

January/February 2019



# Temple Talk

News you can use from the TI-JCC community

## FROM THE RABBIS STUDY

**“This Is What America Looks Like” — An Interfaith Service at Temple Israel and JCC for Thanksgiving and in Solidarity with the Jewish Community**



*On the evening of November 20<sup>th</sup>, our sanctuary swelled with the ranks of the diversity of Ridgewood, as people came together to celebrate Thanksgiving and stand with the Jewish community following the tragedy at Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh. The Jewish Standard ran an article following Thanksgiving covering how three communities responded to Pittsburgh through these services. This wonderful article by Lois Goldrich begins with an interview with me on what we did in Ridgewood; it is reprinted here with the permission of The Jewish Standard.*

*As published in The Jewish Standard on November 30, 2018:*

**‘This is what America looks like’: In Pittsburgh’s aftermath, faith communities unite to celebrate Thanksgiving**  
By Lois Goldrich

On their surface, interfaith services—particularly those designed to celebrate yearly events, such as Thanksgiving—seem pretty much the same. Members of different religious groups come together to worship, paying tribute to each other’s traditions and sharing something from their own culture.

But not so fast.

They are not the same, according to Rabbi David Fine,

*Continued on p. 14*

## A MESSAGE FROM RABBI LEIAH MOSER

Upon Jacob’s arrival in the land of Egypt, Joseph brings his father before the Pharaoh to make his acquaintance. When Pharaoh asks him how old he is, Jacob replies: “The years of my sojourn are one hundred and thirty. Few and hard have been the years of my life, nor do they come up to the years of the lives of my ancestors in the days of their sojourns.” (Gen. 47:9)



How significant is the sentiment encapsulated in this apparently offhanded response! For indeed, as his choice of language implicitly acknowledges, Jacob’s life has been the life of a perpetual foreigner, a series of journeys punctuated by temporary stays in this or that place, but never *his* place. The experience of Jacob, along with his ancestors and the vast majority of his descendants, has been less of home than of the *promise* of home, a promise which comes along with God’s reassurance that Zie will be with us on the road. (Gen. 46:3-4)

This experience of life-as-sojourn has had a tremendous impact on the subsequent development of Jewish religious consciousness. The centrality of Eretz Yisrael notwithstanding, it is the experience of exile itself which has given rise to the most inspired and transformative expressions of Jewish spiritual life. Jacob himself bears testament to this phenomenon in his nocturnal vision of a ladder or stairway connecting heaven and earth—a vision he experiences while on the road, fleeing for his life. The ladder itself serves as a compelling symbol for human life on earth—a point of transition connecting two absolutes.

*Continued on p. 11*

## SISTERHOOD NEWS AND EVENTS

Shalom! As I write this entry, we are in the midst of celebrating Hannukah. I hope (looking back) that you had your fill of latkes and sufganiyot.

A big thank you to all who shopped at our Hannukah boutique and gift shop. Yasher koach to Stephanie Gottesman, Shari Haber, Carla Vogel, and the many other volunteers that helped supply, set up, and run the event. Don't forget our gift shop for ALL your holiday and Judaica needs throughout the year. Hostess gifts, wedding gifts, holiday décor, Shabbat candles . . . we've got it all. Contact Stephanie Gottesman for more information.

### SAVE THE DATE!

#### Sisterhood Shabbat is on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

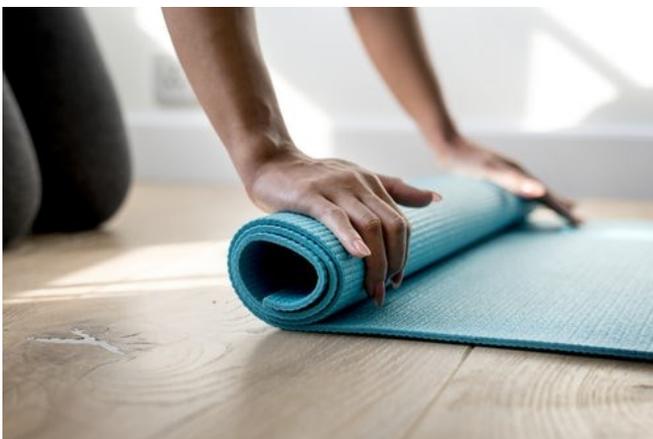
It is so special to come together for a service where so many of our Sisterhood members lead us in prayer. And of course, a fabulous Kiddush will follow.

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

A little stressed? How about yoga? Join us for **yoga each Thursday at Temple Israel** at 7:00 p.m. Contact Debbie Cantor at 201-612-3295 or [debbiecantor@optonline.net](mailto:debbiecantor@optonline.net) for more information.

We are planning for our winter and spring events so stay tuned. See you soon.

**Abbie**



#### TI-JCC Mission Statement

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.



## President's column

### Have the Security Concerns and Needs for Our Shul Changed?

The answer to this question is a definite yes. However, the real question should be, when did our need for increased security change? Clearly, we are more aware of the uptick of hate and bias that we see and hear about almost daily, including those in our local schools and communities. With the scrawling of swastikas and racist and anti-Semitic graffiti, this problem directly affects all of us in some way. We are all certainly more aware, probably more alert, and possibly even a bit afraid.

The Secure Community Network has been reporting on attacks and bias crimes against Jewish (and other) organizations and individuals since 2004. I have been receiving the SCN's near-daily briefings for approximately six years. In the last two years and especially over the last six months, the number of daily incidents reported has increased dramatically. As I write this article (on December 10<sup>th</sup>) SCN reported that one in three European Jews avoid visiting Jewish sites or events because they fear for their safety. And, on December 11<sup>th</sup>, SCN reported that an individual was arrested in Ohio for planning an attack on a synagogue in Toledo. Read more at [www.securecommunitynetwork.org](http://www.securecommunitynetwork.org).

Recognizing the vulnerability of houses of worship, the US Department of Homeland Security created opportunities for religious institutions (including parochial schools) to receive funding for enhancing security at their locations. The availability of this funding led to our first major effort to increase security at Temple Israel. To help prepare our grant application, we received input from the Ridgewood Police Department and the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office. Our grant award included funding for barricades by the parking lot (large planters) and Grove Street (bollards) entrances. We also installed a surveillance system consisting of interior and exterior cameras and recording devices. Further, we upgraded our locks at the entrance door by our office and installed protective windows at certain locations.

Due to the increased need for security at religious facilities, the Department of Homeland Security continues to provide funding opportunities. We are now starting to implement measures under our second grant from DHS. (Again, prior to submitting our funding request, we received input from Ridgewood Police and the Bergen County Prosecutor's office.) These measures include window film, door access controls, and camera and recording system upgrades.

- Window film adheres to glass and is engineered to protect people and property. It prevents shattering, makes forced entry more difficult, and deters intruders. Some of the window film is reflective so an individual outside our building cannot see in during daylight hours.
- Door access controls utilize key fobs or security cards to gain entrance to the building. Individuals needing routine access will be given fobs or cards to enter the building during certain hours. Our two primary entrances from the parking lot will have call buttons with camera displays allowing visitors to be announced, seen and buzzed in.

*Continued on p. 15*

## MUSICAL NOTES



### SPEAKEASY ON SATURDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 9, 2019

Save the date for TT's first speakeasy. We will enjoy live music, munchies, and drinks. Stay tuned for more details including the secret password!

### THANKSGIVING INTERFAITH SERVICE MUSICIANS

Thanks to our talented singers who participated in the interfaith choir:

Irene Bressler, Debbie Cantor, Marc Cantor, Bob Dworkin, Tamara Freeman, Tammy Lane, Jo Rosen, Tova Samuels, Bill Scher, Barbara Schneider, Elaine Silverstein and Bob Smolen.

Thanks to our talented instrumentalists who accompanied the choir: Sarah Butensky, Marc Cantor, Annette Lieb, and Anne Wolf

### OPEN MIC DECEMBER 16

Many thanks to Allan Weissman for chairing and MC'ing our annual open mic. We enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of great entertaining and refreshments.

### BIMAH BAND IN 2019

Save these winter and spring dates for our upcoming musical Shabbatot:

January 18, February 22, April 26, June 7, and June 28 for our Shabbat Under the Summer Sky.

Y'shar kochachem to our Temple Israe'lights bimah band musicians:

Artie Bressler, Sarah Butensky, Debbie Cantor, Marc Cantor, Tamara Freeman, Susan Kornblit, Annette Lieb, Wayne Miller, and Anne Wolf.

### SHOUT OUT TO MAUREEN, TINA AND JOSE

The choir and bimah band benefit greatly from the thoughtful and dedicated assistance of Maureen, Tina and Jose. Many thanks to you all!

### REMEMBERING HELENE EMANUEL z"l

The entire shul family mourns the loss of Helene Emanuel z"l, mother of Irene Bressler, our harpist, piano accompanist, and choir alto. For many years, Helene and her husband, Paul, have generously supported the music committee, ensuring that our entire community can enjoy wonderful concerts of the highest caliber. We will honor her memory by continuing our commitment for a vibrant musical life at Temple Israel and JCC. *May her name be for a blessing.*

*Debbie Cantor and Nanette Rosenbaum, concert co-chairs*

*Tamara Freeman, DMA, sacred music chair*

## RITUAL HAPPENINGS

I hope everyone enjoyed their Hanukkah, with our public menorah lighting, very special (and rare!) 3-Torah Shabbat, and the "World's Largest Latke Bar." As we kick off the really cold months with "Yom Sylvester", here are some Ritual highlights:

January 7: **Rosh Chodesh Shevat**

January 19: **Sisterhood Shabbat** (parashat Beshalach)

January 21: **Tu B'Shevat** ("New Year of the Trees")

January 26: **Nosh and Drosh** (parashat Yitro)

February 3: **World Wide Wrap** (Men's Club effort for all to *ley tefillin*)

February 5-6: **Rosh Chodesh Adar I** (Jewish leap year - no *Purim* until *Adar II*)



We invite all to attend our standing weekly services for **Erev Shabbat** on Friday nights, and the Saturday **Shabbat** and Sunday **minyan** (*Shacharit*) services at 9am.

The reward for getting to synagogue bright and early on the weekend is the always enlightening Muffins and Mishnah led by Rabbi Fine. Come early and often, and feel free to sign up for *Torah* and *haftarah* readings

(email: [millman.david@gmail.com](mailto:millman.david@gmail.com)).

## B'YACHAD

B'yachad would like to thank Josh and Suzie Holden for hosting LATKEFEST this year at their home. We enjoyed salmon, breakfast, beet, sweet potato and traditional latkes along with other yummy treats and plenty of festive drinks! The kids got to watch a movie while the adults socialized.

We also had a great time at bowling back in November. Everyone enjoyed using the lane bumpers and it's possible that no one's score broke 100. Thankfully, no one took a picture of the scoreboard, just all the friendly faces!

Keep a look out for my emails with information on upcoming events; ladies night, men's night and adult night out are coming up.

### B'yachad Calendar

**Thursday, January 10:**  
Ladies' night out  
**Thursday, January 17:**  
Men's night out  
**Saturday, February 23:**  
Adult night out  
**Sunday, March 31:**  
Afternoon rock climbing  
**Friday, May 17:**  
Potluck dinner  
**July:** Pool party

I hope you can join us!

**Erin Lindenber**  
**Erinlinden-**  
**berg@hotmail.com**



## YOUTH HAPPENINGS

TI-JCC middle and high schoolers enjoyed a fall filled with engaging events, with many opportunities to meet and socialize with their Jewish peers from around Bergen County. As reported by Laurence Fine, TI-JCC hosted the local USY chapter's opening event—making candy sushi in the sukkah in early October. Later that same month, our USY-ers took to the air at SkyZone, an indoor trampoline park, at an event co-sponsored by our USY chapter and Bergen County High School of Jewish Studies. In November, the teens enjoyed Movie Night (featuring Iron Man) at the Fair Lawn Jewish Center (FLJC). In December, they participated in a social and spiritual Shabbaton hosted by the Paramus Jewish Community Center.

Not to be outdone, in November our middle schoolers enjoyed an ice cream social with gym games at FLJC and bowling, and make-your-own-pizza-and-cookies (with gym games) in December. Our 8th graders also participated in the Sky Zone event and Shabbaton.

### The fun continues in 2019:

- **January 12** — FLIPPER USY & Kadima Bingo Night at JCCP/CBT
- **January 18-19** — Hagalil USY Freshman Shabbaton in Metuchen
- **January 19** — Hagalil USY Dance in Metuchen
- **January 27** — FLIPPER USY & BCHSJS ice skating party at Ice House

Our youth programming aims to encourage our middle and high school members to engage with their Jewish peers at TI-JCC, in Bergen County, and beyond through age-appropriate social, religious, and cultural events. We affiliate with the Conservative movement's Kadima organization for middle school students and United Synagogue Youth organization for high school students. Our local chapter is known affectionately as FLIPPER and includes Conservative congregations in Fair Lawn, Paramus, and Ridgewood. Marcia Kagedan, our chapter youth director, and I welcome your comments and suggestions for how we can improve programming and engagement.

Email us at [edudirector@jccparamus.org](mailto:edudirector@jccparamus.org) (Marcia) or [jameskasen@verizon.net](mailto:jameskasen@verizon.net) (James Goldfarb).

*Join us to celebrate the past 10 years ...  
Traveling with the Fines with international flair at our spring soiree!*

**Saturday, March 9, 7:00 p.m.**



*Your passport to a full evening of celebration:  
Havdalah and presentations follow  
such a unction*

**Dress: smart casual  
RSVP by Feb. 22  
\$125 per person**

**This is our major fundraiser of the year and we hope you'll get involved:**

Attend the event — invite friends for a fun and fabulous evening!

Ad journal — sell ads or take one out (from yourself/family, your company, committee, or organization)

Silent auction — Donate or solicit high-quality items (such as artwork, jewelry, fine wines, travel, memorabilia, experiences)

Donate — gift cards to your favorite stores or restaurants, tickets to events, hosted dinners/parties, teach a class

*Watch your email for details; see the following pages for ad journal & donation forms.*



**TEMPLE ISRAEL**  
AND JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER



**JOURNAL FORM 2019**  
Honoring Rabbi David and Alla Fine  
March 9, 2019

Circle your Tribute/Ad Selection:

Platinum (Full Page)	\$3,600
Gold (Full Page)	\$1,800
Back Cover (Outside)	\$1,500
Back Cover (Inside)	\$1,250
Silver (Full Page)	\$1,000
White (Full Page)	\$750
Half Page	\$500
Quarter Page	\$250
Business Card (Maximum 4 lines)	\$125

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (will not be shared): \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Ad Solicited By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to "Temple Israel"  
 Ad copy must be received by our office no later than February 22, 2019  
 Ad copy in electronic form may be submitted to [waysandmeansdinner@gmail.com](mailto:waysandmeansdinner@gmail.com)  
 Submit ad text or camera ready ads in PDF or JPEG  
 All Contributions are tax deductible

**Thank you for your generous support**

Temple Israel & Jewish Community Center 475 Grove Street Ridgewood, NJ 07450  
[www.synagogue.org](http://www.synagogue.org)  
 (201) 444-9320



**TEMPLE ISRAEL**  
AND JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER



**SILENT AUCTION DONATION FORM**

Annual Ways & Means Dinner  
Honoring Rabbi David and Alla Fine  
March 9, 2019

Item with Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Value (\$) \_\_\_\_\_

Donated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Solicited by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Item(s) received by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Thank you for your generous support!***

Temple Israel & Jewish Community Center 475 Grove Street Ridgewood, NJ 07450

[www.synagogue.org](http://www.synagogue.org)

(201) 444-9320

## NNJJA News



### A Message from Jessica

Time flies when you're having fun, and that's definitely been the case this year for NNJJA. The year has been zooming by, and we're enjoying every moment!

We've had some amazing events this fall, including our first NNJJA Shabbat celebration. It's great to have our community come together for a special Shabbat. Our students practice tefilot as part of their Hebrew School curriculum, and led a Kabbalat Shabbat service with Rabbi Fine. Each class was able to present a number of tefilot or songs that they have learned this year. Our parents and teachers were all so impressed with the students' progress and poise on the bimah. Please join us for our next NNJJA Shabbat celebration in May!

Also in November, our grades 4 through 7 students went on a class field trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage: a Living Memorial to the Holocaust in Battery Park. This is a really tough subject. Some of our students are just beginning their education on the Holocaust. The museum docent did an excellent job explaining some of the lead-up to the Holocaust, outlining the impact in a way the students could understand, and reminding our students that we, the Jewish people, lived through a time when we were persecuted for being Jewish and that is why it is our job to stand up to hate. We also had the privilege of meeting a Holocaust survivor who told us her family's story. The survivor was only three years old during the war, but she's been able to piece together what her family went through from conversations she'd had with her mother, and by learning about Hungarian Jews during World War 2. NNJJA is especially grateful for the Men's Club support in sponsoring this trip. Thank you for helping us add another layer of experiential education to our curriculum.

NNJJA students also loved celebrating Chanukah! We did all sorts of great Chanukah-related activities like making candy dreidels, reviewing the story, and joining in a fun and festive carnival. The Matty Roxx concert was awesome; he even brought along a bubble machine! It was also great to have our very own Bimah Band come do a musical Chanukah morning with our students.

Students also participated in some acts of giving, because while getting gifts is great, giving is so much better. We made Chanukah cards that JFCS distributed to its Kosher Meals on Wheels recipients and that the residents of the Jewish Home at Rockleigh received to brighten their Chanukah. Making cards for these two organizations gave us the opportunity to talk about aging in the Jewish community and how it's our job to offer support to our elders. Students were also able to "vote with their dollars" at the Chanukah party for the tzedakah of their choice. Each student was given a Hebrew School \$100 bill (currency that is only valuable in Hebrew School) that they could put in a tzedakah box for one of eight different organizations to choose from. The NNJJA students chose Mazon: a Jewish Response to Hunger, which advocates that no one should be hungry, especially in the United States and Israel. It is a very mature choice and we are really proud of them.

There's lots of fun on the horizon. In January we'll present our Kitah Alef students with their siddurim. It's a beautiful ceremony, and we hope you'll be able to attend. In February, we'll participate in the World Wide Wrap, a tefillin education program done on Super Bowl Sunday. And then in March is Purim. Like I said, time flies when we're having fun; it certainly is and we certainly are!

**Jessica Spiegel, director**  
JSpiegel@synagogue.org  
201-444-4194

**Mark your calendars  
for these upcoming  
Family Shabbats:  
Sat., January 5 and  
February 2**



*On our field trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage this fall.*

## MEMBERSHIP

There has been wonderful energy every time temple members gather for celebrations and services. Recently, we had the honor of attending the NNJA Friday night service and Shabbat dinner and were thrilled to see tons of kids running around our social hall, laughing and having fun. Parents were trying to hold conversations with each other as they kept a watchful eye out for their children. The enthusiasm was palpable and we look forward to seeing everyone again at next spring's Campfire Shabbat on Friday, May 3 (save the date!)

Many of our adult members enjoyed our annual Sisterhood Progressive dinner, again making new friends and reconnecting with old ones.

Our temple members also show up for our Tikkun Olam committee's preparation of and serving of meals at the Hackensack shelter. There is often a waiting list to serve food.

Thanks to our Membership committee, donated foods from Howard Schreiber, and our food preparers, we were able to again offer "the world's largest latke bar with toppings" at the Hanukkah party on December 8.

When we work together, we get to know one another.

We also gather at our members' homes for shiva minyanim. When we show up, it means a lot to our members who are in mourning. When we show up, we connect.

Please bring your friends to the myriad activities at Temple Israel & JCC: services downstairs with TI and upstairs with RCBI, depending on your preference; plus holiday celebrations, concerts, and adult education. To know us is to love our community.

We hope you will join us in honoring Rabbi David and Alla Fine at our annual ways and means party on March 9, 2019. It promises to be a fun evening and, we hope, successful at raising money for our community. AND it gives us an opportunity to honor and thank Rabbi Fine for his incredible leadership over the last 10 years.

Best wishes for a comfortable winter—which will be warmer and cozier if you come to shul.

***Jo Rosen and Jennifer Blanck Weitz, Membership co-chairs***



### Dr. Ira Spar – leader of our upcoming Israel trip May 26—June 7, 2019

TI-JCC member Dr. Ira Spar, professor of history and ancient studies at Ramapo College, will lead the trip to Israel this year. He is formerly co-director of excavations at Tel Hadar, Israel and research Assyriologist at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

Ira co-authored, with Michael Jursa, *The Ebabbar Temple Archive and Other Texts from the Fourth to the First Millennium B.C.* Cuneiform Texts in The Metropolitan Museum of Art, vol. IV, New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2014.

He has also published scholarly articles and papers:

"Babylon and the Bible," "Cyrus and the Judean Diaspora," "[Imperial Attire and National Identity in Ancient Assyria, Qajar Iran and Qing China](#)," "Ashurbanipal," "Ancient Temple Economies: A Comparative Typology," and "Israelite and Egyptian Exiles in the Babylonian Diaspora."



See pages 12 & 13 for details & itinerary

## 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 winter we are focusing on our regular activities of feeding the homeless, collecting blood donations, and assisting neighbors such as the residents of Ridgcrest 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. 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. On December 3, we served a hot and hearty meal to 90 people. Spring 2019 cooking and serving dates are as follows:

Cooking	Serving
Sunday, Feb. 24	Tuesday, Feb. 26
Sunday, Mar. 31	Tuesday, April 2



*Serving dinner on Dec. 3 are (l. to r.) Les Birenbaum, Paul Aronsohn, Nadine Genet, Barbara Weissman, Sue Coleman, Jo Rosen, Ann Heller, Sue Hill, Janet Tancredi, Bob Zeller, and David Namerow.*

Many congregants donate food items to this important effort. If you would like to help out with cooking or serving or to donate, contact Nadine Genet at [nzgenet@outlook.com](mailto:nzgenet@outlook.com).

#### Spring Blood Drive

The next blood drive will take place on Sunday, April 28. If you've been donating for years, thanks very much, and please continue. If you're never done it before, it's easy and painless, so give it a try. The need for blood is urgent and unceasing. You can drop in or make an appointment in advance (info will be in the next Temple Talk).

### RECENT EVENTS

#### Ridgcrest Senior Citizens' Housing

Starting with the 2017 NNJA Hanukkah party, the Tikkun Olam Committee has forged a very pleasant relationship with the staff and residents of the Ridgcrest Senior Citizens Center in Ridgewood. Many of the residents of this community are food-insecure and in need of opportunities for socialization. We regularly provide healthy snacks and on Monday, December 10, we cooked and served dinner and joined the residents for the evening's social activities. Many thanks to Sue Hill for leading this endeavor.



Ridgcrest's residents have given back to our community. At this year's interfaith Thanksgiving service, Sue Ullrich, Activities Director, presented TI-JCC with three Gardens of Hope bearing messages of peace and unity, in honor and memory of the victims of the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting. If you would like to help us reach out to our neighbors at Ridgcrest, contact Elaine Silverstein at [elasi@optonline.net](mailto:elasi@optonline.net).

#### Sixth Annual Anti-Gun Violence Shabbat

The TI-JCC community is proud to be among hundreds of congregations nationwide, of all faiths, that participate in this commemoration of the Sandy Hook shootings intended to raise awareness of the issue of gun violence. On Saturday, December 15, Laurence Fine, son of Rabbi David and Alla Fine, delivered a talk, "Student Activism against Gun Violence." A Ridgewood High School sophomore, Laurence represented Students Demand Action Bergen County, a group of students from dozens of Bergen County high schools that works for change in anti-gun violence legislation, organizes rallies, and works to register students to vote.

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

*Rabbi Moser, cont'd. from page 1*

Even at its most grounded, Jewish existence on the Land is based on an underlying awareness of the fragility and instability of nomadic life. “Do not oppress a stranger [i.e., one who sojourns], for you know the soul of a stranger, having been yourselves strangers in the land of Egypt.” (Ex. 23:9) This knowledge of “the soul of a stranger” is an important beginning point for ethical awareness—the recognition of our common situation as vulnerable travelers in this world, yearning for a home we are always journeying toward, never quite arriving.

Historically, American Jews founded organizations such as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) for the purpose of assisting their European coreligionists in making the transition to life in the US, but over time the scope of such organizations has tended to broaden, providing assistance for refugees of all religions and ethnic backgrounds. Aware as we are of our sometimes precarious status as a minority group living within a majority culture, the prospect of speaking up for vulnerable strangers who come to this land to escape persecution and oppression back home can sometimes feel daunting, especially when such a principled stance has the potential to draw hatred and even violence upon ourselves. Nevertheless, as the Torah reminds us, it will always be a part of our heritage and our responsibility as Jews to remember that we are but sojourners on this earth—to know the soul of a stranger.



*Rabbi Geoffrey Mitelman will be this year's Rabbi Selig Salkowitz Memorial Speaker on January 12.*

## 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.

## ADULT ED

Temple Israel offers vibrant and interesting adult education opportunities throughout the year.

This past fall, Rabbi Fine gave the first three lectures of his course, “The History of American Jewry.” For those of you who did not catch those talks, they were recorded and will soon be on our website's adult education page. The last four lectures for this course will be on the following Sundays at 10:00 a.m.: February 24 and March 3, 24 and 31. The class will culminate with a field trip to Philadelphia (by bus) to visit the National Museum of American Jewish History on Sunday, June 2. Save the dates!

Rabbi Fine's Talmud class continues on Tuesdays, now at 7:00 p.m. Please don't let the topic scare you off; you don't need any prior knowledge of Talmud to enjoy the discussions and experience the study that has occupied rabbis for centuries. Rabbi Fine has also been lecturing at JCC of Fort Lee/Congregation Geshur Shalom on “The Jews in Germany: A Complicated Legacy” on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. The series continues on Jan. 3, 10, 17 & 24. Read more here - <http://bit.ly/Finelectures>

Rabbi Moser teaches “Mystical Parashat HaShvuah” on Thursday afternoons from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. She offers a teaching on the Torah portion of the week through the lens of mysticism.

We also offer two weekend opportunities of learning with visiting scholars.

- **On January 12 from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m., TI-JCC will host the Rabbi Selig Salkowitz Memorial Speaker program**, a joint lecture series with Temple Avodat Shalom in River Edge. This year's speaker is Rabbi Geoffrey A. Mitelman, founding director of Sinai and Synapses, an organization that seeks to bridge science and religion. The program will include two presentations by Rabbi Mitelman, dinner and a desert reception. He will speak on “How do we Talk about Science and Religion?” and “The Evolution of Morality.” Rabbi Mitelman graduated from Princeton University and was ordained as a Reform rabbi by the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion. You can read his full and impressive bio at <http://sinaiandsynapses.org/rabbi-geoffrey-a-mitelman/>. **Sign up by January 8<sup>th</sup> with Maureen in the office (office@synagogue.org).**
- **The annual Adele Rebell Scholar-in-Residence weekend** will be March 1 & 2. with Cantor (and composer) Gerald Cohen. Details to follow.

Adult education has been a cornerstone of Temple Israel for decades. If there are any courses you'd like to take or skills you'd like to learn, please let me know.

Happy learning,

*Jo Rosen, Adult Education chair*

# Jerusalem and the Holy Land: Art & Archaeology

with Dr. Ira Spar

Ramapo College/The Metropolitan Museum of Art

May 26 – June 7, 2019

## Sponsoring Institutions:

Community Church of Glen Rock, NJ

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – Pearl River, NY

Temple Israel & Jewish Community Center – Ridgewood, NJ

*"One does not travel to Jerusalem, one returns."*



## Tour Package Includes:

- Hotels: Mt. Zion–Jerusalem, Nof Ginosar–North, Dan Panorama–Tel Aviv
- Daily buffet breakfasts; five dinners including Shabbat; three lunches per the itinerary
- Touring with Dr Ira Spar and one of Israel's Top Tour Guide educators in a WiFi enabled deluxe touring Motor Coach

## A Few Tour Highlights:

- Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Tzfat, Old Jaffa, Megiddo, Caesarea, Capernaum and Sea of Galilee area
- Old City of Jerusalem focusing on the city's walls, gates, rooftops division into "four" quarters
- Lectures by Ira Spar on JERUSALEM, ARCHAEOLOGY AND BIBLICAL HISTORY
- Tour the City of David, Second Temple Period at Robinson's Arch, Western and Southern Wall
- Temple Mount (Haram Esh-Sharif) – Islam's holiest site, Dome of the Rock and Al-Aksa Mosque
- Follow the Stations of the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher
- Jerusalem's multiculturalism and modern history on El Wad Street and at the Austrian Hospice
- Visit to St. James Armenian Cathedral in the Armenian Quarter
- Tour of Yad Vashem Israel's national Holocaust memorial and museum and Children's Memorial
- Israel Museum to see the Dead Sea Scrolls in the Shrine of the Book and the Model of Jerusalem
- Garden of Gethsemane, Church of All Nations (Church of the Agony), Desert monastery of Dir Hogla
- Tour of Tel Megiddo led by Archaeologist Norma Franklin, Ruins of Caesarea, Roman Theater
- Guided tour of the Reuven Ruben Museum, hear about the landmark work of this modern Israeli artist

View and download itinerary and application at [www.israeltour.com/ispar](http://www.israeltour.com/ispar)

For additional information please contact Dr. Ira Spar at [ira.spar12@gmail.com](mailto:ira.spar12@gmail.com)

Tour arranged by ITC Tours Tours LLC - Tour manager [yafa@israeltour.com](mailto:yafa@israeltour.com) 973-535-2575

## Trip Costs and Reductions

Land Only Package – \$3595\*\*

Discounted price for check payment

Land and Air Package – \$5145\*

Discounted price for check payment

Single Room Supplement – \$1265

Discounted price for check payment

Land Only Package – \$3739\*\*

Full price for credit card payment

Full cost Land and Air Package – \$5350\*

Full price for credit card payment

Single Room Supplement – \$1309

Full price for credit card payment

3rd person adult in triple room  
Subtract \$300

### Optional Jordan Aman Petra Extension

Grand Palace Hotel – Amman, Movenpick Nabatean Castle

Hotel – Petra (Wadi Musa)

\$1475 minimum 5 participants

\*\*Prices based on 15 paying participants. If less than 15, price will increase, with more than 20 price will be reduced.

Added to the costs above are tips for Guide, Driver, Restaurants, and Porterage – \$180

Flights – NB: Rates are estimates and depend on when booked and contract received from the airline; fuel surcharges are subject to fluctuation

**Sunday, May 26**  
Depart USA

**Monday, May 27 – Going up into the Land**  
Arrive in **Israel** to be met and assisted by your ITC representative (today's program depends on arrival time) • Travel to **Jerusalem** through the biblical **Ayalon Valley** • Look out over the **Old City of Jerusalem** and **Temple Mount** - Introduction to the "Holy Basin" • Walking tour to the **Old City of Jerusalem** focusing on the city's **walls, gates, rooftops** and division into "**four**" **quarters** • Lunch on own • Check-in to the **Mt. Zion Hotel** in **Jerusalem** • **Lecture by Prof. Ira Spar:** Introduction to Jerusalem (at hotel, room needed) • Welcome dinner at **Olive and Fish Restaurant**  
Overnight: Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

**Tuesday, May 28 – Urban Story: 1,500 years in Jerusalem from David to Justinian**

Tour the **City of David**, including its ancient water system without getting wet, as we use archaeology and the Bible to trace Jerusalem's history from a small settlement closely connected to its basic needs of water and defense to the political and religious capital of biblical Israel (Judah) • Follow Jerusalem's urban growth and cultural transformations into the Second Temple Period at **Robinson's Arch, Western Wall, Southern Wall and Davidson Center** • Lunch at **Between the Arches Restaurant**, located in ancient cistern • Unique tour of the **Western Wall Tunnels** with Dr. Avi Solomon, the site's chief archaeologist (subject to availability) • Tour of archaeological sites in the **Jewish Quarter**, including **Broad Wall, Israelite Tower** (closed site to be opened specially for this group), **Herodian Mansions** and **Cardo** • Free time to shop and explore on own • Dinner on own  
Overnight: Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

**Wednesday, May 29 – Temple Mount, Holy Sepulcher, Mt. Zion**

Early departure to tour the **Temple Mount (Haram Esh-Sharif)** – Islam's holiest site in Jerusalem to see the **Dome of the Rock** and **Al-Aksa Mosque** • Follow the Stations of the **Via Dolorosa** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**. En route we will encounter Jerusalem's multiculturalism and modern history on **El Wad Street** and at the **Austrian Hospice** (Great Powers in Ottoman Jerusalem). Then seen the **Sabils**, Ottoman Fountains installed by Suleiman the Magnificent • Lunch on own • In depth tour of the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher**, examining history, religion/sanctity and inter denominational relations (Status Quo) in the church • Special visit with **Abu Halaf, purveyor of textiles to the Vatican** • Visit to **St. James Armenian Cathedral** in the **Armenian Quarter** • Visit to **Mt. Zion**, including **Cenacle (Upper Room of the Last Supper)** and **David's Tomb** (both in the same building crowned by an Moslem minaret) • Dinner on own • Watch the **Night Spectacular** – Sound & Light show at the **Tower of David**  
Overnight: Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

**Thursday, May 30 – The City and the Desert Nearby: Masada and the Dead Sea Region**  
Set out across the Judean Desert on

the **Good Samaritan Route** • Tour the ruins of **Qumran**, where the **Dead Sea Scrolls** were discovered and hear about the ascetic Jewish sect that lived there 2,000 years ago • Ascend **Masada** by cable car to tour the ruins of Herod's palace and the last outpost of Jewish independence • Lunch at **Dead Sea resort** • Swim in the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth, at a local resort. The resort also has a fresh water pool and spa facilities. Massage and spa treatments available by prior reservation at own expense • Free evening • Dinner on own  
Overnight: Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

**Friday, May 31 – Holocaust, Remembrance and Continuity**

Tour of **Yad Vashem** Israel's national Holocaust memorial and museum, including the **Holocaust History Museum** and **Children's Memorial** • Lunch on own • Explore the bustling **Machane Yehuda Market** and take in a slice of local life as you see Jerusalemites begin preparing for Shabbat and then tour the nearby quaint Nachlaot neighborhoods • Free time to explore on own • Attend festive **Greeting of the Sabbath** at the **Western Wall** • **Festive Shabbat Dinner** at hotel  
Overnight: Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

**Saturday, June 1 – And on the Seventh Day...in Jerusalem**

Optional walking tour to the First Temple period burial site at **Ketef Hinnom** (below Scottish Church) – Where archaeologists discovered the oldest biblical text ever found (exhibited at Israel Museum). Then continue to **Mishkenot Sha'ananim**, the first neighborhood built outside the Old City walls. Its founding in the 19th century marked the birth of the **New City** • Visit to the **Israel Museum** to see the **Dead Sea Scrolls** in the **Shrine of the Book** and the **Model of Jerusalem** in the first century. Free time to explore additional exhibitions on own – **Our Recommendations: Modern Israeli art, Synagogue interiors** in the **Judaica** section and the **Archaeology Wing** • Bethlehem excursion to visit the **Church of the Nativity in Manger Square** and the nearby **Milk Grotto**. Then drive to the **Shepherds Fields** in **Beit Sahur** • Free evening • Dinner on own  
Overnight: Mt. Zion Hotel, Jerusalem

**Sunday, June 2 – From Gethsemane to the Galilee**

Visit the **Garden of Gethsemane** and the **Church of All Nations (Church of the Agony)** • Travel to the **Jordan Valley** to tour the **desert monastery** of **Dir Hogla**, dedicated to St. Jerome • Visit the **Qasr El Yahud Baptistal Site** on the **Jordan River** east of Jericho, which is also associated with where the Children of Israel crossed the Jordan and where the Prophet Elijah ascended to heaven in a Chariot of Fire • Visit the ancient synagogue of **Beit Alfa** and discover why its 1,500 year old mosaic floor features a wheel of the zodiac • Tour the exquisite Roman ruins of **Beit Shean**, once a splendid city of the Decapolis • Check in to the **Nof Ginosar Hotel** on **Kibbutz Ginosar** by the **Sea of Galilee** • Dinner at hotel • **Lecture by Prof. Ira Spar:** War & Peace in the Age of the Patriarchs (at hotel, room needed)  
Overnight: Nof Ginosar

**Monday, June 3 – Sea of Galilee and Mystical Tzfat**

Explore the ruins of **Capernaum**, where Jesus began his Ministry in the Galilee, including its coastline, octagonal Byzantine church – Peter's House and massive ancient stone synagogue • See the iconic **Fish and Loaves mosaic** at **Tabha**, site of the Miracle of the Multiplication of the Fish and the Loaves • Visit the Mt. of the Beatitudes, site of the Sermon on the Mount and see Barluzzi's octagonal church • Lunch on own • Tour old synagogues and picturesque alleys of **Tzfat**, cradle of Jewish mysticism in 16th century, including the ofante **Abhav Synagogue** to see its symbolic art and architecture and the **Ari Ashkenazi Synagogue** • Dinner at hotel  
Overnight: Nof Ginosar

**Tuesday, June 4 – Megiddo and Caesarea**

Tour of **Tel Megiddo** led Archaeologist by **Norma Franklin**. Megiddo was an important city in biblical Israel, associated with Armageddon from the Book of Revelations, including its ancient water system • Lunch on own • Visit the ruins of **Caesarea**, including its **Roman Theater, Amphitheater, Hippodrome, Promontory Palace, ancient port** and **aqueducts** • Travel to **Tel Aviv** • Check into the **Dan Panorama Hotel** on **Tel Aviv's Mediterranean Coast** • **Lecture by Prof. Ira Spar:** Excavations at Tel Hadar • Free evening • Dinner on own  
Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv

**Wednesday, June 5 – The Hebrew City and the Jewish State**

Walking tour of historic "**Little Tel Aviv**" - Discover the quaint **Neve Tzeddek** neighborhood that gave birth to the "first Hebrew city in 2,000 years" • Discover **City of Sand and Sea**, a mosaic fountain created by artist and writer Nachum Gutman portraying scenes from the history of Jaffa and Tel Aviv. Then see his wall mosaic portraying early Tel Aviv as the artist remembered it in the **Shalom Towers** • Hear about the establishment of Tel Aviv at the **Founders' Monument** then stroll down **Rothschild Boulevard** to view the **Bauhaus** architecture for which central Tel Aviv was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site • Lunch on own • Guided of the **Reuven Rubin Museum** to hear about the landmark work of this modern Israeli artist, who documented Tel Aviv in its early years • Free time to **swim** in the **Mediterranean Sea** and enjoy **beachside Promenade** • Free evening • Dinner on own  
Overnight: Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv

**Thursday, June 6 – Graffiti, Antiquities and Charm in Tel Aviv and Jaffa**

Discover Tel Aviv's remarkable street art on a **graffiti tour** of the hip **Florentine neighborhood – The Soho of Israel** • Tour **Old Jaffa**, where paintings and sculptures have been installed in the alleys of the ancient port city once known as the Gate of Zion • Lunch on own • Afternoon free to explore on own and get in last minute shopping • Farewell dinner at **Maganda Restaurant** in Tel Aviv's old **Yemenite Quarter** • Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport – **See you again soon!**

**Thursday, June 7**  
Arrive in USA

*Rabbi Fine, cont'd. from page 1*

who leads Ridgewood's Temple Israel and Jewish Community Center and is a former chair of the Interfaith Religious Council of Ridgewood.

"There are two opposing approaches," he said. One is marked by "the lowest common denominator of certain statements and values. The other approach is to embrace and celebrate differences." The second way, "every different group is free to express its uniqueness. It's the mix of all those traditions and cultures that makes the community so rich."

This year's Ridgewood interfaith service was held on November 20 at Temple Israel. For at least the past five years the observance was based at "the Old Paramus Reformed Church, the oldest house of worship in the community, which goes back to the colonial period," Rabbi Fine said. "But after the shooting in Pittsburgh, it immediately became apparent that the right thing to do would be to change the venue. The event drew 250 people, at least 100 more than usually attend.

"The service was wonderful," he continued. It drew representatives from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist houses of worship. Speakers included the Rev. Nolan Palsma, minister of the Upper Ridgewood Community Church, and Ridgewood's Mayor Ramon Hache, who read a proclamation from the village council and delivered a message of solidarity.



*Tamara Freeman*

The service highlighted the diversity of Thanksgiving traditions, Rabbi Fine said. Muslims chanted from the Koran, the Jewish cohort led a song, teaching the group to recite "ki l'olam chasdo," and the Buddhist leader offered a reading from his religious tradition. The service also featured a Christian-style hymn—minus overt Christological references, Rabbi Fine said—as well as a presentation by a Hindu children's choir. Temple Israel's choir director, Tamara Freeman, led a Jewish hymn.

"She introduced it and told the congregation that her first synagogue was the Tree of Life-Or L'Simcha Congregation in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh," the site of the mass murder on October 27. "It's where her parents were married and she was named. She said it's not so different from Ridgewood—the same type of community."

Rabbi Fine said that rather than hold a vigil at his synagogue in response to the Pittsburgh shooting, he suggested that his members support the larger community gathering that was organized by the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey and the Kaplen JCC on the Palisades in Tenafly. But "because the Thanksgiving was only three weeks away, I said let's use it as an opportunity to show solidarity. That's the best response."

The Ridgewood interfaith group meets on a regular basis, gathering at the shul for a communal Yom HaShoah service. "This is the first time that we're meeting at the synagogue not for a Holocaust service," Rabbi Fine said. Similarly, AME Zion Church hosted a gathering after an attack on a church down South.

"We're so proud of our interfaith community," Rabbi Fine said. "We meet once a month for breakfast and learn from each other." The group has about 20 members, "we have a Martin Luther King Day service, a special needs service, and last year about a dozen of us went on an overnight retreat to the shore to learn with Rabbi Noam Marans, one of the founders of the group." (Rabbi Marans, who now lives in Teaneck and is the American Jewish Committee's director of interreligious and intergroup relation, also is Rabbi Fine's predecessor at Temple Israel.)

Rabbi Fine was the final speaker at the Thanksgiving service. "We took ourselves from a place of sadness and were able to turn it into an expression of thanksgiving for a society not of hatred but of acceptance and love," he said. "As the Muslim speaker pointed out, looking out over the congregation, 'This is what America looks like.' We were responding to one of the worst events in American Jewish history, and we felt we weren't alone."



*One of the many clergy members who spoke at the event.*

*Photos: Robert Kern*

President's column, continued from p. 2

- Our camera system will be upgraded and additional units will be installed. Displays of the cameras will be in the main office and by the two parking lot doors, allowing greeters or security guards to monitor activity both outside and inside our building.

In addition, we are beginning the process of preparing a detailed emergency operation plan and training protocols and drills for staff and members.

Perhaps the most visible change in our security has occurred since the shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. On the day following the shooting we had a Ridgewood police officer on site and since then we have had a private security agent whenever we have services, during Hebrew school sessions, and when we have large gatherings in our building.

The need for a security guard is a debated issue for our Board of Directors and many of our members. As such, we will review and reach consensus on the question of a security guard on an ongoing basis. While many local synagogues (and those around the county) have armed or unarmed security guards (many prior to the shooting at Tree of Life), the answer is unique to each entity. This is especially true for our Temple Israel family, as continued utilization of security guards is not included in our current budget.

Beginning in January, we will have open working sessions with our Board of Directors and members to discuss our security planning and receive input into next steps. As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions. Please email me at [president@synagogue.org](mailto:president@synagogue.org).

Best for a happy, healthy New Year,  
Bob



Did you take the Facilities quiz in on page 17? Compare your answers to those below.

**Answers to questions about the outside of our facility:**

(1) How many overall parking spots are there in our lot? b) 7 ½ X Chai (135)
(2) How many parking spots are reserved for clergy? c) 3
(3) How many parking spots are reserved for ADA accessibility? c) 6
(4) How many parking spots are reserved for Circle of Honor members? b) 2
(5) How many "islands" are there in the parking lot? d) 4
(6) How many trees are in each parking lot island? b) 2
(7) How many security barriers are there blocking the front stairs? c) 4
(8) How many steps are there from the sidewalk to the front door landing? c) 5
(9) How many ADA-compliant access ramps are there leading to our building? b) 2
(10) How many short light posts are there at the entrance and exit to our building? b) 2 each

## 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

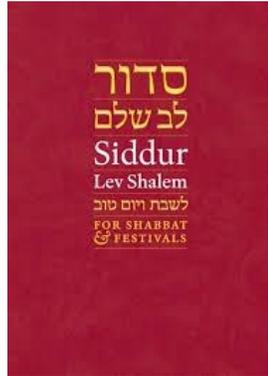
### Sponsor's Circle

Anonymous (2)  
Brandeis Men's Club  
Laura & Philip Brody  
Roberta & Charles Fleischman  
Tamara & Barry Freeman  
Susie & Shelly Goldstein  
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

## 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”) for our Shabbat services. We want to fill *all* our book holders with these wonderful new editions and you can help!

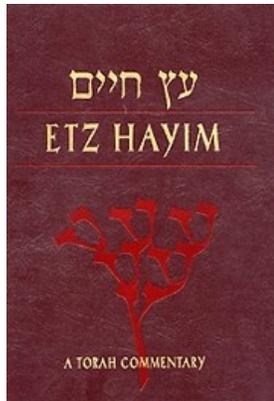
Please consider honoring a loved one with a gift for any special occasion or milestone by dedicating a new Shabbat prayer book in their name. **You can do so with a \$50 contribution to our Siddur Lev Shalem Fund.**



## Want to learn more about Reconstructionist Judaism?

Reconstructing Judaism provides congregational support, and has a wealth of information about the movement’s philosophy and perspective about many issues. Visit [reconstructingjudaism.org](http://reconstructingjudaism.org).

Our website has some good information on the RCBI-related pages. In addition, we encourage you to visit [ritualwell.org](http://ritualwell.org) for inspiration as well as access to the Hashivenu podcasts and Reconstructionist Learning Networks.



## Another beautiful gift idea — Etz Hayim

The *Etz Hayim* chumash (the Five Books of Moses plus all haftarat) makes a very special gift. The volume also contains insightful commentaries, essays, and maps to enrich the Torah service and study sessions. Contact Maureen Nassan in the temple office for information.

## Placing an Order with the Reconstructionist Press



Want to purchase your own Kol Haneshama prayer books? The Reconstructionist Press has these and dozens of great books that offer fresh perspectives and deep insights into contemporary Jewish life, ancient texts, and so much more.

As members of an affiliated Reconstructionist community, we receive discounts on most press products.

Shop <http://stores.jewishreconbooks.org> for all available titles.

**NOTE: BEFORE PLACING YOUR ORDER** email [JewishReconBooks@reconstructingjudaism.org](mailto:JewishReconBooks@reconstructingjudaism.org) or call 215-576-0800 x233 to confirm RCBI’s affiliation status and to receive your discount.



Have you subscribed yet to Reconstructing Judaism’s weekly podcast about everything Jewish?

Hosts Bryan Schwartzman and Rachael Burgess explore how Judaism intersects with contemporary culture and illuminates how people live their lives.

As the website states, “We don’t profess to have answers, just a host of questions, some profound, some rather goofy. Along the way we’ll learn about Judaism, the arts, politics, living a good life, and the interconnectedness of all things.

Subscribe online:

<http://subscribebyemail.com>  
[trendingjewish.fireside.fm/rss](http://trendingjewish.fireside.fm/rss)

Visit us at [ReconstructingJudaism.org](http://ReconstructingJudaism.org).



## 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 that participants plan together. Dues are only \$15 per person; come join us! Contact the synagogue office.

## THE CARROT OR THE STICK (TOOTHPICK) KIDDUSH

The “carrot or stick” metaphor refers to an approach to motivating people to elicit desired behaviors. Which approach is more motivating to you?



Where our Shabbat Kiddush is concerned, we can have a bountiful luncheon spread or some herring tidbits and challah. The “carrot” is for TI and RCBI members, visiting families, friends and guests to benefit from a nice Kiddush lunch whenever there is no individual or group sponsor.

As Kiddush Committee Chair, I have tried to plan a satisfying Kiddush each week, compliments of the Kiddush Club, when there are no scheduled sponsors. Over the past year, we’ve been able to vary the menu with potato latkes, perogies, crudités, and freshly made carrot & raisin salad in addition to the usual salads and spreads. A few gluten-free and sugar-free options have been available almost every week.

The Kiddush Committee consists of Abbie Klein (Sisterhood president), Joe Landau (Men’s Club past president), Jo Resnick (Membership co-chair), Howard Schreiber (TI&JCC vice president) and Barbara Schneider (past Kiddush Club chair); but those of you who contribute funds to the Kiddush Club **ARE** the Kiddush Club! Whenever we announce that the Kiddush is sponsored by the Kiddush Club, it is **YOU** that we have to thank. In addition to donating money, a small team of members are kitchen regulars, helping me prep the platters, baskets of baked goods, and bowls of fruit and salad for everyone to enjoy. There are also other members who, when asked, are willing and able to help out in the kitchen.

We no longer need a “stick” because everyone knows that it is a mitzvah to help provide food on Shabbat for your fellow congregants. **YOUR** contributed Kiddush Club funds ensure a nice spread each week at tremendous savings over a catered luncheon. So, if you are able to contribute \$144 once a year toward the Kiddush Club, please send a check to the Temple office or ask Maureen Nassan to bill you. If your financial situation precludes you from giving that amount, please give what you can. Every shekel (okay, every dollar) helps the Kiddush Club provide a carrot-salad style Kiddush, not a toothpick Kiddush.

In addition to, or as an alternative to a donation, please consider sponsoring a Kiddush to mark personal life cycle events or a special occasion or accomplishment. For questions, comments or to volunteer to help buy and/or prep Kiddush food, email [kiddushclub@synagogue.org](mailto:kiddushclub@synagogue.org).  
**Bob Dworkin, Kiddush Committee chair**

## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE OUTSIDE OF OUR JCC?

Our ample off-street parking includes numerous first-come, first-served spaces, reserved spaces signed specifically for those needing easy accessibility (Americans with Disabilities Act requirement), dedicated spaces for our clergy, spaces reserved for some of our Circle of Honor donors, and for Silent Auction winners.

As your Facilities chair, I put together a little fun quiz for you to take and compare your answers with mine (printed elsewhere, upside down). Good luck!

- 1) How many overall parking spots are there in our lot?  
a) 6 X chai (108); b) 7 ½ x chai (135); c) 10 x chai (180)
- 2) How many parking spots are reserved for clergy?  
a) 1; b) 2; c) 3; d) 4
- 3) How many parking spots are reserved for ADA accessibility?  
a) 2; b) 4; c) 6; d) 8
- 4) How many parking spots are reserved for Circle of Honor members?  
a) 1; b) 2; c) 3; d) 4
- 5) How many “islands” are there in the parking lot?  
a) 1; b) 2; c) 3; d) 4
- 6) How many trees are in each parking lot island?  
a) 1; b) 2; c) 3; d) none
- 7) How many security barriers are there blocking the front stairs?  
a) 2; b) 3; c) 4
- 8) How many steps are there from the sidewalk to the front door landing?  
a) 3; b) 4; c) 5; d) 6
- 9) How many ADA-compliant access ramps are there leading to our building?  
a) 1; b) 2; c) 3
- 10) How many short light posts are at the entrance and exit to our building?  
a) 1 each; b) 2 each; c) 4 each

Got all 10 questions answered correctly? Excellent job! Only got 5 correct answers? Let’s see if you do better on a future quiz about the inside of our beautiful TI&JCC facility.

**Bob Dworkin, Facilities chair**

# 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
<i>Chumash Etz Hayim</i>	\$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.  
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This contribution is \_\_\_\_\_ in honor of or \_\_\_\_\_ in memory of

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Photos from the Ridgewood Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Hosted at TI-JCC



Members of the clergy, choirs, and Ridgewood Mayor Hache were among the 250 people who attended the annual interfaith Thanksgiving service at TI-JCC on Nov. 20. Photos: Robert Kern.

**GENDER DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND RESPECT- A Lesson on Personal Pronouns by Bob Dworkin**

In the last quarter of 2018 there have been a number of highly publicized issues in our country concerning the rights of transgender people that I found to be contentious efforts to stifle diversity, inclusion and respect. These include the White House considering narrowly defining gender as a biological, immutable condition determined solely by genitalia at birth; and the administration’s efforts to implement a ban on transgender troops serving in the military. At the state level, we have seen a federal lawsuit challenging a Kansas policy that prohibits changing the gender designation on birth certificates for transgender people. Tennessee and Ohio have similar policies.

We are all an important part of humanity, with all of its varied races, skin colors, religious beliefs, creeds, ethnicities, nationalities, etc. The world population in 2017 was believed to be 7.53 billion, with no two people being or thinking exactly alike, even though there are about 100 million sets of twins. Now that’s what I call diversity.

I’m a part-time employee of Rutgers School of Public Health (SPH), Center for Public Health Workforce Development. In October, I received an official message from the Rutgers SPH Office of Diversity and Inclusion, which was sent to all faculty, staff and students about the use of pronouns; I thought I’d share part of their message with you:

***“The first International Pronouns Day is Wednesday, October 17, 2018 and the Rutgers SPH is one of the endorsers! International Pronouns Day seeks to make asking, sharing, and respecting personal pronouns commonplace. Referring to people by the pronouns they determine for themselves is basic to human dignity. Being referred to by the wrong pronouns particularly affects transgender and gender nonconforming people. Together, we can transform society to celebrate people’s multiple, intersecting identities.”***

*The Rutgers SPH is proud to support the proper use of pronouns as we address our students, faculty and staff. While pronouns are simple to define, their correct use can be confusing to many! As the concept of gender continues to evolve, so are gender identities. A person may use one or more pronouns to identify themselves.*

*It is important to respect a person’s pronouns. You cannot determine someone’s pronouns just by looking at them. Asking and then correctly using someone’s pronouns is the best way to show your respect for their gender identity. Using the wrong pronoun to address someone can make them feel disrespected, invalidated, dismissed, alienated, or dys-*

<b>She/Her/Hers</b>	<b>She</b> knows what to do.	<b>Her</b> dog is nice.	That is <b>hers</b> .	She likes <b>herself</b> .
<b>He/Him/His</b>	<b>He</b> is in the bath-room.	<b>His</b> dog is nice.	That is <b>his</b> .	He likes <b>himself</b> .
<b>They/Them/Theirs</b>	<b>They</b> are in the bathroom.	<b>Their</b> dog is nice.	That is <b>theirs</b> .	<b>They</b> like <b>themselves</b> .
<b>Ze/Hir/Hirs</b>	<b>Ze</b> is in the bath-room.	<b>Hir</b> dog is nice.	That is <b>hirs</b>	<b>Hir</b> likes <b>hirsself</b> .
<b>It</b>	<b>It</b> is in the bath-room.	<b>Its</b> dog is nice	That is <b>its</b> .	<b>It</b> likes <b>itself</b> .

***Show your support of the proper use of pronouns by including your pronouns in your email signature! It is an important move toward inclusivity, regardless of your gender!”***

This informational email was an eye-opener for me. In this ever-changing landscape of political correctness, growing more and more complicated since the late 1980’s, all of us face the challenge of trying hard to not offend anyone.

When I read the November/December, 2018 edition of Temple Talk I immediately recognized Rabbi Leah’s use of a new personal pronoun for G-d that I had never seen before in our bulletins. According to Rabbi Leah, the use of the pronoun, “hir”, seems to some extent to reflect a combination of male/female aspects, in keeping with the kabbalistic tradition which understands God to incorporate aspects of both masculinity and femininity.

There apparently is debate in the trans community whether to use pronouns where it is reasonably clear that the individual you are talking to identifies as either male or female, or simply just asking each other for pronouns. In either case, if one is in doubt, it is always respectful to ask. The most important thing we can do is to show kindness and respect. Let’s now take the next step and learn to use our respective pronouns of choice. Mine are he, him and his. What are yours? Let’s talk.

## HANUKKAH PARTIES 2018

Our weekend of Hanukkah festivities for both congregations was a big success.

On Saturday evening, Dec. 8, over 100 people attended Temple Israel's party, complete with "the world's largest latke bar" and plenty of tasty food, kids having a blast, and adults enjoying time together.

Thank you to:

- Brian Della Torre for really pulling this all together, and to Brian and Jen Weitz for driving this event.
- Bill Scher and Jo Rosen for shopping
- Bill, Jo, Walter Petzinger, Helen Katz, Evelyn Auerbach, Tamara Amos, and Brian for prepping all the food
- Matt Lindenberg and Scott and Jen Leiman for helping to set up
- The Puritz family for the gelt and for financial support to underwrite party expenses
- Tina, Jose and Maureen for all their support
- Public Wine, Beer and Spirits in Ridgewood for donating and serving kosher wines for the wine tasting



On Sunday, Dec. 9, members and friends of RCBI gathered in the late afternoon into the evening for the annual communal menorah lighting (a cherished RCBI tradition), and "Carbanukkah" – pizza, a variety of latkes, wonderful jelly donuts (yea, Palermo Bakery!) and salads. There were games for kids and lots of conversation for the adults. A great time was had by all!

Many thanks to Joe Freedland, Judy Baslaw, Beth Goldberg and Anne Heller for all the work they put into the preparation and setup and for Sigal Miller for remembering to take pictures! Special mention goes to Martin Goldman for his Hanukkah sweater that brought a special festive air to the party. You can see more photos on Facebook on our congregations' pages.



and Jewish Community Center

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### Karaoke Night Was a Big Hit!

“Thank you to all who came out to support our annual Karaoke party and to our dedicated sponsors!” It was a fun night full of song, dance, laughter and great spirit!” -Alla and Suzie

