

September/October 2021



Temple Talk

News you can use from the TI-JCC community

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Behind the Scenes at the Conservative Movement's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards

In the spring of 2020 I received a call from the president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the international association of Conservative rabbis, asking if I would serve as a member of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards. Often called simply the Law Committee (or abbreviated as the CJLS), this appointment was a kind of homecoming for me as I had served the Law Committee in a professional capacity as its secretary over twenty years ago at the start of my career in the rabbinate.



The Law Committee consists of twenty-five voting rabbis, plus one cantor, and five lay members who participate without votes. The committee does not make laws as much as recommend Jewish legal opinions (halakhic responsa or teshuvot) for consideration by the rabbis and communities of the Conservative movement. Because Judaism has always accommodated competing interpretations of halakhah, the Conservative movement is structured so that each individual communal rabbi can choose from the options authorized by the CJLS in determining law for his or her congregation. A communal rabbi (called *mara d'atra* meaning *teacher of the place*) can also choose an interpretation outside the recommended parameters approved by the CJLS, but the Movement authorizes positions in order to aid the local rabbi in halakhic decision-making. Because we allow for multiple viewpoints under the large tent that makes up Conservative Judaism, the threshold for approval of a halakhic

President's Column

Connection

A sense of connection. For many of us, it has been sorely lacking over the last 18 months. At TI, we endeavored to stay connected with our members and promote connection among our members throughout the pandemic. Now *connection* has become a polestar as we welcome back our members to in-person services and programs. As your religious institution of choice, TI has a responsibility to satisfy that elemental human need to connect, and we continually look for opportunities to help our members do so.



Connect to what? For some, it might be to God and Torah. For others, to our shared traditions and heritage. For still others, to community, whether through communal worship, Sisterhood and Men's Club, youth and adult education programs, or social action. Here are some of the ways TI has tried to foster connection this summer.

TI returned to holding in-person indoor Shabbat morning services, beginning with the first Shabbat in July. After 15 months of Zooming, how delightful it was to see familiar (and perhaps not so familiar) faces in the flesh, to hear the rabbi and our Torah readers unmediated by computer speakers, and to share kiddush after services as we kibbitzed and caught up with friends old and new. I want to thank Rabbi Fine, David Millman and the Ritual Committee, and Bob Dworkin and the Kiddush Club for all their efforts to make our return to in-person Shabbat morning services warm, meaningful, and successful.

That spirit of community continued throughout July

A Message from Rabbi Leah Moser will return in the next issue

Ritual Roundup

Ah, football is starting up and baseball pennant races are heating up. There's honey to eat, sukkahs to build, and [soon] leaves to rake or blow. Welcome to 5782 and best wishes to all for a sweet and healthy year. We hope everyone found our modified High Holiday services enjoyable and meaningful.

Please join us for **Simchat Torah** as we close the book on *Devarim* and start anew with *Bereishit* (creation, flood, all your favorites). Celebrate, sing, dance, (imbibe), and cheer on our Chatan Torah and Bereishit honorees: **Henry Finke and Stacy Scott**.

We are most grateful to the members who graciously opened their homes to sponsor summer Sunday minyanim this year. Thank you to the **Schreibers, James Goldfarb and Alyson Yashar, the Leimans, and Stacey Scott**.



Please join us for these upcoming *simchas* and ritual events:

The rest of holiday season:

September 21-22: **Sukkot**
September 24: **Dinner in the sukkah**
September 27: **Hoshanah Rabah**
September 28: **Shmini Atzeret (plus Yizkor)**
September 29: **Simchat Torah: Chatan Torah/Bereishit honorees: Henry Finke and Stacey Scott**

After the holidays:

October 23: **Benjamin Wieselberg Bar Mitzvah**

Here is our weekly service schedule:

Friday Night 6:30 pm: **Kabbalat Shabbat services** (outside at TI, inside if bad weather)
Saturday Morning 9:00 am: **Shabbat morning services** in the sanctuary (Rabbi leads the Mishnah study)
Sunday Morning 9:30 am: **Minyan** (Muffins and Mishnah; outside at TI, inside if bad weather)

All services in the sanctuary are streamed live at the TI website.

On an ongoing basis, please feel free to sign up to do a *haftorah* reading, accessible online at: <http://signup.com/go/iVuOmDe> (contact David Millman with any questions: millman.david@gmail.com).

Dave Millman, Chair

MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome the following new members who have joined our TI community over the past several months:

Shayna Jennings

Tammy Lane

Annette and Andy Lieb

Please also welcome our new Gifted Members:

Arthur Aronov , Anastasiya Piskareva, and their children, Olivia and Jamie, Ridgewood

Robert and Charlotte Ayes and their newborn, Claire, Ridgewood

Stephanie and Gregory Blumenkranz and their children, Zachary and Sasha, Ridgewood

Naomi and Darren Coffin and their children Sadie and Ruby, Fair Lawn

Sabina Kirillov and Robert Fakheri and their son, Nathaniel, Paramus

Cori and Jeff Fernandez and their children, Remi and Raphael, Ridgewood

Caryn and Neil Friedman and their children, Mia and Benjamin, Ridgewood

Ben and Emily Gojman and their daughter, Eliana, Allendale

Avi and Einat Naveh and their children, Daniella and Nathaniel, Fair Lawn

Vanessa Meer and Marc Schreiber and their children, Evelyn and Willow, Ridgewood

Brian Tepper, Ridgewood

Jordanna and Ross McGraw and their son, Wilder, Ridgewood

On October 29, we invite members to enjoy the Bimah Band, Friday evening services, and a BBQ (outdoor, weather permitting). I hope to see everyone there.

Be sure to check out the photos from our August open house event on page 15 of this issue.

For our new members, you can easily find out about our educational and social programs in our weekly announcements, *Tidbits*, which is emailed to everyone, on our website: www.synagogue.org, and in *Temple Talk*. This year Rabbi Fine will be offering a course on antisemitism. Please feel free to not only attend but to invite your friends who might find the topic of interest.

Temple Israel is a vibrant community thanks to all of our volunteers. We look forward to welcoming you to our ranks. We invite and encourage you to get involved in TI's committees such as Tikkun Olam, Music, Youth, School, Sisterhood, and Men's Club. It's a great way to meet people and to share your talents.

Shana tova: wishing everyone blessings of good health and a sweet New Year.

Jo Rosen, Co-chair

Jay and Elissa Glucksman Hyne, Co-chairs



B'YACHAD

Greetings from B'yachad! For those of you who are unfamiliar, B'yachad is a young families group that aims to plan engaging and fun activities monthly for young families. We try to come up with a variety of events, often centered around the holidays, as well as adult nights out. Anyone is welcome to join us. It is free of charge and any questions can be directed to jenblanck@gmail.com.

B'yachad programming is off to a great start. We had our first July event at the Graydon Pool. The kids had fun playing in the pool while the parents got to relax and catch up. The Hynes family also hosted a young families pool party and barbeque in late August. We look forward to seeing families at the B'yachad sukkah potluck dinner at Temple Israel on September 25.

Jennifer Blanck Weitz, Chair



Sisterhood News

Upcoming Events

Sisterhood has several fun events planned for the fall.

Preparing the Break-Fast, Sunday, September 12, 10:00 am. Sisterhood traditionally prepares the kugels and other delicacies served at the community break-fast at the end of Yom Kippur. We're very happy to continue this annual event after last year's break. We'll be making the kugels on Sunday morning, September 12, in the TI kitchen. It's fun, and many hands make light work, so please join us if you can, even for a half hour or so. Rsvp to elasil@optonline.net.

Sisters in the Sukkah, Thursday, September 23, 7:30 pm. Join us to dance, schmooze, and snack in the sukkah. Rsvp to debbiecantor@optonline.net.

Judaica Night, Thursday, October 21, 7:30 pm. Bring a cherished item of Judaica and tell us about it. This will be an evening to connect with our traditions, whether new or old, and with each other. And of course there will be wine and chocolate. Rsvp to elasil@optonline.net.

Planned winter events include a paid-up membership dinner on December 1, Sisterhood Shabbat on January 15, and a genealogy lecture on Sunday, February 6. Your dues of \$36 for synagogue members or \$54 for non-members support all our events as well as our yearly donations to Temple Israel. Please join us!

The Annual Pool Party

Smoke from the wildfires in the West did not prevent us from enjoying a lovely evening at the home of Tricia and Howard Schreiber, who are always perfect hosts. It was wonderful to see so many old friends and new members. As always, there were wine and chocolate, lots of schmoozing, and even some swimming. It was wonderful to see everyone in person again!

The Annual Honey Sale

Many thanks are due to the unusually large number of families who gifted the entire congregation with sweetness for the High Holidays. Honey was delivered by a team of volunteers drawn from the entire TI community. We are very grateful to all of them, as well as to Debbie Cantor for organizing the delivery operation and David Millman for his strategic expertise.



Debbie Cantor, Co-president
Elaine Silverstein, Co-president



Is it fall already? The lawnmower is finally running smoothly, and now it's almost time to tune up the snowblower. But before we take that drastic step, fall is the busiest time of the year for the dedicated members of the Brandeis Men's Club.

First, a thank you to **David Millman, Hank Finke, Steve Ulin, and Kent Mackzum** for their exceptional grilling skills supporting the membership BBQ on August 1. The Membership Committee put together a fun-filled day with lots of hungry people.

With the High Holidays fast approaching, there are many opportunities for service and fun.

Service first:

- The sanctuary and tent chairs need to be set up.
- Ushers are needed for all services.
- The chairs need to be put away.
- The sukkah needs to be put up and then, of course, taken down.

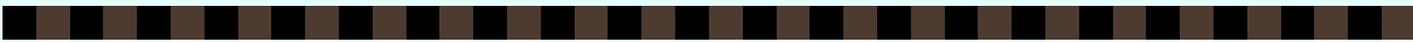
Fun (with a bit of service):

- Steak & Scotch in the Sukkah: September 26
- Hearing Men's Voices: November 7

If you would like to participate in any or all of these, please email MensClubEvents@synagogue.org. More details and specific invitations will follow as well.

Join us for our monthly meetings on September 14 and October 12. Watch your email for locations and details.

Evan Fleischmann, President



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 in need, including the poor and homeless. Additionally, we seek to raise awareness about important world and national issues. Our regular activities include providing meals for the homeless, collecting blood donations, and assisting neighbors.

The Tikkun Olam flyer on page 11 in this issue details upcoming activities, including the following speakers in September and October. Please save these dates:

Friday, September 24, 7:30 pm: Our speaker will be **Bergen County Commissioner Tracy Zur** bringing us up to date on the Bergen County Food Security Task Force. This program will take place after Kabbalat Shabbat services.

Monday, October 25, 8:00 pm: **Rachel Zoghlin, HIAS, Associate Director and National Pro Bono Technical Legal Advisor**, will speak on what's happening on the ground now for asylum seekers, what's going on for children and families, and what's being done to help. This program will be Zoomed, and the link will be sent separately.

Thanks to **Rabbi Gloria Rubin and Rabbi Fine** for securing these excellent speakers.

Bob Rohrberger and Annemarie Roscello, Co-Chairs

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.

NNJJA News



A Message from Jessica

Fall is in the air, and that means back to Hebrew school! We're glad to see so many new faces this year and to welcome back many familiar ones. There are still some spaces available, so if you know of any families looking for high quality Jewish education, look no further. We'd love to meet them.

We are excited to debut clear tefilah goals that families and students will be able to follow easily during their one-on-one sessions with teachers and volunteers on Wednesday afternoons. We've recorded each of the tefilot to match the goals, and families can visit our YouTube channel to help their children practice what they're learning.

There are some new faces on our teaching team this year. Please join us in welcoming Morah Suzie and Morah Naava. Morah Suzie is our music educator. You'll get to meet her at Shabbat School once a month, and she'll be working with our younger students on Sunday mornings once a month as well. Morah Suzie and her guitar are so much fun. It's going to be great.

Morah Naava will join us in our older grades as a Sunday teacher. Morah Naava has been teaching Hebrew school for many years in Chicago but just made the awesome move to northern New Jersey. She's an artist by trade and is super creative. We are sure it's going to be a great year with Morah Naava.

The first official day of NNJJA is Sunday, September 19. It's going to be a great year.

Jessica Spiegel, Director
jspiegel@synagogue.org
201-444-4149



YOUTH HAPPENINGS

FLIPPER USY

USY, which is for grades 9-12 nationally, will continue this year as grades 8-12 for FLIPPER USY. We have found this age grouping works well for our synagogue, especially with BCHSJS taking place in our synagogue.

Our first exciting event will be Sunday, September 26, from 1:00-2:30 pm at Temple Israel. We will have lunch in the sukkah and play some sports. This first event is free and all are welcome. Synagogue membership is not required, so please bring your friends! See our flyer on page 9 of this issue to learn more.

FLIPPER Kadima

Kadima, which is for grades 6-12 nationally, will continue this year as grades 5-7 for FLIPPER Kadima. As with USY, this age grouping works well for us.

Our first event will be Sunday, October 3, from 12:45-2:15 pm at the Fair Lawn Jewish Center. This event will include lunch and sports. This first event is free and all are welcome. Please bring your friends! Synagogue membership is not required. See our flyer of page 9 of this issue for more information.

We are part of Hagalil, so you may receive information from them about regional programming as well. If you have questions about USY, Kadima, Flipper or any event, please reach out to Marcia at edudirector@jccparamus.org or Robyn Berger, TI's Youth Committee chair, at Rnowes@gmail.com.

Robyn Berger, Chair



Musical Notes



Summer Music Memories and Honorable Menschens!

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who made our summer music programs so wonderful, including the congregants who attended the events. **The Infinite Lights Ensemble Concert** scheduled for July 25 was postponed due to weather challenges. Fortunately, we had many more opportunities to share the warmth of the season and the warmth of our shul through music.

Annette Lieb led the **NJ Wind Symphony Flute Ensemble**, which performed an outstanding concert and Shabbat prayers for our June 25 Shabbat Under the Summer Sky.

Marc Cantor (vocals and guitar) created and led our annual Name That Jew song contest for our July 23 Shabbat Under the Summer Sky. **Debbie Cantor** (vocals), **Artie Bressler** (woodwinds), **Michael Rosen** (vocals and guitar), **Wayne Miller** (djembe drum), and **Tamara Freeman** (violin) also shared their talents for the evening. Participants guessed the Jewish connections to fifteen different musical examples. *Congratulations to **Nanette Rosenbaum and Harlan Rosenthal** (see adjacent photo taken by **Jo Rosen**) for the most correct answers and to **Stacey Scott** for the funniest answers!* Here are the answers:



- *World Without Love*: Peter & Gordon, Peter Asher is Jewish (bonus points for knowing the song was written by Lennon and McCartney)
- *Loves Me Like A Rock*: Paul Simon, Jewish
- *Red Rubber Ball*: Cyrkle, Paul Simon co-writer
- *Killing Me Softly*: Roberta Flack, written by Gimbel, Fox, and Lieberman, all Jewish
- *Poor Poor Pitiful Me*: Linda Ronstadt, written by Warren Zevon, Jewish
- *On Wings of Song*: composed by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, grandson of Moses Mendelssohn
- *Erev Ba, Evening is Coming*: An Israeli folk song by A. Levanon and O. Avissar
- *Mazel Tov*: A traditional Jewish wedding song
- *Schon Rosmarin, Fair Rosmarin*: composed by Fritz Kreisler, born as a Jew, baptized at the age of 12
- *America (West Side Story)*: Leonard Bernstein, composer; Stephen Sondheim, lyricist; and Jerome Robbins, choreographer, all Jewish
- *The Girl from Ipanema*: Getz-Gilberto: Stan Getz and Normal Gimbel, who wrote the English lyrics, were both Jewish. The composer was Antonio Jobim and the singer was Astrud Gilberto.
- *Creeque Alley*: Mamas & Papas, three members were Jewish, bonus points for knowing Mama Cass was Naomi Cohen
- *My Back Pages*: Byrds, written by Bob Dylan
- *Save The Last Dance For Me*: Drifters, written by Lieber and Stoller, both Jewish
- *Rikki Don't Lose That Number*: Steely Dan: Becker and Fagen were both Jewish

Bimah Band

The Temple Israel's Bimah Band played for the July 16 and August 13 Shabbatot. Both services were held indoors due to inclement weather. The woodwinds could not play due to Covid restrictions and the indoor mask mandate. But we still thank and offer our y'shar kochechem to all of our musicians: **Anne Wolf** (flute), **Debbie Cantor** (flute), **Wayne Miller** (percussion), **Marc Cantor** (guitar), **Susan Kornblit** (guitar), **Artie Bressler** (woodwinds), and **Tamara Freeman** (violin). And special kudos to **Bonnie Kaplan** (keyboard and piano) for her shehechyanu performance in July.

Choir Rehearsals

The choir masked up and attended two inspiring rehearsals under the direction of maestro **Kenneth Corneille** who is a multi-talented musician: conductor, baritone, pianist, composer, and arranger. Ken shared his own arrangements of our new repertoire and encouraged us to sing our very best; thanks for his encouragement, kindness, and vast knowledge. These rehearsals were a morale booster-shot while we work our way through the pandemic. Tamara Freeman was the benefactor for the rehearsals.

Music at the August 1 Open House

Many thanks to our musicians who shared their talents and ruach at the open house: **Michael Rosen** (vocals and guitar) for leading a sing-along, and **Wayne Miller** (percussion), **Hank Bordowitz** (guitar), and **Iven Rothenberg** (guitar) for their jazz ensemble performance.

Music in 5782

See our Music Committer flyer on page 10 in this issue for the 5782 musical offerings that will sweeten your new year!

Debbie Cantor, Concert Chair
Tamara Freeman, D.M.A., Sacred Music Chair

Survey Says

Many thanks to those who participated in the recent **Temple Israel satisfaction survey**. Your input is extremely important and will help guide our short-term and long-term planning.

Here are some key highlights:

An overwhelming majority are satisfied with Temple Israel programs and services; not surprisingly our “warm and friendly” atmosphere and the rabbi were the two most important factors.

Approximately 80% of respondents would recommend Temple Israel.

Participation and satisfaction were highest for High Holiday Services and the Ways & Means event.

Almost all respondents gave very positive feedback on how well we managed Covid during the year.

There is a desire to have more cross-generational synagogue activities.

Connection to the synagogue is critical; we need to continue to be vigilant in ensuring our congregants feel valued and engaged.

We appreciate your feedback and wish you and your families a healthy and happy New Year.

Kiddush Club

On Yom Kippur, Rabbi Fine jokingly reminds us that the most important words in Judaism are *kiddush to follow*. Over the past eighteen months, we have all missed this special opportunity to commune with our fellow members—celebrating accomplishments, debating the news of the day, and sharing the bonds of community. In fact, we missed it so much that some of the Zoom participants took to sharing challah and a nosh virtually after services. Now, as we resume in-person services, kiddush is back on the table. Under current guidelines, kiddush will be held outdoors, and we are ordering a tent canopy to make sure we can continue this important ritual even during inclement weather.



As kiddush resumes, so too does the Kiddush Club. What is the Kiddush Club? The Kiddush Club raises funds, shops for food, and prepares the food in advance of Shabbat. **Please consider sponsoring a kiddush this year. For just \$144 per year, you can help to sanctify Shabbat and build the bonds of the Jewish community.** Of course, whatever donation you feel comfortable making, we will gladly accept it. The Kiddush Club is also looking for volunteers to help shop and prepare.



You also might consider sponsoring a kiddush to celebrate a special event in your life. Wedding anniversary? New grandchild? Milestone birthday? Bar/bat mitzvah anniversary? In honor of another member? Or how about the more whimsical: Met's playoff win, a career round in golf, or completing a marathon. Simply donate and allow the Kiddush Club to do our thing or cater something fun. Fried chicken? Organic vegetables and quinoa? Falafel and pita? Baked ziti?

Donations may be sent to the Temple office, care of Kiddush Club. To discuss available dates and menus for sponsoring a kiddush, please contact Maureen Nassan at office@synagogue.org or call the office. Thank you to everyone who has already sponsored a kiddush and in advance to those who will. We look forward to seeing everyone at Shabbat services: kiddush to follow.

Bob Dworkin, Chair

INVITING ALL OUR YOUTH

FLIPPER USY and KADIMA

USY – 8-12 grades

KADIMA 5-7 grades

FLIPPER chapter is sponsored by

*Fair Lawn Jewish Center/Congregation Bnai Israel
Jewish Community Center of Paramus/Congregation Beth Tikvah
Temple Israel Jewish Community Center Ridgewood.*

OPENING EVENTS

USY 8th-12th Grades

Sunday September 26th 1-2:30 pm

TEMPLE ISRAEL, 475 GROVE STREET, RIDGEWOOD.

LUNCH IN THE SUKKAH AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES

KADIMA 5th-7th Grades

Sunday October 3rd 12:45-2:15 pm

Fair Lawn Jewish Center, 10-10 Norma Avenue

LUNCH AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES

1st Event is FREE. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Kids **DO NOT** need to belong to a synagogue to join FLIPPER.

BRING YOUR JEWISH FRIENDS ALONG!

RSVP and questions:

Contact FLIPPER Advisor Marcia Kagedan, 201-815-8136

or edudirector@jccparamus.org

MUSIC AT TIJCC



Our music committee enhances the spiritual and communal life of the Shul. We sing and play religious music, and plan and run vibrant musical events.

Our welcoming eighteen-member committee includes music professionals, amateurs, and enthusiasts. Please join us!

Co- Presidents:

Tamara Freeman, DMA, Sacred Music Chair

Debra Cantor, Concert Chair

Save the Dates for upcoming events

Bimah Band Shabbats, Fridays- 9/10, 10/29, 11/19, 12/3, 1/14, 2/11, 3/11, 4/8, 5/6, 6/3

Open Mic- Sunday afternoon, 11/14- open to congregants of all ages!

Musical Concert- TBD-Saturday evening, 2/26

American-Israel Cultural Foundation (AICF) Concert- Sunday, 5/15

Shabbat Under the Summer Sky, Friday, 6/24

Infinite Lights Ensemble and the Flute Choir- dates TBD



TEMPLE ISRAEL &
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

FALL 2021 EVENTS

TIKKUN OLAM

LENA E.
NOW

Yom Kippur Food & Clothing Drive 9/15

Bring new and gently used items on September 15 for donation.

Shelf-stable food items for the Food Drive

Bergen County Food Insecurity Task Force Speaker: Commissioner Tracy Zur 9/24, 7:30 pm



Battling Food Insecurity Head On

Launched in July 2020, the Bergen County Food Security Task Force has been working to bring together key stakeholders to end hunger in Bergen County.

Since its launch, the Task Force has been hosting subcommittee meetings to discuss best practices for data collection, public and private outreach, and building lasting infrastructure so Bergen will be better equipped to meet the need of its residents.



Family Promise Meal

10/24 & 26
12/12 & 14

Sunday, October 24 and December 12 come and assist in preparing a meal for Family Promise of Bergen County

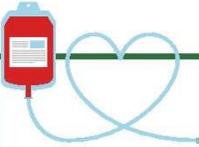
Times: TBA



HIAS Speaker: Rachel Zoghlin National Pro Bono Technical Legal Advisor at HIAS 10/25, 8:00 pm

Seeking Asylum

Ms. Zoghlin oversees HIAS's network of lawyers across the country and at the southern U.S. border providing representation to asylum seekers. She will speak on exactly what's happening on the ground now for asylum seekers, what's going on for children and families, and what's being done to help.



Blood Drive Sunday, November 7 Time: TBA

Anti-Gun Violence Speaker 12/11



Details forthcoming

For more information: contact Robert Rohrberger, rrohrberger@foxrothschild.com or Annemarie Roscello, ajroscello@gmail.com

opinion in the CJLS is six votes. While six votes out of twenty-five may seem a low bar, trust me, it is not! The CJLS often rejects papers that are brought forward, and its members will always seek to attract more votes to papers as the better voting record a paper receives the more it recommends itself to the Movement for implementation. The idea, though, is that six votes on the Law Committee represents a position with significant support that it can be recommended to rabbis and congregations throughout the Movement as an official—if not the exclusive—position of the Conservative movement.

My appointment to the Law Committee in the spring of 2020 was at a unique time. Covid-19 had forced the committee to meet over Zoom rather than in person. While that meant that there was good attendance at meetings, since people across the globe did not have to travel into New York City for the day, it also meant that meetings were shorter, more frequent, and more strictly business than an all-day meeting in Manhattan would be. Also, the vast majority of our discussions had to do with questions around religious practice during the Covid-19 pandemic. Can services be streamed on Shabbat? Can the megillah be read over Zoom? Can a wedding be celebrated in private and a year later again? How can the obligation to say Mourner's Kaddish be fulfilled during a time of quarantine? How do we shop for Passover products when supermarkets are understocked with specialty foods? The Law Committee worked to give guidance on these and many other questions as they arose since the onset of the pandemic. It was extraordinarily meaningful to be involved on the front lines of these policy discussions, formulating precedent during a time of no precedents.

Most recently, I contributed a paper to the CJLS that was approved by a vote of 12-6-1 (for some reason the Law Committee has always recorded abstentions) on the question of the "Zoom minyan." There was a spectrum of views on the Law Committee from just before I was appointed on the question of constituting a minyan over Zoom. Now, the question was whether this could still be done once synagogues were beginning to resume (no pun intended!) in-person services. My paper was approved along with another responsum that offered three options for Zoom minyan: (1) one could use Zoom for saying the Mourner's Kaddish but not for any other prayers that require a minyan, (2) one could use Zoom to form a minyan if there were only nine in person and therefore short one, and (3) one could use Zoom for all the prayers that require a minyan. I argued that yes, one could use Zoom for all the prayers that require a minyan when in a time of pressing need it is dangerous or too difficult to form a minyan in person. However, I argued that the convenience of forming a minyan over the internet did not constitute a pressing need to forego the traditional requirement of ten adult Jews in person. Everyone agreed that we should continue to offer services over Zoom or livestream so that those who cannot attend in person can still have the benefit of being present with the minyan on one's screen. The question was focused on whether there needs to be a minyan in person in one place, or can it be constituted virtually. Many have argued that the world has changed since the outbreak of Covid-19 where, today, legal quorums for

meetings can be met through virtual connection. My response to that was that just because the world has changed does not mean that all of the changes are for the better. My concern was, and is, the importance of coming together in person. Of course, if circumstances, whether Covid-related or other, make it unwise to meet in person then Zoom is always available. The following paragraph is lifted from the end of my paper:

"Beyond the halakhic arguments for or against an internet minyan, the most significant 'communal' concern is the potential harm to the nature of community. While our tradition teaches us that God is accessible through prayer in any place and any time, nevertheless we gather for prayer not in a 'house of God' but in a 'house of assembly' a bet kenesset. In an age of assimilation and waning Jewish identity, the institution of the synagogue plays a critical role in bringing Jews together. One does not need a minyan to pray. What one does need a minyan (and a synagogue) for is to meet other Jews and find community. Virtual extensions of synagogue services and programs should be utilized as useful tools, but never as a replacement for the meeting of each other panim el panim, face-to-face."

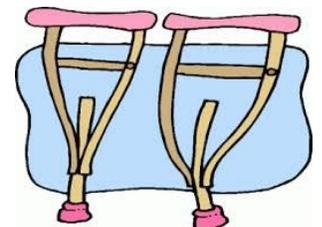
The CJLS approved my paper along with the three options of the opposing paper. Rabbi Joshua Heller, the author of the other paper, was my roommate for our first year of rabbinical school. We are good friends and both embraced the opportunity to engage with each other and others in this important discussion. Recently, Rabbi Heller and I co-taught a webinar (over Zoom!) to a hundred Conservative rabbis, sharing our differing approaches. Both his and my papers are available on the website of the Rabbinical Assembly, or I would be happy to send anyone the links.

The Law Committee will continue to address issues of Jewish law and practice as new questions are always arising. I am particularly grateful for the receptive and helpful comments I received at a Shabbat morning discussion at Temple Israel as I was working on my Zoom minyan paper. The opportunity to experience real authentic Judaism in our community has enriched not only me and you but also the wider Conservative movement through my participation in the deliberations of the CJLS.



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.**



and into August. Our Bimah Band returned indoors to accompany Rabbi Fine and enhance our Friday evening service with beautiful melodies. A breathtaking concert by the Flute Ensemble of the New Jersey Wind Symphony set a warm, sonorous tone for Shabbat on a warm July evening. And after a summer's hiatus, TI members once again opened their homes to host Sunday morning minyanim. I want to thank Tamara Freeman and the Music Committee, members Annette and Andy Lieb, and our minyanim hosts, Tricia and Howard Schreiber, Jennifer and Scott Leiman, and Stacey Scott. We also were delighted to welcome into our community J.J. Mackzum, who became a bar mitzvah in August. I want to thank J.J.'s parents, Amanda and Kent, for a rare and welcomed summer bar mitzvah at TI and for the beautiful kiddush celebration of J.J.'s milestone.

Speaking of celebrations, you could not beat our summer parties. These included the Sisterhood and Men's Club pool parties—thank you Tricia and Howard Schreiber—as well as our annual members' party, which doubled as an open house to welcome new and prospective members. What a complete success. Our parking lot was filled with the buzz of conversation among the adults, and with the shouts of children enjoying the inflatable waterslide and makeshift gaga pit. A decade beyond my (first pass) stroller and diaper days, I was struck by the number of young families not only checking us out but connecting with other young families. And it all happened at TI thanks to the hard work of Brian Della Torre, Jo Rosen, Jay and Elissa Hyne, Scott Leiman, Jennifer Blanck Weitz and B'yachad, Evan Fleischmann and the Men's Club, and Wayne Miller. And if you have not seen the sure-to-go-viral video of a certain rabbi and the waterslide Well, words cannot do it justice. But your Ways & Means auction bid can

Like college, we cannot party all the time at TI. Our adult education lecture series continued throughout the summer, and included presentations on Covid, antisemitism, social justice, and spirituality (to be clear, these were separate programs). Adult education continues in the fall, anchored by Rabbi Fine's Tuesday evening class, *History of Antisemitism*. I want to thank our member and non-member lecturers, and especially Bob Smolen, our Adult Education chair, whose creativity and commitment to organizing this inspiring and informative series has done so much to help us connect at TI this year.

As the High Holidays approach, I am struck by how *teshuvah*, *tefillah*, and *tzedakah* intersect with connection. Teshuvah, commonly translated as *repentance* perhaps is better understood as *returning*, as in, returning to God and mitzvot. Tefillah, commonly translated as *prayer* and *petitioning*, perhaps is better understood as way to draw closer to God. Tzedakah, commonly translated as *charity* or *good deeds*, perhaps is better understood as doing what is right and just." This September, we will return to Temple Israel to worship and learn together, drawing closer as a community as we seek to draw closer to God.

I hope to see you at our High Holiday services (or, for those livestreaming services, to be seen by you). I look forward to sharing a meal with you in the TI sukkah, honoring our Chatan Torah Hank Finke and our Chatan Bereishit Stacey Scott at Simchat Torah, to hearing our Hebrew School and Hebrew high school students fill our halls with the sounds of

socializing and learning, and to welcoming you to indoor adult education classes and lectures, as the circumstances allow. You can choose to connect with (or at) Temple Israel in a myriad of ways. Have we overlooked a way that would be meaningful for you? Please let me know, and we will strive to fill that void. Meantime, Alyson joins me in wishing you a happy and, especially, healthy New Year.

James Goldfarb, 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

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Patron's Circle

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Sisterhood of Temple Israel
Bonita & David Weiss
Jen Blanck & Evan Weitz

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

Highlights from the August Temple Israel Open House

All photos courtesy of Jo Rosen Photography





**TEMPLE
ISRAEL**

and Jewish Community Center

**475 Grove Street
Ridgewood, NJ 07450**

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A Musical Scene from Shabbat Under the Summer Sky (courtesy of Jo Rosen Photography)