

January/February 2020



Temple Talk

News you can use from the TI-JCC community

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Why We Must Vote in the Zionist Congress Elections

Between January 21 and March 11, every American Jew has the opportunity to vote for the 38th World Zionist Congress. Meeting roughly every four years since its initial assembly with Theodor Herzl in 1897, the World Zionist Congress sets funding priorities that affect the disbursements of hundreds of millions of dollars in Israel.



The voice of Conservative Judaism, represented by Mercaz, provides us with the rare opportunity as Jews in the Diaspora to have our concerns and views heard in Israel. Our congregations and programs in Israel are in great need of subsidies, and this is an easy way for us to support them without actually writing checks. (Of course, we can always write checks to the Masorti Foundation!) Our congregations in Israel represent our interpretation of a welcoming, pluralist, and egalitarian Judaism that is not supported by the Orthodox-influenced patronage of the state. They rely on our support for their existence, and on the investment that they make in the creation of a more open religious society in Israel.

But the Zionist election is about more than funding; it is about the voice of American Jewry. The American delegation consists of 145 delegates to the 500-member congress. (There are 190 delegates from Israel and 165 from the rest of the world.) The American delegates are divided proportionately between the various American Zionist parties based on their performance in the election. At the 36th Congress, Mercaz USA (Conservative Judaism's delegation from the US) won 36 seats. That modest share dropped to 25 seats in the last congress, which was held in 2015. Those 25 seats were supported by a mere 9,890 votes.

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A MESSAGE FROM RABBI LEIAH MOSER

There's a curious dichotomy embedded in the festival of Hanukkah: The rituals are so sweet and *heimish*—lighting candles, playing dreidel with the kids, stuffing ourselves on fried foods, and singing songs. But ask any Jew what the holiday is actually *about*, and you're likely to get an answer that speaks volumes about that person's feelings about a host of issues including Zionism, assimilation, religious pluralism, Jewish denominationalism, antisemitism, and more.



Some answers would likely evoke images of the heroic Maccabees fighting against an oppressive foreign empire for the sake of Jewish sovereignty in the Jewish homeland. Others might hold the festival up as a reminder of the importance of resisting assimilation and preserving Jewish religious distinctiveness in the face of the overwhelming pressure to assimilate. Still others might focus on the miracle of the oil that lasted eight nights, seeing the holiday as an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to our highest values just as the victorious rebels rededicated the temple in Jerusalem.

All of these and more make for perfectly good takes on the meaning of the festival, but what they all share in common is that none of them fit perfectly with the historical reality of the Maccabean revolt and its aftermath. If the festival is supposed to be about sovereignty, then what do we do with the fact that the independence secured by the Maccabees was at best provisional and short-lived, secured only by enlisting the aid of the rising Roman empire? If the festival is supposed to be a model for resisting assimilation, then how do we deal with the fact that the conflict commemorated was as much between traditionalist and Hellenized Jews as it was between the Jews and the Greeks?

Continued on p. 14

President's column



Rabbi Fine, James Goldfarb, and I attended the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ) convention in Boston in early December. USCJ is the guiding organization of the Conservative movement in the United States, with over 1.35 million members and 600 synagogues. The convention is held biennially, and this was the first time in a generation that the Rabbinical Assembly (RA) convention was combined with that of the USCJ.

There were over 1,000 lay leaders like James and me, and about 300 rabbis from Conservative shuls around the USA and the world—even Poland. Who would have thought there are five Conservative shuls in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota? Not me!

What are the priorities of our Conservative synagogues today? Is it membership retention, appealing to Gen Xers, Millennials, Gen Zers; an aging population; anti-Semitism; or member dues? Is declining membership the result of more limited time for participation than in the past? Probably all of the above factors plus a few others could easily be listed here. At the USCJ convention we spent several days in topic-specific seminars, plenary sessions, and informal discussions with our fellow leaders from around the country talking about the above issues and many more. Just as business and e-commerce revolutions over the past twenty years, so too has organized religion. All Conservative shuls today are facing challenges due to the changing times.

The interaction with our colleagues was great as we shared our experiences and realized that we are not doing anything wrong. Judaism and organized religion are certainly under pressure, but we can listen and find creative ways to appeal in our changing times to the many demands on us. My goal is to find answers, with your help, to ensure we maintain a thriving Jewish community.

Speaking of a thriving community, we recently celebrated Hanukkah at our shul. The celebration was Sunday, December 15, and what a day we had! Our Northern New Jersey Jewish Academy (NNJJA) had a terrific program that was very entertaining, and the kids, their

parents, and grandparents had a great time. The Bergen County High School of Jewish Studies (BCHSJS) now operating out of our facility, also had a Hanukkah celebration for the high school's young adults. Our Brandeis Men's Club served latkes, hot dogs, and apple juice to both school groups totaling over 250 hungry students! Our guys were in the kitchen from 8:00 am (don't tell their wives) making all the preparations.

While all the celebrating was going on, Rabbis Fine and Moser were continuing their lecture series on Jewish history over the last 3,000 years. We have quite a nice crowd every Sunday morning attending the rabbis' lectures after our Sunday minyan. And, our Sisterhood once again set up their Hanukkah boutique with all the beautiful gifts, candles, and toys for the upcoming holiday. Talk about *ruach*; we certainly had it all working this day. This is our vision: to be a centerpiece of Jewish life where no matter what our observance, we all have a place to participate together, sharing some piece of our Jewish heritage and our 3,000-year-old tradition.

We are socially aware, too. On December 14, our Tikun Olam Committee invited State Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg to share what our state legislature is doing to prevent gun violence. This was just a few days after the Jersey City attack. Fortunately, New Jersey is one of the more progressive states in the US addressing these so-relevant issues. This particular Shabbat, we had a very large and interested group to hear Senator Weinberg and engage in a question and answer period.

I could not be prouder to remind you that on Saturday night, March 7, we will be honoring Rita and Bob Obeiter and Maureen Nassan at our annual Ways & Means Dinner. Bob, Rita, and Maureen have done so much to energize, enhance, organize, and run our temple over the years. I do hope you will join us in honoring these three well-deserving people, while supporting Temple Israel in our largest fund-raising event of the year. If you would like to attend, the cost is \$125 per person. You can RSVP to office@synagogue.org or call the temple office at 201-444-9320. I guarantee you this will be a fun evening.

As we begin the lunar new year, it is a time for me to thank all the professionals and lay leaders who make Temple Israel so special for all of us and our families. If you would like to get involved in some way, please send me an email at Howard.TI475@gmail.com and I'll give you a call to help find something that fits your interests. Many volunteer tasks only require a few hours a month of service. Temple Israel is a home we are all proud of due to all of you!

B' shalom
Howard Schreiber, president

MUSICAL NOTES



SAVE THE DATES

Great things will be happening in music at Temple Israel.
Save these Dates!

RidgeWoodstock, Saturday, February 8, 2020, 8:00-10:30 pm

Celebrate the 50th (yes, 50th) anniversary of Woodstock at our very own RidgeWoodstock. Join us for an evening of peace, love, and rugalach. *What do we have planned?*

- Sub-Bourbonites Band playing music from the original Woodstock weekend
- Dancing
- 1960's costume contest (costumes optional but fun)
- Trivia contest
- Dairy desserts and munchies
- Wine, beer, bourbon; soft drinks, too

If you're game, scan in your photo from around 1969 so we can post for a game of Who's That?
Cost: \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Sponsor your own table of up to 10 people for just \$180.
For more information, check out our flyer on page 13 in *Temple Talk*. RSVP to music@synagogue.org.

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

What do we have planned?

A concert featuring award-winning young Israeli musicians associated with the America-Israel Cultural Foundation. This concert will be generously sponsored, as in the past, by our fellow congregant, Richard Schnaittacher. Previous artists in this ongoing series have been wonderfully talented. There will be a wine and cheese reception afterwards, with an opportunity to chat with our musicians. We'll provide more details as we work out the details.

Musical Shabbatot with the Temple Israe'Lights Bimah Band

What do we have planned?

Kabbalat Shabbat services accompanied by our own bimah band on the following Friday nights: **February 21, April 3, May 1, and June 5**. Then on **June 26** we will have our **first Shabbat Under the Summer Sky**.

Annual Thanksgiving Service

Kudos and thank you to the Temple Israel and RCBI choir members who participated in the annual ecumenical Thanksgiving service, on November 26 at the Old Paramus Reformed Church: Ross Mattio, Jo Rosen, Debbie Cantor, Marc Cantor, Bob Dworkin, and Bill Scher. Tamara Freeman played the violin and Dr. David Feldman, a cellist in the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, generously shared his talents. Reverend Mack Brandon (in photo below with Rabbi Fine, taken by Donald Wheeler of Emmanuel Baptist Church), was the artistic director, conductor, and composer for the service. Rev. Brandon is the pastor and music director of the Ridgewood Metropolitan AME Zion Church.



Tamara Freeman, DMA, Sacred Music Chair
Debbie Cantor, Concert Chair

SISTERHOOD NEWS & EVENTS

A fun time was had by all at our pre-Hanukkah paid-up membership Chinese banquet. Sisterhood members gathered at Evelyn Auerbach's home for an evening of food and fellowship. We played some games, took care of some business, and drank and ate from the bountiful buffet. Our regional Women's League president, Teresa Samtur, joined us, and presented our Sisterhood with an Award of Honor for the 2019 Torah Fund Campaign. Many thanks to all who pitched in and helped with the numerous tasks involved in having this dinner, and a special thanks to Evelyn, who always makes us so welcome in her home.

Torah Fund is a dedicated philanthropy of Women's League for Conservative Judaism. The funds we raise go toward scholarships to the five schools of the Conservative/Masorti movement, including the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City. Please consider supporting the important mission of preserving, promoting, and perpetuating Conservative/Masorti Judaism by purchasing Torah Fund cards or making a donation. Please contact our Sisterhood Torah Fund chairperson, Susie Goldstein, for more information.

Sisterhood events are always a bright spot to break up those dreary winter days. Please make sure you have the following dates on your calendar:

January 18, Saturday morning: Sisterhood Shabbat. If you would like to participate in the service, we have a place for you. Please contact Arlene (contact information below) for more information.

February 9, Sunday morning, joint lecture with the Brandeis Men's Club. Topic to be announced.

March 25, Wednesday: Passover recipe exchange at Elaine Silverstein's house. Come prepared with a recipe and samples to share. You'll go home with a new cookbook full of ideas for the upcoming Passover holiday.

Watch your e-mail for more information about all of these events.

The Sisterhood book group is alive and well. Here are the next meetings and books being read:

January 5 - "Kim" by Rudyard Kipling- Meeting will be at a member's home.

February 9 - "Housekeeping" by Marilynne Robinson, at Elaine's house

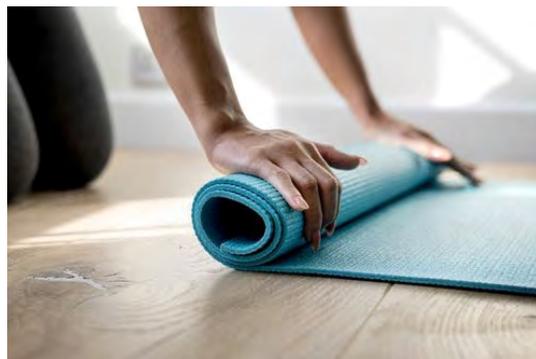
Please contact Elaine Silverstein for more information and locations.

And don't forget, **yoga is ongoing on Thursdays at the Temple at 7 pm.** Good for your health and mental well-being! Sign up for a series, or drop in for a single class. Newcomers are always welcome. Contact Debbie Cantor for more information: debbiecantor@optonline.net.

Passover will be here before you know it! Our gift shop is available for all of your holiday and Judaica needs. You'll find holiday gifts, decor, seder plates, and more and as always, hostess gifts, tallitot, beautiful Shabbat candles, and wedding gifts are on hand. Contact Stephanie Gottesman for more information.

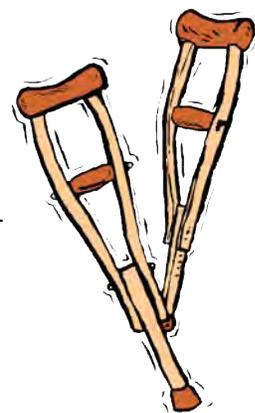
To RSVP for a meeting or with any questions, I can be reached at 201-236-2957 or arleneyb@yahoo.com.

**B'shalom,
Arlene Bernhardt, president**



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.**



NNJJA News



A Message from Jessica

It has been such a busy and fulfilling fall at NNJJA. Our classes are bursting at the seams, and we've learned so much already. The best part is that we continue to grow! We are grateful to our families who have spread the word.

Our **Torah Tots** students are our youngest learners. They come once a month on a Sunday with a parent or caregiver for a half-hour music session with Morah Keli and then spend another half hour hanging out, having a nosh, and doing a craft project. It's such a nice group of families, and we'd love to welcome anyone over one and under the age of four. Dates are **January 12, February 9, March 1, April 19, and May 3 at 11:15 am.**

The pre-K and kindergarten class has been working on the months of the Jewish calendar and learning about the holidays that fit in them. They enjoyed eating a lunar calendar made out of Oreos. Yum!

The first and second graders are making blessing books. They've cut out pictures of all different kinds of foods and pasted them on pages with the appropriate blessings you say over the foods. Pretty neat.

The third graders can decode Hebrew! They are still practicing, but they're doing great. We look forward to celebrating their progress at the **siddur ceremony on Saturday, January 25, at 11:15 am.**

The fourth through sixth grades really enjoyed their trip to the Lower East Side. It rained a lot that day, but it didn't dampen their spirits. We toured the Eldridge Street Synagogue and enjoyed some briny treats from the Pickle Guys. Thanks to the Men's Club for their continued support of our yearly field trips.

Everyone enjoyed the three-week Krav Maga intensive we did with sensei Gil. He taught us many parts of our bodies using Hebrew words, and we got to learn some very cool Krav Maga moves from him.



On **January 10** we will have our **very first NNJJA Shabbat celebration**. Our students will help lead Kabbalat Shabbat, and then we'll all come together for a festive Shabbat dinner. This one's going to be Disney-themed, so dust off your Mickey ears and get your princess dresses back from the cleaners, because it's going to be supercalafrajalisticexpialadocious.

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

Above, a Torah Tots class for parents and children ages 1-4. Left, a NNJJA student shows off all the olives and pickles at Pickle Guys on the Lower East Side.



The Brandeis Men's Club needs YOUR HELP!

This is the one and only time during the year you will ever see this appeal.

The Brandeis Men's Club does a tremendous amount for the community and all we ever ask is "what can we do to help next?" Now we need you.

Support the Men's Club by supporting our annual fundraiser: "**A Night at the Opera**" on **January 25 at 7:30 p.m.** It's \$54 a ticket. For 3 x chai (54) you will get a fantastic show with a wonderful reception afterwards. (Details on page 12.)

"We'd like to come but we'll be in Florida?" **Answer: Support the Men's Club!**
Donate any amount you can—and enjoy Florida!

"I don't like opera." **Answer: Support the Men's Club!**
Donate any amount you can—you don't have to be an opera lover. It's going to be a great night!

"The ticket price is too high." **Answer: Support the Men's Club!**
Contact me directly if you would like to attend but need a discounted ticket. We're the Men's Club. We are here to help.

"What has the Men's Club done?" **Answer: A lot.** Here are some highlights:
-Treated every NNJJA and BCHSJS student to ice cream on the first day
-Paid for NNJJA students to visit the Lower East Side Tenement Museum
-Took a loss (with pleasure) so everyone could enjoy steak and scotch in the sukkah
-Treated every NNJJA and BCHSJS student to latkes and hot dogs at the Hanukkah party
-Co-sponsored the kiddush for the Anti-Gun-Violence Shabbat.
-Served and helped sponsor various community BBQs during the year
-Purchased build-a-grogger sets for NNJJA students
-Built the sukkah, took down the sukkah, repaired the sukkah (storm damage)

We Need You: Support the Men's Club!

To purchase tickets: contact Mensclubevents@synagogue.org.

To donate: send a check to the Brandeis Men's Club (send to TI-JCC).

Purchase or donate on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/the-brandeis-mens-club-2837247757>

B'shalom,
Scott Baslaw, president
Scottbaslaw@gmail.com

B'YACHAD

What has B'Yachad been up to? While the snow has been falling outside, we have been watching and playing football! Thank you again to the Lindbergs for hosting our football potluck party.

Please join us at our upcoming events. We will be having **Men's and Women's Night Outs on January 11 and 18** and **family bowling on January 26**. More details to follow. As always, feel free to bring any friends who may be interested in our group.

If you have any questions, or are interested in hosting an event, please reach out to me at jennifer.shub@gmail.com.

Jen Leiman, B'Yachad chair



RITUAL ROUNDUP

Football is in playoffs, Hanukkah is over, we're dealing with cold and snow, and we're looking forward to Martin Luther King, Jr. and President's Days. At least the days are getting longer.

Congratulations to our recent b'nei mitzvah: Julia Jacobs and Matthew Antebi. Thanks to Bob Obeiter for managing the menorah at Van Neste Square and to all those who took the time to come celebrate its lighting.

In the Torah we're deep into Joseph, Egypt, and slavery and will soon be dealing with such classics as the plagues, the Red Sea, the golden calf, Mount Sinai, and the Ten Commandments. Join us each Shabbat to hear, read, and discuss these and more.

As we cruise through the months of Tevet and Sh'vat and we welcome in Adar, take note of these special events:

- Sisterhood Shabbat**—January 18 (parashah Shemot)
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Service**—Monday, January 20
- World Wide Wrap**—Sunday, February 2
- Jacob Berger Bar Mitzvah**—Shabbat morning, February 29 (parashah Terumah)

Please feel free to sign up to do a Torah or haftorah reading. The signup is accessible online at <http://signup.com/go/desLL4>. (Contact David Millman with any questions: millman.david@gmail.com.)

Come join us at 9:00 a.m. on Shabbat mornings and 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings to engage with Rabbi Fine during Muffins and Mishnah at the beginning of the service. Also, I would absolutely love to help out anyone who wants to lead a Shabbat morning service (Shacharit, Torah, Musaf) or be a gabbai.

Dave Millman, chair



Bar Mitzvah Spotlight: JACOB BERGER



Hi, my name is Jacob Berger and I live in Wyckoff, NJ with my parents and my sister Halley. I attend Eisenhower Middle School. I am in the seventh grade and my favorite subjects are math and science.

I started at NNJA in the fifth grade and it was a great change. I have made some good friends and participated in some fun activities including gaga. My favorite Jewish item from Hebrew school is my yad, and I cannot wait to use it at my bar mitzvah.

When I am not in Hebrew school, I am busy with secular school, where I work hard and try to get good grades. I am on the demonstration team at Tae Kwon Do, and I am going for my second degree black belt in May. I enjoy playing tennis and soccer as well as running.

My favorite place to spend the summer is Camp Kinder Ring sleepaway camp. I have made some great Jewish friends and memories I will have for a lifetime. Camp feels like my second home.

I am excited to celebrate becoming a bar mitzvah at Temple Israel on February 29, 2020. I hope you can come to synagogue to celebrate with me. We are starting a new decade and a new part of my learning!

SAVE THE DATE FOR A SPECIAL EVENING
AS WE HONOR
BOB & RITA OBEITER AND MAUREEN NASSAN
HAVANA NEGILAH NIGHT
SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2020



It's our annual Ways & Means event and you're invited!

Join us for a festive evening of
tributes, music and dance, great food, and fun!

7pm Havdalah service and tributes
Dinner and silent auction

\$125 per person
RSVP: office@synagogue.org

*See ad journal form and silent auction
donation forms in this issue of
Temple Talk*

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

We had a terrific turnout at the USY and eighth-grade Sukkot program hosted at Temple Israel in mid-October. Approximately 15 USYers, including five of TI's own, enjoyed socializing, eating pizza, and making dessert sushi in the sukkah. Special thanks to Tamara Amos, who graciously offered to (and did!) chaperone. At the end of October, our Kadimniks enjoyed a late afternoon at Bowlero, the bowling alley in Fair Lawn. One of TI's own bowled a strike, and a good time was had by all. In mid-October, BCHSJS and USY co-sponsored a trip to Humdingers, an indoor venue with bowling, batting cages, and arcade games; several TI members of USY and BCHSJS attended. I can be reached at jameskasen@verizon.net.

James Goldfarb, chair

Upcoming Youth Events

Saturday January 11th, 7-9 p.m.
KADIMA MOVIE NIGHT at Temple Israel

Promising tons of popcorn, candy and ice cream!



Free for KADIMA Members. \$5 for non-members

Come and bring your friends too! The more the merrier!

Please let us know you are coming. RSVP/questions: Marcia Kagedan (KADIMA advisor), edudirector@jccparamus.org

Saturday, January 11, 7:45-11:30 p.m.
Hagalil USY Junior-Senior prom, Pine Brook Jewish Center
174 Changebridge Rd., Montville, NJ
Cost: \$36 in advance, \$45 at the door
RSVP: Regpacks.com/Hagalil1920

Sunday January 26th, 2-4 p.m.
USY/BCHSJS Ice Skating at the Ice House, Hackensack

Saturday February 8th, 7:30-9:30
USY goes to Dave and Busters in Wayne
310 Willowbrook Blvd, Wayne, NJ
(Please provide your own transportation)
Cost: \$15 for USY Members, \$20 for Non-Members
(Feel free to bring extra money for additional play)



Flipper USY is a Youth Program sponsored by Fair Lawn Jewish Center, Temple Israel & JCC of Ridgewood, and JCC-Paramus/Congregation Beth Tikvah. Flipper USY is open to all Jewish high school students; synagogue affiliation not required.

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.

In the coming year, we will focus 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 also planning future events, such as a spring event focusing on environmental issues.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Family Promise Walk-In Dinners

Four times each year, our synagogue community cooks, delivers, and serves dinner at the Family Promise of Bergen County walk-in dinner program in Hackensack. 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. The spring 2020 cooking & serving dates are as follows:

Cooking	Serving
February 2	February 4
March 29	March 31

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

Earth Day – April 18

Join us on Saturday, April 18 after Shabbat services, as we welcome Susan Golden, environmentalist and member of the Climate Speakers' Network, for a talk about practical solutions to the climate crisis. If you've ever wondered what you can do to combat global warming, this talk is for you.

PAST EVENTS

Focus on Autism – November 23

Dr. Suzanne Buchanan, Executive Director of Autism NJ, delivered an informative after-kiddush talk about autism, including 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 participated in this commemoration of the Sandy Hook shootings intended to raise awareness of the issue of gun violence. This year our very special kiddush speaker was State Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg, who focused on current and future state legislation. The presentation drew a large crowd of congregants as well community members.

CFA Snack Packs – November 3

Once again, our NNJA students responded to the opportunity to help other kids. They listened to a brief presentation by Lori Oliff of the Center for Food Action and then swung into action to assemble snack packs to be distributed to food-insecure children throughout the local area. The program encapsulates exactly the values that we as a community strive to teach our children. This annual program is coordinated by Roz Altman of Tikkun Olam and Brian DellaTorre, School Committee chair. (See photos of the kids in action on next page.)

Fall Blood Drive – November 17th

The fall blood drive, held in conjunction with St. Elizabeth's Church, was a great success, with approximately 30 blood products collected—whole blood, platelets, and packed red cells. The spring blood drive will take place on Sunday, April 26. 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. To sign up for future donations, contact Bob Rohrberger at rrohrberger@foxrothschild.com or Jerry Birenz at JerzykB@aol.com.

Ridgecrest Senior Apartments

Starting with the NNJA Hanukkah party in 2017, the Tikkun Olam Committee has forged a 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.

Bob Rohrberger & Elaine Silverstein, co-chairs

ADULT EDUCATION

Upcoming Course

Rabbi Fine's Sunday lecture series begins on February 23. This year, he will cover the history of Christian-Jewish relations in Germany and how Christians and Germans have responded to the legacy of the Holocaust.

Lecture Series

Rabbi Fine and Rabbi Moser have been conducting Sunday lectures at 10:30 a.m. The series explores Jewish history from its earliest beginnings to the present day. Remaining sessions are:

- 1/5/19 Sabbatai Tzvi, the Failed Messiah and Harbinger of the Modern World
- 1/19/20 Hasidism, Enlightenment, and Emancipation
- 2/2/20 Modern Jews, the Holocaust, and the State of Israel (The Third Commonwealth)

Discussions

- The *Story of David* reading group with Rabbi Moser meets the first and third Wednesday monthly at 7:30 p.m.
- Every Thursday at 2:00 p.m., Rabbi Moser explores Mystical Parashat HaShavua, the weekly Torah portion as seen through the lens of Jewish mysticism classics.
- Muffins and Mishna continues on Shabbat morning and at Sunday minyan with Rabbi Fine.

Travel

Rabbi Fine will be leading a group to Germany, May 8-15. It includes a weekend in Berlin, followed by participation in a Jewish interaction with the production of the famous *Oberammergau Passion Play*. We will have an informational meeting at the synagogue on Thursday, January 9th at 7:30pm. Please join us to learn more about the trip and. Our tour operator, ITC in Livingston, is ready to accept bookings. More information about the trip is on pages 17 & 18..

Save the Date! Friday & Saturday, May 1 & 2

The Adele Rebell Memorial Scholar program

Friday night —Dinner and presentation by our scholar-in-residence

Shabbat — Shabbat service and luncheon with presentation

More

- Temple Israel will host the NJ Board of Rabbi's Sweet Taste of Torah study program on February 1, 2020
- The Northern NJ Jewish Federation Ulpan Hebrew class begins February 5, 2020
- We will participate in the Israel day parade on Sunday, June 7, 2020

Bob Smolen, chair

Students Assemble Snack Packs for CFA

Our NNJJA students recently assembled snack packs for the Center for Food Action, to be distributed to food-insecure students in the area. (More information on previous page.)





TEMPLE ISRAEL & JCC
Two Congregations, One Community



The Brandeis Men's Club Presents: A Night At the Opera

Don Giovanni, Carmen, La Traviata, Romeo et Juliette and more



Oriana Falla
Soprano



Suchan Kim
Baritone



Brian Holman
Pianist

Temple Israel & JCC
475 Grove Street,
Ridgewood, NJ

Saturday,
January 25th, 2020
at 7:30pm

Wine & cheese,
Hors d'oeuvres,
Dessert to follow

\$54/ticket

For more information email:
Mensclubevents@synagogue.org

RIDGEWOODSTOCK
MUSIC & ART FAIR
PRESENTS

AN AQUARIAN EXPOSITION

AT

TEMPLE ISRAEL & JCC
SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 8, 2020
8:00-10:30 P.M.



Temple Israel & JCC
475 Grove Street
Ridgewood, NJ

RSVP by Feb. 4
to music@synagogue.org

\$25.00 Advance
\$30.00 Door
\$180 for a table of 10

1 NIGHT
of PEACE
& MUSIC*

Sub-Bourbonites Band
and some special guests
playing songs from groups
that were there and maybe
also that Joni Mitchell song

Dancing without mud, sorry.
Tell stories if you were there,
anyway, what you remember.
Drinks and Munchies. Only.
Costume & Trivia Contests!

*AND
FOOD

Rabbi Fine, cont'd. from p. 1

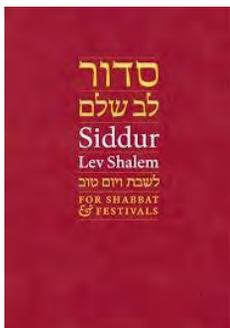
That is but a tiny fraction of the number of American Jews who support or uphold the ideals of Conservative Judaism. It is critical that we increase our voice in the new congress by participating in the voting process and voting for Mercaz.

When our leadership meets with the Israeli government to express our concerns about relations with the Palestinians, about civil rights for minorities, about freedom of worship at the Western Wall, we are mindful that our influence is diminished if our representation is decreased at the Zionist congress. The larger our delegation, the more influential our voice.

What are the principles that we stand for and for which Mercaz will advocate? The very word *mercaz* means “center” signifying the centrism, the commitment to traditional values and change that Conservative Judaism expresses. Mercaz will advocate for religious freedom in Israel in the face of increasing ultra-Orthodox rejectionism. Mercaz will advocate for the basic democratic principles that Israel was founded upon. And Mercaz will advocate for the rights of minorities in Israel as guaranteed by the Declaration of Independence but threatened by recent Knesset legislation.

Watch for the election materials that we will distribute once voting begins. Meanwhile, you can read the official Mercaz platform on the next page.

Rabbi Fine



Gift Ideas for Special Occasions: Contribute 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 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.

Rabbi Leah, cont'd. from p. 1

If the festival is about the miracle of the oil, then what are we to make of the fact that this miracle isn’t mentioned in the Books of Maccabees or in any source at all until the rabbinic period, centuries after the events in question?

Indeed, the fact that the sages of the Talmud chose to focus on an *aggadic* folk tale rather than the historical conflict itself seems to indicate that they themselves were uncomfortable with that particular episode of Jewish history—an idea that is further supported by the fact that they did not choose to include the Books of Maccabees in the biblical canon, meaning that the only reason these texts are available to us today is because they were preserved in the Christian “Old Testament.”

Living in a time when the factionalism and Jewish-on-Jewish violence of the revolt which led to the destruction of the Second Temple was still recent memory, it is understandable that the rabbis didn’t wish to draw a lot of attention to an illegitimate dynasty (the Hasmoneans weren’t legitimate kings of Israel because they were a priestly family, not descended from the house of David) of illegitimate high priests (though priests, the Maccabees didn’t belong to the Zadokite lineage to which the high priesthood belonged. In fact, the legitimate high priests were among the most enthusiastic of the hellenizers) who directed a great deal of violence against Jews whom they didn’t think were “Jewish” enough.

In other words, Jews have been reframing the events of the Maccabean revolt and the meaning of Hanukkah for at least as long as the festival has been celebrated. What this means is that Hanukkah is at the same time one of the most ahistorical Jewish holidays and, paradoxically, the holiday that calls upon us to engage most deeply with the complexities and ambiguities of history. Like any real historical narrative, the history of the Maccabees is ill-suited to provide us with heroes and moral exemplars. What it does give us, however, is some valuable perspective on how difficult it can be to uphold the values of our Torah in the face of the complex political realities of the world we live in.

Now if you’ll excuse me, I’m going to go make some latkes.

L’shalom,
Rabbi Leah Moser

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 usually meet at **Land & Sea Diner, 20-12 Fair Lawn Avenue in Fair Lawn on a Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Check emails and calendar for upcoming dates & location. RSVP to rcbi@synagogue.org if you plan to attend. Coffee & snacks are on us!**



Champions of Progress & Pluralism

MERCAZ – THE VOICE OF THE CONSERVATIVE/MASORTI MOVEMENT

MERCAZ USA is the Zionist Organization of the Conservative/Masorti Movement. A vote for MERCAZ is more than just the opportunity to gain delegates to the World Zionist Congress – it is the best opportunity to send a strong message to the Israeli government and people of Israel.

We support strengthening Israel as a Jewish, Zionist, and democratic state, and endeavor to shape it as an exemplary society with a unique moral and spiritual character rooted in the vision of the Hebrew prophets. We envision a society that is democratic and pluralistic, that recognizes and empowers all streams of Jewish practice, and that guarantees the civil and political rights of all of its citizens.

MERCAZ USA stands firmly for the following principles and goals:

1. **An Open Pluralistic Jewish Society** - That celebrates Jewish values and embraces multiple streams of Judaism including the growth of Conservative/Masorti kehillot throughout Israel.
2. **No Restrictions on the Law of Return** - MERCAZ opposes all attempts to restrict the Law of Return by redefining who is a Jew for the purposes of Aliyah.
3. **Governmental Respect for Conservative and Egalitarian Traditions and Practices** – Including Israeli government recognition of life cycle events performed within all recognized streams of Judaism and implementation of the previously accepted agreement with regard to the Western Wall.
4. **Increased Funding for the Conservative/Masorti Movement** – Increasing “stream funding” by the Jewish Agency, World Zionist Organization, and Keren Kayemeth LeYisrael to bolster Conservative/Masorti kehillot, institutions and programs in Israel and throughout the world.
5. **Strengthening the Ties Between American Jews and Israel** - Cultivating programs that connect American Jews and Israel and promoting Aliyah.
6. **Combatting Anti-Semitism and Anti-Zionism** – A pro-active agenda to combat anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism in the United States and around the world.
7. **Achieving Peace** – A negotiated peace settlement between Israel and the Palestinians.
8. **Supporting Israel as a Democratic Ally and Engaged Global Citizen** - As it lends its technology, innovations and assistance in the effort to solve global challenges.

Pledge to Vote - Text 'VOTE' to (917) 336-1162 or visit [MERCAZ2020.ORG](https://www.mercaz2020.org)

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. Please make sure our office has your updated email address. Remember to check our **online calendar** for monthly services and events **at www.synagogue.org**.

You can also follow us on **Facebook**. Both congregations have pages where we post information, announcements, updates, and articles of interest. Look for the **Temple Israel and Jewish Community Center and Reconstructionist Congregation Beth Israel** pages.

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.

Scenes from the USY Kadima Hanukkah Party on Dec. 15 at JCCP

The teens enjoyed activities in the Youth Lounge including ping pong, pool, foosball, rummykub, a new Israeli game called Taki, and others. Pizza, latkes and apple sauce were consumed, followed by a chocolate kiss dreidel game. The kids had such a good time together and really developed a bond, so much so that they created a chat group!



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 & James Goldfarb
Sharon & Kenneth Levitsky
Peri & David Namerow
Tricia & Howard Schreiber

Pillar's Circle

Audrey Meyers & Scott Agins
In Memory of Ephraim & Geri Nelinson

Sponsor's Circle

Anonymous (2)
Brandeis Men's Club
Laura & Philip Brody
Anlly & Javier Delgado
Roberta & Charles Fleischman
Tamara & Barry Freeman
Susie & Shelly Goldstein
Shari & Manny Haber
Suzanne & Joshua Holden
Erin & Matthew Lindenberg
Sylvia Flescher & Tom Marcyes
Debbie, Wayne & Jared Miller
Lisa Mellman & Toby Nygaard
Reconstructionist Congregation Beth Israel
Rita & Robert Obeiter
Sue Rubinoff
Meri Schachter
Merille & Harvey Siegel
Sisterhood of Temple Israel
Bonita & David Weiss
Jen Blanck and Evan Weitz

You are invited to join
 Temple Israel and Jewish Community Center, Ridgewood, NJ
ON A ONCE-IN-A-DECADE OPPORTUNITY



THE PASSION PLAY 2020
OBERAMMERGAU

ITC's Scholar-in-Residence Program with Rabbi David J Fine, PhD

VISIT GERMANY MAY 7-17, 2020

View and download Itinerary and application at www.israeltour.com/oberammergau

The Oberammergau Passion Play, performed in a small village in the Bavarian Alps, is the most famous of all European stage presentations depicting the story of the end of Jesus' life. It was first performed in 1634 and has subsequently been replayed every ten years. The current director, Christian Stückl, has been working closely with Jewish leaders and scholars, including Rabbi Fine, to eliminate the anti-Semitic overtones that marked previous incarnations of the play.

Join Rabbi Fine with the first synagogue group to ever attend a performance, along with a delegation of the German Jewish community. We will see to see a preview performance and witness Christian Stückl receive the Abraham Gelger Prize from the Abraham Gelger rabbinical seminary in Berlin. Our tour will include a weekend in Berlin, a tour of Dachau concentration camp, the Neuschwanstein Castle in Bavaria, and a "free" weekend in Munich.

Tour Pricing

**Tour price is based on 20 tour participants with less price will increase, with more price will decrease

Discounted Price for Check Payment

Land Only Package - **\$3395
 per person in a double room

Land and Air Package - *\$4495
 per person in a double room

Single Room Supplement - \$1150

Added to the costs above are tips for Guide, Driver, Restaurants, and Portage - \$165

*Round trip from USA-Berlin-Return from Munich

Full Price for Credit Card Payment

Land Only Package - **\$3530
 per person in a double room

Land and Air Package - *\$4675
 per person in a double room

Single Room Supplement - \$1196

For additional information please contact Rabbi David Fine at 201-444-9320 or email dfine@synagogue.org Tour arrangements by ITC Tours questions please call Yafa at 800-247-7235

Discover the Jewish world with ITC Tours

www.itctours.com



Visit Germany with Rabbi David J. Fine PhD and Experience Oberammergau in May 7–17, 2020

Thursday, May 7

- Depart Newark Liberty Airport for an overnight flight to Berlin.

Friday, May 8

- Arrive in Berlin and walk the old Jewish neighborhood visiting the grave of Moses Mendelssohn.
- See the grand imperial-era Berlin Cathedral, followed by Alexanderplatz, the center of eastern Berlin, and ascend the Television Tower for a breathtaking view of the city.
- From there we will spend the evening in the western part of the city for dinner followed by Shabbat evening services at the Pastalozzistrasse Synagogue
- **Overnight: Westin Grand Berlin**

Saturday, May 9

- Shabbat morning service followed by Kiddish lunch at the Oranienburgerstrasse Synagogue with Berlin's egalitarian Masorti congregation.
- Afternoon tour of the Pergamon and Egyptian Museums.
- **Overnight: Westin Grand Berlin**

Sunday, May 10

- Breakfast on the roof of the Reichstag building, the seat of the German parliament.
- See the iconic Brandenburg Gate and visit the federal Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, followed by a tour of Berlin's Jewish Museum.
- **Overnight: Westin Grand Berlin**

Monday, May 11

- Enjoy a high-speed train journey from Berlin to Munich and visit Munich's historic central square (the "Marienplatz") in the evening.
- **Overnight: Courtyard Munich City Center**

Tuesday, May 12

- Tour the Dachau concentration camp and memorial in the morning, followed by afternoon arrival in Oberammergau.
- Join our German Jewish friends and meet the Passion Play director, Christian Stückl.
- **Overnight: Oberammergau Hotel Alte Post**

Wednesday, May 13

- Attend the ceremony where Passion Play director Christian Stückl is honored by the Jewish community for his work in Jewish-Christian relations, including presentations by Abraham Geiger rector Rabbi Dr. Walter Homolka and Munich Jewish community leader and former president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany Charlotte Knoblauch.
- Watch a full performance of the Passion Play, and enjoy another evening in the Bavarian Alps.
- **Overnight: Oberammergau Hotel Alte Post**

Thursday, May 14

- Visit the Neuschwanstein Castle, Walt Disney's inspiration for Sleeping Beauty's castle in Disneyland.
- Late afternoon and evening in Munich.
- **Overnight: Courtyard Munich City Center**

Friday, May 15

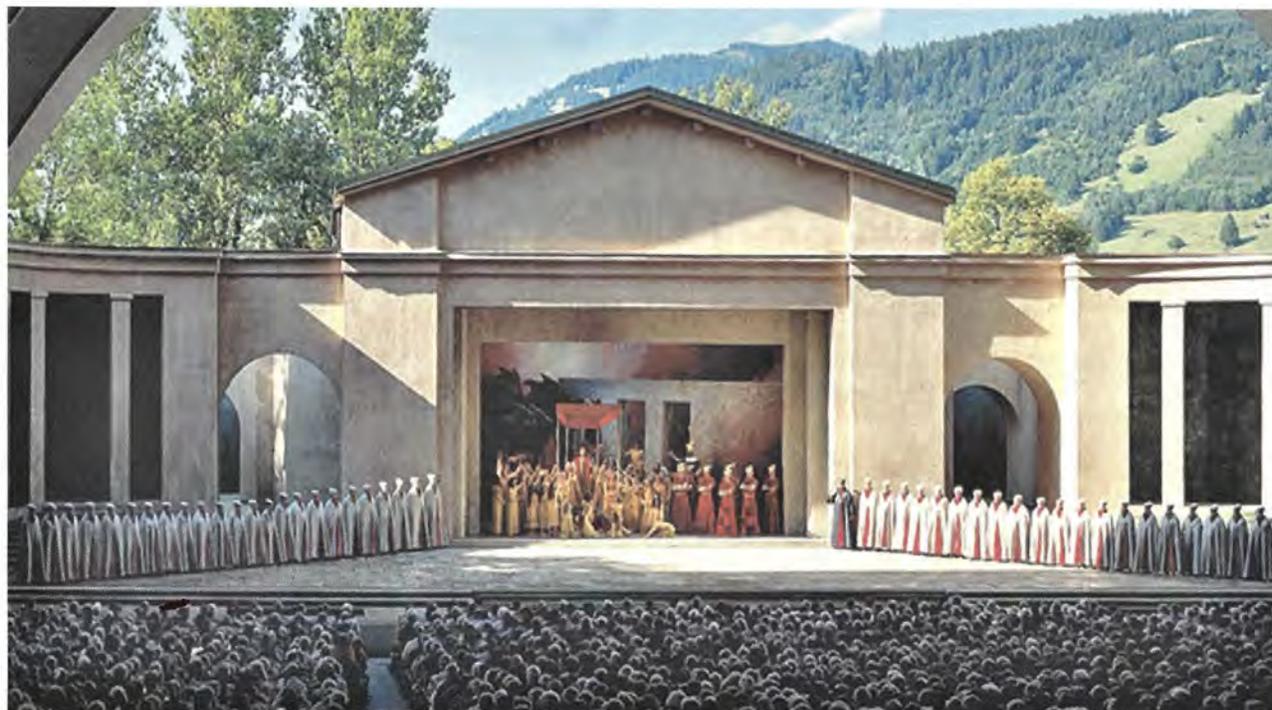
- Open day to tour Munich or surrounding area.
- **Overnight: Courtyard Munich City Center.**

Saturday, May 16

- Open Day
- **Overnight: Courtyard Munich City Center**

Sunday, May 17

- Return flight from Munich to Newark Liberty Airport.





TEMPLE ISRAEL
AND JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

SILENT AUCTION DONATION FORM 2020
Havana Negilah Night
Annual Ways & Means Dinner
Honoring Bob & Rita Obeiter and Maureen Nassan
March 7, 2020

Item with description: _____

Value (\$): _____

Donated by: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email (will not be shared): _____

Solicited by: _____

Item received by: _____

Date: _____

Thank you for your generous support!

Temple Israel & Jewish Community Center
475 Grove Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450
www.synagogue.org
201-444-9320



TEMPLE ISRAEL
AND JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

AD JOURNAL FORM 2020
Havana Negilah Night

Honoring Bob & Rita Obeiter and Maureen Nassan
March 7, 2020

Circle your tribute/ad selection:

Platinum (full page)	\$3600
Gold (full page)	\$1800
Silver (full page)	\$1000
White (full page)	\$750
Half page	\$500
Quarter page*	\$250
Business card/tribute*	\$125
Back cover/outside	\$4000
Back cover/inside	\$2000

*Upgrade your ad to appear on our website +\$50

Name: _____

Business/contact name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email (will not be shared): _____

Website: _____

Ad solicited by: _____

Date: _____

Checks payable to "Temple Israel"
All contributions are tax deductible

Ad copy must be received by our office no later than February 24, 2020.
Ad copy in electronic form may be submitted to TLSchreiber1216@gmail.com.
Submit ad text or camera-ready ads in PDF or JPG format.

Thank you for your generous donation!
Temple Israel & Jewish Community Center
475 Grove Street, Ridgewood, NJ 07450
www.synagogue.org

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

Donations & Dedications

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

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

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

Temple Israel Operating Fund any amount

DEDICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Minyan of Comfort	\$36
Mahzor Lev Shalem For Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur	\$50
Siddur Lev Shalem	\$50
Chumash Etz Hayim	\$118
Memorial Plaque	\$540 (contact the office)
Large Memorial Tablet	\$54,000

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



and Jewish Community Center

475 Grove Street
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

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