

May/June 2018



**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

I am pleased to share with the community that we will be hosting another rabbinical student from the Abraham Geiger College in Berlin, the liberal rabbinical seminary where I teach for a week or so each year. He will begin a six-week full-time internship at Temple Israel and JCC beginning in late May, just before Memorial Day.



Our internship program with Geiger gives the students a very special opportunity to learn about American Judaism, the various aspects of the congregational rabbinate, and practice in synagogue skills. At the same time, the benefit for us, besides having someone else to learn from, is the opportunity to meet the next generation of rabbis of the New Europe. More personally, we are building relationships with new friends across the ocean.

Max Feldhake is a unique Geiger student in that he is an ex-pat American. He is currently completing a year of study in Jerusalem before coming to Ridgewood. I asked him to share a bit about himself in advance of his arrival at Temple Israel:

Max Feldhake is a fifth-year rabbinical student at the Abraham Geiger Kolleg in Potsdam, Germany. Born and raised in Phoenix, Max went to Arizona State University, graduating in 2012 with BAs in German and political science. Interested since childhood in German history and culture and now with the desire to pursue rabbinical studies, Max moved to Germany in 2012, initially landing with a guest family in his new adopted home of Dresden. Then he applied for the rabbinical program at Geiger.

Max has had internships as a student rabbi in a

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A Message from Rabbi Rebecca Gould

The Babylonian Talmud (Tractate Megillah 14a) states that Devorah “sat under a palm tree” (Judges 4:5)... “Just as a palm tree has only one heart, [and] does not send out separate branches, but rather has only one main trunk, so too, the Jewish people in that generation had only one heart.” The Prophetess Devorah was a unifying force for the Israelite people. I have found that today, learning together is one of the many things that can unify the Jewish people. It is a gift to hear many perspectives on one text such as the story of Devorah. At our Women and Judaism class, I loved hearing community members’ diverse reflections on Bruriah’s second century teachings and their thoughts about the life of World War II paratrooper Hannah Szenes, as well as Mordechai Kaplan’s views on creating the bat mitzvah. What a blessing to learn together.



In May we will be exploring the deeper meaning of Rosh Hodesh and the new blessings each month offers. In addition, there will be a class on Hiddur mitzvah, art, and creativity in Judaism. (Hiddur mitzvah means to beautify our sacred commandments.) We will study Bezalel, Chagall and Rav Kook, who embraces the importance of the arts in Jewish life. In June, we will study psalms and the guidance they provide from comfort to mourning to jubilation. We will also study midrash as sacred story and look at various midrashim on Moses, Hillel, and the foremothers. Everyone is welcome at the classes (normally held at the Riverside Square Barnes and Noble).

This past year has been an important year of learning and indeed it has been a blessing to teach, study, and learn together.

Shalom u’vrachah/peace and blessings.

SISTERHOOD NEWS AND EVENTS

We are so happy that we are headed for warmer weather. The winter storms seemed to fall on each day that we had planned for a Sisterhood event. It's a great time to come out of hibernation and catch up with friends.

Together with Men's Club, Sisterhood is proud to present a **program with Fraidy Reiss**, founder of the organization Unchained at Last. Fraidy will discuss her experience and the life she built after escaping a forced marriage. Please join us on **May 6 at 10 a.m.** for a light breakfast and a riveting speaker.



Join us on **May 7 at 7:30 p.m.** for our **Jewels for the Gems Night**. Back by popular demand, we will be making beaded bracelets. It will be a great evening to make fun jewelry, have some wine and chocolate, and visit with old and new friends. Hope to see you there.

Game night continues. Join us at the temple the first **Wednesday of each month** for mah jongg, our expanding bridge game, coloring, etc. Not into games? No worries. Join us for some schmoozing and snacks.

A little stressed? How about yoga? **Join us for yoga each Thursday at TI at 7:00 p.m.** For more information, contact Debbie Cantor at 201-612-3295 or debbiecantor@optonline.net.

Don't forget our gift shop for all your Judaica needs. Hostess gifts, wedding gifts, holiday décor, Shabbat candles . . . we've got it. Contact Stephanie Gottesman for more information.

Mark your calendars. Looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events, our monthly game nights, and yoga.

Shalom!
Abbie



Upcoming events with B'yachad

This group for our younger adult members (singles, couples, and families) and prospective members, meets for a mix of causal gatherings at each other's homes, family-friendly day trips, and adult nights out. Contact Erin Lindenberg for details on this upcoming events at erinlindenberg@hotmail.com.

Thursday, May 3– Ladies night out
Thursday, May 10– Men's night out
Friday, June 1– Potluck dinner
Sunday, July 15– Afternoon at Graydon pool

President's message: Bob Obeiter

Friends,

You recently received the proposed slate of candidates to serve as officers and trustees on the Board of Directors of Temple Israel for our 2018-2019 fiscal year. Elections will take place at the general membership meeting on Wednesday, May 23 at 7:30 p.m. Temple Israel officers will provide an update on our financial condition and, more importantly, on our ongoing efforts to ensure the longevity of our institution.



Although it can be challenging, envisioning a different (and rosier) future is part of the job of synagogue leadership. As a board of trustees, we have moved beyond focusing on month-to-month operations to ensuring a thriving future for Temple Israel that maintains our unique identity, even as the world around us changes. The slate of candidates presents a list of individuals willing to dedicate significant time to running our synagogue. It is up to me (with support from the rabbi and executive committee) to undertake 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 Temple Israel such a vibrant community. And, by the way, the Board welcomes your input and participation on our committees.

The exercise of ensuring that all committee chair positions are filled further emphasizes the breadth and depth of what we do at TI and provides a view of just how much work is done behind the scenes. Some committees, like School, have a higher profile, with enviable results that are clear to any of our parents. The House Committee keeps the building warm, safe, and looking good. Less visible is the enormous impact House has on our long-term financial health; the committee's careful stewardship and aggressive pursuit of external funding have been critical to our future. The Music Committee defines a large part of the experience at Temple Israel. The Ritual Committee maintains the sanctity of our space and services, and ensures that we maintain our comfortable traditional character even when we experiment with changes to our services.

The Membership Committee is our present and our future. Technology keeps us operating. Tikkun Olam does passionate and compassionate work to assure that our values of social and environmental justice extend far beyond our doors. Goodwill, Seating, Cemetery, Library, Insurance, Hazak, Early Childhood, Israel Action—each plays an often unsung yet central role in building our community, serving our members,

Continued on page 15

ADULT EDUCATION

New Views with RRC Students

RCBI's series of lunch & learn programs with students from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College will wrap up on **Saturday, May 12** with rabbinical student, **Sarah Brammer-Shlay**. Sarah will discuss the concept of Judaism as an evolving civilization and tie that in with the need for communal belonging during Kiddush lunch.

New Views is made possible through a gift by Abby Ambinder, in memory of her mother, Matilda Myers, who passed away in early 2017; Matilda and Ed Myers were long-time members of Temple Beth Israel. Stay for lunch after the morning services as we enjoy some learning together!



Tuesday Evening Learning with Rabbi Gould

These sessions take place at the Barnes & Noble in The Shops at Riverside at 7:00 p.m.; all are welcome, invite your friends!

May 8 — Rosh Chodesh - New Blessings

We will look at modern celebrations of Rosh Chodesh, traditional perspectives on Rosh Chodesh, new blessings for the new month, and what makes this a special holiday for girls and women.

May 29 — Hiddur Mitzvah, Art and Creativity in Judaism

Hiddur mitzvah, beautifying our sacred commandments, makes Judaism creative and vibrant. Together we will study Bezalel, Chagall and Rav Kook (chief rabbi of pre-state Israel) who embraces the importance of the arts in Jewish life in Israel and the diaspora.

June 12 — Psalms: Comfort, Mourning, and Jubilation

How do psalms provide guidance and hope? What are the importance of the psalms during the grieving process? In times of blessing, how do psalms help us to celebrate together? We will study psalms in each of the three categories (comfort, mourning, and jubilation) and even hear a few modern-day psalms.

June 26 — Midrash and You

The sacred stories of midrash are exciting, creative and engaging. Together we will learn about the purpose of midrash and the different types of midrashim. We will see how midrash informs our lives and explore midrashim about Moses, Hillel, our foremothers and more.

Talmud classes with Rabbi Fine

These continue on Tuesday nights with Rabbi Fine from 7:45 to 9:15 p.m.

Our spring adult education classes, including Rabbi Fine's series on Jewish identity and our Scholar-in-Residence program have concluded.

The Adult Education committee is making plans for next year's curriculum and we would like your input:

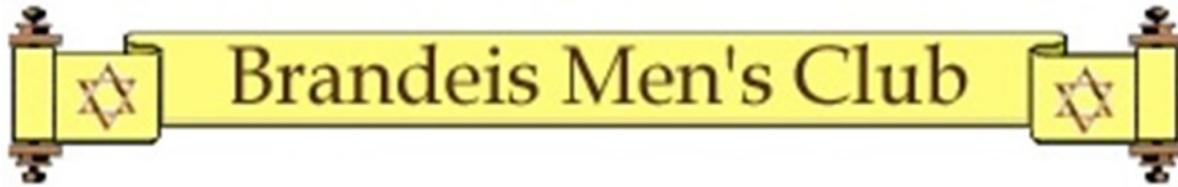
- * What you would like to learn on a **Sunday morning**?
- * What are your ideas for **trips** you might like to take with Rabbi Fine as our leader?
- * Are you interested in learning **how to read Hebrew** as an adult?

We look forward to hearing your answers and other ideas you have for TI adult education programs.

Jo Rosen
Adult Education chair

Hazak — A Social Group for Older Members

There's no "aging out" at TI-JCC! Active seniors may participate in Hazak, a social group that generally meets on the second Wednesday of every month for lunch and programs of interest they plan together. Dues are only \$15 per person; come join us! Contact the synagogue office for information.



The Brandeis Men’s Club is finishing up the season with two great events:

June 8 to June 10—North Jersey Men’s Club Retreat

Four regions join together every other year for a weekend where you will experience camaraderie, ruach, and a fun time. The event is at Camp Zeke in the Poconos, Friday afternoon to Sunday morning and includes all meals, drinks, and activities. Sign up with friends; **the deadline to sign up is May 30**. See flyer on page 10 for more information and registration details , or contact arty.freed@gmail.com.

June 19—BMC golf outing at Farmstead Country Club

The shotgun start will be 1:30 p.m. with a cost of \$60 for golf and cart. Prizes for low gross, low net, longest drive, and closest to the pin. Open to all. See the flyer on page 9 for details. RSVP by June 1 to 10baker@optonline.net.

Any questions, reach out to me at arty.freed@gmail.com

Arty Freed
President, Men’s Club

Ritual Happenings

As a ritual recap of the last several months, we would like to first and foremost thank those lay leaders who contributed to our services at times when the rabbi was away, especially Nanette Rosenbaum and Rabbi Gloria Rubin. It is most assuring when we can count on members to step up and help out ritually.

We came through Pesach just fine, with our wonderful and very popular community Seder once again coordinated by Nancy Bortinger. That was soon followed by an extremely well-attended 32nd Annual Ridgewood Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Service. Temple Israel hosted about 280 attendees. The event reflected the efforts of many, including the musical and choral portions conducted by Dr. Tamara Freeman; our harpist, Irene Bressler; and a very moving keynote presentation by Dr. Sylvia Flescher.

The following week featured the Brandeis Men’s Club serving up the traditional BBQ for our Yom Ha’atzma’ut celebration, and again several weeks later for Lag B’Omer. In between BBQs, we had the opportunity to engage with writer, teacher, scholar, and public speaker Patricia Klindienst, our guest for the Adele Rebell Memorial Scholar-in-Residence Weekend. In mid-May, we will have completed counting the omer and held our Tikkun Leil study on Erev Shavuot.

Meanwhile, the Ritual Committee had some behind-the-scenes accomplishments: an evaluation and renewal of the triennial Torah reading format and a Sunday morning minyan, now regularly scheduled for 9:00 a.m. (which we’re happy to report has been well attended this year). We purchased additional shiva minyan siddurim as well as large-print editions of our Shabbat and High Holiday prayer books. We also purchased the *Trope Trainer* software which was used to help people prepare readings for Sisterhood and Men’s Club Shabbat, and several bar and bat mitzvahs. Please contact David Millman if you would like the “rainbow printout” for an upcoming Torah, haftarah or megillah reading. (See example to the right.)



Looking ahead, we have the Fast of Tamuz on July 1 and erev Tisha B’Av on Saturday night, July 21. As always, we encourage everyone to attend (and participate in) services, including the traveling Sunday minyanim generously hosted by members over the summer. Our Shabbat and Sunday morning services include a Muffins and Mishna study with the rabbi (except on fast days, of course).

Respectfully,
David Millman and Robert Smolen
TI Ritual Co-chairs

NNJJA News

A Message from Jessica Spiegel, Director



NNJJA rounded out the winter with some fantastic events. Our **Purim celebration** was a big hit. The magician was hilarious, and everyone loves a Purim carnival. The sixth and seventh grade students went on a **trip to the Jewish Museum**, where they studied interesting works of art and looked at some Jewish ritual objects. One of the most interesting pieces they viewed was a 3-D print of a suitcase that the artist filled with objects important to her family. The students thought about what objects they'd fit in to a suitcase if they were moving and that was all they could take. What would you bring?

Spring has finally sprung and we are so excited about it in NNJJA. Our students loved preparing for **Passover**. We had a delicious and fun chocolate Seder at which we replaced some of the Passover mainstays with chocolate versions.

- ◆ Instead of four glasses of wine, we drank four glasses of chocolate milk.
- ◆ We had bittersweet chocolate (marror), pudding (charoset), and strawberries (carpas) dipped in chocolate sauce (salt water).
- ◆ And of course, chocolate matzah!

We enjoyed celebrating **Israel's seventieth birthday** together and had a great BBQ in its honor. Our Kitah Aleph students were presented with their siddurim on Sunday, April 22 in a beautiful ceremony. **We thank the Amsterdam Fund for supporting our school.** We are proud of our students' accomplishments this year. The Kitah Aleph students are great Hebrew decoders and have already begun to study for their b'nai mitzvot.

Please invite your friends or people who may be interested in Hebrew school for an **NNJJA open house on Sunday, May 6.** One of our values at NNJJA is community, and we'd love to include more students in ours! I'm happy to meet and speak with anyone interested (jessica@synagogue.org).

May 20 is our last day of Hebrew school. Can you believe it? The year flew by. Graduation for our Kitah Hey students is also that morning during Shavuot services. All are welcome and encouraged to attend as we wish our students well on the next steps of their Jewish journeys.

Have a great summer, and we'll see you in September.



Words of appreciation from this year's Ways & Means honorees

Dear Ways and Means Committee,

Congratulations on organizing and managing such a beautiful and memorable annual dinner dance. Your many months of effort transformed our social hall into a gorgeous gala with festive decor, great food, and joyful dancing.

We thought the ad journal was beautiful, fun, and dignified. We will treasure the imaginative and generous tributes for many years to come.

We deeply appreciate being this year's honorees, and extend our heartfelt thanks for everyone's well-wishes and love.

Tamara & Barry Freeman



MUSICAL NOTES



Thanks and kudos to our Spring Concert performers!

David Schlossberg, jazz pianist, performed a delightful concert that featured his imaginative improvisations on familiar sacred melodies and on songs from *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Israeli musicians, Gilad Paz, vocalist, and Shy Kedmi, pianist, treated our audience to soft rock classics (see photo on last page). These talented performers were featured in our Annual American-Israel Cultural Foundation (AICF) Concert, generously sponsored by member Richard Schnaittacher. The AICF concert partnered with Federation's *One Book, One Community* program for our Israel @ 70 concert, which highlighted *Zahav: A World of Israeli Cooking* by Chef Michael Solomonov. The AICF concert reception cuisine came from some of the cookbook's recipes, beautifully prepared and displayed by the Music Committee and Sisterhood.



David Schlossberg in concert. Photo: Jo Rosen.

Save the following dates

May 20 — The bimah band will play for Shabbat services.

June 22 and July 20 — Our Shabbatot Under the Summer Sky will take place on these Friday evenings on the Grove Street patio (weather permitting), with:

6:30-7:00, concert

7:00-8:00, services

8:00, Shabbat dinner

Be on the lookout for more details.

Do you love music at Temple Israel?

Contact music co-chairs Nanette, Marc, or Tamara if you would like to be part of the wonderful musical events at Temple Israel, all energized by our terrific committee members: Frankie Bordowitz, Artie Bressler, Irene Bressler, Debbie Cantor, Bob Dworkin, Susan Kornblit, Wayne Miller, Jo Rosen, Harlan Rosenthal, Deana Rothenberg, Iven Rothenberg, Bill Scher, Elaine Silverstein, Bruce Thaler, and Anne Wolf.

Marc Cantor & Nanette Rosenbaum, Concert Co-Chairs
Tamara Freeman, D.M.A., Sacred Music Chair



32nd ANNUAL INTERFAITH YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION

This year's commemoration took place on Sunday evening, April 8, at Temple Israel. The sanctuary was packed with community members who were inspired by keynote speaker and TI member, Dr. Sylvia Flescher, who presented her family's remarkable, bashert Holocaust story in her speech, *A Voice is Rescued from the Ashes*. (See photos from the event on the next page.) Many talented young people made significant musical contributions:

- ◇ The Heimat String Quartet from the Cali School of Music, Montclair State University, performed evocative chamber music composed by Gideon Klein while he was imprisoned in the Terezin concentration camp.
- ◇ The Grades 5-8 Senior Chorus of the Waldwick Village School sang archival Holocaust anthems.
- ◇ The Interfaith choir sang the world premiere of *Postlude: Anne Frank* composed Adam Har-zvi, a TI member who is receiving his M.A. in music this spring from the Cleveland Institute of Music.
- ◇ Many thanks to Irene Bressler, who played the virtuosic harp part in Adam's piece.

Dr. Tamara Freeman, Artistic Director and Interfaith Choir Conductor



From the Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony, clockwise from top: Dr. Tamara Freeman conducts the interfaith choir, Dr. Sylvia Flescher presents her moving Holocaust story, the Heimat String Quartet performs. Photos: Bruce Thaler.

MEMBERSHIP

After a successful experiment in 2017-2018, our Gift of Membership program will be renewed. With your help, we brought in many new families to experience all that Temple Israel has to offer, and we're confident that most of these families will find a home in our community for years to come. Given that success, the Gift of Membership program will continue in 2018-2019.

Any dues-paying member can offer a gift of membership to a good friend (with the limitations* below), **starting in July**. This will entitle the friend to a year of membership, including High Holiday tickets; however, school tuition must be paid at a non-member rate and other perks of membership, such as being able to purchase cemetery plots and to vote at our annual meeting, are not included.

We know that people like to join communities with their friends, and we hope you will encourage your friends to attend services and our social activities, and to get involved in our committee work as well. Details will follow in the next *Temple Talk*. Your assignment for now is to think about who you'd like to invite to join us.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call either Matt Lindenberg, or me on my cell: 201-805-3989.

*The following are ineligible for this program: former members of TI who left in the past seven years, families with a bar/bat mitzvah in the coming year, families currently in NNJA, GBDS families, past recipients of the EZ Key program, family members of current members, and current dues-paying members of other synagogues.

*Jo Rosen and Matt Lindenberg
Membership Co-chairs*

Inquiries about RCBI membership and about Reconstructionist Judaism should go to Caryn Starr-Gates, RCBI vice chair, at carynstarr@yahoo.com or rcbi@synagogue.org.

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.

This spring we are focusing on our regular activities of feeding the homeless, collecting blood donations, and assisting neighbors such as the residents of Ridgecrest Senior Housing, a low-income housing complex in Ridgewood.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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. In October 2017 we served a hot and hearty dinner to over 140 people, the largest number ever. This spring we cooked on Sunday, April 15 and served on Tuesday, April 17. 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.



Fall 2018 dates are Sunday, October 28 (cooking), and Tuesday, October 30 (serving), and Sunday, December 2 (cooking), and Monday, December 3 (serving).

Many congregants donate food items to this important effort. **Special thanks to Evan Dobkins**, who has donated apple juice (a couple of cases each time) for decades for our homeless serving programs. If you would like to help out or to donate, contact Nadine Genet at nzgenet@outlook.com.



Dinner at Ridgecrest, May 7

Tikkun Olam members will cook, serve, and take part in a hot and nutritious dinner with the residents of Ridgecrest Senior Housing in Ridgewood on Monday, May 7. Ridgecrest is a residence for low-income seniors, many living below the poverty level, and many of whom are food insecure. Tikkun Olam provides healthy snacks such as fresh fruit on a regular basis as well as occasional dinners. If you would like to participate in this new venture, contact Elaine Silverstein at elasil@optonline.net.

Mother's Day Dinner, Center for Hope and Safety

Each year Tikkun Olam and Sisterhood members, led by Sue Coleman, prepare a delicious Mother's Day meal for the residents the Center of Hope and Safety, a women's and children's shelter. If you would like to contribute a homemade dish, contact Sue Coleman at suecoleman@optonline.net.

RECENT EVENTS

Blood Drive, April 22

The spring blood drive was a great opportunity to work with the Red Cross. Please consider making a donation to future drives. Contact Jerry Birenz at JerzykB@aol.com.

New committee members as well as ideas about programming are welcome: contact co-chairs Bob Rohrberger (rrohrberger@foxrothschild.com) or Elaine Silverstein (elasil@optonline.net) for more information.

Brandeis Men's Club of Temple Israel

14th Annual Golf Outing!



Farmstead Golf and Country Club

Andover, New Jersey
(about 60 minutes from Ridgewood)
www.farmsteadgolf.com

Date: Thursday, June 14, 2018

Time: 1:30 PM shotgun start
Arrive no later than 1:00 PM

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

Prize for Low Gross
Prize for Low Net (Callaway scoring, everyone has a chance)
Prize for Longest Drive
Prize for Closest to the Pin

RSVP by June 1st

10baker@optonline.net

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

**Howard Schreiber
10 Baker Court
Ramsey, NJ 07446**

Leadership, Learning, Laughter & Libations



Hudson Valley, Middle Atlantic, Northern New Jersey,
& New York Metro Regions present the

9TH MULTI-REGION BIENNIAL RETREAT

ENJOY THE CAMARADERIE OF YOUR FJMC BROTHERS

- 5 Kosher Meals
- Nightly Snacks
- Experience Shabbat
- Energize Your Mind, Body & Soul
- Havdalah Under the Stars
- Hearing Men's Voices
- Leadership Training
- Softball & Other Sports
-and much more!

June 8-10, 2018

Friday 3:00pm – Sunday, 11:00am

Camp Zeke

Lakewood, NJ www.campzeke.org

Registration Deadline
May 30, 2018

PDF Registration Form at NNJR.ORG

PRICE*:

Returnee - \$175 per person

First time to Retreat or Convention - \$100

*- additional \$95 for single room

Mail check, payable to NNJR, to:

NNJR Retreat c/o Rob Blitzer

4 Berkshire Drive

East Windsor, NJ 08520

For More Information:

E-mail: roblitzer@gmail.com | Phone: (773)459.6931

IN TRIBUTE: LEN EISEN

Len Eisen, a long-time member of TI-JCC, was a beloved fixture at Friday evening services. He passed away in March at age 90; Paul Aronsohn wrote this touching tribute to him and the civic work he did, which appeared on NorthJersey.com (<http://bit.ly/LenEisen>)

Thank you, Mr. Eisen

Ridgewood lost one of its very best when Leonard Eisen passed from this earth.

Len left behind his wonderful wife (Barbara), children (Tovah and Joe), and brothers (Martin, Julius, and Donald). He also left behind a community made better by his active, selfless citizenship.

Len was many things to many people, but to those of us who served alongside him—on the Village Council, the Board of Education, and the Library Board of Trustees—he was a great partner and a great friend. Although never elected or appointed to any of these governing bodies, Len not only attended most meetings, his was often one of the most thoughtful voices in the room.

This was true whether he was addressing an issue on the agenda or speaking to some other topic on his mind. And this was true even when offering a contrary view to something, proving time and again that you can disagree without being disagreeable.

It was *what* he said and *how* he said it. Always insightful. Always respectful. Always welcome.

For this reason, Len was genuinely admired and appreciated by many (if not all) village officials who knew him—so much so that we would often call him *Mr. Eisen* as a show of our profound respect. In fact, our shared fondness for him was probably the one thing on which all of us recent mayors and council members could agree. (And that says a lot!)

Personally speaking, I have many wonderful memories of Len. I can still see him sitting in the council chamber, sometimes for hours on end, quietly listening and contemplating. I remember him walking to the public microphone near the end of most meetings, after everyone else had their chance to speak. And I can still hear him asking his question or sharing his thoughts, often with a clipped news article in hand and always followed by the words *thank you, Mr. Eisen* from those of us on the dais.

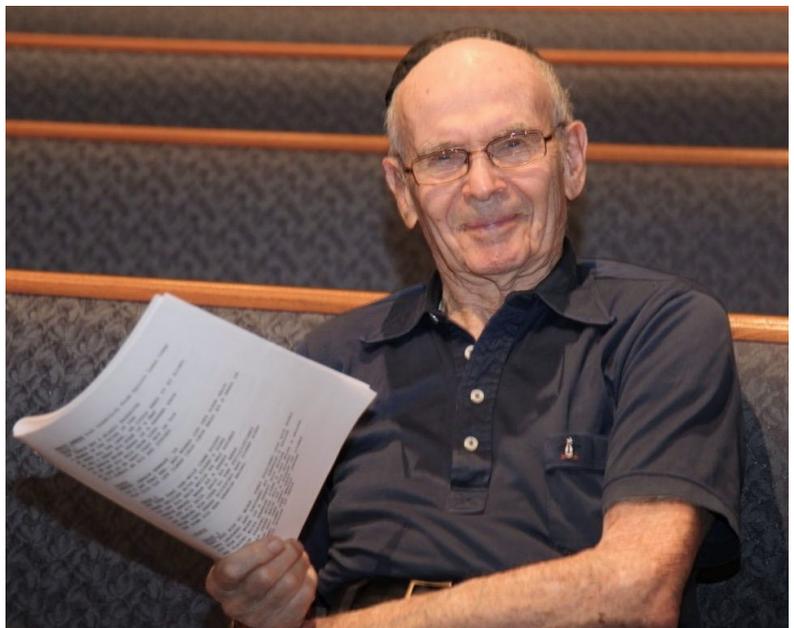
To say that Len Eisen will be missed is an understatement. He was one of the good ones. He was one of the very best.

*Paul Aronsohn
Former Mayor of Ridgewood*



Above: Len and Barbara Eisen at last year's Ways & Means gala. Right: Len enjoying a concert at TI-JCC.

Photos: Jo Rosen Photography





SHABBAT: CAMP STYLE

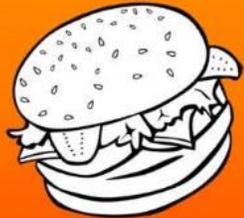


6PM- HOT DOGS AND HAMBURGERS

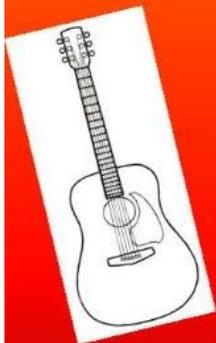
7PM- SHABBAT SERVICE WITH GUITAR

**7:45- DESSERT AROUND THE BONFIRES IN
CELEBRATION OF LAG B'OMER**

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
MAY 4, 2018**



**TEMPLE ISRAEL
AND JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER**



**475 GROVE STREET
RIDGEWOOD, NJ**



**PLEASE RSVP SO WE HAVE ENOUGH FOOD
MNASSAN@SYNAGOGUE.ORG 201-444-9320**

Summer Programs for Youth

What is your teen doing this summer?

The USY (United Synagogue Youth) has some ways for your teen to have the **best summer ever**. Take a look at what's happening at <http://usy.org/escape>.

Why USY Summer Programs?

- Traveling with USY is transformative. Teens gain insight into global issues and take on new levels of independence and they learn how to: manage money, do laundry, go grocery shopping, and more.
- By living and traveling together, teens create a unique community with bonds that last a lifetime.
- On USY summer programs, teens don't just learn about Judaism, they live it. They find new meaning in Jewish rituals and form lifelong bonds through a sense of shared identity

No teens should miss the opportunity to participate in these summer programs because of finances; there are scholarships available through USY, Hebrew Free Loan Association, One Happy Camper, Jewish National Fund. Learn more at <http://usy.org/escape/waystosave/>.

**Questions? Contact USY at
(212) 533-7800 Ex. 114 or summer@usy.org**



The social hall set for a beautiful banquet.



The library set up for a small meeting/conference.

Temple Israel & Jewish Community Center: More than Just a Synagogue

We have a vibrant religious and social life here at TI. We also have a beautiful facility with many outside groups who rent space in our building. I'm asking you to help us find more renters.

In addition to religious and social happenings, parts of our facility are rented out for things like SAT review, classes for mothers with small children, yoga, choral group rehearsals, and a new all-girls Hebrew high school. Income from rental space helps provide needed funds to operate and maintain our synagogue. Our fees are reasonable and competitively priced.

However, our overall facility is, for the most part, being under-utilized and you can help change this in two ways. Why not consider renting space here for your own lifecycle events, like the celebration of bar and bat mitzvahs, baby namings and britot milah, aufrufs and weddings? In fact, you can rent space for almost any occasion. You may know organizations of any kind, which do not own their own buildings and hold their classes, lectures, meetings, etc., at outside facilities, like Temple Israel.

Please tell us about people or organizations that you know of who could benefit from renting space to hold undisturbed meetings, training sessions, conferences, seminars, and receptions away from their usual places of business. Tell your friends and relatives who want to have a birthday or anniversary party, baby shower, or other social occasion or milestone celebration about the terrific rooms we have at our synagogue facility.

We have a beautiful sanctuary, kiddush room, a social hall with a dance floor (shown at left), and ten classrooms of various sizes. The social hall and kiddush room can be configured with round or rectangular tables and chairs, or with lecture-hall style seating. We have audio-visual equipment available at no extra charge. Our building is configured for Wi-Fi, and it has accessible restrooms, an elevator, ADA compliant access ramps, and plenty of off-street parking.

For inquiries and bookings, please contact our Office Manager, Maureen Nassan at 201-444-9320 or mnassan@synagogue.org or Facilities Chair, Bob Dworkin at 201-739-0867 or bobenroute@aol.com.



Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey

invites you to

Meet the Author

May 17, 2018 | 7 pm

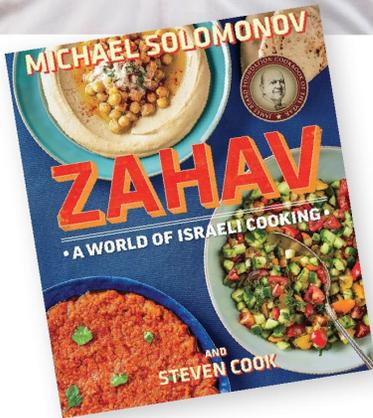
Temple Israel 475 Grove St, Ridgewood, NJ 07450

\$18/ticket

Register today! www.jfnnj.org/oboc



A World of Israeli Cooking



CHEF MICHAEL SOLOMONOV is the Executive Chef/ Co-owner at Zahav, a modern Israeli restaurant that brings the authentic flavors of Israeli's culture to Philadelphia. He is known for his extraordinary skill at transforming simple foods into artful culinary masterpieces and is widely regarded as one of the country's top chefs and entrepreneurs. He is the recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Chef award by the James Beard Foundation.

Celebrate
ISRAEL
@70



Jewish Federation
OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

*Transforming
Lives Together*

Elisa J. Hirsch | elisah@jfnnj.org | 201-820-3918

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.

Rabbi Fine, cont'd. from page 1

including Berlin, Vienna, and Bielefeld. He has had High Holiday internships in Braunschweig and Johannesburg. Additionally, Max has a particular interest in chaplaincy and has had internships in the Jewish Hospital in Berlin and with the military chaplaincy of the German army.

Max completed his BA in Jewish theology in 2017, writing on the subject, *The Jews of the GDR (East Germany): Essentials of the Historiography of the Jews of the GDR*. He was in Jerusalem for his Israel year from September 2017 to May 2018, studying both at the Conservative Yeshiva and Hebrew Union College. During his time in Israel, he had an internship with Rabbis for Human Rights.

Max is a student representative for the students of Jewish Theology at the University of Potsdam. He is also a board member for the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation in Potsdam, and a representative for the Hillel student community in Potsdam.

He has been teaching German to refugees in Potsdam since February 2017. Max is deeply interested in preserving and reinvigorating the German-Jewish heritage. He is very excited about spending time at Temple Israel and getting to know the community members.



President's message, cont'd. from page 2

and projecting our influence in the world. And when new needs arise, our members band together to form new committees to meet them.

I have said and written about our need for volunteers before. And, while we have close to 100 individuals who provide volunteer services, we can always use more. 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 at President@Synagogue.org.

B'shalom,
Bob

Are you following Temple Israel & Jewish Community Center on Facebook? We post events and items of interest on our page and it's a great way to stay in touch with our community!
<https://www.facebook.com/templeisraelridgewood/>



Want to keep up with RCBI news, events and information from Reconstructing Judaism and more? Ask to join RCBI's Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/reconstructionistcongregationbethisrael/>

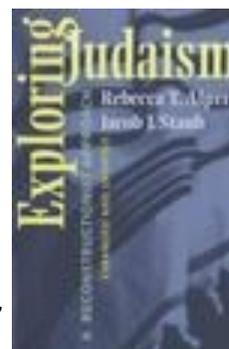
RCBI's email is rcbi@synagogue.org.



Placing an Order with the Reconstructionist Press

Want to purchase your own Kol Haneshama prayer books? The Reconstructionist Press has a full selection of these and more. As members of an affiliated Reconstructionist community, we receive discounts of 10 to 40 percent on most press products. Go to <http://stores.jewishreconbooks.org/> to see all the available titles.

Need a great primer on Reconstructionist Judaism? Try "Exploring Judaism: A Reconstructionist Approach."



There are dozens of great books that offer fresh perspectives and deep insights into contemporary Jewish life, ancient texts, and so much more.

NOTE: Contact the Reconstructionist Press at JewishReconBooks@reconstructingjudaism.org or 215-576-0800 x233 before placing your order, to confirm our community's affiliation status and to receive your appropriate discount.

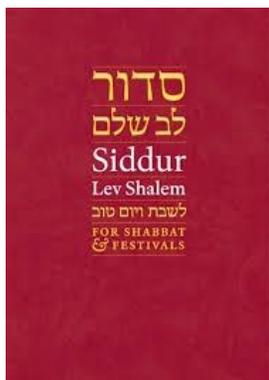
Want to learn more about Reconstructionist Judaism?

Our TI-JCC website has some good information on the RCBI-related pages about the Reconstructionist movement. Reconstructing Judaism, which provides congregational support, has a wealth of information about the movement's philosophy and perspective about many issues. Visit ritualwell.org for inspiration and access to the Hashkiveinu podcasts and Reconstructionist Learning Networks.



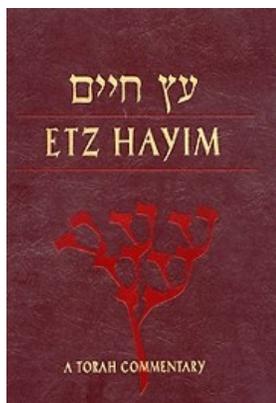
Gift Idea for Special Occasions: Honor a Loved One with a Contribution to our Siddur Lev Shalem Fund

We have purchased new siddurim, Siddur Lev Shalem ("the red books"), starting with a relatively modest collection for our Shabbat services. We want to fill *all* our book holders with these wonderful new editions and you can help!



Please consider honoring a loved one as a gift for any special occasion or milestone by dedicating a new Shabbat prayer book in their name. **All it takes is a \$50 contribution to our Siddur Lev Shalem Fund.**

Here's another beautiful gift idea — Etz Hayim



If you're looking for a special gift, consider giving the *Etz Hayim* chumash (the Five Books of Moses plus all the haftarot) that we use here at Temple Israel. The volume also has insightful commentaries, essays, and maps to enrich the Torah service as well as study sessions. Contact Maureen Nassan in the temple office for more information.



Chesed — Here When you Need Us

Did you know that the Chesed Committee maintains a collection of gently used medical equipment available for loan by congregants? We currently have canes, crutches, walkers, and a wheelchair. We hope you won't need any of these, but remember us if you do.



If you have **gently used medical equipment (small items only)** you would like to donate, or if you have need of these items, **call Elyse Levene at 201-306-1283** to make arrangements.

Temple Israel & JCC Circle of Honor

The Circle of Honor is our campaign for high-end donors ; it offers members an opportunity to make a three-year commitment with a minimum annual contribution of \$1,800.

Circle of Honor donors are publicly recognized with a plaque in the main lobby. In exchange for your pledge, you'll receive benefits such as free admission to designated TI-JCC events, reserved High Holiday parking, advertising space in the annual Ad Journal , and more, depending on your level of commitment.

Information about the Circle of Honor is on our website at <http://www.synagogue.org/support-us/circle-of-honor>.

Benefactor's Circle

Beth & Freddie Kotek

Patron's Circle

Alyson Yashar and James Goldfarb
Sharon & Kenneth Levitsky
Rita & Robert Obeiter
Tricia & Howard Schreiber

Pillar's Circle

Audrey Meyers & Scott Agins
Shari & Manny Haber
Peri & David Namerow
In Memory of Ephraim & Geri Nelinson

Sponsor's Circle

Anonymous (2)
Brandeis Men's Club
Laura & Philip Brody
Roberta & Charles Fleischman
Beth & Arthur Freed
Tamara & Barry Freeman
Susie & Shelly Goldstein
The Gruber Family
Suzanne & Joshua Holden
Erin & Matthew Lindenberg
Sylvia Flescher & Tom Marcyes
Debbie, Wayne & Jared Miller
Lisa Mellman & Toby Nygaard
Reconstructionist Congregation Beth Israel
Johanna & Michael Rosen
Sue Rubinoff
Meri Schachter
Merille & Harvey Siegel
Sisterhood of Temple Israel
Bonita & David Weiss
Jen Blanck and Evan Weitz
Lorissa Lightman & Jeffrey Whittaker

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

Minyan of Comfort	\$36
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 (contact the office)

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 Assistant Rabbi

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

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.



and Jewish Community Center

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TI-JCC Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 23, 7:30 p.m.

We'll review our year and elect our next Board of Trustees.

Installation of Officers

Friday, June 1 at 8:00 p.m.

We will formally install the incoming board members at the evening service.

REMINDER: If you've moved, changed your email address or phone number, or have a name change, please remember to send your updated contact information to Maureen in the office so we can update our synagogue database!



Shy Kedmi (pianist) and Gilad Paz (singer) performing at the AICF concert on April 22. Photo: Bruce Thaler