

September/October 2019



Temple Talk

News you can use from the TI-JCC community

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

BCHSJS at TIJCC

Come to Temple Israel and JCC on any given Sunday this year, and you will see us filled with life as we are becoming a center of Jewish education in Bergen County.

Our community Hebrew school, the Northern New Jersey Jewish Academy (NNJJA) continues to grow, our adult education program will be resuming with new classes taught by myself and Rabbi Moser, and this year, we are also accommodating the Bergen County High School of Jewish Studies (BCHSJS). For the past three years we housed the BCHSJS offices; now, through a new agreement, we are hosting their classes on Sunday mornings. Between NNJJA and BCHSJS, our building will be flowing with over 150 children ranging from pre-K through grade 12, with another 50 or so adults attending minyan, adult education, or Sisterhood or Brandeis Men's Club programs. I am thrilled that our congregation is a becoming a magnet of Jewish life in our area.

I became involved with BCHSJS soon after my arrival at Temple Israel 10 years ago. I was immediately excited by the concept of the local Jewish community pooling its resources to support a quality Sunday morning Jewish educational program with over 100 teenagers attending. My connection with the school has grown since then, and not only because I have a son in the program now. At the time, as I became involved in the North Jersey Board of Rabbis (NJBR), which I now serve as president, I felt it important that the community rabbinate have a voice in the governance of the high school. I became a member of the BCHSJS board and served as the liaison between the high school and NJBR. Among other initiatives, we established a course that was taught by myself and other NJBR members so

Continued on p. 12

A MESSAGE FROM RABBI LEIAH MOSER

Let's return to core principles: "The Lord our God, the Lord is One." This statement, so central to our tradition, is not at all simple or obvious.

Immersed in a covenantal framework which emphasizes a sense of collective obligation, it's easy to forget that the original religious experience is always one person's experience of the Divine. Such an experience may occur within a social context, but despite the ways in which this context may color and shape the experience, it always stubbornly hangs on to its radical particularity. In other words, there is always some aspect of this experience that escapes our efforts to generalize or communicate it to others.

Because of this, polytheism is perhaps the more natural hypothesis to start with when we are talking about religious experience—not the mythic polytheism of the Greeks, which deals out the forces of nature to one divine character or another like a deck of cards—but rather, a polytheism rooted in the irreducible individuality of the religious experience: God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob . . . my God, your God. It is in no way a given that these are in fact experiences of the same God.

"I am the God of your fathers . . ." With this shocking revelation, God challenges the particularity of religious experience and brings to light a new idea, the idea of a shared divine reality. The origins of this idea were there in the original polytheism of the personal God, but only as a possibility. Since my life is not lived alone but in connection with other beings, the God of "my life" must hold sway over those parts of "my life"

Continued on p. 12



Security Update

Over the last year, 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 schoolteachers, lay leadership, and members.

As many of you are already aware, door access controls utilizing key fobs or security cards to gain entrance to the building have been installed. All members have been offered fobs to allow entry to the building during certain hours. Our two primary entrances from the parking lot have call buttons with camera displays allowing visitors to be announced, seen, and buzzed in. For the most part, the door by the office will be used on weekdays for building access. For services, holidays and Sundays, the main lobby doors will be used.

Training for Hebrew schoolteachers, parents of Hebrew school children, and for members will take place on Sunday, September 22nd. The consultant retained by our synagogue is completing a list of recommended training programs and general building guidelines to help ensure our safety while we are in the building.

As many of you know, with the above security measures (and many others) 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 larger attendance at events in our building.



Without a security presence at our building, we will keep it locked at all times. As previously indicated, 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.

For the High Holidays, we will have uniformed armed security guards (either off-duty or retired police officers) at our building. We ask that you cooperate with our member greeters to allow quick entry to the building.

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



It would be too easy to open with how fast the summer went, and “can we believe that school is ready to begin and the High Holidays are upon us once again?” So, I will not go there, as we all know that!

This summer has been a very busy one here at Temple Israel and JCC. And, I'd like to emphasize JCC. In our July meeting, our Temple

Israel Board of Directors approved a motion to welcome the Bergen County High School of Jewish Studies (BCHSJS) to have their school at Temple Israel; classes had been held previously in Teaneck. For the past three years, the administration of BCHSJS has been housed here at TI, and this will be the first time in over 40 years that the BCHSJS administrators and the school will be under one roof. Although there may have been other options for the school, we were the only shul to step up and make this work. Our Board recognized the opportunity and the benefit of having about 100 new students coming into our building on Sunday mornings. We are giving thought to different ways we can encourage the parents dropping off their kids to join in any number of our Sunday morning activities, such as our morning minyan or the Rabbi's classes, to name a few.

Although we are being compensated for BCHSJS using our facility, it does come with a tradeoff. To accommodate their school and offices, we are turning our coat room into an office for the BCHSJS administrators. We are in the process of erecting doors on the coat room consistent with our existing design. If another space opens up, we have the option of moving their office to that new space, and, if we choose, we can revert to no doors on the coat room without compromising the look. While repurposing our coat room is not ideal, we will have coat racks available. The Board felt that getting more people into our building was a good tradeoff. I am hoping that by this time next year, we can recover the coat room.

I'd like to commend Brian Della Torre for all of his dedication and countless hours as president of NNJJA, our religious school. He has devoted a lot of time to coordinating the use of our classrooms with Jessica Spiegel, our education director and Fred Nagler, the principal of BCHSJS. There are plenty of logistics issues being worked out, as we will have about 60 kids in NNJJA and about 100 in the BCHSJS, all on Sunday mornings. Bob Smolen, with Brian, has also been instrumental in offering his experience to help make this transition

Continued on p. 13

RITUAL HAPPENINGS

We're in the home stretch: The US Open has ended, the NFL season has started, the month is Elul, and the High Holy Days are approaching. It's a time to reflect and to smother apple slices with some Sisterhood honey.

As always, lots of things are going on during Elul, including blowing the shofar every Sunday at minyan to prepare us. There's a detailed list of services and events on the schedule page from the summer *Temple Talk*, so keep that handy for exact dates and times. Here are some highlights:

Sept. 21 — Selichot (*Space - The Final Frontier*)

Sept. 22 — Cemetery service

Sept. 29-Oct. 1 — Erev Rosh Hashanah & Rosh Hashanah services

Oct. 5 — Shabbat Shuvah (Dave Millman's 50th bar mitzvah anniversary; you don't want to miss it!)

Oct. 8 — Kol Nidre

Oct. 9 — Yom Kippur (Yizkor service)

Shofar blast

LET'S EAT!

Then we slide into the week of Sukkot, where we shake the etrog and lulav and march around the synagogue with them, and we bundle up for those chilly meals in the sukkah. That week culminates with:

Oct. 20 — Hoshanah Rabbah

Oct. 21 — Shemini Atzeret (Yizkor service)

Oct. 22 — Simchat Torah, when we honor our bride and groom

Make your plans, gather your families, enjoy your holidays, and arrive early if you have an honor.

L'shanah tovah tikatevu v'tichatemu.
May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year.

Dave Millan and Dave Weiss, co-chairs



ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education for the coming year has a terrific calendar. Our goal is to offer educational opportunities for our congregation to learn, celebrate, and enjoy our rich Jewish heritage. Please feel free to contact Rabbi Fine or me if you have ideas to make this year's programs more meaningful.

- The ***How and Why of Basic Judaism*** will be offered by Rabbi Fine on Tuesday nights. The curriculum will be determined by the participants. Please contact me at Rsmolen18@gmail.com to create a curriculum to meet your needs and to answer your questions by giving you the tools to celebrate Judaism.
- Rabbi Fine and Rabbi Moser will be offering Sunday lectures starting after the High Holidays. In addition, Rabbi Moser's ***"David Story" reading group*** continues on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 7:30 p.m.; and her ***"Mystical Parashat HaShavua" class*** meets Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. RSVP to rabbileaih@synagogue.org.
- Rabbi Fine will lead a group to Germany May 8 to 15, 2020, it will include a weekend in Berlin, followed by participation in a Jewish interaction with the production of the famous *Oberammergau Passion Play*. Whether you decide to participate in the trip, everyone is invited to join in the ***Rabbi Fine's Sunday lecture series***, which will cover ***the history of German-Jewish relations in Germany*** and how Christians and Germans have responded to the legacy of the Holocaust.
- We will have ***two Scholar-in-Residence programs***: The Adele Rebell Memorial Scholar program, and the Rabbi Selig Salkowitz Memorial Distinguished Speaker program, held in conjunction with Temple Avodat Shalom in River Edge.

-Muffins and Mishna will be offered on Shabbat mornings and at Sunday minyan with Rabbi Fine.

-We will participate in the Celebrate Israel Parade on Sunday June 7, 2020.

-We will help to promote Dr. Ira Spar's trip to Morocco in January.

-Temple Israel will host the NJ Board of Rabbis' *Sweet Taste of Torah Study* on February 1, 2020

-The Northern NJ Jewish Federation will offer an ulpan Hebrew class beginning February 5, 2020.

Bob Smolen, Adult Education chair

MUSICAL NOTES



Music Abounds in 5780

Music will fill our shul to welcome and enrich our new year. We look forward to seeing you at our wonderful concerts and events. Save the dates:

Sunday, November 24, 2019, 3:00-5:00 pm: Open Mic

Sing a song, play an instrument, tell a joke or story, kvell in the audience, enjoy refreshments. Free and open to performers of all ages. Contact Marc Cantor to reserve a spot, or for more information: marccan999@gmail.com.

Saturday night, February 8, 2019: Music-Themed Party

It's going to be great! Details to follow.

Sunday, May 3, 2020, 3:00-5:00 pm: America Israel Cultural Foundation Concert

Young Israeli virtuosi perform in our sanctuary, followed by a reception. The concert is generously sponsored by Richard Schnaittacher.

Choir and Bimah Band

The choir and Temple Israe'lights bimah band are rehearsing for the 5780 yom tov services: Selichot, Erev Rosh Hashanah, and Kol Nidrei, under the leadership of Tamara Freeman. Many thanks to our members who share their time and talents to make our worship especially beautiful:

Sopranos: Debbie Cantor, Ross Mattio, Barbara Schneider

Altos: Irene Bressler, Jo Rosen, Tova Samuels, Elaine Silverstein

Tenors: Marc Cantor, Bob Dworkin, Elyse Beidner Levene

Basses: James Goldfarb, Harlan Rosenthal, Bob Smolen

Band members: Irene Bressler (piano and harp), Debbie Cantor (flute), Anne Wolf (flute), Tamara Freeman (violin), Artie Bressler (woodwinds), Susan Kornblit (guitar), Marc Cantor (guitar), Wayne Miller (percussion)

The Temple Israe'lights Bimah Band will play on these Friday evening Shabbatot in 5780:

October 18, 2019

January 17, 2020

May 1, 2020

November 22, 2019

February 21, 2020

June 5, 2020

December 13, 2019

April 3, 2020

June 26, 2020 Shabbat Under the Summer Sky

Summer 2019 Shabbatot Under the Summer Sky

Two Shabbatot Under the Summer Sky took place this past summer, created and produced by our fantastic music committee: Irene Bressler, Debbie Cantor, Marc Cantor, Bob Dworkin, Susan Kornblit, Wayne Miller, Jo Rosen, Nanette Rosenbaum, Harlan Rosenthal, Deana Rothenberg, Iven Rothenberg, Bill Scher, Elaine Silverstein, Bruce Thaler, and Anne Wolf. Due to the hot climes, the Shabbatot took place indoors, but that did not singe the great fun of the evenings. Elaine Silverstein did an amazing job organizing the two delicious Shabbat dinners that were prepared by the committee; many dishes were homemade!



The bimah band played Shabbat prayers and we thoroughly enjoyed our pre-Shabbat music. Many thanks to Michael Rosen for his beautiful song-leading on June 28. All of the songs had a theme of love. Michael was joined by Artie Bressler, woodwinds; Tamara Freeman, violin; and guest artists Tony Scally, guitar and Elise Carter, flute. The surprise guest artist was Bill Scher, who donned a wig and kerchief and portrayed Golda, with Michael as Teyve, singing "Do You Love Me?" from *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Back by popular demand! Many thanks to Marc Cantor for organizing and presenting his third "Name That Jew" song contest on July 19. Marc was joined by Susan Kornblit, guitar; Artie Bressler, woodwinds; and vocalists Debbie Cantor, Bob Dworkin, Rabbi Leah Moser, and Ross Mattio. Congratulations to the two winners with the most correct answers, identifying the Jewish composers to the musical selections: Elyse Beidner Levene scored 31 points and Michael Rosen scored 28. Watch the next issue of Temple Talk for the questions & answers to the contest.

Debbie Cantor and Nanette Rosenbaum, Concert co-chairs
Tamara Freeman, D.M.A., Sacred Music chair

MEMBERSHIP

I hope everybody had a restful and enjoyable summer. We got together with our Temple Israel friends at pool parties hosted by the Membership and B'Yachad Committees, and we look forward to seeing those of you we haven't seen in a while. Thank you to the Schreibers and the Bergers for hosting us.

We have an array of social events planned for the upcoming year. There will be a welcome Shabbat dinner for new members and a Shabbat dinner in the sukkah with a panel of congregants discussing their immigration experiences. Please tell anyone who is interested in learning more about our Temple Israel community to come to an **open house** either on **Sunday, September 8, from 10 am to 12 pm** or on **Wednesday, September 11, from 6-8 pm**. Events for young families are hosted by B'Yachad.

Being part of a supportive and kind Jewish community has meant so much to my family and me. My kids have benefited tremendously and continue to grow from the Hebrew school program, which incorporates learning into such thoughtful, creative, fun activities. I am particularly grateful to the warm, welcoming community and to Rabbi Fine, whose patience and kindness is unparalleled. Learning about Judaism as an adult and how to better incorporate Judaic values and practices into our everyday lives has been meaningful. My family is truly grateful to be part of this community and we hope others can benefit as well.

Towards this end, the gift of membership program was started two years ago to give people a chance to experience our Temple Israel synagogue life, engage with others, and (hopefully) decide to join the following year. We encourage all members to reach out and offer this gift to a friend or family member. As a reminder, gifted members will receive free High Holiday tickets, *Temple Talk*, and e-mail announcements. They are welcome at all services, and are not assessed a building fund fee until the following year, once they formally join. However, since a gifted member is not paying any dues, we ask that they pay the non-member rate for school tuition; also, if he or she were to need the services of the rabbi for a lifecycle event, they would be charged for that.

If you have any questions at all about the Gift of Membership program, please feel free to reach out to me, Jennifer Blanck, or to Jo Rosen. We look forward to connecting with new and old friends.

Shana tova,

Jen Blanck, Membership co-chair with Jo Rosen



We are entering a busy season for the Men's Club, and we appreciate everyone who can step up to help out. Keep an eye out for email updates about the following:



- Ushering for High Holiday services
- Setting up the sanctuary for High Holiday services on September 26
- Setting up the sukkah on October 13
- Joining us for Steak & Scotch in the Sukkah on October 20

Our next meeting will be Monday, September 16, at 7:30 pm at the Rail Yard Tavern in Fair Lawn.

We are organizing and planning many events. Come help us however you can. If you aren't receiving emails from the Men's Club, or you need more information about anything, please email me at Scottbaslaw@gmail.com.

Scott Baslaw, president

NNJJA News



A Message from Jessica

It always feels like the Jewish calendar makes more sense this time of year than the secular one that we use in our daily lives. It feels like perfect timing to begin celebrating the new year in September!

The anticipation of the year ahead is always front and center right around the time that Rosh Hashanah rolls around. What's my new class going to be like? Who are my new teachers? Will I excel in my afterschool activities? There is so much new, and so much potential.

At NNJJA we are looking forward to so many things this year! We're excited about the bustle of teenagers in the building on Sunday mornings. How lucky are our NNJJA students to have good, Jewish examples to look up to! We've got some new tarbut programs brewing, including a Torah yoga instructor who will do some sessions with us, and a Jewish storyteller who has a superhero program she's going to bring.

We're looking forward to some holiday celebrations, including an interactive Chanukah game show and a plan for Purim on ice!

There are also going to be some new faces on our faculty. Moreh Chayim just finished rabbinical school last year; he'll be teaching grades 6 and 7. Morah Mia teaches Hebrew and Judaics in a number of Hebrew schools and nursery schools; she'll have our 4th and 5th grade students.

There is so much learning to do and fun to be had. If you haven't already registered, now's the time! www.familyid.com search: NNJJA or visit the TI-JCC website's page for the forms: <https://www.synagogue.org/jewish-learning/religious-school/>

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

YOUTH HAPPENINGS DREAM USY

Sarah Bakal was on a USY trip this summer to the Dominican Republic. Here is a note from her along with photos from this experience.

Dear Rabbi Fine and Mr. Goldfarb:
I returned from the Dominican Republic last night and wanted to thank you for your support of my trip. The experience of helping others in a foreign country was one that I will always remember. In addition to helping the DREAM project by running activities at their camp, we built a volleyball court for the children, digging and leveling the land before pouring cement. We also had the opportunity to visit and learn about the Jewish community of Sosúa.

It was fascinating to learn about how the Dominican Republic was one of the only countries willing to accept Jews escaping the Holocaust. In addition to davening in the shul during one of the few Shabbats during the year that they have a minyan, we spent time working on the building and cleaning up the cemetery.

Sarah Renee Bakal



SISTERHOOD NEWS & EVENTS

As always, Sisterhood starts the fall with a very busy schedule. I hope you'll find the time to come join us as we socialize and contribute to the community!

On **Tuesday, Sept. 10, our Meet & Greet will be at the shul at 7:30 p.m.** We'll all have a chance to catch up with our friends, get to know newcomers, and prepare Sisterhood's gift of honey to be delivered to the entire community. Food and drink will be provided, of course!

Then, it's on to High Holiday preparations. The annual **Kugel-a-thon is on Sunday, Oct. 6 at 10 a.m.** All hands are needed as we turn out huge pans of delicious kugels for the community Break Fast at the end of Yom Kippur. Absolutely no cooking experience necessary!

We'll all gather for **Sisterhood in the Sukkah on Wednesday, October 16 at 7:30 pm.** Dress appropriately, as we never know if it will be hot or cold—but it will be an evening of food and fun.



Mark your calendars now—**Progressive Dinner is coming on Saturday, November 2;** we'll gather as a community for appetizers, then break into smaller groups for dinners hosted and prepared by volunteer families. Afterward, we come together again as a large group for dessert. It's a fun evening that we all look forward to each year!

Don't forget about our ongoing happenings as well. **Yoga meets every Thursday at 7 p.m.** at the shul. Beginners are always welcome. It's a great way to take an hour to stretch out and reduce your stress levels. Contact Debbie Cantor at 201-612-3295 or debbiecantor@optonline.net for more information.

Sisterhood Book Group meets monthly, so please join in and read. The discussions are interesting (and mostly about the book . . .). This month's meeting will be on **Sunday, Sept 22 at 7 p.m.**, and the book is *The Weight of Ink* by Rachel Kadish. Next month, the group will meet on **Sunday, October 27 at 7 p.m.**; the book has yet to be decided. For more information and the location of the meeting, please contact Elaine Silverstein at elasil@optonline.net. Don't forget our gift shop for all your holiday and Judaica needs. There is something for everyone: jewelry, toys, hostess gifts, wedding gifts, holiday decor, Shabbat candles . . . we've got it all.

Mark your calendars for these important Sisterhood dates

- Tues., Sept. 10 (7:30 p.m.) - Meet & greet at TI/JCC
- Sun., Sept. 22 (7 p.m.) – Book group
- Sun., Oct. 6 (10 a.m.) - Kugel making at TI/JCC
- Wed., Oct. 16 (7:30 p.m.) - Sisterhood in the Sukkah at TI/JCC
- Sun., Oct. 27 (7 p.m.) – Book group
- Sat., Nov. 2 - Progressive Dinner (time TBD)
- Tues., Dec. 10 (6 p.m.) - Paid-up Membership Chanukah program

To RSVP for any meeting or for any questions, I can be reached at 201-236-2957 or arleneyb@yahoo.com.

B'Shalom,
Arlene Bernhardt, Sisterhood chair



Save the Date—Israel Film Festival

The Israel Film Festival, promoted by the Jewish Federation, will showcase two movies **at the Warner Theater in Ridgewood**: ***Shoelaces* on November 11**, which traces the complicated relationship between an aging father and his special-needs son, and ***Fractures* on November 21**, about a marriage threatened by an accusation of sexual coercion. A full listing of the films and schedule is at <https://www.jfnj.org/filmfestival>.

B'YACHAD

Hello Everyone:

My name is Jen Leiman and I'm the new head of B'Yachad! Thank you, Erin, for all your service and for passing on such an important group to me. With that being said, I want to thank the Berger family for graciously opening their home to us for the 2019 summer potluck pool-party/BBQ. We had a blast as you can see below.

Please join us at our next event: a potluck in a sukkah. We'll let you know the date, time, and location. All are welcome. As always, feel free to bring any friends that may be interested in our group. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at jennifer.shub@gmail.com. I'm looking forward to seeing you.

Jen Leiman, B'Yachad chair



Summer Sunday Minyan

Alyson and Jame Goldfarb hosted the first summer Sunday minyan in July. About 18 members attended and the weather cooperated sufficiently so that services were held outside.

Thank you to all our summer hosts for opening your homes and always having some delicious food on hand to share afterwards; we appreciate it very much!



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 focused on our regular activities of feeding the homeless, collecting blood donations, and assisting neighbors such as the residents of Ridgecrest Senior Apartments, a low-income housing complex in Ridgewood. We are planning future events such as a Shabbat dinner highlighting immigrants to the United States (held, appropriately, during Sukkot), a Shabbat morning program in November focusing on disability issues, and our seventh annual Anti-Gun-Violence Shabbat.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Yom Kippur Food and Clothing Drive—October 8



Following a long-standing tradition at Temple Israel, we ask that congregants bring unopened food packages, diapers, and paper goods, as well as gently used clothing to the Kol Nidre service on Tuesday evening, October 8. These items will go directly to needy families in our local community. See the flyer on page 11 for details and look for more information in weekly *Tidbits* emails.

Sukkot Immigrant Panel—October 18

Sukkot is a time for welcoming guests, and on Friday night, October 18, Tikkun Olam will host a panel discussion by congregants who were welcomed as immigrants to the United States during our annual Shabbat dinner in the sukkah.

Focus on Autism—November 23

Join us as we welcome Suzanne Buchanan, Executive Director of Autism NJ, for an after-Kiddush talk about autism: basic information, incidence in New Jersey, and available resources for families.

Seventh Annual Anti-Gun-Violence Shabbat—December 14

The TI-RCBI community is proud to be one of 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. Our very special Kiddush speaker this year will be State Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg, who will focus on current and future state legislation.

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. Generally, we serve a hot and hearty meal to more than 100 people. This large-scale endeavor is possible through the leadership of Sue Hill and

Nadine Genet and the continued efforts of a large group of volunteers who donate food and prepare and serve the meals. Fall 2019 cooking and serving dates are as follows:

<i>Cooking</i>	<i>Serving</i>
Sunday, October 27	Tuesday, October 29
Sunday, December 1	Tuesday, December 3



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

Fall Blood Drive—November 17

The next blood drive will take place on Sunday, November 17. 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. To sign up for future donations, contact Bob Rohrberger at rrohrberger@foxrothschild.com or Jerry Birenz at JerzykB@aol.com.

Ridgecrest Senior Citizens' Housing

Starting with the NNJJA Hanukkah party in 2017, the Tikkun Olam Committee has forged a very pleasant relationship with the staff and residents of the Ridgecrest Senior 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 once or twice a year we prepare and serve dinner to the residents. If you would like to help us reach out to our neighbors at Ridgecrest, contact Elaine Silverstein at elasil@optonline.net.

TI-JCC Committee Chairs, 2019-2020

Contact the following individuals with your questions or suggestions regarding the following areas:

Adult Education – Bob Smolen
B'yachad – Jen Leiman
Budget & Finance – Scott Leiman
Chesed – Elyse Beidner Levine
Endowments – Steve Frank
Facility – Alex Rothschild
Hazak – Evelyn Auerbach & Sonia Albescu
Israel Action – Manny Haber
Men's Club – Scott Baslaw
Membership – Johanna Rosen & Jen Blanca (TI)/Caryn Starr-Gates (RCBI)
Music – Debbie Cantor & Nanette Rosenbaum/Tamara Freedman, choir director
Ritual – David Millman and David Weiss
Security – Joe Landau
Religious School – Brian Della Torre
Technology – Wayne Miller
Tikkun Olam – Robert Rohrberger & Elaine Silverstein
Youth - James Goldfarb

Don't have a phone number or email address for them? Contact Maureen in the office if you need a membership directory sent to you via email.



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 monthly 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 Board of Directors, 2019-2020

The following members were installed during the June 7 service as 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, the following trustees will 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

A heartfelt thanks to the following people who have completed their service as members of the board:
Bob Dworkin Kate Mowlem Linda Paige
Allan Weissman

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.**

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 office.

TEMPLE ISRAEL & JCC KOL NIDRE GIVING CAMPAIGN

As we have for the past few years, we once again urge each congregant to bring to the *Kol Nidre* service on Tuesday, October 8, at 6:00* pm, food, personal care items, and clothing, for distribution to the hungry and homeless.

FOOD & NON-FOOD ITEMS

The non-food items that are most needed are: paper towels, diapers, diaper wipes, household cleaning products, personal care products for women and men.

Food items are also needed: cereal, pancake mix, syrup, rice products, condiments (ketchup, mayo, salad dressing), cake or brownie mix, canned fruit, spaghetti sauce, apple sauce, macaroni and cheese, cooking oil (olive, canola, or corn), canned beans, canned soups, canned tomato products (sauce, diced, etc), coffee, kid friendly snacks, juices and juice boxes.

*Please no glass containers. No outdated or dented cans or packages.
Give only what you would eat/drink yourself.*

CLOTHING

All sizes and types of clothing are needed: Office apparel for both men and women, children's clothing for special occasion and playwear, shoes, sneakers and boots. Clothing can be used, but should be clean and in good condition. Under clothes and socks are always needed, but should be new in the package.

***Please bring your donations BEFORE 6:00 PM
prior to the start of the Kol Nidre service.**

Volunteers will be standing by to receive your donations.

**Bring your FOOD items to the
REAR of the Parking Lot.**

**Bring your CLOTHING items to
the MAIN ENTRANCE near the
planters.**

*“Is this not the fast I have chosen...
To share your bread with the hungry...
To clothe the naked...
Do not turn away from people in need.”
(Isaiah 58:6-7; Yom Kippur Haftarah)*

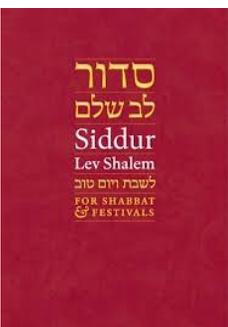
Rabbi Fine, cont'd. from p. 1

that BCHSJS students could get to know and learn from community rabbis. At some point along the way, I became the high school treasurer, and I've been privileged to work closely with its other officers (including BCHSJS's current president, Sy Blechman and our own Shari Haber, the BCHSJS vice president), and with long-time principal/director, Fred Nagler. Much work has been done over the summer by the staffs of BCHSJS and TI-JCC, by Fred Nagler and Jessica Spiegel to plan how BCHSJS and NNJJA can live and work together, and between Sy Blechman and TI-JCC president Howard Schreiber to work out the details of our arrangement. Hosting BCHSJS at TI-JCC is an extraordinary development for us as we provide a space for Jewish nurturing from the cradle on up.

The reason why I have committed myself so much to BCHSJS is because I believe that the high school years are the most critical for Jewish education. We tend to focus on the years leading up to bar/bat mitzvah, but it is only at that time that our kids just begin to make their own decisions about what kind of Judaism they want in their lives and what place they will hold within the Jewish people. The education we provide our children leading up to bar/bat mitzvah represents the essential elementary building blocks with which to construct a Jewish life, but that construction begins in the teenage years.

Jewish education and identity formation continue in the college years, but in high school, young Jews begin to find their own paths. Between BCHSJS, those of our teens pursuing full-time Jewish education with general studies at the Leffell School in Hartsdale, New York or the Golda Och Academy in West Orange, and those participating in our fantastic youth community through USY, I am confident that we have set the stage for the next generation. I am so happy that so many of them will be finding themselves in our halls.

Gift Ideas for Special Occasions: Contribution to our Siddur Lev Shalem Fund



We have purchased Siddur Lev Shalem ("the red books") prayer 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.**

Etz Hayim Chumash

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.

Rabbi Leah, cont'd. from p. 1

which lay outside the bounds of myself. In this way, Abraham's servant Eliezer can pray to "the Lord, God of my master Abraham"—not Eliezer's God but Abraham's—because as a member of his household, Eliezer is part of Abraham's life. But then along comes "I am the God of your fathers," extending this connection further than ever before by weaving together these multiple, radically particular experiences of the Divine into a single thing: "The Lord, our God and God of our ancestors, God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God of Jacob, God of Sarah, God of Rebecca, God of Rachel, God of Leah . . . my God, your God.

That my God is the God of my fathers—this is not something we could have affirmed on our own if God had not said it; even then, it is difficult to believe in precisely the same way that it is sometimes difficult to believe that what I am saying and what you are hearing are in fact one and the same thing. What we're talking about here is the possibility of communication. Monotheism—the belief that my God is really and truly the God of my fathers—is what opens up the possibility of communication, the possibility that we can live together in a shared world. The world that can be simultaneously yours and mine, is God's.

Viewed in this way, the principle of monotheism is not so much an assumed reality as it is an ongoing project. In order to have any possibility of success, this project requires us to believe that communication with our fellow creatures is possible and to work toward this possibility with all our might, to forge connections despite all the many obstacles that stand in the way. In a time in which communication across political, ethnic and religious boundaries seems to be getting harder rather than easier, it is all too easy to throw our hands up in despair and retreat into particularity. To do so, however, would mean to abandon our sacred commitments as a people dedicated to the unification of God's name.

In the end, it is only by committing ourselves to the difficult and emotionally taxing work of communication that we can hope to bring about the day when "God will be one and God's name will be one."

Have You Attended our Recon Salon Yet?

Join Rabbi Leah for a Recon Salon, our free monthly, informal gatherings. If you, your friends, or family have been wondering "What's Reconstructionist Judaism all about?" this is a great opportunity to get information about the movement, about RCBI's history, and chat it up with some RCBI members.

We meet at **Land & Sea Diner, 20-12 Fair Lawn Avenue in Fair Lawn on Tuesday, September 17 at 7:00 p.m.** **RSVP to rcbi@synagogue.org** if you plan to attend. **Coffee & snacks are on us!**

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

as easy as possible.

As we prepare for the High Holidays, I'd like to acknowledge David Millman, our Ritual chair. He likes to consider himself the "guy behind the scenes." That he is. Under David's leadership, he and his committee have assigned over 150 aliyahs and honors for the holiday services. We will all be receiving notification shortly of our individual honors. It is great that we all have the opportunity to ascend the bimah during the holidays. Please understand that assigning all these honors is no small task and a logistical challenge, so please make every effort to be on time for your specific aliyah or honor. Similarly, please try to keep the honor you have received rather than changing it out for a different one. The Ritual Committee has used great care to recognize all members with honors consistent with their comfort level.

We have all received our yizkor donation forms in the mail. What better way to honor our friends and family with a donation in their memory. Please do not delay in making your donation today; it is too easy to put the form aside with the intention of coming back to it later. This is as important to our shul as it is to all of us to remember our loved ones.

Once again, our services will be enhanced by our choir, led by Tamara Freeman. They have been rehearsing during the summer in preparation for the High Holidays. They always sound so beautiful, and make it seem easy, but it is not without their hard work. We are very fortunate to have this enhancement to our services.

I'd like to write more about our other volunteers that make Temple Israel the warm and comfortable experience we all cherish so much. In future articles I do plan to call out some of our many, many dedicated volunteers that make Temple Israel our *haimesh* home.

I hope we all take the time to reflect on the past year, and look forward to the New Year with hope and optimism. As president of TI & JCC, my hope is that it is not only our spiritual home, but that it can become the local Jewish community center of the area. My endeavor is to turn my hope into action with the guidance of our Board and input from all of our members on events, speakers, programs, etc. that will enhance all of our Jewish experiences. Please let me know your ideas!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and healthy New Year, and I look forward to seeing you during the Holidays if not before!

B'shalom,
Howard Schreiber,
President



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

ADDITIONAL DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As we prepare for the High Holy days, we reflect not only on our personal immediate past, but also think about the trials and tribulations of the Jewish people in Europe, in Israel and around the globe. We must never forget the good or the bad that has befallen us.

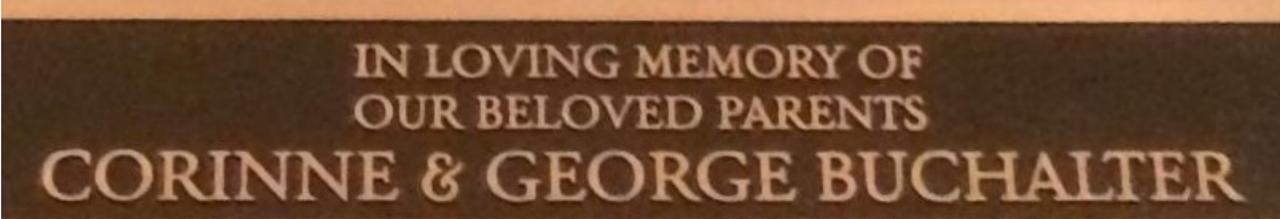
When I set upon the task of looking for a way to acknowledge our past and present TI & JCC donors, it seemed simple enough: read all the plaques on the walls, offices, and classrooms in our synagogue facility. Little did I know just how many old and new members made the financial contributions needed to help us grow through the years and become the wonderful place it now is to pray, meet, socialize, and eat, drink and be happy.

In the past two editions of this bulletin, we included pictures of quite a number of donor plaques. We see the memorial board plaques in the sanctuary every time we come to services or attend a musical concert. Seven pictures of these plaques appeared in the July/August edition. Five more are shown here.

At the end of May, I again checked for plaques that I may have previously overlooked when going through the building. Wow, I can't believe how many more I actually missed. Ever hear the expression, "You can't see the forest for the trees?"

In honor of all past and present members, we will continue to include additional pictures of donor plaques in future editions. We must never forget their kindness.

Wishing all of you a very Happy and Healthy Rosh Hashanah! **Bob Dworkin**



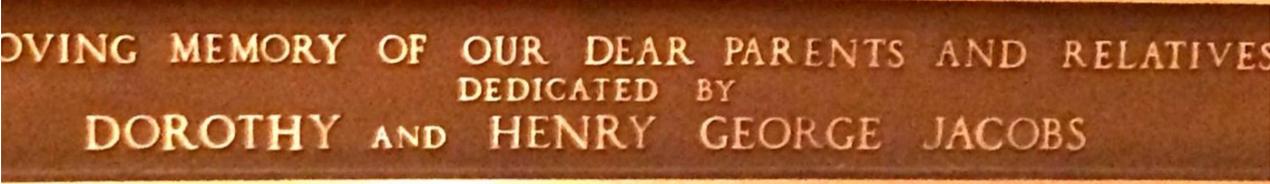
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
OUR BELOVED PARENTS
CORINNE & GEORGE BUCHALTER



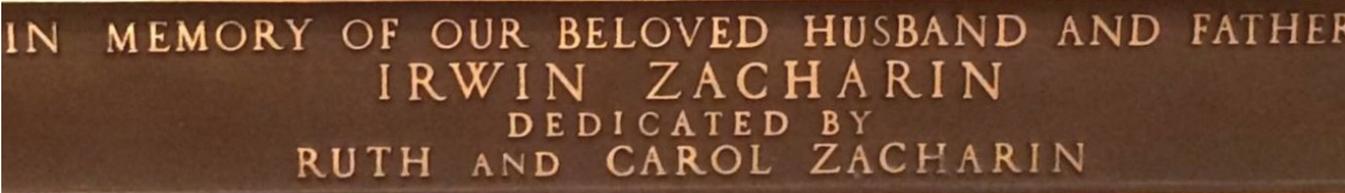
IN MEMORY OF
SAUL FEINSTEIN
DONATED BY RUTH FEINSTEIN



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
PETER PHILIP HALPERN



IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DEAR PARENTS AND RELATIVES
DEDICATED BY
DOROTHY AND HENRY GEORGE JACOBS



IN MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED HUSBAND AND FATHER
IRWIN ZACHARIN
DEDICATED BY
RUTH AND CAROL ZACHARIN

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



**TEMPLE
ISRAEL**

and Jewish Community Center

**475 Grove Street
Ridgewood, NJ 07450**

Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE PAID
Paramus, NJ
Permit No.887

Touring Harlem with Kornblit Tours

TI-JCC member Steve Kornblit of Kornblit Tours donated the *Gospel, Grits, and Harlem Jews* tour for auction at this spring's Ways and Means Dinner. Here's the group that went on the Harlem tour, gathered for lunch at Amy Ruth's.

Thank you, Steve and Kornblit Tours for the donation and for showing everyone such a great time!

