

May/June 2019



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

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Reflecting on the Israeli Election

About a month before the Israeli election, we held a congregational “town hall” discussion about Israel and TI-JCC. Through a respectful exchange of views we saw that, for many of us, our love for Israel is mixed with concerns about various policies of the Israeli government.



Some were concerned with the stalled peace process with the Palestinians, some were concerned with the newly politicized partisan relationship with the United States government, while others were concerned with the discrimination against non-Orthodox Judaism and the broken agreement on worship at the Kotel. New concerns arose as well during the election campaign about Netanyahu’s outreach to a far-right party associated with the movement of Meir Kahane, as well as the new nation-state basic law that was passed last year.

The success of the right-wing bloc in the election and the expected formation of a new rightist government under Benjamin Netanyahu guarantees that the concerns that put stress on the nature of our relationship with Israel are not going away. We will need to learn to manage the pressures of our concerns about Israel with our love for and commitment to Israel. The following general principles will guide our approach to Israel at TI-JCC:

- We are united in our affirmation and celebration of Israel’s existence.
- We support the commitment that many of our members make in Israel Bonds, investing in the Israeli economy and providing credit to the government of Israel.

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A MESSAGE FROM RABBI LEIAH MOSER

As part of my contribution to our synagogue’s lovely community Seder this year, I brought a number of short works of fiction exploring the idea of the “mixed multitude” who departed Egypt alongside the Israelites. Of the three pieces I wrote, perhaps the most personal was the third one, titled “The Firstborn Son.”



The Firstborn Son

I should have felt resentful toward the Hebrews, for whose sake the curses of their God had befallen my people, but in fact all I felt that night as I lay in my bed waiting to die was an immense sense of relief. I remember thinking, *My life is about to be over. After tonight, I will never have to lie to anyone about who I am again. Perhaps that in itself is a kind of mercy.*

When I awoke the next morning, I was filled with confusion. At first I thought it hadn’t happened, that the Pharaoh had defeated the Hebrews’ God after all. I felt a pang of sympathy for the Hebrew slaves. *Ah well, I thought, it just shows that it is better not to hope, not even for release.* But then I heard the wailing from outside, a cry of anguish rising up from the houses of my town such as I had never heard, and a kind of wonder crept over me, for I knew that it had happened after all. But why had I, of all the firstborn sons of Egypt been spared?

I went to see their prophetess. I found her with a group of other women, face and arms covered with flour, hurriedly mixing dough in preparation for their departure.

“That will never have time to rise,” I observed.

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SISTERHOOD NEWS AND EVENTS

I write this *Temple Talk* article as I prepare our home for Passover. For our family, it is a time of spring cleaning and renewal. The irony is not lost on me as Sisterhood voted on its new executive board and we are preparing for our new leadership.

Usually, Sisterhood *Temple Talk* articles spread the word about our events and happenings, but since this is my last *Temple Talk* article as Sisterhood president, I decided to make this one a little more personal.

I wanted to take this time to thank you all for support and encouragement over the past two years. I am humbled to have served as your president and am filled with gratitude for the opportunity. A big thank you to the executive board for all of their hard work. Yasher koach to Arlene, Tricia, Stephanie, Beth, Irene, Robin, Linda, Elaine, Carla, Debbie, Susie, and Shari. I love you all.

I wish our new leadership much luck and know you have our continued support. It is with the talent and dedication of these women that we can continue to support our temple and community-at-large.

I would encourage everyone to come to our events, have some fun, and join our Sisterhood family.

Shalom!

Abbie

Join us for **yoga on Thursdays, 7pm at Temple Israel**. Contact Debbi Cantor for details: 201-612-3295debbiecantor@optonline.net.

STAY IN TOUCH, STAY INFORMED

Our **weekly Tidbits emails** keep our members up to date on what's happening that week and what's coming up.

Remember to check our **online calendar** for services and events, on our website at **www.synagogue.org**.

If you are on **Facebook**, you can follow us there. Both congregations have pages, where we post information, announcements and updates, and articles of interest.

Look for Temple Israel and Jewish Community Center and Reconstructionist Congregation Beth Israel.

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

Friends, in my last remarks to you as president of Temple Israel & Jewish Community Center, I have a few updates about our current situation at Temple Israel and a few thoughts about what makes our community special.

Like most synagogues, we are facing challenges. My top three include our responsible response to the increased need for security in our building, our requirement to have a balanced budget, and most importantly, how to continue to create opportunities for the diverse needs of our membership.

First, it is indeed sad that we need to have security procedures and measures installed in order to help keep our membership and building safe. 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.

A separate article in this issue of Temple Talk describes the measures that we have installed at Temple Israel and our go-forward plan for having a visible security presence at Temple Israel. What is not stated in that article is that security is at the forefront of every Board meeting. In fact, we have two security committees: one dealing with technology and security measures and the second with procedures and training. Unfortunately, we do not see this need changing in the future.

Second, budget planning for a synagogue is a difficult and thankless task. We are in the process of completing our budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Our estimated operating budget is in the range of \$700,000. Dues account for approximately 50% of our income. Rental income accounts for approximately 15% (Naaleh High School for Girls is currently providing the majority of our rental income), and voluntary contributions cover the balance of our needs. As of right now, our budget is very tight and over the next month, the TI-JCC Board of Directors will consider an increase in membership dues, which would be the first increase in six years.

Our third challenge is developing a game plan to meet the evolving needs of our membership. We recognize each of us has different interests, different touch-points for connection to synagogue life, different levels of commitment to our practice of Judaism, different ways in which we want to make this world a better place, and different ideas about how to support Israel. Temple Israel is not my parents' synagogue, nor is it the synagogue of our children and grandchildren.

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MUSICAL NOTES



America Israel Cultural Foundation Concert May 5, 2019

Our sanctuary was filled with glorious music on Sunday afternoon, May 5, thanks to the virtuosic talents of Juilliard students Shir Semmel (piano), Kobi Malkin (violin), and Julia Yang (cello). This trio participated in our annual America-Israel Cultural Foundation concert, thanks to the generous sponsorship of Richard Schnaittacher. The concert was dedicated to the memory of his parents, Dorothy z”l and Fred z”l. A lovely reception followed.

Sacred Music

June 7: The bimah band will enhance our Shabbat worship on Friday night

Summer is right around the corner! Save these dates for our Shabbatot Under the Summer Sky:

June 28: Our own Michael Rosen will lead songs

July 19: Our own Marc Cantor will present *Name That Jew 3 Too*, the fantastic song contest that features music with Jewish themes and/or composers. Prizes for the most correct and the funniest answers!

Debbie Cantor and Nanette Rosenbaum, concert co-chairs

Tamara Freeman, DMA, sacred music chair

RITUAL HAPPENINGS

We hope everyone enjoyed their Pesach. Welcome back to the wonderful world of hametz!

RECAP: Right after Pesach we commemorated Yom Ha Shoah with our Yellow Candles and an Interfaith Holocaust Service at the First Presbyterian Church in Ridgewood.

UPCOMING: Next up is our Yom Ha’atzma’ut celebration with NNJA. Then as we continue to count the omer, we look forward to celebrating Lag B’Omer with the *Campfire Shabbat* event. The following week is the Celebrate Israel Parade in New York. Then we conclude the omer with Shavuot, kicked off with our signature cheesecake-laden Star Trek episode *Tikkun Leyl*.

So mark your calendars and join us for the following holidays, events, and simchas as we wrap up Nisan, Iyar, and Sivan, leaving spring behind and ushering in summertime.

Yom Ha’Atzma’ut	Wed. evening, May 8
Matt Halpern Bar Mitzvah	Shabbat, May 11
Elianna Gluck Bat Mitzvah	Shabbat, May 18
Campfire Shabbat	Fri. evening, May 24
Alex Goldfarb Bar Mitzvah	Shabbat, June 1
Celebrate Israel Parade	Sun., June 2 (5 th Ave./NYC)
Tikkun Leyl Shavuot	Sat. evening, June 8
Shavuot 1,2 (Yizkor)	Sun. & Mon., June 9 & 10
Elinor Wieselberg Bat Mitzvah	Shabbat, June 15

David Millman and Bob Smolen,

Ritual co-chairs



B’yachad—upcoming events

Friday, May 17 — potluck dinner

July — pool party (location TBA)

Be sure to get Erin’s emails to stay in the loop for our get-togethers for our young adult and young family members.

[Contact erinlindenberg@hotmail.com](mailto:erinlindenberg@hotmail.com) to get on the list!

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

The buds of spring took on a sweeter meaning at April's USY event as fifteen teens from TI and other FLIPPER temples bonded at a pre-Passover *hametz* fest. The USYers created a special Sephardic charoset after discussing the meaning of everyone's favorite seder symbol. But, as this was a *hametz* fest, for teens, attention soon shifted to making pizzas and cookies, and playing a spirited game of Gaga.

Just as April showers bring May flowers, May brings the final youth events of the school year. On Sunday, May 5, from 2 to 4 p.m., our Kadimniks will take a hike. USY will enjoy sports, Maccabia style, on Sunday, May 19, from 2 to 4 p.m. (details to follow). Our rising ninth graders—soon to be USYers—are invited to join.

Finally, TI youth are not only welcomed, but encouraged, to join us for Campfire Shabbat, Friday evening, May 24 to celebrate Lag B'Omer. This community-wide event, held at TI, will feature a bonfire, a cookout, s'mores, and a beautiful service.

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

I can be reached at jameskasen@verizon.net.

James Goldfarb, Youth chair

A Special Anniversary

In March of this year, a cherished member of our community celebrated his 30th anniversary with our TI-JCC family. Since 1989 – which is before many of us were members—Jose Serna has welcomed us to our spiritual home, and has ensured that our time in the building is meaningful and all of our needs are met. Jose, we thank you for that you do. We thank you for dedication to us.



NNJJA News



A Message from Jessica

We are ending the Hebrew School year strongly at NNJJA! There have been so many fun programs and events, and we learned so much. Some highlights include:

- We implemented a new curriculum. Our students started a new, enriching program that focuses on tefilah and Jewish culture and history.
- Two Shabbat celebrations with over 80 people at each! Our students helped lead the services and made their parents very proud. Then we celebrated with a nosh and some games.
- Zumba: Have you ever moved your body to Hebrew music? We did, and it was really fun.
- Music: Morah Keli, a new member of our NNJJA team, came and taught a music class for our Torah Tots, and grades prek-2. We were also lucky to welcome the Bima Band to teach a tarbut one Sunday morning.
- Krav Maga: Our three-session Krav Maga intensive taught us some new tricks.
- The great Torah unroll. Have you ever seen the entire torah unrolled? We have. It's the size of the whole social hall. Our students found the first letters of their Hebrew names, and some of the students whose names come from the Torah were able to find their full names.
- Volunteers: This year, we had eight NNJJA graduates volunteer their time to tutor our current students. We couldn't have done what we are doing this year without them. Because we appreciate them so much, we ran an American Red Cross First Aid and CPR certification course. Now all of our volunteers are well trained to help in any emergency.
- Holidays: Our Hanukkah and Purim parties are always so much fun. This year, we had great entertainers. Matty Roxx sang Hanukkah tunes, and we shvitzed to some klezmer music at our Purim party.
- Art: Each one of our classes participated in a meaningful art project this year that we hope they'll keep through the ages. This was a new piece of the curriculum, and we are proud of what we produced. The pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes made beautiful bejeweled candlesticks; grades one and two made useful and very fancy menorot for Hanukkah; Kitah Alef made their own ceramic seder plates; Kitot Bet and Gimmel made tie-dyed challah covers; and Kitot Daled and Hey crafted silver yads with their names, which they'll be able to use at their b'nei mitvot.

The year wouldn't have been this fantastic without all of your help. Special thanks to the Men's Club, which supports our school by sponsoring trips and BBQs; to Rabbi Fine, who taught seventh grade history; to the TI office and building team, who help all the time; to Jo Rosen, who is always happy to capture the magic while it happens; to our consortium synagogues who are our active partners; to our school board, which cares deeply about the school; and to the parent volunteers, who do everything from shmearing bagels to packing mishloach manot. Thank you.

As we shut our machbarot (notebooks) on the 2018-19 school year, we look ahead and start planning for what will surely be an even more fantastic school year in September. We are always happy to welcome new faces! Please, tell the folks you know how great it is to be part of this community. We can't wait to meet them.

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



SECURITY UPDATE

Over the last eight months we implemented a number of measures to address the security of our building and membership. We are now in the process of developing procedures for providing safe access to our building and developing training programs for synagogue staff, clergy, Hebrew school teachers, lay leadership, and interested members.

The measures installed as part of our second grant from the Department of Homeland Security include window film, door access controls, and upgrades to our camera and recording systems.

Window film adheres to glass and is engineered to protect people and property. The film 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. All members and staff will be given fobs or cards to enter the building during certain hours. Our two primary entrances from the parking lot have call buttons with camera displays that allow visitors to be announced, seen, and buzzed in. Procedures for building entry will be mailed separately to each member.

Our camera system has been upgraded and a total of 26 units are installed. Displays from the cameras are in the main office and by the two parking lot doors, which enables greeters to monitor activity both outside and inside our building.

Training will occur in the late spring and again in the early fall (primarily for Hebrew school teachers and the parents of Hebrew school children). The consultant retained by TI-JCC is completing a list of recommended training programs and general building guidelines to help ensure our safety while we are in the building.

Finally, since the November shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue, we have had a visible security presence at our building when services were scheduled, Hebrew school was in session, and events with large numbers of people were present. With the security measures outlined above in place, the Board of Directors voted to discontinue our use of a security agent on a regular basis. Instead, we will have visible security at our building for the High Holidays and when we anticipate attendance at events in excess of 75 people.

Without a security presence on premise, we will keep our building locked at all times. As noted above, members will be offered key fobs or cards to gain access to our building during business hours and for services. We will also rely on volunteer greeters to be at or near our main lobby door during services and when Hebrew school is in session. Request forms for key fobs will be sent to all members in May, as will dates and agendas for training.

Board Nominations for 2019-20

The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate of candidates to serve as officers and trustees on the Board of Directors of Temple Israel and JCC for the year 2019-2020.

OFFICERS

President	Howard Schreiber
First Vice President	James Goldfarb
Second Vice President	Evan Weitz
Treasurer	Stephanie Gottesman
Financial Secretary	Merille Siegel
Recording Secretary	Robert Obeiter
Corresponding Secretary	Matt Lindenberg
RCBI Chair	Joseph Freedland

TRUSTEES

Three Years:	One Year:
Ilyse Goldman	Robyn Berger
David Millman	Nadine Genet
Bob Smolen	Scott Leiman

In addition to those to be elected, the following trustees have terms that do not expire this year and will therefore continue to hold office 2019-2020.

Two Years Remaining	One Year Remaining
Johanna Rosen	Brian Della Torre
Alex Rothschild	Wayne Miller
Steven Frank	Manny Haber*

Elections will take place at the General Membership Meeting on **Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at 7:30 PM**. Installation of officers and trustees will take place at Shabbat Services on **Friday, June 7 at 8:00 PM**.

Additional nominations may be submitted in writing to the president at least ten days prior to the election.

In addition, Sisterhood, Brandeis Men's Club and RCBI each annually appoint a representative to the Board.

*Manny Haber has been elected by the board to fill the position vacated by Linda Paige.

At this time the committee wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to the following people who are completing their service as members of the board:

Bob Dworkin Kate Mowlem Linda Paige
Allan Weissman

We deeply appreciate their past and continuing efforts on behalf of our synagogue.

Respectfully submitted,

*Stephanie Gottesman, Chair
Elyse Beidner Johanna Rosen Abbie Klein
Matt Lindenberg James Goldfarb
Jen Blanck Kate Mowlem*

MEMBERSHIP

On May 24, at 6 pm, we will be gathering for Campfire Shabbat, an annual TI event (see flyer on page 10). First, we will enjoy a BBQ dinner of hot dogs, hamburgers, and salads donated by Men's Club, Sisterhood, and Membership. Then we will gather by the bonfire to welcome Shabbat with Amichai Margolis, a song leader who teaches at Solomon Schechter School of Westchester. He plays a mean guitar, and there is something very special about being outdoors by a bonfire, welcoming Shabbat. This event coincides with Lag B'Omer, which is traditionally celebrated with bonfires. Please come and bring friends. Just RSVP so we know how much food to buy: email mnassan@synagogue.org or call the temple office at 201-444-9320.

Our three children grew up at TI, and I (Jo) personally find it heartwarming to see swarms of kids running around, enjoying being together, and then, around the campfire, singing songs and prayers they have learned at Hebrew school. The adults get to schmooze with each other and the vibe is excellent.

Our temple year will be drawing to a close in June, and I hope those of you who have extended gifts of membership to friends will bring these friends to Campfire Shabbat and any other programs or services you might attend.

Now is the time to start thinking about getting your friends to check out our temple community and hopefully, join us in the future. Please consider bringing them to shul when you attend. Our community offers so much to all age groups. Our monthly Tot Shabbat service is fabulous. Junior Congregation engages our elementary school kids by inspiring them to ask wonderful questions and explore what is important in their lives. USY offers our teens a chance to socialize with Jewish kids from all over the county and state.

We depend on you, as members, to get involved, bring your friends, and have fun.

There will be a membership pool party this summer—date and place to be announced.

May this spring offer you warmth and new beginnings.

Jo Rosen and Jennifer Blanck Weitz
Membership co-chairs



ADULT EDUCATION

Rabbi Fine's course on the history of American Jews has come to an end. Four of the six lectures can be found on our website thanks to filming by Dan Unger and website management by Caryn Starr-Gates. And of course, thanks to our engaging professor, Rabbi David Fine.

We have planned a day trip to the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia for Sunday, June 2. To date, a number of people have expressed interest in attending but nowhere near the number we need to fill a bus. Please call me at 201-805-3989 to indicate whether or not you will be participating. If we get 50 commitments, we will rent a bus for the day. Otherwise, we will carpool. You will be responsible for the museum entrance fee and for lunch. Rabbi Fine will be going and interesting observations are sure to emerge during our day at the museum.

Talmud class continues on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm, and we always have a lively mishna discussion on Saturday mornings over coffee and muffins.

Rabbi Moser's "David Story" class continues on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. as does her Thursday afternoon "Mystical Parashat HaShavua" class, which meets weekly at 2:00 p.m. Please drop in any Thursday for a look at the weekly Torah portion through the lens of some of the classics of Jewish mysticism. Each week we will read a part of the parsha alongside commentary from the Zohar or the chassidic masters and discuss the insights contained therein. Open to all; RSVP rabbileiah@synagogue.org

Please join us any time.

Jo Rosen
Adult Ed chair

Catch up with what Rabbi Fine and Rabbi Moser are writing about in the Jewish Standard, here:

Rabbi Fine – <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/author/david-j-fine/>

Rabbi Moser – <https://jewishstandard.timesofisrael.com/writers/rabbi-leiah->

B'NEI MITZVAH SPOTLIGHTS:

ELIANA GLUCK



Hi, my name is Eliana Gluck. I live in Ridgewood and I attend Benjamin Franklin Middle School. I've been attending NNJA since I entered the pre-K class at four years old. My class and I have had so many special and fun memories, such as the trips we've taken and tarbut on Sundays. Some of

my favorite tarbuts are Gaga and Zumba. Every year on Passover my family uses the glass seder plate and matzo cover that I made when I was younger.

When I am not at Hebrew school, I play on my town's softball and basketball teams. I am a catcher in softball and play forward on the basketball team. I also enjoy cooking and baking different creative recipes with my friends. When I am not doing those activities, you can find me hanging out with my friends either watching Netflix or just talking.

My favorite place to spend my summers is Blue Rill Day Camp. There I have made some of my closest friends and the best memories. I have been going for eleven years and it is my summer home.

I am excited to celebrate becoming a bat mitzvah at Temple Israel on May 18, 2019.

ALEX GOLDFARB

My name is Alex Goldfarb. I live in Saddle River with my parents, my sister Lilly, my brother Andrew, and our dog Tucker. I am a 7th grade student at Smith Middle School in Ramsey.



When I am not in Hebrew school, I am busy with secular school, sports, and gaming. In school, I enjoy math the most. My favorite sports are baseball, tennis, and flag football. As a fan of New England teams—not easy task being a Jersey boy—it has been a very good decade. Gaming is my real passion. I have loved Nintendo, especially the Mario series of games, for many years. I have also played Fortnite a great deal lately, mainly with friends online.

I want to thank the rabbi, Jessica, and all my teachers for everything they have done for me in my nearly ten years attending Hebrew school at TI. I am looking forward to my bar mitzvah and the end of Hebrew school, but intend to continue my Jewish education at BCHSJS next year.

MATTHEW HALPERN



Matt is a student at Waldwick Middle School. He is extremely passionate about sports, both watching and playing them. He is practically a walking encyclopedia of sports knowledge, including professional and college teams. Among his favorites are football, basketball, and NASCAR. He also practices Tae Kwon Do. Matt's other interests include history and video games.

Matt has a very strong Jewish identity and likes the fact that it makes him a bit different from most of the other kids in his school. It also provides opportunities to share his culture with his friends and teach them a little bit about Judaism. One of his favorite aspects of life at TI-JCC is learning about the history and experiences of the Jewish people, especially the Holocaust. Matt has been particularly impacted by some of the special guest speakers who shared their family stories of survival.

Matt also loves some of the traditions associated with Jewish life—especially making and eating latkes at Hanukkah with his friends and family, and of course, the presents!

When reflecting on his journey to becoming a bar mitzvah, Matt truly appreciates the level of commitment and work involved; it is not as easy as it looks! He is also aware of the responsibility and role in the community that accompanies being a bar mitzvah and is very grateful for the heartfelt support of the TI-JCC community.



Chesed: Here When you Need Us

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)** that you'd like to donate, or if you have need of these items, **call Elyse Levene to make arrangements at 201-306-1283.**

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. We are also planning future events, such as a Shabbat dinner highlighting immigrants to the United States (to be held, appropriately, during Sukkot), and a Shabbat morning program in November focusing on disability issues.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Blood Drive

The spring blood drive, held jointly with St. Elizabeth's Church on Sunday, April 28, was a great success. 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 next time. The need for blood is urgent and unceasing. To sign up for future donations, contact Bob Rohrberger at rrohrberger@foxrothschild.com or Jerry Birenz at JerzykB@aol.com.

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 April 2, we served a hot and hearty meal to 90 people. The next dates will be in October and December. Watch the weekly announcements for details.

We recently received a heartfelt thank you from Margo Heller, director of volunteers at Family Promise:

"On behalf of everyone at Family Promise, thank you to all who participated in the Walk-In Dinner Program in February. With the start of a New Year we want to once again let all of our groups know how valuable you are as we all work together to address the issue of hunger in our community. This program has now been running for 28 years, 365 days a year. . . . In 2018 alone, we served 36,358 meals. If you are not receiving our bimonthly newsletter, and we hope you are, you can easily register for it at www.bergenfamilypromise.org. In our latest issue we honored all of you and this amazing program."

Here is the text from the Family Promise newsletter

As we begin a New Year, we reflect on the many people and things for which we are grateful. And with this in mind, it's a perfect time to thank all of the many volunteers and groups taking part in the Family Promise Walk-In Dinner Program, which we fondly refer to as "the little miracle that happens every day."

I continue to be in awe of the strength of this program, its continuity, its popularity, and its profound value to both those it serves and those who participate. We recently had a cancellation for one of the days in late December, and I was concerned about who would step up to cover the night. For those of you unfamiliar with the program, keep in mind that participating groups are not only serving but are also providing a meal (and everything that goes with it) for approximately 125 individuals. And this is every single night of the year!

I really should know by now that we have the BEST, most committed volunteers! And that the opportunity to serve means so much to so many. We received not one, but two offers, and there was significant disappointment when I had to turn the second group down!

To all those who are a part of this amazing program, THANK YOU for caring about our more vulnerable neighbors. THANK YOU for your generosity and compassion. THANK YOU for keeping this program going for almost 28 years, and THANK YOU for being part of the solution on behalf of the homeless and hungry in our community.

Margo Heller, Director of Volunteers

Many congregants help cook, serve, or donate food items to this important effort. If you would like to help, contact Nadine Genet at nzgenet@outlook.com.

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



SHABBAT: CAMP STYLE

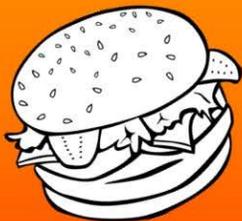


6PM-- HOT DOGS AND HAMBURGERS

7PM-- SHABBAT SERVICE WITH GUITAR

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

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
MAY 24, 2019**



**TEMPLE ISRAEL
AND JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER**



**475 GROVE STREET
RIDGWOOD, NJ**



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

Brandeis Men's Club of Temple Israel

15th Annual Golf Outing!



Farmstead Golf and Country Club

**Andover, New Jersey (about 60
minutes from Ridgewood)**

www.farmsteadgolf.com

Date: Tuesday, June 25, 2019

**Time: 12:00 PM shotgun start
Arrive no later than 11:00 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 10th

10baker@optonline.net

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

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

Ways & Means Dinner

Our Annual Ways and Means event was held on Saturday night, March 9, honoring Rabbi and Alla Fine for being part of our community for ten years. The evening started off with a beautiful Havdalah service where we were delightfully entertained by our own Bima Band, with Tamara Freeman on the violin and Irene Bressler on piano. Over 150 temple members and guests were in attendance.

There were wonderful tributes to the rabbi and Alla by the rabbi's brothers, Yoni and Josh; Ridgewood Mayor Raymond Hache; and our temple president Bob Obeiter, along with a declaration from Congressman Josh Gottheimer. Rabbi Fine concluded with some very nice words about his relationships in our community over the past years.



The social hall was festively decorated for a cocktail hour with delicious hors d'oeuvres, wine, draught beer, and other beverages. The dinner featured an extensive buffet with recipes from around the world, many of which represented places the Fines have travelled to.

During the dinner, everyone was engaged in the silent auction, which offered opportunities to bid on dinners at members' houses, boat rides on the Hudson, wines, museum tours, and historic hikes, to name a few. Plus, we auctioned off a bottle of 1986 Pauillac Chateau Mouton Rothchild Grand Cru, valued at \$1,349!



An extensive dessert assortment concluded the evening with no one going home hungry!

To commemorate the evening, we had an ad journal in which many local merchants displayed their support of TI. There were many ads with warm wishes and thanks for the relationships we have all had with the Fine family over these past ten years. The ad journal will be a keepsake for all of us to remember the evening.



There were many people responsible for organizing such a successful event, from soliciting ads, making the ads pretty, organizing the ad journal, encouraging all our members and guests to attend, decorating the social hall, catering, and managing our silent auction. A hearty thank you to everyone who had a hand in making this event so memorable for the Fine family, and a great fund raiser for Temple Israel.



Photos: Robert Kern Photographer

Rabbi Fine, cont'd. from p. 1

- We support the interest of many of our members in supporting Israel in other ways, including the American Israel Cultural Foundation concert and the Zahal Shalom program.
- We support contributions to the Masorti Movement and its efforts to secure religious pluralism in Israel.
- We will continue to support our parent Conservative and Reconstructionist movements in their engagement on issues of disagreement with the government of Israel
- We will strive to create more opportunities for education and dialogue on Israel so that we can continue to learn and engage from and with each other.
- We will continue to insure that TI-JCC is a place where every member is heard and every voice is respected.

On Wednesday evening, May 8th, we will be celebrating Israel's Independence Day at the synagogue. Check for more information and join us if you can!

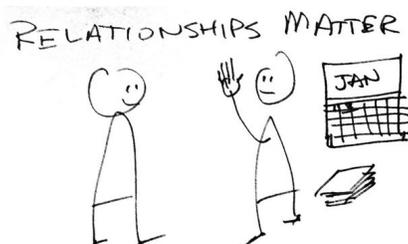


President's column, cont'd. from p. 2

Nobody knows what the synagogue of the future will look like. But the time to start planning for a thriving center for spiritual and communal activities is now. And, I am pleased to say that this is something we are working on. We meet regularly with lay leadership and clergy of many local synagogues—which are facing the same challenges that we have at Temple Israel. Looking for ways to solve the problems together is comforting and scary at the same time. Nobody likes change. But, the more we stay the same, the harder it will to arrive at a solution to this growing problem.

What I wrote above is a high-level assessment of our current situation at Temple Israel from necessary points of concern.

What I am *not* concerned about are our personal relationships with and within Temple Israel. On Yom Kippur, I spoke about memberships and relationships. We have gym and Netflix memberships. We have a relationship with Temple Israel. And this is what separates us from many other synagogues. Many come to synagogue to have a spiritual home for the High Holidays. However, the majority of us stay because of the relationships that we have with each other.



In a nutshell, having a relationship with Temple Israel means:

*You are part of a larger community—of your people; and because of our diversity and accepting culture, you will feel comfortable and at home.

*Supporting values that you and your tradition hold dear.

*You always have a place to turn when you are in need

*There is always Torah in your community

*You have a spiritual home

*Your values are evident through social justice

*You have a place to go to recite Mi Shebeirach when you or someone you know is in pain

*You have a minyan to say kaddish

*You take responsibility for the next generation, like the previous ones did for us

Moreover, Judaism, synagogue, and community can make you feel more beautiful because you feel better about yourself when you are spiritually centered. And, Judaism, synagogue and community can make you feel richer because you will have enriched your life and those of others.

I know most of us will continue to support our spiritual home in order to embrace the relationships that we have with each other. And for that, we are all grateful.

One more thing about why I know Temple Israel will continue to thrive. As president, I get to witness firsthand the tremendous effort that goes into making a synagogue successful. Most synagogues and churches are lucky to have 10% of members volunteer to help provide programming or support operations at their places of worship. At TI, when you count the number of people who volunteer—the Board of Directors, Men's Club, Sisterhood, Ways and Means, committee members, Kiddush committee shoppers and platers, leyners, daveners, ushers (just to name a few)—we easily have more than 30% of our adult membership volunteering their time for our shul. This is something that I have the pleasure of bragging about over my tenure as president.

Hazak — A Social Group for Older Members

There's no "aging out" at TI-JCC! Active seniors may participate in **Hazak**; **this is 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.

Rabbi Leah, cont'd. from p. 1

She didn't even look up, focused on her work. "We'll make do. Now what is it you wanted? Better make it quick—as you can see, we're in kind of a hurry."

Haltingly, uncomfortably aware of the eyes of the women upon me, I told her who I was and put my question to her: "Why was I, of all the firstborn sons of Egypt, spared?"

Now she did look up, when her eyes met mine they crinkled up and she laughed. My heart went cold—somehow this daughter of slaves *knew* what I had never uttered to a living soul.

"Do you think anything is hidden from the eyes of God?" she said. "The firstborn son of your house is dead, but *you* were spared. If you ask me, I think you'll be better off without him. Now come along and help me with this bread."

Still smiling, I got down on my knees alongside the other women of Israel and began to knead.

The intimate connection between the redemptive message of Passover and the transgender experience was driven home to me this spring when I had the opportunity to participate in a convening for transgender Jews hosted by Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, an LGBT-oriented synagogue in New York. Surrounded by the largest group of my fellow trans Jews I had ever seen in one place, I was filled with a tremendous sense of pride when I considered how every one of the people in attendance had struggled, sometimes at tremendous personal cost, to create a space for themselves in Jewish community where they could be authentically themselves. In Exodus 23:9, God instructs the Israelites: "You shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the heart of a stranger, since you were strangers in the land of Mitzrayim."

It is always tempting to look upon our own pain, our own suffering, as something fundamentally unique—indeed, this is something tyrannical Pharaohs past and present have often recognized and made use of, turning one group of oppressed people against another in order to bolster their own power. But the road to liberation begins at the point where we are able to recognize in the suffering of another a point of commonality, a point of connection. Our various communities may have entered into Mitzrayim individually, but God willing we will depart it a mixed multitude.



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
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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

TEMPLE ISRAEL AND JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER – 58 YEARS AT GROVE STREET

Some of our founding members are still congregants, but we have changed and grown through the years for the better. Witness our partnership with Reconstructionist Congregation Beth Israel.

In addition to being a synagogue, where we hold religious services, we are also a facility with rooms available to rent by the hour, by the event, or on a long-term basis.

As a synagogue, we are truly blessed to have Rabbi David Fine lead our Conservative kehillah and Rabbi Leah Moser lead our Reconstructionist kehillah. Their brilliance and dedication to our Jewish community are outstanding. Our two congregations usually pray separately, but we still come together occasionally for joint services and most Oneg Shabbats and Kiddushes, with warmth and welcoming friendship.

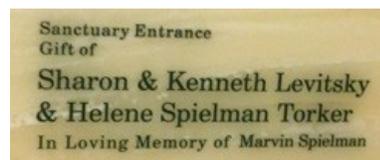
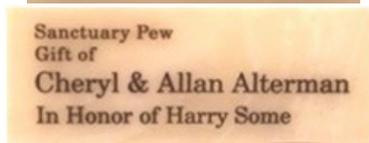
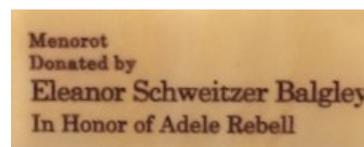
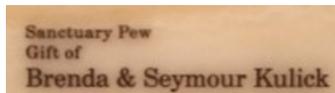
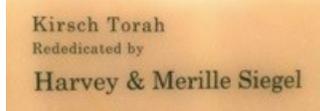
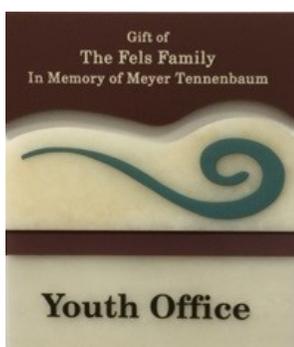
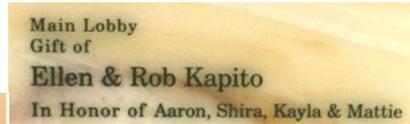
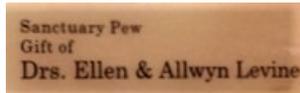
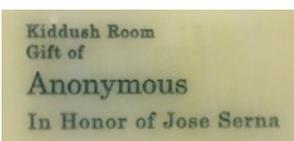
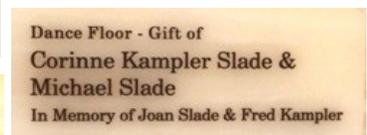
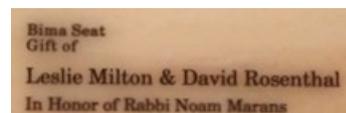
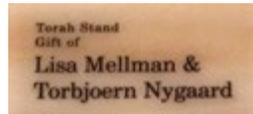
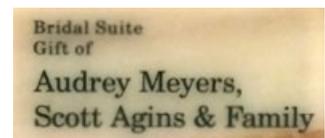
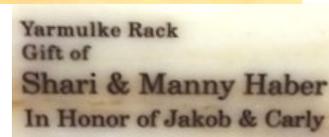
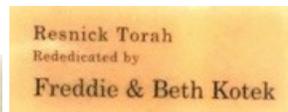
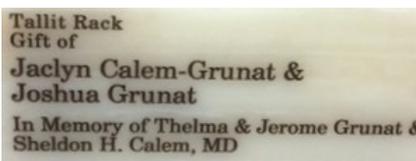
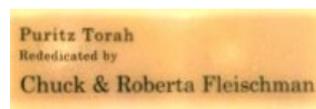
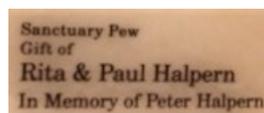
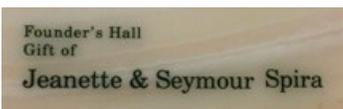
We are also fortunate to have so many able volunteers serve on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and likewise, so many selfless congregants performing the numerous duties required of trustees, committee chairs and committee members.

But throughout our history, numerous, generous donors, both named and anonymous, have gone above and beyond to help ensure that we can maintain our wonderful and unique Jewish house of worship in Ridgewood, by making donations and dedications. Plaques acknowledging these acts of charity are all over our building. They are in the sanctuary, in the halls, on doors and walls. They are in the former sanctuary, now used as our banquet hall. For all these named people, we are extremely grateful and thankful for their charity.

I am leaving the Board of Directors as a trustee in June but I will continue to serve our temple family as the Kiddush Committee Chair. Along with a number of wonderful volunteers, we will still shop for and prepare Kiddush lunches each Shabbat, when there are no other sponsors. While my role as Facilities Chair ends in June, I feel very fortunate to have been a part of helping to rent spaces in our synagogue facility, and negotiating a win-win agreement with the very successful start-up Naaleh All Girls Orthodox Hebrew High School. I can't wait to coach the new Facilities Chair, when that person is appointed from the new Board by our incoming President, Howard Schreiber.

There are too many people to recognize in this edition of Temple Talk as past donors who have helped to make our synagogue the beautiful, warm and welcoming place it is, so consider this part 1 of 2 parts. Look around the building for these plaques below and on page 16, in recognition of some wonderful people.

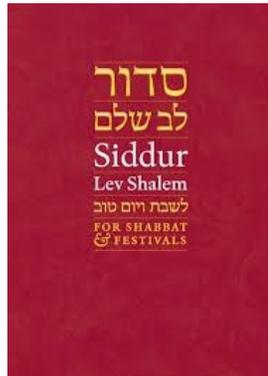
Bob Dworkin, Facilities Chair



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

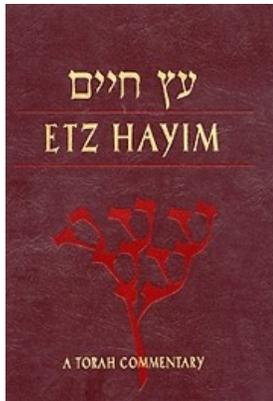
philosophy and perspective about many issues. Visit reconstructingjudaism.org.

The TI-JCC website has information on the RCBI-related pages and there are handouts upstairs in RCBI’s worship space. In addition, we encourage you to visit ritualwell.org for inspiration and access to the Hashivenu podcasts and Reconstructionist Learning Networks.

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 or call 215-576-0800 x233 to confirm RCBI’s affiliation status and to receive your discount.



Another beautiful gift idea — Etz Hayim

The *Etz Hayim* chumash (the Five Books of Moses plus all haftarot) 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.



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.

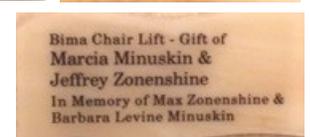
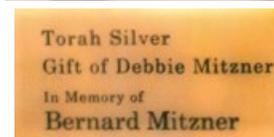
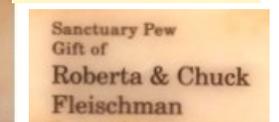
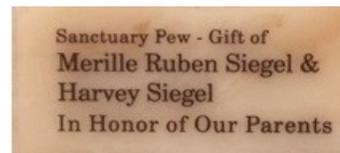
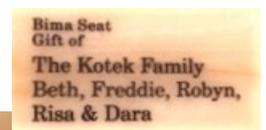
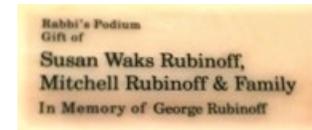
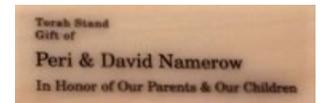
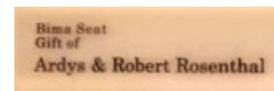
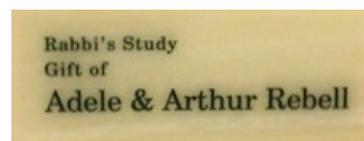
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<http://subscribebyemail.com>
trendingjewish.fireside.fm/rss

Visit us at ReconstructingJudaism.org.



More plaques from our generous donors that you will find in our building (continued from p. 15)



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.
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



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Opportunity: Participate in a Fellow Congregant’s Doctoral Research

You are invited to participate in a study on Jewish identity and experiences with anti-Semitism.

All Jewish individuals (eighteen years and older) residing in the US are eligible to participate in this doctoral dissertation study. The goal is to gain a better understanding of the relationship between the various forms of anti-Semitism and Jewish identity. Anti-Semitism continues to be a troubling issue worldwide and in the US. As a result, I am interested in researching anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism, with the goal to support the Jewish community and to provide the counseling community with valuable information on how to assist Jewish individuals who have been exposed to this particular form of racism.

If you would like to participate in this study, you will complete a short online survey that will take you around twenty minutes to complete. Your survey responses will be anonymous and confidential. This study has received approval from the Institutional Review Board at Montclair State University (IRB-FY18-19-1263).

If you identify as a Jew and are interested in taking part, please click on the link below. If you know of any other Jewish individuals who may be interested in participating in this study, please feel free to forward this email to them. By opening this link, you are providing your consent to participate in this study.
https://montclair.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eFMFbAwI3vl1uiV

In case of questions, please feel free to contact me at ambrosiusm1@montclair.edu.

Michaela Ambrosius