Our strength is a unique measure of own awareness, wisdom, character, experiences, position and station in life, and, the Sefat Emet adds, freedom.

An integral part of the story of our people’s exodus from Egypt is not only our forced servitude to the Egyptian taskmasters but also our lack of freedom to worship the Gd of our own understanding. Gd heard the people crying out against slavery, but Gd rescued us to become our Gd. The Sefat Emet traces this aspect of the journey from Passover to Shavu’ot in his teaching but he goes even further. He teaches that the amount of freedom we enjoy, if you will, determines the amount of Torah that can come into our lives.

We find something like this kind of teaching elsewhere in Jewish tradition. The adage from *Pirkei Avot* comes to mind: *ein kemach, ein Torah*—without food, there is no Torah. In other words, we cannot expect those who are starving to focus on Torah learning. But the Sefat Emet’s teaching applies even more broadly. It is to say, to expand on the teaching from *Pirkei Avot*, that Torah itself is withheld to the degree that we are starving. To receive more Torah, we must awaken more freedom.

Of course, Rabbi Yohanan is right that each of us receives Torah according to our strength. But we have another Jewish tradition that teaches that every Jew stood at Sinai, those in that day and those in ours, all of us receiving Torah as one people. If we think of our teaching from the Sefat Emet from this perspective, we can see that it applies to all of us as a group, as one people, and consequently to other peoples as well. When anyone is starving, or somebody is oppressed in any way, the depth of Torah which we can receive is lessened by that degree. “**Torah is renewed on Shavu’ot in accordance with the freedom that has been awakened on Pesach ... freedom, too, needs to be renewed each year.**”

I wish you all a Passover of freedom. May we be inspired and strengthened in our commitments to awaken more freedom for each of us and for us all.



May we merit the peace and the wisdom that come from the deepest and fullest life and study of Torah.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

Donations & Dedications

While Judaism itself can thrive without reference to finances, a community of Jews who are committed to the purpose of the synagogue—learning, worship, and fellowship—does need financial resources to help each other and themselves.

Most of us recognize our obligation to maintain membership in Temple Israel and to support it by payment of annual dues. However, dues alone do not cover all of our costs. There is a continuing need for donations to help assure the synagogue's strength and development .

We encourage any and all donations to Temple Israel. The following are suggested giving opportunities in which the funds are used to support all aspects of synagogue life:

Temple Israel Operating Fund any amount

DEDICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Mahzor Lev Shalem For Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur	\$50
Siddur Lev Shalem	\$50
Chumash Etz Hayim	\$118
Memorial Plaque	\$540 (contact the office)
Large Memorial Tablet	\$54,000

The following are suggested giving opportunities in which the funds are used to support specific areas of synagogue life:

Temple Israel *Chai* Campaign Fund any amount

Funds the major capital improvements from our synagogue building renovation

Religious School Enrichment Fund any amount

Funds religious school enrichment programs & materials

Temple Israel Torah Campaign: Funds ritual needs such as Torah scroll repairs, prayer books, etc \$1800 Parsha Endowment Funds \$25,000 to establish a fund; \$18 donation to established funds

Each Fund has a specific purpose. Consult column on the right

Susan Reeve/Temple Israel Feed the Hungry Fund any amount

Funds Temple Israel's Tikkun Olam Feed the Hungry Program

Kiddush Club Funds the kiddush when there is no regular kiddush sponsor \$144

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund any amount

Funds charitable purposes, at the discretion of the Rabbi

Assistant Rabbi's Discretionary Fund any amount

Funds charitable purposes, at the discretion of the Cantor

Endowment Funds

TEMPLE ISRAEL GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND

PURPOSE: To fund maintenance and/or capital improvement projects to Temple Israel properties.

AMSTERDAM FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

PURPOSE: To provide siddurim to Temple Israel religious school students.

DONALD & HELEN FELLOWS MEMORIAL HOLOCAUST EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND

PURPOSE: To fund the education program portion of the Annual Holocaust Remembrance.

PHYLLIS ANN ZWEIG FRIEDMAN ENDOWMENT FUND

PURPOSE: To provide scholarship to a Temple Israel high school student to attend an Israel/Eastern Europe educational program.

DAVID & SARA GOODMAN ENDOWMENT FUND

PURPOSE: To fund supplemental Jewish experiences for Jewish youth.

DAVID & SALLY KIRSCH SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

PURPOSE: To provide scholarship to a religious school graduating student for continuing Jewish religious education.

ALEXANDER & SOPHIE PURITZ MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

PURPOSE: To fund the Temple Israel Annual Hanukkah Party, which shall include the distribution of silver dollars to all students.

MAX AARON STRACHMAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUND

PURPOSE: To purchase educational materials for the library as well as fund library related educational events.

WILLIAM & RHODA TOONKEL JEWISH MUSIC ENDOWMENT FUND

PURPOSE: To promote Jewish musical education for the Temple Israel religious school, as well as other musical and cultural experiences for Temple Israel and Jewish Community Center.

Contribution Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____ to

Checks for General Donations or Dedications should be made payable to Temple Israel.

Checks for an Endowment or Discretionary Fund should be made payable to the specific Fund.

This contribution is _____ in honor of or _____ in memory of

Other programs of interest to the Jewish community

RSVP deadline for this program is April 30.
 You may reserve a seat at our table which is under Richard Schnaittacher's name ("Captain")



Jewish National Fund Invites You to the Inaugural
NORTHERN NEW JERSEY BREAKFAST FOR ISRAEL

Sunday, May 7, 2017
 9:30 am Registration
 10:00 am Program

Rockleigh Country Club
 26 Paris Avenue, Rockleigh, NJ 07647
 RSVP by May 1, 2017 at jnf.org/breakfastnj

"Identification of and Effective Responses to Media Bias Relating to Israel"
 Featuring Guest Speaker
JOE HYAMS
 CEO of HonestReporting

More information: Jocelyn Inglis, Director, Northern New Jersey and Rockland County, jnglis@jnf.org, 973.593.0095 x823.

Internationally recognized expert Joe Hyams fights to improve Israel's image abroad. Hyams will speak to us about the woeful state of anti-Israel bias in the media and offer us practical tools to counter it effectively.

BREAKFAST CHAIRS Ruth and Bruce Pomerantz

 **JEWISH NATIONAL FUND** |  jnf.org 800.JNF.0099

JEWISH FEDERATION OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

ISRAEL'S SOLUTION FOR A WATER-STARVED WORLD

LET THERE BE WATER

with author SETH M. SIEGEL

INVITES YOU TO

MEET THE AUTHOR
SETH M. SIEGEL

Wednesday, May 10 | 7 pm
 with dessert reception to follow

taking place at
The Frisch School
 120 West Century Road, Paramus

\$18 per ticket
 RSVP at www.jfnnj.org/oboc
 or contact Elias J. Hirsch
EJHirsch@jfer.org | 201-420-3918

 **SETH M. SIEGEL** is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. His essays on water have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and others.

 **Jewish Federation**
 OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

 **JEWISH NATIONAL FUND**

ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY
 a project of the Synagogue Leadership Initiative, is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey and the Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation

This event is co-sponsored by Jewish National Fund



and Jewish Community Center

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