



Temple Talk

News you can use from the TI-JCC community

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Teaching Police Officers About Spiritual Resistance

I was recently sworn in as a chaplain with the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office. One of the tasks that has been asked of me is to give a half-hour lecture to police officers about *spiritual resistance*. The state attorney general's office has required all police departments in New Jersey to incorporate resiliency training as a mandatory component of service, and the implementation of the program is coordinated by the prosecutors' offices in each county.



Resiliency is the term used to describe training to handle the crises, traumas, and ongoing stress that have had such a negative effect on the lives (and families) of those who chose to serve society as law enforcement officers. In fact, more police officers lose their lives by suicide than by other injuries in the line of duty. The prosecutor's office has taken on the task of going through the state-approved resilience course with all police officers in the county. Spiritual resilience is one component of the resiliency training, and I will have already given my half-hour talk four times by the end of 2021, and I know I will do so a number of times in the new year, each time to a group of about fifty police officers from across the county.

What is spiritual resistance? In order to explain that I first talk about what *spirituality* is, which means so many different things to so many people. Spirituality, as I teach it, means looking above the level of the material to the ideas, values, and meaning behind what we do and who we are. Because I am teaching in a government program I must, of course, stay clear of establishment of religion. That constitutional requirement permits me to get to the core of what spirituality is, understanding it anthropologically as the process of making sense of who we are. Spirituality serves as a means of resilience when we practice *spiritual discipline*, which means a ritual that helps ground us and fortify us in the face of adversity. Spiritual discipline is what anthropologists call *ritual*. That is something that all religious traditions offer, but something that everyone can find meaning

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A MESSAGE FROM RABBI LEIAH MOSER

For a little more than a year now RCBI has been hosting a program on Sunday afternoons that I call a davening workshop. The purpose of this class has been to give folks an opportunity to take a closer look at the prayerbook—to learn about how the Jewish prayer service is structured and to examine the text of the prayers in more detail than would ordinarily be possible during a Shabbat service, where in the interest of time we generally move at a fairly rapid pace without taking the time to dwell on the prayers in any detail.



Rabbi Shimon is reported to have said, "Be very careful in reciting the *Shema* and the *Tefilah*, and when you pray do not make your prayer fixed but rather a pleading for mercy before God." (Pirkei Avot 2:13). As valuable as these words are, it isn't easy sometimes to pray with complete *kavanah* (focused intention), bound as we are by all kinds of constraints on our time and energy. Whenever we can, however, it is always worthwhile to take a moment to consider a little more deeply what meaning the words of the prayers have for us.

As a case in point, I was struck recently by the second verse of *Yedid Nefesh*, the one that goes:

*Glorious and fine, brightness of the world, my soul is sick with your love
Please, God, please, heal her, please by showing her your pleasant radiance
Then she will grow stronger, and she will be healed, and there will be for her eternal joy*

There is something so evocative about the idea of being "sick with love" as applied to the Holy Blessed One. Ordinarily we tend to think of lovesickness as a condition caused by the absence of the beloved one, but how can we say that this is so of God, concerning whom scripture declares, "The whole earth is filled with God's glory" (Isaiah 6:3)? Rather, this sickness is that of a soul overwhelmed with the unbearable *presence* of God's love, a love which stirs within us a

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President's Column



Connection, an orienting theme at Temple Israel this year, was driven home for me in a deeply personal way at the end of 2021. As many of you know, my mother, Lynn Goldfarb, passed away in December. The cause of death was brain cancer, which was diagnosed in mid-October. In the brief time left, I shuttled between New Jersey and Portland, Maine, my hometown, to be with Mother, and to help my father and sister care for her. My connection to—and the support from—the Temple Israel community sustained me throughout this tough time.

I was at the temple on a Friday evening in October when I received a call from my sister to come to Portland because she and my father needed another set of hands earlier than expected. I shared my family's situation with our Executive Committee at Shabbat services the next morning. I remember the warm embrace of one member, and her caring questions and how she helped me connect with what I was experiencing and begin to process it. I remember the kind offers to help with anything Alyson and I might need at home. I remember the comforting assurances that the Temple's business would be attended to.

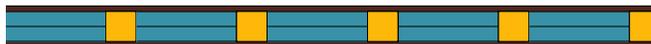
Over the next seven weeks, the Temple Israel community provided invaluable support. Rabbi Fine and I meet weekly to discuss Temple business. But when we met the past two months, he was a shoulder to lean on, as well. As my mother's time approached, Rabbi Fine offered thoughtful, practical guidance for preparing for her passing and funeral, and for sitting shiva. His sensitivity and surehandedness, which I had always appreciated professionally, took on a new dimension personally. Another point of connection.

As president, I speak frequently with my fellow trustees, especially Executive Committee members, and Maureen Nassan, to manage the temple's business and handle opportunities and obstacles that arise between our monthly meetings. During the past two months, however, I was unable to connect as often or as deeply as I wanted to. Everyone on the executive team stepped up to ensure that nothing fell through the cracks. I want to especially thank Brian Della Torre and Howard Schreiber. Taking on more than they bargained for, and certainly more than is reasonable to ask of volunteers, they, the rabbi, and Maureen reached out to me as needed, respecting the precious time my family had remaining.

When I returned from Portland to sit shiva with Alyson at home in New Jersey, the outpouring of love and support from the Temple community was overwhelming. As a 17-year member of TI, I have made shiva calls to members and witnessed the care shown to those at their most vulnerable. But not until I sat shiva myself, did I truly appreciate how enveloping and comforting our community is. I was particularly touched because Alyson and I did not grow up here. Yet in our time of distress and sorrow, we were embraced as a son and daughter of the community. We are inexpressibly grateful.

Do other temples connect with their members in the same way? Of course. But I hope you are not surprised to learn how often newcomers tell us that we are a warmer, more welcoming community than other congregations they have visited. It is TI's calling card, a connection that cannot be underestimated.

As we welcome the (secular) new year, we will have an opportunity to put those words into action under decidedly happier circumstances. As I wrote to you at the end of December, Temple Beth Sholom of Pascack Valley is writing a new chapter in their rich history. Though in draft form, that chapter looks to involve Temple Israel. Some characters still need to be filled out, some subplots more fully realized. Meantime, we are delighted to welcome TBS members to join in services and participate in our programs and events. So if you see a new face, please introduce yourself and help forge new connections. The warm embrace from the TI community that sustained me through these past few months is the same one that will encourage our TBS friends to fully connect with and at TI, and help sustain our treasured community for years to come.



B'yachad

B'yachad is a young family group that aims to get together monthly for social, family-friendly events, mainly centered around the holidays. Our last get together was a success! We had our annual latkefest outside at Temple Israel. Members brought festive latkes such as dessert latkes, Polynesian latkes, and more. It was a great way to connect with friends and meet new families. I had so much fun I forgot to take pictures. I am so sorry! Our next event is scheduled for Sunday January 23. Time and location TBD. If you would like to be included on our mailing list, please feel free to reach out at Jenblanck@gmail.com.

Jennifer Blanck Weitz, Chair



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.**



RITUAL ROUNDUP

Ah, the latkes were eaten and the dreidels were spun. Now our menorahs are packed away and we're cruising through the winter months on the long road to Purim (coming up in the leap month of Adar II).

In the Torah we're early in Shemot working through the stories popularized in the Pesach hagadah: slavery, plagues, escape from Egypt, crossing the Red Sea, Golden Calf, and a long haul in the desert. In the Saturday/Sunday mishnah study, we're deep in the details of the layout and activities of the second Temple.

Thanks to everyone who supported the daily menorah lighting in downtown Ridgewood.

Please join us for these upcoming simchas and ritual events:

<i>Monday, January 17</i>	Tu Bishvat (Jewish Arbor Day)
<i>Saturday, February 5</i>	School Shabbat
<i>Sunday, February 13</i>	World Wide Wrap (join us to learn about and put on tefillin)



Here is our weekly service schedule:

<i>Friday Night, 6:30 pm</i>	Kabbalat Shabbat services, followed by oneg
<i>Saturday Morning, 9:00 am</i>	Shabbat morning services—Muffins and Mishnah at the start, kiddush following services
<i>Sunday Morning, 9:30 am</i>	Minyan (Muffins and Mishnah)

All services in the sanctuary are streamed live at the TI website:
<https://www.synagogue.org/about-us/members-only-area>

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

Dave Millman, Chair

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.

MEMBERSHIP

With the turn of the calendar, we are thrilled that members of Temple Beth Sholom of Pascack Valley will join us at services and take part in our programs and events, celebrations, and milestones. As our congregations continue to explore a common future, we are excited about what those initial steps might signify. The following is by way of introduction, to orient our friends from TBS.

Temple Israel and Jewish Community Center is more than an egalitarian Conservative synagogue. It is a warm, welcoming, and energetic community, with a core of volunteers that help members connect with the community and one another. Much of the business of the temple and our programming is run principally through an array of committees that appeal to all manner of interests and tastes. To list a few:

The **Adult Education Committee** programs lectures and classes on a range of topics of interest to TI members, from Jewish history and culture to Jewish-American identity and current affairs. Rabbi Fine, who has a PhD in European History from The City University of New York, prepares a lecture series each year. This year, the topic is the history of antisemitism. It meets on various Monday evenings on-line through May.

Sisterhood and **Brandeis Men's Club** sponsor social outings, service events, and fundraising. Sisterhood organizes an annual progressive dinner and a Rosh Hashanah honey sale; operates our on-site gift shop; sponsors a book club; and prepares TI's break-fast. BMC organizes hikes, golf outings, Steak & Scotch in the Sukkah, and the annual cemetery clean up, in addition to providing High Holiday ushers. Each club sponsors one Shabbat annually.

The **Music Committee** sponsors concerts, Open Mic nights, and Shabbat under the Summer Sky. Members of the congregation make up our bimah band (formally, the Israe'Lites) and accompany Rabbi Fine during Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday evenings monthly. Covid permitting, our choir adds meaningful music to our High Holiday services and annual Yom Ha Shoah Holocaust Remembrance service.

Tikkun Olam (Repair the world) organizes blood drives, meal preparation for feeding the homeless, environmental and climate change awareness programs, and other social awareness and social action initiatives.

The **Ways and Means Committee** organizes TI's annual fundraising dinner. Typically planned for the late winter, the event honors a member of the TI or broader community and includes a silent auction, entertainment, and an ad journal campaign.

The **Israel Action Committee** sponsors programs focused on the State of Israel and its relationships with the US and other countries. The committee also hosts TI's annual Yom Ha'atzma'ut (Israel Independence Day) party.

The **Ritual Committee** oversees our services and holidays; arranges for lay leaders to leyn Torah, chant haftarah, and help lead our services; and works with Rabbi Fine to establish halachic standards for our congregation.

Kiddush Club meets at the Temple each Friday to prepare the Shabbat kiddush luncheon.

The **House Committee** is responsible for the upkeep of our beautiful building. The **Security Committee** is responsible for the safety of members and guests when using the building. The **Technology Committee** helps manage TI's information technology, as well as its audio and visual resources, an area of immeasurable value, particularly since March 2020.

Reconstructionist Congregation B'nai Israel (RCBI) shares space with TI, conducts its services in the upstairs chapel, and joins with TI for kiddush on Shabbat mornings. RCBI also offers adult education programs led by Rabbi Leah Moser. RCBI welcomes TBS members.

In sum, TI offers opportunities to connect with Judaism and the community in a way that is meaningful to each individual. Please consider joining a committee (or two) to get to know TI by being active in what brings you joy and passion. We look forward to fresh faces and new ideas.

So how do you find out about all that is going on? Weekly announcements are e-mailed each Friday afternoon to highlight events for the upcoming week and coming attractions. Our website—www.synagogue.org—is another source of information for services and programs, committees, and community events. You also can find recorded lecture series and programs there.

We invite you to attend services and programs and to get involved. Please feel free to call us, the co-chairs of membership, at 201-805-3989, with questions or to call our temple office and speak with Maureen Nassan, our synagogue administrator with any questions you might have.

Connecting with each other will build our community and make us strong and vibrant.

*Jo Rosen, Co-Chair
Jay and Elissa Glucksman Hyne, Co-Chairs*

MUSICAL NOTES



Zoom Open Mic on November 14

Marc Cantor delighted us, once again, as our charming and talented master of ceremonies for the annual Open Mic. This year's format allowed performers to gather in each other's homes while the program was delivered on Zoom. Many thanks to Marc and to the wonderful performers:

- *The Four-skins*: Wayne Miller (percussion), Iven Rothenberg (guitar), Hank Bordowitz (guitar), and Larry Solomon (vocals) from Temple Haverim Shir Shalom
- Michael Rosen (guitar) and Artie Bressler (woodwinds)
- Wayne Miller, spoken word
- Annette Lieb (flutes) playing with the NJ Wind Symphony Flute Choir
- Marc Cantor (guitar and vocals) and Debbie Cantor (vocals)
- Bob Dworkin (guitar)
- Allan Weissman (guitar and vocals)

Save the Dates

Temple Israe'lights Bimah Band

Our instrumentalists will add ruach for these upcoming Friday night services: January 14, March 11, April 8, May 6, and June 3.

May 15, 2022: America Israel Cultural Foundation Afternoon Concert, generously sponsored by Richard Schnaittacher

June 24, 2022: Shabbat Under the Summer Sky featuring the NJ Wind Symphony Flute Choir with our own Annette Lieb (flute and piccolo), weather permitting

June 12, 2022: Jazz concert featuring Mark Brandenburg (guitar) and Dale Healey (vocals)

Debbie Cantor, Concert Chair

Tamara Freeman, DMA, Sacred Music Chair

NNJJA News



A Message from Jessica

One of the best parts about Judaism is the focus on community. We Jews like being together so much that we even have rules around praying together in a minyan. It's genius really. It's a way we can check in with people, know that they're okay, and offer that extra bit of support for mourners. I have always found this rule to be a wise one, but now, after the lonely year we have all just experienced, it especially resonates.

Much of our focus in NNJJA this year has been about nurturing our community: parents and students. We have paid special mind to finding ways to be together, especially since our Wednesday learning has changed from an in-person model to an online one.

This is one of the reasons behind Shabbat School this year. It has been an incredible way to interact as a whole community. Sure, our students are watching the choreography of the service and hearing the tefilot that they're working on in action. That's important. Just as important though are the moms hanging out in the back of the kids' learning sessions having fond memories of when they went to synagogue as kids and hung out with their friends in the bathroom instead of services and the littlest community members playing with building blocks and racecars in the back of the sanctuary. They're hearing the tunes and absorbing everything. We missed this time last year to sit around and create friendships. If you have not made it to a Shabbat school yet, you should definitely put it on your calendar! It's so heartwarming. The next dates are January 8, February 5, March 5, April 2, and May 7.

Focus on community made it so easy to say yes when Temple Avodat Shalom invited us to their community Hanukkah celebration this year. Sure, we are a NNJJA community imbedded in a TI community, but the Jewish community in Bergen County is big and has so many parts. Doing things together was a no-brainer. There is power in numbers and building the world's largest menorah together put that into perspective. It was awesome! Each small group built a square that was 10 lego pieces high by 10 long, and then the architect put them all together to make a 9-foot menorah that we lit together for the seventh day of Hanukkah. We loved being part of this celebration and cannot wait to welcome back the Avodat Shalom folks for Purim.

Jessica Spiegel, Director

jspiegel@synagogue.org

201-444-4149

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

USY and Kadima have had a great start to the year. The first events for each were in the sukkah. There was basketball, for both USY and Kadima, a trivia contest, bowling for USY, and lots of fun and friends.

But wait: There is still a lot more to come in the 2022 calendar year! Kadima will go bowling. It's only fair since USY did that already.

There are rumors of a joint chocolate seder, so stay tuned. Check out this picture (and another one on the back cover) of the teens having fun and learning too. If you have any questions or want to join the mailing list please email Robyn at Rnowes@gmail.com.

Robyn Berger, Chair



Sisterhood News

Upcoming Events

Sisterhood has many fun events planned for the winter and spring, including Sisterhood Shabbat. Please join us! Dues are \$36 per year for synagogue members (first year free), \$54 for non-members. Your money goes right back to the synagogue in the form of Circle of Honor membership, gifts, and events.

Sisterhood Shabbat. This day is particularly special to those of us who grew up in a time when women could not take part in services, and we're happy to say that our beloved tradition is back. Expect a call soon asking you take part. Many short parts are available in English as well as in Hebrew. The celebration continues with a catered kiddush. Due to covid, this event has been rescheduled from January 15 to a future date in March.

Other planned events include a *genealogy lecture on Sunday, February 6*; the *Progressive Dinner on Saturday night, March 26*; and a springtime *craft event on Sunday, May 1*. Please join us, and please feel free to contact us with ideas for future events!

Past Events

Judaica Night. This event, a new idea for us suggested by Debbie Cantor, was a great success. The highlight was a huge Megillah scroll brought by Sharon Mosenkis, an heirloom in Dan's family. Wine and chocolate were enjoyed by all. Sisterhood vice-president and former president Sue Hill was moved to write this about Judaica Night:

On Thursday evening October 21, Sisterhood held a meeting to look at special Judaica from some of our members. We were few in number, but shared some wonderful history and family experiences. We each brought a special item to tell a brief story about (show and tell), whether the heirloom was from long ago or more recent.

It sounds a little hokey, but we found a lot of commonalities. Beautiful candlesticks, from this century and earlier, a hand-embroidered Passover plate cover from Russia, an artistic handmade Megilla, a brass mortar and pestle that was heavy enough to be classified as a weapon, and my Star of David necklace that many have asked me about.

After our presentations, we sat and talked about how each of our families had come to be in the United States. Many of the stories were similar, given the time period, but the details of each were remarkable and gave us pause.

This "little" event gave me hope for the future of Sisterhood. I had been president many years ago, and it was not the best experience. However, last night's conversations made me feel a true sisterhood bond to these women who shared their stories. Please consider attending any of the upcoming events and get to know your sisters.

Paid Up Membership Dinner and Hanukkah Party. On December 1, twenty-one women, both long-time and brand-new members, gathered at Elaine Silverstein's house to eat delicious Israeli food (from Perfect Pita in Fairlawn) but mostly just to enjoy being together. At this event, we revived a long-standing Sisterhood tradition of collecting gifts for the Center for Hope and Safety in Rochelle Park, a shelter for women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

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



Gifts from Sisterhood members to the Center for Hope and Safety.

Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs



Northern New Jersey Region



David Glass, NNJR President; Ariel Fine, Youth of the Year; Scott Baslaw, Man of the Year; David Julis, NNJR Executive Vice President

CELEBRATING TOGETHER

Once a year, the member clubs of the Northern New Jersey Region (NNJR) of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs gather to celebrate one man and one youth who exemplify the meaning of being an integral part of the larger Jewish community. It is an honor to witness the camaraderie and genuine affection that fills the room as each of the honorees takes his place on the bima to accept his award.

Scott Baslaw, our Man of the Year, was the driving force behind our wonderful and successful Night at the Opera fundraising event. He also created and sustained the Tuesday Night Zoom minyan to keep us all connected during trying times. BMC is grateful for Scott's calm and ambitious leadership.

As if Ariel's Fine's shofar talent wasn't enough to earn the title of Youth of the Year, Ariel has the respect of his peers and the adults around him. His quiet leadership and gentle strength that we all know so well will continue to serve him and all those who meet him.

Evan Fleischmann, President

Brandeis Men's Club



UPCOMING EVENTS

Trivia Night Fundraiser

January 29, 2022

Monthly Meetings

January 11, 2022

February 8, 2022

March 8, 2022

NNJR Leadership Development Institute

January 16, 2022

World Wide Wrap

February 13, 2022

Learn to wrap tefillin

Men's Club Shabbat

June 25, 2022

MoY/YoY Brunch

June 26, 2022

Sea Scouting

Sea Scout Ship 1908, *Rising Phoenix*, would like to thank Temple Israel for temporarily housing its newest acquisition, a 1969 Morgan 24 sailboat. This will offer an opportunity for program youth to renovate and operate a sailboat under adult supervision.

Sea Scouting is a coed boating program for those 13–21 years of age, designed to teach leadership and responsibility. The Sea Scouts started in 1912. While it has changed over the years, it continues to uphold the traditions of the sea under the auspices of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

Sea Scouting includes a rigorous advancement program that leads our youth through the skills necessary to be very competent sailors and mature leaders. In fact, recipients of the Quartermaster Award, Sea Scouting's highest rank, can qualify for a higher entry enlisted rank and pay scale if they later join the US Navy or US Coast Guard. The Quartermaster rank is equivalent to the Boy Scout's Eagle Scout but is less well known due to the smaller number of Sea Scout ships. Ship 1908 has the highest rate of Quartermaster recipients over the last ten years in the Northern New Jersey area.

Ship 1908 was started by the late Skipper Jean M. Tarantino as a place for all youth to feel welcome in the scouting program regardless of their background. It has become a place where Sea Scouts get a second family of people who are invested in their development both in the scouting program and outside of it. That legacy has continued as the ship's program has been led by three generations of the Tarantino family.

The current chairman of the committee is Marc A. Tarantino who has served in various positions throughout New Jersey. He has seen scouting service on land, air and sea. He recently received the Silver Beaver Award, which is the highest award bestowed on a scouter by the local scout council. He is a great resource in training youth in time management, mentoring, and service.

Our skipper is David N. Tarantino, who is the third generation to serve as skipper. He grew up in the ship, attaining the ranks of Eagle Scout and Quartermaster. He has served at the local, area, regional, national, and international levels of scouting. He has been a leader in bringing scouting to inner-city and low-income areas. He has been recognized for his service by the scout associations of England, Italy, and the United States. Skipper is known for his skills in training youth in ceremonies and traditions, lifeguard training, and marlinspike seamanship. He is sought after around the country for Seabadge Training, the highest level of training for Sea Scout adults. He is also a staff member of the Sea Scout SEAL Training for youth, which is the preeminent youth training in the Boy Scouts of America.

Max Rothschild now joins a select group of Sea Scouts who have earned all three leadership awards of Eagle Scout, Summit, and Quartermaster! He did this all while serving as the National Sea Scout Yeoman and as the youth leader for Ship 1908. His parents, Laura and Alex, are currently BSA Ship Committee on Ship 1908 and Council Sea Scout committee members-at-large.

Once again, thank you to Temple Israel for housing the boat, and we would welcome anyone who is interested in finding out more about the program to contact Alex Rothschild through the synagogue.

Alex Rothschild

*Sea Scout Ship 1908 Rising Phoenix' 1969
Morgan 24 Sailboat*



Tikkun Olam

The Tikkun Olam Committee consists of members of TI and RCBI who work together to try to repair the world. Our efforts focus on helping people in our community who are poor or homeless and on raising awareness about important national issues. This spring, look for announcements of upcoming events, some new and some rescheduled from fall 2021.

On Monday, October 25, the Tikkun Olam Committee hosted Rachel Zoghlin, Esq., from HIAS. Zoghlin spoke on the status of asylum seekers and refugees on the US-Mexico border. The presentation was well attended, and we learned of the devastating impact of politics on asylum seekers. Thank you Gloria Lieberstein for putting this lecture together.

The following day, Tuesday, October 26 Nadine Genet organized dinner for 150 people at Family Promise of Bergen County. Dinner was also distributed on Tuesday, December 14. Family Promise of Bergen County has fed those in need for thirty years without missing a single day. Volunteers are always appreciated for the Walk-in Dinner Program at Family Promise. More information can be found on their webpage:

<https://www.bergenfamilypromise.org/walk-in-dinner-program/>.



Bob Rohrberger and Annemarie Roscello, Co-chairs

Hanukkah Party

Temple Israel celebrated Hanukkah with a fun-filled night of fire pits, latkes, falafel, glow sticks, face painting, donuts, and GaGa. Special thanks to Caryn Friedman for organizing the event, Sue Hill for cooking, Pam Grant for face painting, and David Millman for manning the fire pits. This event was underwritten by the Puritz Endowment Fund.



Brian Della Torre



Kiddush Club



Come to Shabbat Services, Stay for the Kiddush that Follows

It is probably still fresh in our minds that for more than a year our Shabbat services were held virtually via Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions. After a long hiatus, we were allowed back in the sanctuary (masked) for services and once again able to serve a prepared kiddush lunch during the summer and fall, albeit outdoors, weather-permitting.

As restrictions eased due to congregants taking advantage of Covid-19 vaccines, we were able to move our kiddush indoors, giving us the sense of approaching more normal times, even though we were limited to about twenty-five people. Wearing face coverings is still required throughout the temple interior, except when eating. For those who still don't feel comfortable eating in the social hall with nonfamily members, we have take-out containers available.

Last November, the newly created Shabbat School proved wildly successful, judging by the more than seventy NNJJA children, parents, and congregants attending services and participating in Hebrew school Shabbat learning activities. This was followed by an elaborate, NNJJA parent-sponsored kiddush lunch. In December the School Shabbat kiddush was co-sponsored by NNJJA and by Leeor Wieselberg and Ziva Davidovich in honor of their daughter, Danielle, going to Israel to serve in the military. Due to the large number of attendees, each of these kiddushim were held outdoors in either the parking lot or on the patio.

As we take our first or last bites of our kiddush lunch, let us appreciate the temple members who have contributed to the Kiddush Club, thus allowing us to enjoy breaking bread together; socializing; catching up with our fellow members (new and old), friends and clergy; and strengthening our bonds as a Jewish community.

Evelyn Auerbach; Abe Davis & Linda Schenker; Henry Finke; Evan Fleischmann & Annemarie Roscello; Barry & Tamara Freeman; James Goldfarb & Alyson Yashar; Emanuel & Shari Haber; Helen Katz; Joseph & Susan Landau; Wayne Miller & Debbie Mitzner-Miller; David Millman; Robert Obeiter & Rita Benzra-Obeiter; Reconstructionist Congregation Beth Israel (RCBI); Michael & Johanna Rosen; Harlan Rosenthal & Nanette Rosenbaum; Seth Schran & Alicia Orellana; Sisterhood; Robert Smolen & Barbara Schneider; and Cindy Zirkin. Thanks also to Howard Schreiber for his donations of high quality tuna fish and other foods.

In addition to donors, Kiddush Club has volunteers who thoughtfully and carefully purchase food prior to Shabbat and other volunteers who prepare the food, thus saving a lot of money compared to paying for a catered kiddush. On alternate weeks Bob Smolen and I buy the food. Stacey Scott, Tova Samuels, Annemarie Roscello, Elaine Silverstein, and Judy Baslaw are frequently found in the kitchen Friday mornings helping me prepare the kiddush lunch. All of us feel this is a fun and satisfying way to do a mitzvah. Let me know if you would like to occasionally buy food or join us for an hour or two.

Would you like to sponsor a kiddush lunch to commemorate a special occasion, like an anniversary, bar or bat mitzvah, or birthday.? Would you care to join the Kiddush Club by making a once-a-year donation? While the suggested donation is \$144 for families and about half that for singles, any amount you can afford will be gratefully received, truly appreciated, and put to good use. Simply contact Maureen Nassan in the temple office. In any event, come to Shabbat services and stay for the kiddush that follows!

Contact me with your comments or questions at kiddushclub@synagogue.org.

Bob Dworkin, Chair



Rabbi Fine, cont'd from p. 1

in whatever meaning structure they point to.

The resilience curriculum recommends a spiritual mantra and I share in my talks, as an example, the *Modeh Ani* prayer that I repeat every morning when I wake up, essentially saying, "Thank you God for putting breath into my life for another day." I talk about the importance of focusing on our blessings, and especially on the good works we may have performed in helping other people. I share the basic definition of religion and ritual that I was taught in rabbinical school (but which was actually articulated by the anthropologist Clifford Geertz) that religions seek to make order out of chaos. Police officers, more than any other people, are most aware of the chaos that can be found everywhere. Their role is to turn some of that chaos into order, which is, in an anthropological sense, a sacred function.

When you are giving a lecture you never know what exactly is being heard and understood. At times I see the facial expressions indicating an "Oh, that makes sense," or "Interesting!" or better yet, "That is really helpful for me." When that happens, I really hope they remember the introduction the prosecutor gives me before the talk, that Rabbi Fine is the rabbi of Temple Israel and Jewish Community Center in Ridgewood.

Rabbi Leah, cont'd from p. 1

boundless compassion for our fellow creatures, every one a bearer of the divine image.

But compassion is not under any circumstances an easy emotion to cope with. Filled with compassion, the heart aches to witness the sorrow and suffering that fill the world, until it seems in danger of breaking beyond repair. Caught up like this, the instinct may be to turn away, to deaden ourselves to the troubles of the world. To do so, however, would be to repudiate the very experience of holiness which calls us to compassion. The alternative, as suggested by the verse's second line, is to turn *toward* holiness, to seek healing in the very thing which caused the soul's sickness in the first place. What compassion has broken, compassion can heal. We are rebuilt anew by compassion, transformed by it. Thus, the heart's brokenness is revealed as yet another opportunity to grow.

L'shalom.

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Teens enjoying an afternoon in the sukkah