

May/June 2022



**TEMPLE
ISRAEL**

and Jewish Community Center



Reconstructionist
Congregation
Beth Israel *A Contemporary
Look at Tradition*

Temple Talk

News you can use from the TI-JCC community

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Agenda Items for the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Con- servative Movement

As I write this column I am preparing for the first in-person meeting of the Conservative movement's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards since the onset of Covid-19. We expect to hear arguments on six papers with a seventh item for discussion. The process of paper approval through the Law Committee is deliberative and slow, and we will not vote on all of our agenda items, but I wanted to share what we will be discussing to give a sense of the questions of Jewish law that we are looking at at this current session.

The first paper on the agenda is one that I wrote called "Kohenet Kirvi," which is Hebrew for what can be translated as "Priestess, Draw Near." My paper is a technical discussion of the terminology used to call up a woman for the kohen or levi aliyah. Traditional practice in our movement is to say "bat kohen" meaning "daughter of a kohen." Since a male kohen is called up as "kohen" rather than "son of a kohen" I argue that women should also be called up as "kohenet"—the feminine form of kohen—rather than "bat kohen." I presented a draft of these ideas at our virtual Tikkun Leyl Shavuot last year, and your comments were very helpful. For me, the issue transcends grammatical technicalities in getting to the essence of egalitarianism, that we understand women as equal members of our worship community rather than as mere relations of men.

Our second paper also relates to egalitarianism. The Law Committee had approved in early 2020 two approaches towards an egalitarian wedding. The traditional wedding ceremony (and corresponding ketubah) has prescribed roles for the bride and groom. We are now looking at a "sequel paper" entitled "Egalitarian Divorce and Gittin" that explores how to handle the ritual divorce from an egalitarian betrothal and wedding that was established through a



President's Column

This *Temple Talk* edition coincides with our annual General Membership meeting, which takes place Wednesday, May 25, from 7:30 p.m. at Temple Israel. Accordingly, this President's message focuses on the state of the Temple's business, finances, and operations – looking back and looking ahead. A fuller presentation (and an opportunity for Q&A) will be part of the President's report at the General Membership meeting. I hope to see you there.



In the months leading up to my installation as president, I sat down to speak with past presidents and other Temple lay leaders to better understand the role of the president and the challenges and opportunities facing the Temple. I then worked with my fellow officers and trustees to set some goals for our "new administration." Among the goals were to renew our relationship with Rabbi Fine; shore up our finances and enhance our financial reporting; explore options for our mortgage, which was set to expire in the Spring of 2022; strengthen our system of committees; and explore strategic arrangements that would help perpetuate Temple Israel as a center of Jewish practice and culture in Ridgewood. How are we doing, one year on?

I had the pleasure of reporting to the congregation earlier this year that we had reached a new, five-year contract with Rabbi Fine. I could not have been happier with that development, and neither could you, based on the feedback received. Rabbi Fine is essential to perpetuating Temple Israel's mission. Not only is he a gifted, erudite spiritual leader, but he also is an astute, practical business partner. The Rabbinical Assembly outlines at least 14 "roles" that a rabbi might fulfill, and suggests congregations expect to have a rabbi that fulfills three or four. The roles include a worship leader; a provider of pastoral care; a teacher; an administrator; a role model; a fundraiser and marketer; a community figure; a scholar, etc. In Rabbi Fine, we have a unique leader and partner who scores high marks on all fronts, well beyond just three or four. And we have him for at least five

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

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Cont. on page 14

Sisterhood News

[Sisterhood 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.]

Upcoming Events

Sisterhood has many fun events planned for the summer and for the 2022-23 year, starting with a **Hackensack Riverkeeper cruise** on Sunday, July 17, and the annual pool party. Watch the weekly announcements and Temple Talk for details.

Past Events

Sisterhood Shabbat. It was so good to be back together again for this always special event! 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 were so happy to be back in person. Many thanks to everyone who participated, especially to our Torah readers: Miriam Joan Baslaw, Debbie Cantor, Stephanie Gottesman, Beth Kotek, Elyse Levene and Anne Wolf, and to Pam Grant for her delightful d'var torah.

Spring Crafting Event. On Tuesday, April 26, we gathered at Temple Israel to create beautiful felt flowers under the expert guidance of Arlene Bernhardt. We also elected the Sisterhood board for 2022-23 (see below).



Sisterhood Board, 2022-2023

At our General Membership meeting on April 26, the following officers were elected:

Co-Presidents

Vice-president, Administration/Publicity

Vice-president, Ways and Means

Treasurer/Financial Secretary

Chair, Sisterhood Shabbat

Chair, Torah Fund

Chair, Honey Sale

Co-chairs, Gift Shop

Board Members at Large

Debbie Cantor, Elaine Silverstein

Sue Hill

Stacey Scott

Robin Kanen

Pam Grant

Susie Goldstein

Stephanie Gottesman

Stephanie Gottesman, Shari Haber

Arlene Bernhardt, Irene Bressler, Sharon Mosenkis

We offer heartfelt thanks to **Carla Vogel**, who served as Treasurer for the past 12 years, and we wish her health, happiness, and lots of skiing in Vermont. And we are very happy to welcome Pam Grant and Sharon Mosenkis to the board.

Torah Fund pins and cards

Support Torah Fund by donating \$180 for a beautiful 2021 pin or as little as \$5 for a greeting card. Every woman has the opportunity to participate in preserving, promoting, and perpetuating Conservative/Masorti Judaism through the Torah Fund Campaign of Women's League in support of the Jewish Theological Seminary (New York, NY), Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies (Los Angeles, CA), Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies (Jerusalem), Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano (Buenos Aires, Argentina), and Zacharias Frankel College (Potsdam, Germany). This year's theme is B'Yachad ("together"). To donate, contact **Susie Goldstein** at 201-315-7774 or susieg70@aol.com.

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





The members of the **Brandeis Men's Club** never seem to rest! Since our last chat here in Temple Talk where BMC celebrated our successful online Trivia Night, there is much to share.

- I hope that everyone lit their **Yellow Candle** on Erev Yom Hashoah. BMC is honored to bring this important memorial to our Temple Family and wishes to thank the 52 member families who returned a gift with their Yellow Candle envelope. This money is used to support remembrance education in the schools.

- The BMC Grillers loved teaming up with **Manny Haber and the Israel Action Committee** for the annual Yom Ha'Atzmaut BBQ. It is great to see so many smiling faces in such a festive atmosphere.
- The Grillers are in action again in support of our youth for the **USY Year End Party**. Wow, can they pack away the food!
- Did you notice that brand spankin' new grill? That's right, the old one got so much action that we had to let it retire.

But wait, there's more!

Please join us for the **Men's Club Shabbat** on June 25, 2022; and again on June 26th for the **Man of the Year and Youth of the Year Brunch**. The more the merrier as we celebrate **Scott Baslaw** and **Ariel Fine**. More details will follow.

Did you get a **NNJR President's Raffle**, raffle ticket (or two, or three)? Top prize is an \$1800 Visa Gift Card. Talk to your favorite BMC member or send an email to BMCPresident@synagogue.org.

Evan Fleischmann
President, Brandeis Men's Club



Grill Master David Millman and Grill Master Supervisor Howard Schreiber. Not Pictured: Todd Bakal, Hank Finke, Art Aronov, Evan Fleischmann

Greetings from B'yachad!



Greetings from B'yachad! B'yachad is a young family social group that aims to meet monthly. We typically plan events that are centered around the holidays. Our last event was a Chametz Fest at Nellie's, in Waldwick. We all enjoyed sharing pizzas and had a great time! We encourage anyone to come join us at future events. If you have any questions or concerns or would like to be added to the b'yachad mailing list, please feel free to reach out to me at jenblanck@gmail.com. Looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

Jennifer Blanck Weitz

Ways & Means

It truly is Good to be Back! So say the in-person attendees of the annual **Ways & Means Gala**. Our theme was embodied by the energy and excitement that permeated the Sanctuary and Social Hall for four hours on April 30th. **Sue Hill's** decorations were simply elegant, and **Marc Cantor**, DJ extraordinaire, kept our feet moving without stepping on our conversations. The extended cocktail hour format created lots of opportunities to chat with old friends and to meet new ones as well.



The hybrid auction format was a big success as well.

A number of winning bids went to members who were not with us in-person. The committee does understand that not everyone is all-in with computers and smart phones. Next year we will have more bid helpers and maybe a practice session or two.

The Ad Journal is also different this year in two ways. One, instead of printing it for distribution at the Gala, every Temple member, attendee, and ad buyer will receive a copy of the ad journal in the mail. This change then opens the door to two, the Ad Journal will include pictures of the evening for you enjoy now and revisit in the future. You will receive a notification via email and the Weekly Announcements when the mailing is imminent.

Now a big, huge, thank you to our honorees, **Sue and Dan**. You two are not just wonderful examples of selfless service, you were also gracious with your time and understanding of all my questions and last-minute requests for approvals. It was an honor to work with you both.

Finally, an event like this does not happen without many people giving the gift of their time and expertise. Thank you, thank you to the committee:

Scott Baslaw

Leigh Brown

Debra Cantor

Marc Cantor

Brian Della Torre

Bob Dworkin

Rabbi David Fine

Hank Finke

Nadine Genet

James Goldfarb

Susie Goldstein

Manny Haber

Sue Hill

Scott Leiman

David Millman

Annemarie Roscello

Jo Rosen

Barbara Schneider

Howard Schreiber

Tricia Schreiber

Stacey Scott

Bob Smolen

Cindy Zirkin

Tina Polen

Jose Serna

Maureen Nassan

So yes, it is good to be back! And hey, did anyone save me one of those fish tacos?

Evan Fleischmann
Chair, Ways & Means Committee

RITUAL ROUNDUP

Pesach is over (*hametz* – yeah!), *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* BBQ was fun and yummy, New York baseball is doing great, and it's on to golf, cycling, and vacation planning. Join us for 4 *B'nei Mitzvah* surrounding *Shavuot* and Tina's Retirement Celebration. Then kiss Spring goodbye as we cruise into Summer with Men's Club Shabbat and MOY/YOY Breakfast.

In the *Torah* we're just wrapping up *Vayikra* (Leviticus) and are starting to work our way through more desert wondering, complaining, rebellion and laws in *Bamidbar* (Numbers).

Thanks to everyone who supported our variety of multi-Torah Shabbat and Festival services.

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

Fri night May 20 – Shabbat dinner (following services)

Sat May 21 – **Aaron Holden** Bar Mitzvah

Sat Jun 4 – **Abby Lerner** Bat Mitzvah

SHAVUOT:

Sat night Jun 4 – **Tikkun Leil Shavuot @ Glen Rock Jewish Center (8:00 pm)** (cheesecake – yum!)

Sun Jun 5 – **Shavuot (9:00 am) + TINA's RETIREMENT CELEBRATION**

Mon Jun 6 – **Shavuot Day 2 (9:00 am)** with Yizkor at approximately 11:00 am

Sat Jun 11 – **Jack Leiman** Bar Mitzvah

Sat Jun 18 – **Molly Weitz** Bat Mitzvah

Sat Jun 25 – **MEN'S CLUB SHABBAT**

Sun Jun 26 – *shacharit* services, followed by **MOY/YOY Breakfast**

Summer Sunday Minyanim: continuing our annual tradition, please volunteer to host a 9:30am Sunday morning minyan this summer. Ritual provides the *siddurim* and *tallitot*, you provide refreshments afterward. Contact **David Millman** (millman.david@gmail.com) to schedule one of these dates: **July 10, 24, 31; August 14, 21, 28.**

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, YHRC (Your Humble Ritual Chair)

Bat Mitzvah Spotlight

Abby Lerner

Hello, my name is Abby Lerner. I live in Ridge-wood with my parents, my brothers, Danny and Aaron, and my dog, Teddy. I am a 6th grader at Benjamin Franklin Middle School. Outside of school, my interests are theater and gymnastics.

I am looking forward to my bat mitzvah on June 4th. Part of becoming a Jewish adult is helping others and giving back. For my bat mitzvah project, I am fundraising for several children-related charities in Ukraine, Israel and the U.S. and I will donate a portion of my bat mitzvah gifts. If anyone wants to contribute, please reach out to my parents at Elina_lerner@yahoo.com.



Tikkun Olam

On April 24, a glorious spring day, 45 members of Temple Israel along with members from Fair Lawn Jewish Center/Congregation B'nai Israel, Jewish Community Center of Paramus/Congregation Beth Tikvah, and Temple Beth Shalom of Fair Lawn met at Memorial Park in Fair Lawn to clean up the banks of the Passaic River. This outing was overseen by the Hackensack Riverkeeper Tyler Tierney. After grabbing some gloves, a garbage picker, and slathering on the bug spray we buddied up and went hunting for trash. We found trash, dozens of bags of trash were collected, and a few other novel finds. For more details on this event take a look at the Jewish Standard article: <https://jewishstandard.timesofisrael.com/eyes-on-the-water/> We look forward to planning future events with this group. **Pictures from this event are below.**

Upcoming on May 31 **Congresswoman Kim Shrier, M.D.** will be speaking via Zoom. Not only is Congresswoman Shrier RCBI member **Gloria Liberstein's niece** but she is the only pediatrician to serve in Congress and will share with us her unique perspective. Congresswoman Shrier represents Washington's 8th Congressional District. Join the Tikkun Olam Committee in welcoming Congresswoman Shrier on May 31 at 7:30 pm.



Tikkun Olam continues to work with **Family Promise** and provided dinner on April 12, 2022 for their Walk In Dinner program.

Information on upcoming events will be provided as details are confirmed.



MUSICAL NOTES



TEMPLE ISRAEL LIGHTS BIMAH BAND

Our talented instrumentalists are honored to play for the Friday, June 3 board installation Shabbat service. Kudos and thanks in advance to our musicians **Marc Cantor** (guitar), **Susan Kornblit** (guitar), **Bonnie Kaplan** (piano), **Artie Bressler** (winds), **Wayne Miller** (percussion), and **Tamara Freeman** (violin). For outdoor services, we are able to be even more Covid-safe and welcome back **Anne Wolf** (flute) and **Debbie Cantor** (flute).

(Photo courtesy of Herb Benkel. Not pictured: Bonnie Kaplan on piano).

Do you play a musical instrument? Would you like to be part of the fun and spirit of the Bimah Band? Contact Tamara Freeman to learn more about this special group TamaraFreeman@verizon.net.

On May 15, we had the great pleasure of welcoming back Israeli jazz vocalist, **Sivan Arbel** and her amazing jazz ensemble. This America Israel Cultural Foundation concert was generously sponsored by TI member **Richard Schnaittacher** in honor of his parents Fred z"l and Dorothy z"l.

SAVE THE DATES!

Sunday, June 12 at 3:00 pm we welcome Mark Brandenburg, jazz guitar and Dale Healey, vocals for a terrific afternoon concert followed by a dessert reception.

Shabbatot Under the Summer Sky June 24 and July 22

6:00-6:30 concert
6:30 service
7:30 Shabbat dinner

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

NNJJA News



A Message from Jessica

I love SUMMER. I love the sunshine, and summer camp, and summer BBQ's. I love a structured break and a time to just hang out. As an educator, I know that rest, relaxation, and exploration of new things are key components of summer. We need this time to do out of school time learning. But as an educator, I also know there's a delicate balance between allowing for

this freedom, and keeping on track so that the dreaded SUMMER LEARNING LOSS doesn't creep in.

The summer learning loss phenomenon is real. Students who spend their summers in front of screens without interactions that challenge their brains come back to school in September having forgotten things that they learned the year before. However, if young brains are challenged, the learning loss is significantly less. The challenging can be done on a screen, but it needs to be active, not passive, in order to be effective.

In the world of religious school education we see summer learning loss every single year. Our students end in May, and aren't back until September! It's almost 3.5 months before we see our students again! I thought it might be useful to give you a few ideas for keeping your Hebrew learning up to speed:

1. COME TO SERVICES. Pick one weekend a month, one in June, July and August with one of your student's friends and make a date of Shabbat morning. When I come to Shabbat morning services, I always have a bag packed with shabbat safe toys* (so most things without batteries), books, and lollipops and my 4, 7 and 9 year old kids actually look forward to synagogue. (Candy before noon?? YES PLEASE!)
2. <https://www.hebrewworksheets.com/hebrew-reading-practice> has lots of Hebrew games and work sheets at a low costs
3. <https://www.akhlah.com/hebrew/worksheets/> is more modern than prayer Hebrew, but will be fun reading practice!
4. JITAP is NEW! And it has TONS of resources for online "joyful jewish learning" <https://jitap.net/activities/>
5. Use our youtube site! Rabbi Fine chants each one of our tefilah goals on our youtube site. Pick a tefilah, open your siddur, and read along while Rabbi Fine chants.

All these ideas will help you keep up with what you have been learning so far. Schedule 20 minutes twice a week, and I am confident that when you return in September, you'll be set up for success.

*Spiegel kid tested shabbat safe toys as they are called on Target for searching purposes: Chuckle & Roar Shape Makers Magnetic Foam Tangrams Game, Melissa & Doug Deluxe Wooden Magnetic Pattern Blocks Set, Sticker Mosaics Jr.: Baby Animals, Fat Brain Toys Squigz, Geomag Magnetic Line Building (these are my kids FAVORITE), any book, Lego

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



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.**



Adult Education

Adult Education has provided a wide variety of active programs in the last six months. These programs were/are intended to offer active participation for all congregants. The participation opportunities may take place in the form of virtual programs currently but as soon as the pandemic environment becomes safe, we will offer both zoom and in person opportunities. Adult education encompasses Jewish study, social action, entertainment, arts and culture, sacred voices, criminal justice, immigrant rights, and more.

As a result of working with all committee chairs, we have come up with 4 topics for next year's programming: **Politics, Parenting, Health, and Sacred Voices**. We would like to present some political programming topics starting in September. If you have a political contact on the local, state, or national level please let me know so we may pursue exploring this opportunity.

Beginning in February, seven presentations by Climate advocate agencies highlighted the status of our climate and what each agency is doing to protect it.*

1. * February 20—*NJ League of Conservation Voters -Standing up for Climate Change through the ballot.*
2. * February 24—*Great Swamp Watershed Association-Protecting water rights and climate change led by Sandra Lavigne.*
3. * March 3—*Earth Share NJ-Mobilize the people of New Jersey to protect our land, water, air and wildlife.*
4. * March 17—*NJ Audubon Society- Creating a certified wildlife garden, attracting hummingbirds to your yard.*
5. * March 20—*Sierra Club-Champion for the environment*
6. * March 24—*NJ FORTE House (Forcing out Recidivism through education) (See Cindy Zirkin's note, bottom of the page)*
7. * March 27—*The Hackensack Riverkeeper-Climate Change on the Hackensack River*



8. **Steve Weisfeld** presented a live fascinating program on the *life of a boxing judge* on April 13. Steve had 3 boxing video's and allowed those in attendance to score those rounds so they could experience being a boxing judge. Steve has judged boxing events for years and shared his expertise and his experience.



9. April 18—Temple Israel member **Freddie Kotek** presented *The history of the Paterson NJ Jewish Community* to a large audience of over 100 people. This fascinating presentation brought us back to the transformation of Jews who left Lodz, Poland and began their lives in the fabric and other industries in Paterson, NJ. There they started again in a new world raising their families and bringing their Jewish heritage with them. The Jewish community grew to over 40,000 Jews where synagogues thrived, and Kosher butcher shops were abundant.

10. May 1—**Natalie Pitman** (a student at BCHSJS)-presented a program to classmates, friends, and congregants on *Supporting Righteous Gentiles*. Natalie's grandparents survived the Holocaust because Righteous Gentiles stepped up and saved their lives.

11. HIAS May 5—*the challenges facing refugees including the newest refugees from Ukraine and asylum seekers today*. This topic was presented through a Jewish lens by **Rabbi Megan Doherty**, Senior Educator at HIAS and Isabel Burton -HIAS Senior Director of Community Engagement Initiatives.

Upcoming presentations (all will be at 7:30 p.m. on zoom):

12. May 18—**Imam Mahmoud Hamza** —*Muslim -Jewish relationships with the Muslim world.*
13. June 2—**Director Susan Bronson** of the *Yiddish Book Center explains the Center's purpose*. The Yiddish Book center has saved the texts of years and years of Eastern Jewish history. The Center will have a voice in the future of the Jewish people
14. June 16—**Phil Aroneanu**, *Chief Strategy Officer of Dayenu*, The Jewish Call to Climate Action, will speak online on "Confronting the Climate Crisis with Spiritual Audacity and Bold Collective Action"

The following programs continue to be offered by our clergy to engage our congregants in a variety of meaningful programs

1. **Rabbi Fine's** *Antisemitism Lecture series continued Monday nights on zoom.*
2. **Rabbi Fine** —*Wednesday 12pm-Coffee with Rabbi Fine-Wednesdays on zoom*
3. **Rabbi Leiah** —*Pirkei Avot Reading Group-Wednesday evenings on zoom 7:30pm*
4. **Rabbi Leiah**—*Midrash meeting each Thursday at 3:00pm on zoom*

If you know of someone in or out of our congregation that has a vocation or avocation that you think our community would be interested in, please share that with me and I will pursue your suggestion in offering a presentation. rsmolen18@gmail.com .

Bob Smolen, Chair

On March 24 I zoomed into a Temple Israel and JCC adult education program. The topic was F.O.R.T.E. -Forcing out Recidivism Through Education. It was an eye-opening, amazing, and inspirational 30-40 minutes. The speaker, Tia Ryan, was incarcerated for 10 years, received 2 bachelor degrees from Rutgers University, and has devoted her life work to effecting change for persons in the criminal justice system. Very important work. Highly recommended. Cindy Zirkin

Membership

In the past week Temple Israel members have gathered to celebrate **Sue Flanzman and Dan Fishbein** at our annual gala (see pictures) and to celebrate **Yom Ha-azmaut** – Israeli Independence Day. Both events were fun, and multi-generationally attended.

On **Friday, May 20th**, Membership will be hosting a **Shabbat Dinner** for our community, following services which begin at 6:30. Happily, our friends from Temple Beth Shalom will help prepare our dinner with volunteers from TI on Friday morning. Our dinner will be homemade, and I hope you will join us in enjoying a Shabbat dinner – with good conversation, good food and a chance to make new friends. RSVPs to me at joresnickrosen@gmail.com are welcome.

On **Friday, May 27th** we will resume our annual **Lag B'omer** celebration, complete with a barbecue, (bonfire set before Shabbat), and services will be led by Amichai Margolis, a wonderful song leader/teacher at the Leffell School and Ramah Nyack. This evening has been a favorite for families with young children thanks to the food and the music and the chance to run around.

Many new people continue to inquire about Temple Israel. If you have any new neighbors or friends who are interested in joining our community, please contact either me or my co-chairs for membership, Jay and Elissa Hyne : Jason.hyne@gmail.com , elissa.hyne@gmail.com

We will be activating the **Gift of Membership Program** again where you, as a congregant , can offer a gift of membership to someone who is interested in joining our community. Our program offers free tickets to High Holiday services and a year of membership (with a few perks missing)... for free and essentially offers folks a chance to engage with us for a year and see whether or not we are a good fit for their family. (There are some restrictions as to who can receive the gift, so please call us first, before offering).

The buzz is we are a warm, welcoming community, with people from different backgrounds, who enjoy learning, partying, doing volunteer work in the community and celebrating life together – including holidays and Shabbat.

Please invite your friends, to check us out.

Happy Spring.

PS Please also put **June 5** on your calendar. We will be gathering for services to celebrate **Shavuot** AND honoring **Tina Polen**, who has worked in our community for over 25 years. She is retiring at the end of June and moving to be near her daughter. Her presence has been part of our communal fabric and I, for one, will miss her greatly.

*Jo Rosen, Co-chair
Jay and Elissa Glucksman Hyne, Co-chairs*

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
Lisa Mellman & Toby Nygaard

Patron's Circle

Anonymous
Alyson Yashar & James Goldfarb
Elyse Beidner & Louis Levene
Sharon & Kenneth Levitsky
Peri & David Namerow
Tricia & Howard Schreiber

Pillar's Circle

Audrey Meyers & Scott Agins
Sisterhood of Temple Israel

Sponsor's Circle

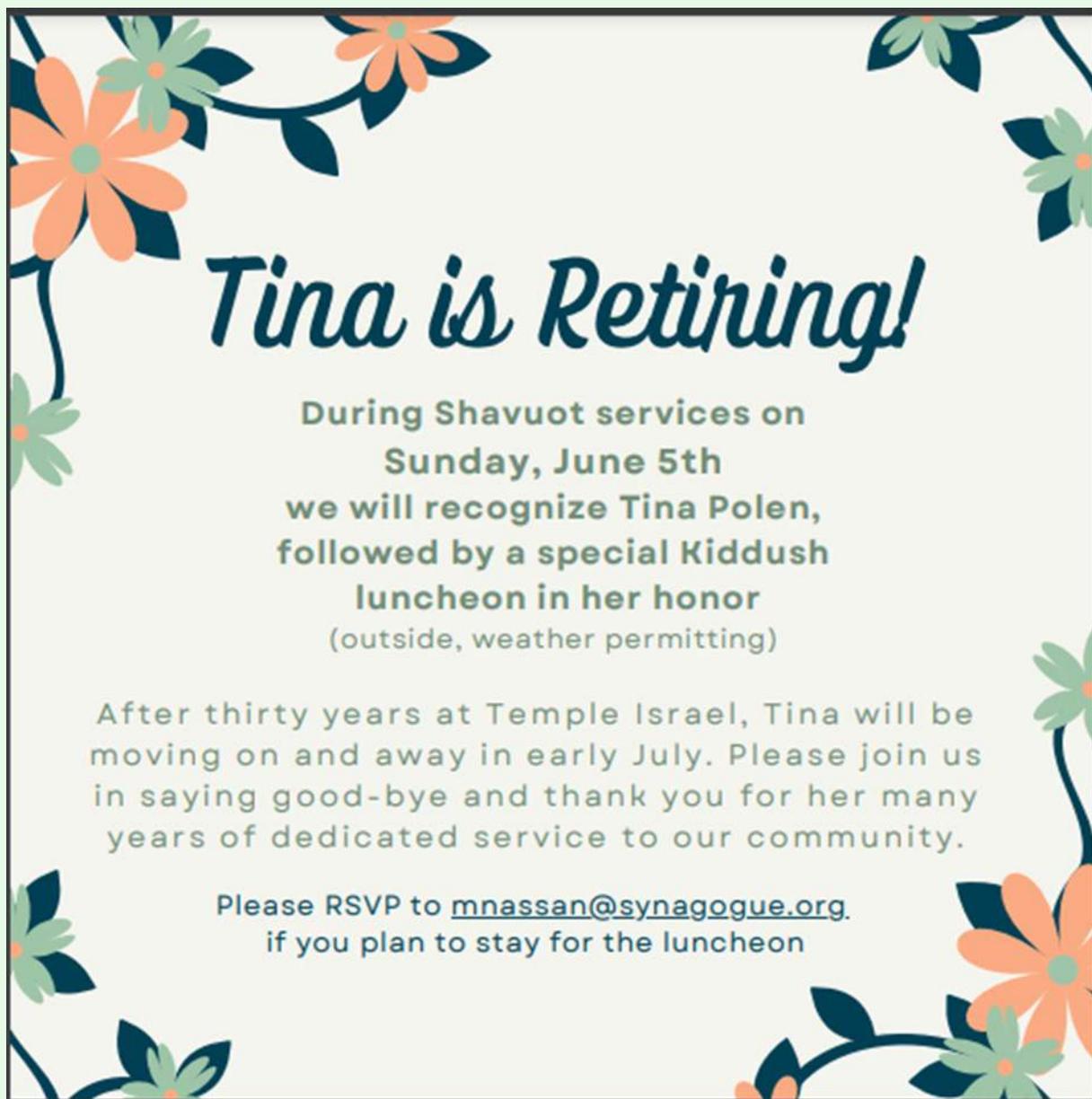
Linda & Abe Davis
Anlly & Javier Delgado
Tamara & Barry Freeman
Susie & Shelly Goldstein
Shari & Manny Haber
Erin & Matthew Lindenberg
Debbie, Wayne & Jared Miller
Rita & Robert Obeiter
Meri Schachter
Merille & Harvey Siegel
Bonita & David Weiss
Jen Blanck & Evan Weitz

Come help us celebrate Tina as she starts to say good-bye to Temple Israel and New Jersey. After thirty years of taking care of us, let's show Tina how much we appreciate her! We will honor Tina during Shavuot services and enjoy a luncheon together afterwards.

Whether or not you can join us on June 5th, please add your own message to the Farewell Card: <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/wowCWCLp>

Bob Obeiter is organizing a gift for Tina – contact him at robeiterTI@gmail.com or (201) 745-4648 to contribute.

Temple Israel and JCC will not be the same without Tina!





TEMPLE ISRAEL AND JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER



Dr. David J. Fine
Rabbi

Leiah Moser
Rabbi, RCBI; Assistant Rabbi, TJCC

Jessica W. Spiegel
Director of Education

James K. Goldfarb
President

May 4, 2022

Dear Temple Israel and Jewish Community Center members,

The Board of Directors of Temple Israel & JCC invites you to the 2021/2022 Temple Israel & Jewish Community Center Annual Meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 25 at 7:30 pm at Temple Israel in the sanctuary.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Review and approval of 2020/2021 Annual Meeting Minutes
2. D'var Torah
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Q&A
6. Old Business (if any)
7. New Business
 - a. Motion to elect the proposed slate of candidates as outlined in the March 31, 2022 letter to the congregation from the Nominating Committee:

OFFICERS

President: James Goldfarb
 First Vice President: Brian Della Torre
 Second Vice President: Matt Lindenberg
 Treasurer: Scott Leiman
 Financial Secretary: Nadine Genet
 Recording Secretary: Stephanie Gottesman
 Corresponding Secretary: Scott Baslaw

TRUSTEES

Three Years: Jay Hyne, Kara Miller, David Millman
One Year: Kent Mackzum, Alex Rothschild, Bob Smolen

In addition to those to be elected, the following trustees have terms that do not expire this year and will therefore continue to hold office during 2022-2023.

Two Years remaining:

Joe Landau
 Wayne Miller
 Johanna Rosen

One Year remaining:

Robyn Berger
 Manny Haber
 Evan Weitz

8. Adjourn

Respectfully,
 Matthew Lindenberg
 Corresponding Secretary



Two Congregations, One Community
 475 GROVE STREET, RIDGEWOOD, NJ 07450 • 201.444.9320
 WWW.SYNAGOGUE.ORG





Kiddush Club



Kiddush to Follow

When I first joined Temple Israel & JCC I heard our congregation's president conclude his reading of the announcements with those very words every Shabbat. As soon as services ended everyone moved into the Social Hall or Kiddush Room, picked up a small cup of wine or grape juice and waited for Rabbi Fine to say the blessings over the wine and then the challah. And then we ate from the typically catered spread while socializing for an hour or so.

Over the ensuing years our new presidents stopped saying those three words and instead just mentioned who was sponsoring the Kiddush. It was understood that Kiddush would soon follow services. And then one Shabbat, we only had wine/grape juice, herring and challah set out for us. What happened? The Temple had to cut the budget for Kiddushim. That's when the Kiddush Club got reactivated, thanks to Barbara Schneider and Bob Smolen. And our ability to continue to put out a nice spread continued, thanks to generous donors to the Kiddush Club fund.

Since that time, except for Covid-19 interrupting our ability to meet in person, the Kiddush Club has bought food, prepared a nice variety of dishes for the congregation and its guests to enjoy. New foods were introduced periodically, like Mexican fare at a Cinco de Mayo Shabbat, hot vegetarian soups, pickled refrigerator cucumbers, cold sesame noodles, bread pudding, quinoa with chickpeas & tomatoes, and so on.

Fred Nagler, former BCHSJS Director, frequently stops by the Temple on Friday mornings to have a cup of coffee and a bagel with Jose Serna and Tina Polen. When their visit is over, Fred always stops by the kitchen to say hello to those of us who are preparing the kiddush food. On several occasions Fred would ask what we were making and then mentioned what his shul does for Kiddush. I thought it so interesting and impressive that I finally met with him and learned in detail what Congregation B'Nai Yeshurun, the first orthodox shul (1950's) in Teaneck, does for their Kiddushim.

In the beginning, Kiddush only consisted of wine, herring and gefilte fish; what we call a "toothpick" kiddush. In time the number of kiddush dishes grew, so sponsors were sought after, with the ask being either \$200, or \$180 and a good bottle of whiskey. To increase participation, in 2004, the sponsorship ask was reduced to \$99. And then an oven broke and neither the shul nor the Men's Club had enough money to replace it.

Fred Nagler To The Rescue

Fred came up with a fundraising idea to have 7 major kiddushim per year and ask sponsors to donate \$360. This was met with a lot of Men's Club resistance but turned out to be very successful. In 2010, there were 33 sponsors, whose names were prominently listed on a board for all to see. In 2019, there were 71 sponsors; and there are 74 sponsors this year (2022). Income in excess of food expenses have been used to pay for shul security and tallisim. With a membership of about 600 families, attendance at services and the kiddush can be over a thousand.

All but one of the Kiddushim are fleishig. In addition to the 7 main kiddushes there are also: An IDF Kiddush (sponsored mostly by kosher businesses in the area); this raises about \$70,000 a year, A Simchas Torah Kiddush, A Gala Kiddush (on Shabbat before Pesach; replaced the annual Dinner at a catering hall), a Graduation Kiddush, and an Ice Cream Kiddush (dairy) with 20 different toppings. For a \$180 donation each "flavor sponsor" gets to pick another flavor ice cream, to accompany usual favorites which include chocolate and vanilla.

It is the Men's Club that buys the food, prepares the platters, and serves the food at each Kiddush. A custodial staff of 3 sets up tables and chairs, and breaks down the set ups, but Fred and his "brothers" do all the rest. Fred especially likes to platter cakes and cookies, and roll up the cold cuts (turkey, pastrami and corned beef).

Fred invited me to come to Congregation B'Nai Yeshurun some Saturday, just like Jose has done in the past to see how beautiful the Kiddush is. In addition to 2 or more types of herring, there is kishka, potato kugel, stuffed grapevine leaves, mini-hotdogs, chicken marsala, pasta & meat sauce, meatballs, chicken poppers, chicken wings, cholent, bakery cookies, fresh fruits and fruit salad. There're also sweet and dry wines, red and white, scotches, mixed drinks, juice, soda, etc. Considering the wonderful variety of food served by the Men's Club, it would be hard not to see what it is all about and perhaps come away with ideas to further enhance Temple Israel's Kiddushim.

Until then, I will continue to join the other Kiddush Club volunteers who work tirelessly to help make our Temple Israel & JCC post services Kiddushim interesting and enjoyable for all our members, friends and guests. Your annual contributions of \$144, or whatever you can afford help make all this possible, so I'll see you on Saturday for services. Kiddush to follow!

L'Shalom, Bob Dworkin, Kiddush Committee Chair

Rabbi Fine, cont'd from p. 1

different ceremonial means than a traditional marriage.

Our third paper on the agenda addresses issues of surrogate motherhood and Jewish law. Specifically, the proposed paper challenges the current position of the Law Committee (dating from 1997) that the Jewish identity follows the status of the surrogate (gestational) mother rather than the genetic mother. Our fourth paper, like mine, engages in the technicalities of Hebrew grammar when calling people to the Torah for an aliyah, but in this case addressing non-binary individuals. "Calling Non-Binary People to the Torah" proposes gender-neutral approaches to the liturgical formulae of calling up aliyot. Again, beyond the grammatical technicalities, this paper is driven by our commitment to inclusion.

The last paper we will plan to look at explores the minimum requirements of prayer when one cannot attend synagogue, and proposes that "parents and other caregivers" be exempted from daily prayer obligations when traditionally that "exemption" was reserved for women.

In addition to these papers, we will also deliberate on a number of questions that have arisen in the preparation of the newest edition of the "Rabbi's Manual" that presents lifecycle ceremonies and other special liturgies that rabbis lead.

Parenting, motherhood, and inclusion of women and non-binary people into traditional practices, are running themes through these papers, and I am proud that they collectively represent the questions that Conservative rabbis are looking to answer.



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

more years. I want to thank Rabbi Fine for working within our constraints to meet our (and his) goals. And I want to recognize Howard Schreiber, Chris Dobkins, Nadine Genet, and Kara Miller – our Rabbi Renewal Committee – for their time and good judgment in helping to cement our relationship with Rabbi Fine.

Temple Israel's finances are like your garden. Some years are good, some years are not as good, and absent constant care and attention, nothing will grow. We began the 2021-2022 fiscal year with a balanced budget. Like many Temple budgets, this one relied on certain assumptions about membership numbers and fund-raising that, while supportable based on experience, were educated guesses in COVID's uncharted waters. Fortunately, consistently tended by our Treasurer, Scott Leiman, our finances had a good year. We project to end the current fiscal year ahead of budget, and to begin the next fiscal year with a modest surplus. I want to thank Scott for his astute financial management and for the clear, accessible, transparent financial reporting he provides to the Board and membership. I also want to recognize Chuck Fleischman and Howard Schreiber, who have selflessly given countless hours of assistance to Scott, not to mention the benefit of their business and financial experience.

Renewing our mortgage under more attractive terms is essential to shoring up our finances. We had a 25-year mortgage on a 10-year term with a floating interest rate that we hedged with an interest rate swap. Annual payments were \$128,000. In a low-rate environment, the interest rate swap provided little value. The swap also prevented us from pre-paying mortgage principal. We soon will enter a new 25-year mortgage on a 10-year term with a fixed interest rate. While we have had to renew the mortgage in a rising interest rate environment, we will have the option to pre-pay and reset the amortization. The Board placed a high premium on that flexibility. The annual payments will be \$96,000, meaning we have freed up \$32,000. (Do not get too excited. Our budget is thinly balanced, so this is not \$32,000 in

free cash flow.) Our Mortgage team deserves all the credit here, and I want to thank Scott Leiman, Freddie Kotek, Chuck Fleischman, and Elyse Levene for their guidance and expertise in successfully concluding the mortgage renewal.

Committees are integral to our functioning as a business (Executive, Finance & Budget, Membership, House, Facilities, Ways & Means), a religious institution (Ritual), a center of learning (Hebrew School, Adult Education), a catalyst for social engagement (Tikkun Olam, Israel Action), and a community (Sisterhood, Brandeis Men's Club, Music Committee, Chesed, Kiddush Club, Temple Talk). The Executive Committee and Board might chart and steer a course for the Temple. But we rely on our committees and their dedicated volunteer-members for planning, nurturing, and carrying out all the activities, events, and programs that connect our members to one another, to Judaism, and to the broader community. Thank you to all our committee members.

Like most things at the Temple, the committees depend on volunteers, and we are fortunate to have many who dedicate their time to improve what Temple Israel offers to its members and the broader community. Of course, we could always benefit from more volunteers. Some committees are thinly staffed, and others are helmed by experienced members who would be delighted to share their knowledge, particularly with the next generation. A modest commitment of your time could make a difference in your Temple Israel experience and that of other members and potential members. Temple membership is participatory. Prayers not your thing? Perhaps your professional skills could help us manage our budget or facilities. Or your musical talents could enhance our (already terrific) Bimah band. Or your culinary or party planning skills could contribute to our Membership dinners, events, and Kiddushes. Please reach out to me or Rabbi Fine if you are willing to give a little time to make the Temple better.

Finally, strategic arrangements. In 2021, we began discussions with Temple Beth Sholom of Pascack Valley about what a common future might look like. To our delight, those discussions have been fruitful, and they are continuing. Meantime, we have had the pleasure of TBS members' worshipping, learning, and socializing with us. I look forward to sharing more news on this front as our discussions unfold. Meantime, I want to thank Howard Schreiber, Brian Della Torre, Matt Lindenberg, Jo Rosen, and Rabbi Fine for their tremendous efforts on our long-term sustainability.

With that, we turn the page to a new fiscal year and the second year of this "not so new administration." In my next President's message, I look forward to sharing our hopes and goals for the coming year. But I would appreciate hearing from you, our members, about how we can improve your Temple Israel experience and help you connect better, and in more meaningful ways, with our Jewish and broader community. I generally am at the Temple on Fridays, and always available by phone (917-697-7715) or e-mail (james.goldfarb@icloud.com). I look forward to connecting with you and serving another term as TI's President.

James Goldfarb, President

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.

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

Ways & Means Gala Photos (courtesy of Jo Rosen and Rob Kern)



Photos from Yom Haazmaut (Israel Independence Day) courtesy of Jo Rosen Photography





**TEMPLE
ISRAEL**

and Jewish Community Center

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Food, fun, and lots of happy people at the Yom Ha'azmaut celebration (Jo Rosen Photography)