

November/December 2020



Temple Talk

News you can use from the TI-JCC community

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Drawing People in from a Distance

Among the most critical challenges of the Covid-19 environment is finding a way to reach out to people without physically reaching out. I spoke on Kol Nidrei about the importance of using all the means of communication at our disposal to keep our loved ones engaged with each other. Zoom, email, the telephone, and safe outdoor encounters are ways to keep people from being isolated. We have heard about how the virus can devastate nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other such institutions. What we don't hear as much about is how painful the loneliness can be in these environments where all communal eating and activities are cancelled and residents must remain in their rooms. So many people have been spending these last several months in what have become prisons without bars. But sometimes, with a mix of luck and bashed, we can find redeeming sparks.

As you know, the rear of our parking lot abuts the parking lot of Family Caring of Ridgewood, the nursing home and rehabilitation center formerly known as Van Dyk. We have been good neighbors, lending space in our respective parking lots when needed. A number of our members and relatives have received care there. But on Yom Kippur a very special thing happened. A Jewish resident there named Susan (name and details have been changed to protect identity) was all alone, having recently lost her husband and with no family.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The High Holidays always require a lot of planning, coordination, and execution. This year was unique, however, in that all of the above presented greater challenges amidst Covid-19. Completing the High Holidays in quite an abnormal year and hosting one of the very few live services showed the resolve of our entire community. Whether you participated in any of our live services or via Zoom, I hope you enjoyed our services, and I encourage you to fill out our on-line survey so we can get your feedback. The link to the survey is: <https://forms.gle/WgWkb5eXUoMPsC7A8>.

Will this be the last pandemic we'll have to deal with in our lifetime? Of course, we hope so; however, pandemics like this have been present forever. It was during the cholera outbreaks of the 1830s that the first experiments with social distancing took place, with many municipalities banning large gatherings. In 1831 Rabbi Akiva Eger of Pozna, Poland, called on Jews to limit the number of congregants praying together in a synagogue to 15: "Concerning the matter of prayer in the synagogue, it is my opinion that it is true that assembling in a small place is incorrect, but it is permissible to pray group after group, each time a little, about 15 people." Let's hope that science will continue to progress to avoid calamities such as we are living through today.

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Rabbi Leiah's column will return soon.

MEMBERSHIP

In these tough Covid times, we are pleased to warmly welcome the following newcomers who have chosen to join our synagogue community:

- **Eliot and Carly Bickoff**, Fair Lawn
- **Alan Buckwalter**, Glen Rock
- **Evan Fleischmann and Annemarie Roscello**, West Milford
- **Nicole and Lisa Kaczmariski and their new born daughter, Tovah**, Fair Lawn
- **Marissa Sweig and Dale Trigger and their two children**, Ridgewood

In normal times we would host a Shabbat dinner at shul to welcome all of you. In these times, we hope you can join us for services on a Friday night in the parking lot with your coats on or via Zoom.

We encourage you to connect with our other congregants by taking advantage of those activities still underway, such as hiking with Men's Club, enjoying adult education classes, and of course enrolling youngsters in Hebrew school. Our B'Yachad community is a perfect fit for folks with young children.

We thank all of you for joining and all of our members for continuing to support TI. As our High Holiday services at Spring Lake Day Camp exemplify, our leaders, including our president, Howard Schreiber, and our rabbi, David Fine, think out of the box. And we will continue to explore ways for staying connected.

A happy and healthy new year to all,

Jo Rosen, Cochair

Elissa Glucksman Hyne and Jay Hyne, Cochairs



MUSICAL NOTES



SAVE THE DATES!

The music committee cordially invites you to two wonderful events taking place on Zoom in 5781:

Open Mic: Sunday, January 24, 2021, 3:00-5:00 pm, with a designated time for talented young performers. Contact Marc Cantor for more information or to sign up in advance: marccan999@gmail.com.

Ways and Means Gala and Musical Concert: Saturday night, February 13, 2021, via Zoom. The Ways and Means and Music Committees are teaming up and planning a terrific evening. The event will feature virtuosic musicians from the America-Israel Cultural Foundation, all of whom attend the prestigious Juilliard School of Music. Our own Richard Schnaittacher is generously sponsoring this highlight of the evening. Rich's gift is in loving memory of his parents, Dorothy z"l and Fred Schnaittacher z"l.

The music committee is a wonderful group that has forged meaningful friendships through planning and producing events and musical Shabbatot for our sacred community. Do you have ideas for a musical event? Would you like to be part of our group? Contact the co-chairs TamaraFreeman@verizon.net or debbiecantor@optonline.net.

Tamara Freeman, DMA, Sacred Music Chair

Debbie Cantor, Concert Chair

NNJJA News



A Message from Jessica

We are extremely glad to be getting back in the swing of things at NNJJA. Our first day of Hebrew school was on Sunday, October 18, and it was so nice to see the gang back together. Things look different of course. The rooms are set up to meet social distancing protocols, and we have a few of our friends who are Zooming in. We are grateful to be able to gather back together using all of the tools at our disposal.

So what are we doing this year? We have a few changes that are worth noting. The silver lining that we found when we were doing online tefilah teaching during quarantine was the discovery that it worked really well. With individual attention, students were able to move at their own pace and get the support they needed. Our students are passing tefilah goals much more quickly. Because of this, we've changed our plans going forward. Now, our students in grades four through seven, who primarily focus on tefilot on Wednesdays, are only going to meet in person once a month. We will do a tefilah workshop and delve in deep on some of the liturgy. And the other three weeks, students will meet a teacher for a 20-minute individual session and a volunteer for an additional 20 minutes. We are confident that this new plan will support individual learning and tefilah competency, and we're really excited about it. Our Sunday sessions for all grades will be happening in person from 9:00-11:00 am. We have put some of our programming on hold until we can safely be together in the same space.

If you have friends or family looking for an open, inclusive, and welcoming Hebrew school, send them our way. We'd love to meet them.

Jessica Spiegel, Director

Jspiegel@synagogue.org
201-444-4149

YOUTH HAPPENINGS



Temple Israel youth is back. The USY and Kadima kick-off event was a rousing success with youth from TI and area synagogues.



*Enjoying
s'mores and icebreakers.*

RITUAL ROUNDUP

Getting cold out there. We've left baseball behind and come off daylight saving time, packed up the sukkah, and started raking or blowing leaves. The High Holidays are over, and we'll soon be eating latkes, lighting menorahs, spinning dreidels, and singing *Ma'oz Tzur*.

In the Torah we have been awed by creation, survived the flood, and are now following the stories of our patriarchs and matriarchs and their wanderings, encounters, and families. Join us on Shabbat to hear, read, and discuss these and more.

As we finish up Cheshvan and cruise into Kislev and Tevet, I want to acknowledge all the people who contributed to our hybrid holiday services at Spring Lake Day Camp, TI's parking lot, and on Zoom:

- *Bob Obeiter* – High Holiday preliminary services
- *Nanette Rosenbaum* –Shacharit services, Rosh Hashanah days one and two
- *Ilyse Goldman Krebs* –Shacharit and Minchah services, Yom Kippur
- *Elaine Silverstein* –Torah reading, Rosh Hashanah day two
- *Abe Davis* –Minchah Torah reading, Yom Kippur
- *Stephanie Gottesman* –Haftarah, Rosh Hashanah day one and Yom Kippur
- *Tamara Freeman* –Haftarah, Rosh Hashanah day two
- *Rabbi Gloria Rubin* –Minchah Haftarah (Jonah), Yom Kippur
- *Dan Schuler and Ariel Fine* – shofar blowing
- *Rabbi Robert Fine* – off-site ark opener/closer
- *Rabbi David Fine* – everything else ritual: davening, leyning, sermonizing, and ending on time!
- *David Cox* – seating arrangements for off-site services within pandemic guidelines – massive effort!
- *Howard Schreiber* – all the Spring Lake Day Camp arrangements and tackling a zillion details
- *Maureen, Jose, and Tina* – all the daunting, unprecedented logistics of off-site services – wow!
- *Rabbi Jennifer Schlosberg* – davening at our multi-synagogue Hoshana Rabbah services
- *Jessica Spiegel* – children's programming at Simchat Torah services

Please help us celebrate these November simchas:

November 7: *Ryan Levi Bar Mitzvah*

Here is our weekly service schedule:

5:30 pm: Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat services

9:00 am: Shabbat morning services (you provide the muffins, the rabbi leads the Mishnah study)

9:30 am: Sunday morning minyan (same deal for Muffins and Mishnah)

7:00 pm: Tuesday evening minyan (hosted by Brandeis Men's Club)

Please feel free to sign up to do a haftarah reading, accessible online at: <http://signup.com/go/iVuOmDe>.

(Contact David Millman with any questions:
millman.david@gmail.com.)

Dave Millman, Chair

Chairs and mahzorim awaiting congregants at Spring Lake Day Camp. See page 12 and the back cover for more great photos!





Dr. David J. Fine
Rabbi

Leah Moser
Rabbi, ACR; Assistant Rabbi, TICC

Jessica W. Spiegel
Director of Education

Howard Schreiber
President

October 15, 2020

RE: Goodwill 2020-2021

Dear Chevre:

I am hopeful that you all enjoyed Rosh Hashana, Kol Nidre, Yom Kippur, and N'ila services either in person or over Zoom. I can tell you that on behalf of all of our volunteers and paid staff, it was a real team effort that seemed to result in a successful deployment during this most challenging time. With Rabbi Fine's full commitment to making many halachic decisions, and Maureen's 'round the clock effort in handling many details that very few would notice, and Jose's and Tina's dedication to working extra hours, our entire High Holiday services would not have been special this year. Whether or not you were able to join us at Spring Lake Day Camp, you would have seen via Zoom that Temple Israel had a special ruach (spirit) not easily duplicated anywhere. This could not have happened without our dedicated staff.

As I wrote this letter just prior to Sukkot, we are all saddened I'm sure that we did not have a Sukkah set up this year at our temple. This is out of respect for all our members as we do not want to take an undue risk of congregating in a small space. Perhaps you know that one of the most remarkable Jewish customs is Ushpizin, the welcoming of guests into a sukkah. This year we cannot have our Sisters in the Sukkah, or Steak and Scotch in the sukkah, two hallmark events of our Sisterhood and Men's Club respectively.

A sukkah is a temporary 'hut' commemorating the fall harvest and the exodus from Egypt. We decorate our sukkahs, put decorative lights there, and sometimes put seasonal fruit to add to the festivity. Our synagogue is far from a temporary structure, but we have beautifully decorated it for all our simchas, educating our children in school, Adult Ed, and for social events, to name but a few. I assume that we all take a lot of pride in our synagogue's physical beauty, and the spirit we fill it with.

The common thread I'm writing about here is that our dedicated staff, and our beautiful building all cost money to maintain. I think most are aware that our dues only cover about half of our annual revenue, and the rest comes from donations. Goodwill is part of the other donations that help support our annual revenue. Due to the changes we've had to enact during the High Holidays this year, there was no Goodwill appeal. It is for this reason I'm writing to you. I'm asking you to make a Goodwill pledge this year to reinforce your support of our shul in this most unusual year. If you agree to pledge, any amount, will you please call or email Maureen today; 201-444-9320, MNassan@synagogue.org. Your support is as important now as ever before. Your pledge can be paid through June 2021, the end of our current fiscal year.

Despite the fact that we can only meet in our parking lot and over Zoom, our staff is always here for spiritual guidance, simchas, funerals, education, and Jewish culture. The fact is, we have expenses to maintain our Jewish community here in Ridgewood and one day, we will come back to our beautiful building. I hope you will help us through this challenging time with your Goodwill support.

If you would like either me or Rabbi Fine, or another officer to call you about this, please let us know.

Yours truly,

Howard S. Schreiber, President



Two Congregations, One Community
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SISTERHOOD NEWS

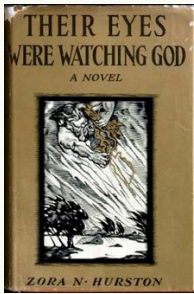
Although the High Holidays were a bit different this year, I hope everyone enjoyed the Sisterhood honey. I know it was a happy little reminder of our lovely community when it arrived at my home, and I hope it was the same for you.

I'd like to mention Sisterhood's contribution to our beautiful High Holiday services at Spring Lake Day Camp this year. It was our pleasure to make and dress the portable ark with a brand new curtain and inside lining. And although we couldn't enjoy kugel together this year, Sisterhood was still able to give everyone a bit of energy after the long Yom Kippur fast by providing grab-and-go food and drink at the conclusion of the holiday.



We also had a lovely time cooking kugel together, albeit via video conference. I know my family certainly enjoyed the two kugels that we made in that session. It was a small taste of familiarity in a holiday very different from normal. If anyone would like the recipes, please contact me at arleneb@yahoo.com.

Unfortunately, there is no way for Sisterhood to have our annual Progressive Dinner at this time. We'll all certainly miss the opportunity to see our friends, eat delicious food, and meet new members. Let's hope that the pandemic eases soon and that we can all look forward to resuming this fun activity next year.



Sisterhood's book group will continue to meet via Zoom. On November 15 participants will be discussing *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. The conversation is lively and stimulating. Contact Elaine at elasil@optonline.net if you would like more information.

It's not too early to start thinking about Hanukkah. As always, the Sisterhood gift shop is stocked with items for the holiday. You will be sure to find something for everyone, from infant to hostess. Our gift shop Hanukka boutique will be on the following Sundays: November 15, November 22, and December 6. Please watch the weekly announcements for information about whether this will be held in-person or virtually. Or, you can always contact Stephanie at stephaniegottesman@gmail.com to make an appointment.

B'shalom,
Arlene Bernhardt, President

Endowments

Synagogues always seem to be soliciting donations and underscoring the importance of contributions to keep the lights on and programming rich. Temple Israel is no different, and our membership's generosity is mission-critical and welcomed. But TI has something in addition that most synagogues do not: nine endowment funds staked by generous members (past and present) who had the foresight to provide funding for particular programs and projects.

You might be familiar with a few that are featured throughout the year. These include the **Amsterdam** fund, which finances our annual Kitah Aleph siddur ceremony, and the Fellows fund, which provides support for the annual inter-faith Holocaust remembrance program. Our youth parents (past and present) also are familiar with the Goodman fund, which provides modest stipends for youth experiences, like USY on Wheels or Jewish summer camp; and the Friedman fund (founded by the family of member Heather Friedman-Cohen), which provides modest stipends for our high school students' summer travel to Eastern Europe and Israel.

Several other funds, lesser known it seems, also are available to our members. The **Kirsch** fund provides modest stipends for post-Hebrew school youth to continue their religious studies. The **Strachman** fund provides money for library purchases and library-related educational events. And the **Toonkel** fund provides money for musical education at the Hebrew school and other cultural experiences for TI.

Our Endowments Committee welcomes inquiries about funding. The application process is informal. All applications are vetted by the committee; all disbursements must be approved by TI's board of trustees. And since it is always better to give than to receive, please consider making a contribution to the endowment fund of your choice or establishing an endowment fund. What better way to honor the memory of a loved one or support a TI program or purpose meaningful to you? Please contact James Goldfarb, at james.goldfarb@icloud.com for more information.

James Goldfarb, Interim Chair



Brandeis Men's Club Ushers in 5781

Honoring the arrival of 5781 required adapting to the new challenges that we have all become too familiar with over the last nine months. The Brandeis Men's Club (BMC) commends the response of our temple board and High Holiday planners for setting the bar on "rising to the occasion." This year, our traditional role of coordinating the ushers had additional challenges, such as having to tell people that, no, the water slide was not part of a new Yom Kippur cleansing ritual. More importantly though, the reality of in-person High Holiday services created space for a healing

dose of familiarity in the form of shared rituals and long-standing traditions. For example, even though it may be inconvenient, it isn't it comforting to know that BMC is serving the TI community when an usher says, "wait just a minute" before allowing you to enter the service? Okay, maybe not as comforting as your first bite of bagel with whitefish salad after the Yom Kippur fast. But these traditions are what bind a community together, and this year the warm blanket of Jewish community and tradition made the High Holiday services more meaningful than in other, more normal, years. For the Brandeis Men's Club, our comfort in tradition was found in coordinating the ushers and helping with the extra muscle needed to get things done.

And just as the larger community has traditions, so too does Men's Club. These traditions keep BMC members connected to each other, to Temple Israel, and to the greater Jewish community. Our traditions are steeped in service. In truth, performing essential services for Temple Israel and community is our primary mission. Some of these services are fun, and we all missed Steak & Scotch in the Sukkah this year. Some of the services are more solemn, like the annual cemetery clean-up. Some contribute to life-long participation in Jewish life, like the World Wide Wrap and Purim grogger-making. We also provide mundane under-the-radar services that just need doing like buying a new DVD player or mulching the flower beds.

Coordinating the ushers for High Holiday services is easily the most recognizable of the services that Brandeis Men's Club provides. We take great pride in ensuring that congregants feel welcome and safe while observing ritual standards. And this year we added a new service: helping to make sure that all of the chairs, mahzorim, and other essential supplies identified by Rabbi Fine and Maureen made it safely to Spring Lake Day Camp. Brandeis Men's Club is honored to serve through all of these traditions, be they ancient, more recent, or brand new for COVID. Please join us by sending an email to MensClubEvents@synagogue.org.

Thank you to all the volunteer ushers: ***Robin Berger, Jay Berger, Debbie Cantor, Marc Cantor, Manny Haber, Alec Jacobs, Rob Kern, David Millman, Melony Muller, Bob Rohrberger, Bob Smolen, Tova Samuels, Bruce Thaler, James Goldfarb, Paul Schuler, and Cindy Zirkin.***



Brandeis Men's Club members Mark Lipkovitz, Howard Schreiber, David Millman, David Cox, and Bruce Thaler making Jose's job "easier."

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. Our regular activities include feeding the homeless, collecting blood donations, and assisting neighbors such as the residents of Ridgcrest Senior Housing, a low-income housing complex in Ridgewood. In non-Covid times, we sponsor events at the synagogue. Like all of you, we hope we will be able to return soon to normal times and come together in community again soon.

Anti-Gun Violence Talk by NJ Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal, Tuesday, December 1, 7:00 pm

In commemoration of the Eighth Annual National Gun Violence Prevention Shabbat, we are proud to sponsor a virtual talk by NJ Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal on Tuesday, December 1, at 7:00 pm. Check the synagogue announcements for a Zoom link. Mr. Grewal will focus on current and pending gun-control legislation in New Jersey, and there will be time set aside for questions.



Since assuming office in January, 2018, Attorney General Grewal has focused his attention on protecting the interests of New Jersey residents by expanding affirmative litigation, strengthening police-community relations, reducing violent crime, and fighting the opioid epidemic. Previously he served as Bergen County prosecutor and as an assistant United States attorney in the District of New Jersey. He graduated cum laude from Georgetown University and obtained his law degree from the College of William and Mary. He lives in Glen Rock with his wife and three children.

Helping to Repair the World During Covid

This is a time not only to stay safe ourselves but also to help others in our community who are much less fortunate than we are. Here are some things you can do:

Donate

Social Services of Ridgewood: Go to the website at <https://www.ssaridgewood.org/>. Your donation will go directly to people in need in our community.

Many of the residents of **Ridgcrest Senior Housing** are food-insecure and rely on the food pantry and donations to get by. Ridgcrest is in need of financial donations to help offset the cost of the care packages that are being distributed to residents. Here is a link to the website where donations can be made: <https://www.ridgcrestseniorhousing.org/get-involved>.

S.H.A.R.E., Inc. is a private, not-for-profit 501(c)3, non-denominational corporation that provides an affordable home-like environment for independent seniors within the Ridgewood community. You can donate or become a weekend chef at <https://shareridgewood.org/covid-19-impacts/>.

Family Promise of Bergen County provides housing and food assistance to people in need throughout Bergen County. Find out about the many programs they provide and click the donation link at <https://www.bergenfamilypromise.org/>.



Jewish Family and Children's Services of Northern NJ runs the kosher Meals-on-Wheels program and provides many other services throughout the local community. Donate at <https://www.jfcsnnj.org/>. Inspired by Jewish values and ideals, *MAZON* is a national advocacy organization working to end hunger among people of all faiths and backgrounds in the United States and Israel. Donate to MAZON at <https://give.mazon.org/give/294149/#!/donation/checkout>.

Give Blood

Despite the current shelter-in-place regulations, FEMA has specifically identified blood donation as an "essential and integral component of the emergency support function." Blood drives are not gatherings: they are blood donation operations that are key to our public health and safety. Many additional precautions are in place to safeguard donors and staff.

There are several ways to donate blood in our community. You can give blood through Vitalant, which has locations in Paramus and Montvale. It takes less than an hour to give whole blood. Make an appointment online at <https://www.vitalant.org/Home.aspx>. You can also donate through the Red Cross. Find a location and make an appointment at this website: <https://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html>.



Bob Rohrberger and Elaine Silverstein, Cochairs

Kiddush Club

As a result of Covid-19, it's now been around seven months since Temple Israel had to close its doors to protect the health and lives of our clergy, staff, and congregants. When we will be able to go back, based on recommended scientific principles and recommendations and improvements to our ventilation system, is still up in the air—no pun intended.

With no in-person Shabbat services in the sanctuary, we have not been able to enjoy a communal kiddush lunch sponsored by a congregant, Sisterhood, Brandeis Men's Club, or the Kiddush Club. Consequently, Bob Smolen recently told me he can't wait to be able to shop for kiddush food again, and I certainly can't wait to be able to get back into the temple kitchen and help prepare the usual variety of foods we have gotten used to over the past several years.

In the absence of services in our sanctuary, do you and your family sit down together and have a nice kiddush lunch after our weekly Shabbat services over Zoom? If so, what foods do you make and serve? Do you put out bagels or croissants, rye or pumpernickel bread, cream cheese, tuna salad, whitefish salad, herring in wine sauce, a variety of cheeses, sliced red onions, and tomatoes? Is there a nice mixed salad, cut up fruit, hard-boiled eggs, etc.?

I didn't write this to tease you but, instead, to whet your appetite and remind you of what we had and what we will hopefully get back to having sometime next year. In the meantime, if you miss the kiddush lunches we used to have, I'd like to share a couple of easy to prepare, scaled down Kiddush Club recipes that you can make at home and enjoy with your families. I hope these will bring back fond memories of the food we ate in our synagogue building when we were able to socialize in person.

Please let me know if you would like any of the other Kiddush Club recipes you enjoyed in the past or even the original one I use to make four pounds of tuna salad. Simply send an email to kiddush-club@synagogue.org.

Stay happy and healthy,
Bob Dworkin, Chair



<i>Kiddush Club Tuna Salad</i> <i>Serves 4</i>	
Ingredients	Directions
2 cans solid white tuna (@ 5 oz.)	1. Add tuna to a stainless steel, glass, or ceramic bowl and break up chunks and mash it well.
2 tbs lemon juice	2. Mix in onion powder, dill weed, lemon juice and mayonnaise and blend till uniform.
2 tsp onion powder	3. Cover any leftovers and refrigerate for up to four days.
1 tsp dill weed	
1/3 cup mayonnaise	



<i>Kiddush Club Carrot & Raisin Salad</i> <i>Serves 4 to 6</i>	
Ingredients	Directions
2/3 lb carrots, peeled & grated	1. Plump raisins in hot water for 20 minutes, then drain.
1/3 cup raisins	2. Put shredded carrots in a medium bowl and toss with mayonnaise and sugar.
An 8 oz. can crushed pineapple, drained	3. Thoroughly mix in crushed pineapple and raisins.
1/3 cup mayonnaise	4. Cover and refrigerate overnight to develop flavors.
3/4 tbs granulated sugar	5. Stir well prior to serving.

Ridgewood Chanukah Menorah

Beginning December 10, 2020 ...

*The Lights Of The Menorah Will Shine,
At Van Neste Square, Every Night Of Chanukah.*

See You All Next Year!



While she survived a bout with the virus, she struggles every day. She used to attend synagogue and knew that it was Yom Kippur. She also knew that the holiest part of Yom Kippur is the final hour, when we recite the Ne'ilah prayer before the metaphoric gates of heaven are sealed. At that moment, Susan happened to hear the Hebrew words of the Ne'ilah in the air, as just about a hundred or so feet away; 150 members of Temple Israel had gathered, masked and socially distant, as the haunting melodies of the final Yom Kippur service were amplified through our parking lot. She asked an aide to quickly wheel her outside so that she could hear and pray with us. A few weeks later the nursing home called our office asking if I could visit with Susan, and I was privileged to meet her. As we continue to gather on Friday nights, I hope she will continue to hear us. Our aim at Ne'ilah, and at all our services, is to connect with God. This year, we managed to connect with a Jewish soul a few hundred feet to our north. If she could hear our prayers, I am sure God could too.

President's column, cont'd from p. 1

At TI our attention is clearly focused on health and well-being. Our school is open now, and we are following the lead of Ridgewood schools. We feel that opening our sanctuary for Shabbat services is not a risk we are ready to assume with Covid cases increasing. We will continue our Friday night Shabbat services live at 5:30 PM on Friday evenings, and we will have outdoor heaters operating too. Our Saturday morning services will continue via Zoom only. If you would like to chant a Haftarah now is a great time. You can do it comfortably from your own home. Working with the rabbi, he can perhaps find ways to truncate the reading to make it easier to prepare. Let the rabbi or David Millman know if you'd like to volunteer in a Shabbat service. Our Sunday morning minyanim are held live at 9:30 am from our parking lot and, of course, on Zoom too. If you are dropping your kids off for Hebrew school, please join us for our half-hour Sunday service. Our Men's Club is hosting Tuesday evening minyanim at 7:00 pm via Zoom too. Your presence is important to the community to assure a minyan for those saying Kaddish.

Life cycle events know of no pandemics. Babies are born, people pass away, and our children become young adults celebrating bat and bar mitzvahs. Rabbi Fine has been extremely supportive of our members by accommodating their special needs throughout the pandemic. In November we are proud to host two bnei mitzvah.

You will read the article in this *Temple Talk* about our Music Committee joining forces this winter with the Ways and Means Committee to host a virtual gala. Compromised by Covid, we are planning a virtual event with music, fund raising, and most importantly an opportunity to get together for a fun evening and seeing all our TI friends. More to come on this event, but mark off Saturday evening, February 13, 2021.

You received a letter from me in an email in mid-October about Goodwill. It would be a huge help to our temple for you to consider an annual pledge. A pledge is a financial commitment you make now for a donation, that can be paid anytime through the end of June 2021. Our dues only cover about half of our annual revenue as we rely on various forms of donations to support our clergy, staff, facility, and Hebrew school. There is no doubt that finances for most everyone have changed since March, but for those that are able, your support of Temple Israel is now more important than ever.

I am pleased to report that our first vice-president, James Goldfarb, is heading up a strategic planning committee to evaluate our direction for the future. Notwithstanding the current Covid pandemic, the shifting needs and desires of newer members are critical to our long-term viability. New member requirements are not what they were 20 or more years ago, and we have to change with the times. I encourage you to email me with any ideas you may have on new programs or initiatives you think deserve consideration.

I am glad to remind you that we have a very dedicated executive committee and board of directors. Our leadership succession is solid, which is helpful during these very turbulent times. We should be thankful for all the time our volunteers have dedicated over the past 68 years here in Ridgewood.

Continue to be safe, and if you need any assistance remember that our Chesed Committee stands ready, willing, and able to help you out. Please let Rabbi Fine, Elyse Levine, Maureen, or me know what we can do to help you.

B' shalom,
Howard Schreiber, 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 need any of these items, contact Elyse Levene to make arrangements at 201-306-1283.



More scenes from services at Spring Lake Day Camp



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.

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

