

July/Aug 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

*The following remarks were delivered by Rabbi Fine at the funeral of Rabbi Gloria Rubin on March 31, 2022.*

### Rabbi Gloria S. Rubin z”l

Gloria was a teacher. Yes, when she completed the membership application form for my synagogue, Temple Israel, a bit over ten years ago she wrote “retired rabbi / writer.” She could have just said teacher. She wrote so she could teach. She became a rabbi to teach us her Torah. She did begin her career as a school teacher, teaching English as a second language, and from that it was a small step to teach Hebrew a second language, as American rabbis are charged to do. But Gloria also taught parenting skills. She published a book—in 1978!—called *Living With Your New Baby: Caring, Comprehensive, Caring—To Help You Prepare For the Changes a Baby Brings Into Your Life*. She co-wrote it with her Lamaze coach Elly Rakowitz, after her son Ken was born and she realized that there was so much information about taking care of babies but nothing was out there on parents taking care of themselves and the changes in their lives that go along with caring for a newborn. Then a second edition was completed after her daughter Rebecca was born. Yes, she raised Ken and Rebecca, and also went on a book tour to teach other parents how to be parents. When Gloria and I sat talking a few days before she died, and she reflected on her life, on all that she was grateful for, after noting the love and pride she held for her family, she reflected on all the teaching that she offered, and she was especially grateful for the opportunity she had to make a difference for new parents.

Gloria had an impressive resume with multiple careers as a schoolteacher, author, Jewish educator and rabbi. She went to school at NYU and then earned her MA in education at Queens College of the City University of New York. Later in life she decided to pursue the rabbinate and was ordained at the Academy for Jewish Religion. And just this past June she received her honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary for serving in the rabbinate for a quarter century. Gloria knew that the title “rabbi” in Hebrew, and “doctor” in Latin both mean



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## President’s Column

The previous edition of *Temple Talk* coincided with our General Membership meeting. So I took the opportunity in my previous President’s Message to review the state of the Temple’s business, finances, and operations. I concluded by promising to share in the next President’s Message my hopes and goals for the coming year. Some of these I touched on during my General Membership meeting presentation, and they follow from the goals that we set out a year ago: enhancing your connection to Temple Israel, shoring up our finances, continuously improving security, and exploring strategic relationships.



Enhancing your connection to Temple Israel means helping you and your family feel like you belong here. Not simply that you are Conservative Jews, and Temple Israel is where you choose to pay your dues and worship. But more that you are members of a warm, caring, intimate Jewish community that caters to how you wish to connect to Judaism and one another. In short, we strive to improve the “value proposition” – we want to make it worth your while by providing the “product” that you want, whether that means religious services that are accessible and meaningful to you, educational programming (Hebrew School, Adult Education, etc.) that speaks to you, community services and social action opportunities that are fulfilling for you, or social events that you look forward to attending. To do all of that effectively, I need your help and input.

Case in point. The Executive Committee recently discussed plans for next year’s Ways & Means gala. Some suggested we continue with our traditional dinner dance-honoree model. Others suggested that we try a themed party (with or without an honoree), something we have done in the past. Then someone suggested that we ask you – our members – what kind of an annual fundraising affair you would most like to participate in. Brilliant. So I will be inviting you to participate in brainstorming sessions, likely one in the summer and one in the early fall, before the High Holidays. The goal will be to hear your ideas about the Ways & Means gala, so we can design an evening (or maybe it’s not an

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# Sisterhood News



## PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES AND JOIN TOGETHER WITH US!

Come to one, some, or all of these events. We'd love to see you!

### 2022

#### **July:**

Sunday, 7/17- Hackensack Riverkeeper Eco Cruise (6:00 pm)  
Tuesday, 7/26- Pool Party at Trish Schreiber's (7:30 pm)

#### **September:**

Sunday-9/11- Pack honey bags  
Thursday 9/15- Game night at TI (7:30 pm)  
Sunday, 9/18- Deliver honey to members

#### **October:**

Sunday, 10/2- cook for Break-the-Fast  
Thurs., 10/13 - Sistahs in the Sukkah (7:30 pm)

#### **November:**

Sat. 11/5- Progressive Dinner

#### **December:**

Mon. 12/19- Chanukah Party (7:30 pm )  
Sunday mornings: Chanukah Boutique in TI hall: 12/4, 12/11, 12/18

### 2023

#### **January:**

Sat. 1/14 - Sisterhood Shabbat morning and kiddush luncheon  
Sun. 1/22- Lunar New Year Party (7:30 pm ) - paid up membership

#### **February:**

Tues. 2/7 Women's League zoom or in person screening at TI and discussion (TBD) (7:30 pm )

#### **March:**

Thurs. 3/2 - Purim party/Vashti's Feast (7:30 pm )

#### **April:**

Sunday morning Passover boutique in hallway- 3/12, 3/19, 3/26  
Mon. 4/24- Herb Planting at TI (7:30 pm)

#### **May:**

Tues. 5/16 - General Membership Meeting with wine tasting at TI (7:30 pm)

#### **L'hitraot!**

*Debra Cantor & Elaine Silverstein*  
Sisterhood Co-Presidents



Spring is a time of celebration, and the members of Brandeis Men's Club do love a good celebration. Let's begin with bowlers off to **Scott Baslaw**, the **Brandeis Men's Club Harry Grant Man of the Year**, and a doff of the cap to **Ariel Fine**, the **Brandeis Men's Club Youth of the Year**. Scheduling was tough, but we got to honor them in style this past June 25 & 26. A big thank you to **Bob Dworkin** and his Kiddush team who made a feast fit for our honorees.

**Men's Club Shabbat**, while similarly delayed this year, was special and memorable. Ariel read Torah beautifully and Scott did an amazing Haftorah!

We would like to thank **Stephanie Gottesman** for reminding us that yes, Men can be Sisters too!

Camp Shabbat was unique this year as well. The weather drove us inside, so alas no campfire, but one again, **David Millman** rose to the occasion and grilled in the rain to make sure that we were all properly fed. Thank you, David!

Spring is also installation time. BMC thanks the following officers for their continued service:

- President**            **Evan Fleischmann**
- Treasurer**        **David Millman**
- Secretary**        **Hank Finke**
- Vice-President**   **tbd**

The Brandeis Men's Club was also well represented at the Presidents Installation Dinner for the Northern New Jersey Region of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs.

- NNJR Trustee**    **David Millman**
- NNJR Trustee**    **Scott Baslaw**
- BMC President**   **Evan Fleischmann**

We wish that all of our leaders; TI, RCBI, local, regional, and national grow from strength to strength.

*Evan Fleischmann, President*

## **BMC Golf Outing**

On Tuesday, June 21 the Brandeis Men's Club held their 18<sup>th</sup> annual golf outing. The goal of the outing is more for enjoyment and camaraderie than competition. The outing was held at Farmstead Golf & Country Club in Lafayette, NJ. It is a beautiful setting in the hills of Western NJ, with deer, turkey, and fox roaming about. Not many 'birdies' were spotted! The BMC invited other local shuls, part of our new Bergen County Synagogue Alliance to participate. 48 Golfers played representing 6 local shuls. The weather was great, and prizes were awarded to the low net team score, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Longest Drive, and Closest to the pin shot on a par 3! On hole # 8 on the Valley View side was an \$18,000 prize for a Hole in One! Unfortunately, no one made one! A great time was had by all, and it was nice to see TI and our BMC take the lead in our new synagogue alliance in bringing together so many Jewish golfers in a local event.



*Howard Schreiber*

## Membership

When you think of summer, what comes to mind? Going for a swim on a hot day? Grilling hot dogs and sipping cold drinks? Water slides and outdoor games? These are all things you can do at our upcoming Temple Israel events. First, on **July 31**, **B'Yachad** will be hosting a gathering at **Graydon Pool**, where younger members and families—including prospective members—can gather to swim, play, and relax on the beach in the middle of town. Then, on **August 14**, Temple Israel will host its **Annual Open House** featuring BBQ style food, music, games, and a water slide that your kids will love. This event, held in the temple parking lot, is a great way to meet prospective members and make them feel welcome within the Temple Israel community. Finally, on **August 23**, join us for an **adults-only cocktail party** at a member's home. Take advantage of the balmy late-summer weather and enjoy your drink of choice while chatting with your fellow congregants.

We think these events are a great way for prospective members to meet with the Temple Israel community. But even after a few successful interactions, many folks are not comfortable making a large financial commitment in the form of dues and building fund requirements. That is why we offer the Gift of Membership (GOM) program, which allows prospective members to join our shul for a full year at no cost. This empowers people to take Temple Israel for a substantial test-drive before making the decision of whether to become paying members.

There is some fine print, of course. Individuals are ineligible for the GOM program if (1) they are past members of Temple Israel or current members of another synagogue; (2) they previously participated in the EZ Key program for free High Holiday tickets; or (3) they have children of B'nai Mitzvah age and plan to celebrate that occasion during the GOM year. In addition, families with students attending Hebrew School must pay tuition at the non-member rate. Beyond these program limitations, our "gifted" members can attend High Holiday and all other services, participate in TI community events, and join adult education programming without any obligation to pay dues. Most importantly, we encourage our existing members to promote the Gift of Membership program: offer it to friends, relatives, neighbors, and coworkers who may be looking to join a shul or change congregations. Give them a chance to try us out, and the chances are good that they will stay for years to come; historically, the majority of "gifted" members have become dues-paying members. Thank you in advance for spreading the word about this effective program!

**Jo Rosen, Co-chair**

**Jay and Elissa Glucksman Hyne, Co-chairs**

## Ritual Roundup

We got past *B'nai Mitzvah* season and congratulated Tina and our MOY/YOY, and now it's on to the Dog Days of summer (an astronomical reference to the star Sirius in the constellation Canis Major). New York baseball continues to sparkle, while camp and vacation and outdoor events are in full swing.

In the *Torah* we're just wrapping up *Bamidbar* (Numbers) and will soon encounter the discourses and poems and narratives in *Devarim* (Deuteronomy). We will also work through the 3 *haftorot* of Admonition prior to *Tisha B'Av*, and start the 7 *haftorot* of Consolation leading up to *Rosh Hashanah*.

Here are the upcoming simchas and ritual events:

**Sun Jul 17** [daytime] **Fast of Tammuz**  
**Sat Aug 6 (9pm)** Erev **Tisha B'Av** service (at TI this year)  
**Sun Aug 7** **Tisha B'Av** service  
**Sun Aug 28** **Rosh Chodesh** (blow *shofar!*)  
**Sat Sep 10** **Dahlia Levy** Bat Mitzvah  
**Sat Sep 17 (10pm)** S'lichot service: "...boldly go where no Rabbi has gone before."

**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](mailto:millman.david@gmail.com)) to schedule an open date: **August 14, 21, 28**

Thank you to our generous families for hosting for the following Sundays:

**July 10** **Schreiber**  
**July 24** **Baslaw**  
**July 31** **Lieb, A&A**

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](mailto:millman.david@gmail.com)).

**-David Millman, YHRC (Your Humble Ritual Chair)**

## Gloria S. Rubin

By Ira Spar

Rav Gloria loved Marty, her husband, and all her family. She especially doted on her grandchildren. Gloria loved people, she loved telling and writing stories, and loved being a congregational rabbi. Rare among rabbis, she had an abiding passion for toys, both for physical and intellectual toys. For her the excitement, stimulation, and involvement brought by studying and arguing intellectual ideas was simply another game to be played—it was fun. Items whether sold by Toys Are US, or ideas heard in sermons, lectures, or in Rabbinic literature, were gems to be played with to discern their message. Each had a meaning, a symbolism, or a shape and color that attracted and needed to be explored. Unique was her ability to stand before a congregation with a bag filled with children's toys, each she explained, had their own meaning. There were also associated stories that wonderfully augmented her sermons. I told her that we should have on our *bimah* a box labelled "Rav. Gloria's Toys." Gloria was in her element telling stories, writing stories, describing toys, and relating each to our Jewish heritage. You entered her home and she excitedly said, "Let me show you our mouse clock!"

It was Saturday evening, darkness had descended and right on time, the phone rang. I turned to my wife, and she said, "Oh, it is that time, it must be Gloria!" Yes, indeed, Gloria was on the phone as usual. After a few pleasantries and questions about health, Gloria turned to her weekly topic of concern, "Well, Ira, what did you think of David (the Rabbi's) sermon today?" After a bit of waffling on my part, she proceeded to tell me how she disagreed with one or two points and tried to pin me down on my opinion. Gloria was animated, she was in her element, having a great time and a bit of fun. Ideas were toys for her. "Oh, you know I would never tell David in public that I disagreed with him, but Ira, what did you think?" Sometimes, it was the sermon, other times the topic was generated by the Muffins and Mishnah study session. She always probed, never satisfied with a simple explanation of a difficult ancient or modern text.

When the pandemic began, she enrolled in online courses that I taught at Ramapo College of N.J. She signed up for courses on Ancient Greece, Ancient Israel, and Ancient Egypt. In her studies, I made sure to have her read extra sources that challenged traditional ideas about Jewish history and thought. New to her were ideas about the gods and rational theology in ancient Greece. New were readings written by ancient Indian philosophers exploring the source of existence and truth. All of these texts were written at the same time the Bible was being composed. Presented in class lectures and discussions was a chapter in the textbook, explaining the theory that the Bible was written and edited by different authors at different times and in different places. At first resistant, Gloria confronted and after considered thought accepted the findings of current biblical scholarship. Gloria loved the classes even though they were presented on Webex. While undergraduates in the class, remained quiet, Gloria was in her element, asking questions as she explored new forms of thought introduced by ancient Greek, Indian, Mesopotamian, and Canaanite philosophers, and theologians. Gradually, she admitted that the insights from ancient non-Jewish thinkers were causing her to rethink and revise her ideas about Judaism and God.

Did ancient Israelites worship trees? Gloria believed that each verse in our biblical text needed to be dissected and freshly interpreted. Years ago, she began and sadly never lived to complete, a radical interpretation of biblical verses concerning the way wood was burnt in offering sacrifices. She wrote, "The wood

burned on the Israelite altars was not always fuel for the sacrificial fires. Trees were themselves burned as *korbanot*, sacrificial offerings to affirm God's uniqueness. In this article I will support my contention, discuss the role *korban eitzim* [sacrificial wood offerings] played in the monotheistic sacrificial system and suggest that the origin of the commandment to bring this *korban* can be found in two verses in Leviticus not heretofore understood in this light. In conclusion, I will speculate that this understanding can inform a radical new interpretation of the Akedah."

In 2008, Gloria presented a speech at a conference on the "Challenges of Interreligious Learning: Learning about each Other, from each Other, with each Other". In the speech presented below, we see how her sense of compassion for those who are different and the importance of trying to understand others, was an important part of her life's work. Her insight into human emotions, individual distorted concepts of reality, and issues of identity and gender are eerily evocative of our current political and cultural divides.

*I have a friend who believes that all governments lie – especially about going to war. He believes that people in power advance their own class interests by fomenting hysteria which results in a lust to destroy the enemy. Ordinarily sane people believe propaganda, he says, because they have no alternate information. And they accept the consequences of going to war because they have no idea of war's realities. While there are other subjects we can discuss dispassionately, the emotions he displays on this topic are uncomfortably intense. The reason for his reaction reveals something important about the relationship between assumptions and reality.*

*In 1952, Rabbi Howard Singer was a United States Air Force chaplain in Japan and Korea. That December, he participated in a "mercy flight," to Cheju-do, a small island off the coast of Korea, to distribute Christmas toys and chocolates to children living in an orphanage. He told me, "Some were horribly disfigured. A boy sat in a corner. He was deaf, mute, and blind. I put his hands on the bars of a bicycle. He smiled and began to pedal -- but only for a few minutes. Other children performed songs and dances. I didn't think to ask about the children. And language was a barrier. I assumed they were victims of the war."*

*Rabbi Singer continued, "Twenty-five years later, I read an article in The New York Times. The kids I saw on Cheju-do were not war orphans. They were the survivors of a massacre that had occurred shortly before the war. Their parents, about 30,000 people, had been murdered by henchmen of Syngman Rhee, dictator of South Korea. My friend continued, "I can't tell you how shocked I was. I saw them; I touched them. And I didn't know who they were."*

*Why couldn't he know?*

*How we interpret what we see is influenced by many factors: group identity, national background, gender, education, religious tradition, economic status, prior experiences, the media, governmental policy, the opinions of those we respect, and much more. These factors, and the weight we give to each, result in a set of assumptions that form filters through which we see the world and other people. Some assumptions we are aware of, and able to modify in the light of new experience. Others are more difficult to identify and overcome.*

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## Adult Education

Adult Education has begun the exploration of programming for next year. I have suggested we start with Politics (of NJ or Israel) as the first topic to pursue with the hope of finding 3 speakers of notoriety. (Speakers can be individuals, a debate or panel). Congressional elections are November 8 and I am hoping we can use the potential candidates or political experts to highlight this topic.

I invite anyone who might have connections to suggest or connect us to potential speakers.

Programs recently held;

1. May 1-**In PERSON-Natalie Pittman-Supporting Righteous Gentiles**
2. May 5-on zoom-**HIAS- The challenges facing refugees and asylum seekers today, through a Jewish lens**
3. May 18- on zoom-**Imam Hamza -Muslim -Jewish relationships with the Muslim world.**
4. June 2-**Director Susan Bronson (pictured right)-The Yiddish Book Center-How many years of Eastern European Jewish History was saved in texts. Learn how the Yiddish Book Center works and how it will influence Jewish Culture.**
5. June 16-**Phil Aroneanu (pictured far right)- Chief Strategy Officer at Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action.We learned how clergy are helping to make changes to save our environment through Jewish Action.**



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

1. **Rabbi Fine** *Wednesday 12pm-Coffee with Rabbi Fine-Wednesday's on zoom*
2. **Rabbi Leah** *Pirkei Avot Reading Group-Wednesday evenings on zoom 7:30pm*
3. **Rabbi Leah** *Midrash meeting each Thursday at 3:00pm on zoom*

## Tikkun Olam

On May 31, 2022 the Tikkun Olam Committee welcomed **Congresswoman Kim Schrier, MD** to NJ via Zoom. Congresswoman Schrier spoke briefly about being a junior congresswoman and her path to the House of Representatives. However, the overwhelming concern was the possibility of legislative action on gun control after the May 24 Uvalde, TX shooting. As a Representative, Congresswoman Schrier is frustrated by the inability to get bills through the Senate on this topic. A lively discussion followed after Congresswoman Schrier's departure to another commitment.

Thank you to RCBI member **Gloria Lieberstein** for arranging this program.

If you missed this session consider joining Tikkun Olam this Fall for the following events.

- Yom Kippur Clothing & Food Drive – October 4**
- Immigration Program - October 14**
- Family Promise Meal Delivery – November 1**
- Fall Blood Drive – date TBA**



**Bob Rohrberger and Annemarie Roscello, Co-chairs**



**A Message from Jessica**

Now's the time to **register for NNJJA Hebrew School for 2022-23.**  
<https://www.familyid.com/nmjja-northern-new-jersey-jewish-academy/nmjja-northern-new-jersey-jewish-academy-hebrew-school-program-22-23>

Here's what we can tell you about next year:

**Yes! We will continue with Shabbat school! Community members, please mark your calendars, because the shabbat school vibe is an awesome one! We hope you can make it: 10/1, 11/19, 1/7, 2/11, 3/25, 5/6.**

**Yes! We're still zooming on Wednesday. Grade 3 will learn Hebrew decoding as a class. Grades 4-6 will get individual zoom lessons with an educator for 20 min, and a one on one meeting with a volunteer for an additional 20 minutes. Students can move through the tefilah goals at their own pace. Grade 7 will meet with **Rabbi Fine** in a class for 40 minutes, and then have 20 minutes with an educator to work on tefilot. Did you want to volunteer to zoom teach tefilot with our students? It feels great to walk into shul on Shabbat morning and recognize some community members. If you're interested, please reach out! We'd love some more volunteers.**

**Yes! It's time to reinstate **trips**. More info is coming, but we're excited that grades 5-7 will be going on an adventure this coming year.**

**Have a great summer! See you in September!!!**

**Mazel Tov to Our Graduates of Jewish Learning Programs**



*Top Left Photo: Our NNJJA graduates **Aaron Holden, Molly Weitz, Jack Leiman, Eli Della Torre***

*Bottom Left Photo: BCHSJS graduate **Ilana Unger** with **Principal Jessica Spiegel** and **BCHSJS President Sy Blechman***

*Top Right Photo: **Ariel Fine**, a proud graduate of the **Leffell School***

# MUSICAL NOTES



On May 15, the music committee proudly presented the America Israel Cultural Foundation jazz concert featuring Israeli jazz vocalist, **Sivan Arbel**. The wonderful afternoon of music was generously sponsored by **Richard Schaittacher in loving memory of his parents, Dorothy z”l and Fred Schaittacher z”l**. The music was followed by a delicious reception prepared by the committee. The audience was mesmerized by Sivan’s velvety voice and scintillating scat singing. Sivan was accompanied by award-winning musicians and composers **Nicholas Hetko, piano, Sam Weber, bass, Matt La Von, saxophone and Evan Hyde, drums**.

A second virtuosic jazz concert took place on Sunday, June 12 featuring **Mark Brandenburg, guitar, Dale Healey, vocals, Takashi Otsuka, bass and John Clay, drums**. **Ira Brandenburg and Anne Wolf** generously sponsored the festive reception in honor of discovering Mark and his sister Dale, who are Ira’s cousins dating back to **Daniel Brandenburger z”l (1770-1837) and his spouse, Rasia z”l**. *Please see Ira’s article that was published in the concert program (next page).*

Our June 24 **Shabbat Under the Summer Sky** was a great success thanks to **Marc Cantor** who served as the master of ceremonies for his 6th annual “**Name That Jew**” concert and contest. T.I. musicians played excerpts of songs which all had Jewish connections through their composers or thematic material. Kudos to **Marc Cantor, guitar and vocals, Bonnie Kaplan, keyboard, Bob Dworkin, guitar and vocals, and Tamara Freeman, violin**. The winners of the contest will be revealed in the next issue of Temple Talk.

**Our second Shabbat Under the Summer Sky is scheduled for Friday, July 22:**

6:00 concert featuring **Iven Rothenberg, guitar, Hank Bordowitz, bass and Larry Solomon, vocals**, followed by a 6:30 service and 7:30 dinner; \$20 per adult, \$5 for children, \$50 for families. RSVP to [TamaraFreeman@verizon.net](mailto:TamaraFreeman@verizon.net) by Tuesday, July 19.

**The High Holiday choir will resume this summer on Tuesday evenings; a schedule will follow.** Please contact the director, [TamaraFreeman@verizon.net](mailto:TamaraFreeman@verizon.net) if you would like to participate. All voices and musical backgrounds are cordially welcome. You do not need to read music or know Hebrew to be in the choir - just a love for music and fellowship with a wonderful group of *ruach*-filled friends.

**2022-23 promises to be a wonderful, music-filled year. Our Purim Shpiel on March 4 (see page 11 for details) promises to be a highlight!**

## 2022:

July 22	SUSS #2. 6:00 concert, 6:30 service, 7:30 dinner
September 16	Bimah Band Shabbat
October 14	Bimah Band Shabbat
November 11	Bimah Band Shabbat & Community Dinner
November 20	Open Mic 3:00-5:00 p.m.
November 22	Interfaith Thanksgiving service with the TI choir
December 23	Bimah Band Shabbat during Chanukah

## 2023:

January 20	Bimah Band Shabbat
February 17	Bimah Band Shabbat
March 4	Purim Shpiel 8:00 p.m.
March 17	Bimah Band Shabbat
April 14	Bimah Band Shabbat
May 26	Bimah Band Shabbat
June 2	Bimah Band plays for Board Installation Shabbat
June 23	Shabbat Under the Summer Sky 6:00 concert, 6:30 service, 7:30 dinner

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

## THE TALENTED SIDE OF THE BRANDENBURG FAMILY

By Ira Brandenburg

I will confess at the outset that I am definitely not described by the title of this essay. Rather, my fourth cousins, Mark Brandenburg and Dale Healey, perfectly fit that description. Now I know that, if not me and my immediate relatives, there is a branch of the family with talent.

I only recently discovered these cousins, who are related to me through our shared great-great grandparents, Daniel Brandenburger and Rasia, as I constructed a family tree by means of the Ancestry.com website. I located Mark, a professional guitarist, and his equally talented vocalist sister Dale, who perform largely improvisational jazz, American Songbook standards and soft rock. Happily, I also discovered that this brother and sister live in Bergen County, not distant from my Ridgewood home. We found them to be a charming pair who apparently were also delighted to also find a “lost” cousin. We shared email and phone contacts and shortly thereafter, Mark and Dale invited my wife, Anne Wolf, and me to hear them perform at a Hackensack restaurant.

In short, we were bowled over by Mark’s extraordinary guitar performance and Dale’s vocal expertise. Now we knew for certain where the Brandenburg talent lies, and so when the opportunity presented itself, I recommended the siblings to the Temple Israel music committee. In short order, Mark presented a recording of his exceptional guitar skills to Tamara Freeman and Debbie Cantor, co-chairs of the committee, who were as impressed as Anne and I had been. They suggested a program centered around Mark’s interpretive playing of Jewish composers and lyricists of American Songbook standards.

As a result, my cousins Mark Brandenburg and Dale Healey perform for us today, accompanied by Akashi Otsuka, bass and John Clay, drums. Anne and I are delighted to sponsor this afternoon’s concert reception in honor of my cousins.



*Left: Deanna Rothenberg creates the stunning fruit platter (photo by Tamara Freeman)*

*Right: Sivan Arbel, vocalist at AICF concert (photo by Tamara Freeman)*



*Dale Healey, vocals and Mark Brandenburg, guitar with Ira Brandenburg, middle (photo by Bruce Thaler)*

## **Security programs and safety at Temple Israel**

We take security and safety very seriously at Temple Israel, as evidenced by the fact that we have a very active Security Committee. But, what is it exactly that this committee does?

While we're all cognizant of the Board's ongoing efforts to enhance Covid safety protocols (still a priority) , many other safety and security measures fall under our radar. Swiping little blue plastic key FOBs when entering the building may, in fact, be the only visible sign for an average congregant to suspect security activities. Rest assured, however, security initiatives focused on "hardening" our building actually do exist. Behind each FOB lies a network of electronics, cameras, hardware and protocols developed by a small team of volunteers committed to mitigating harm.

Temple Israel has been fortunate to have a dedicated group of board members and congregants who have for the past decade volunteered their time in this endeavor. Everything from applying for federal grants, procuring and installing security measures, and writing operational protocols for emergencies have been the purview of this ever changing but dedicated group . Many of these security programs, funded by several federal grants, enabled Temple Israel to: establish bollards at our entrances; install surveillance cameras, monitors, FOB access controls, digital cameras, panic alarms and DVR recording capabilities; and: procure professional training and guard services.

While our past efforts may be admirable, there is more to do. The committee is now focused on enhancements in three primary areas .

**First, identifying additional infrastructure opportunities:** Several months ago, Temple Israel invited the security director of the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office to conduct a security walk through resulting in a site assessment report which informed future funding requests. The security committee submitted another federal grant application outlining projects to expand initiatives undertaken under our completed 2017 Homeland Security grant. If we receive a 2022 NSGP grant program (with priority funding given to not-for-profit institutions in urban areas) it will be used to enhance and expand electronic surveillance infrastructure, classroom security, digital communications, network resilience and improved building access controls. In the meantime, we're working with Temple Israel staff to correct a checklist of modest asset improvements identified during the professional site assessment.

**Second, enhancing surveillance alert/response:** The Temple has agreed to participate in a highly technical security system offered to Bergen County synagogues. The Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey , through a donor sponsor, will supply initial resources to deploy the "Gabriel Security System", an electronic surveillance platform, which automates panic alarm activation and facilitates the process of communicating with first responders should an emergency or building breach occur. This "state of the art" system will be installed and tested for efficacy at no cost to Temple Israel.

**Third, developing emergency protocols:** Emergency planning, such as fire safety coordination with the Ridgewood Fire Department, has been employed in the past but a more holistic approach to safety is now being driven by federal and state government promotion of security awareness to help mitigate violence. In fact, federal grants now allow funding resources for training purposes. A draft of Emergency protocols was recently reviewed by security officials at the Bergen Prosecutor's Office and Jewish Federation of Bergen County. The committee is working to finalize the Emergency Plan and develop simple guidelines. We hope to have congregant materials available before the High Holidays, and we will schedule congregant security briefings with assistance from the Security Director of Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey.

**What is your role in security? Bring your key-FOB (plastic blue disc)to access our building. If your FOB is misplaced or is not working, please let Maureen know and will provide you with a new one. When visiting Temple Israel stay aware of your environment, refresh your knowledge of room and sanctuary exits, and be prepared to be informed.**

As we head into the Fall, please participate in safety briefings and training sessions when they are scheduled. As always, knowledgeable volunteers are needed.

If you're interested in learning more or getting involved with security efforts, contact James Goldfarb or any of the people mentioned in this report.

**Submitted by Joe Landau**



Thank You

Temple Israel

2022

Thank you so much for your generous contribution. It has been a pleasure working with you for 30 years. God Bless all of you. We meet again!  
Tina Polen

On Sunday, June 5th, following Shavuot services, more than 120 members of the Temple Israel community came together to wish **Tina Polen** well on her retirement and enjoy a specially prepared luncheon in her honor. After thirty years of being an integral part of our Temple Israel community, Tina is moving to Virginia in early July to live with her daughter, Jennifer, who joined us to celebrate.

At services we thanked Tina with some gifts from the congregation including a funny retirement t-shirt to add to her collection and artwork for her new home. Tina was particularly touched by the paver to mark her 30 years of service, symbolizing the permanent mark she's made at Temple Israel! (It is now installed in the walkway next to the paver in memory of her mother.) She was also presented with a four foot retirement card filled with more than 100 congratulatory messages and pictures submitted by members of our community (a copy of the card remains in the TI lobby).

Thank you to all who generously contributed to the card and to Tina's retirement gift -- the outpouring of love and gratitude was very much appreciated. It was a wonderful luncheon to celebrate someone who has given so much to all of us! We will all miss Tina and wish her nothing but good health and much happiness in this new chapter of her life.

**EVERYONE** is invited to audition for ***The Rebbe of Oz Purim Shpiel*** presented on Saturday evening, March 4, 2023. Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion and more will tell the Purim story with a hilarious script and music from *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Wiz*. The audition and rehearsal dates will be announced in the Fall and there will be parts for adults and kids.

So save March 4, 2023, 8:00 p.m! We want the whole congregation to make LOTS of noise when hearing "He Who Shall Not Be Named!"

**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.

Rabbi Singer first saw the children of Cheju-do through the eyes of a young military chaplain told he was going to visit war orphans. He did not think to question his superiors. His visit to Cheju-do changed his view of war. The newspaper article 25 years later changed his understanding of reality. Rabbi Singer taught me that there is only so much we can know about any situation – even the ones we witness or participate in ourselves. Objective reality exists, to be sure. But because it is filtered through the lens of our world-view, it is difficult, if not impossible to apprehend completely. I share this story and analysis to introduce a question.

What do you see when you look at me? And what assumptions influence your observations?

I am a woman. In your view, can a woman speak with authority? About more than her own experiences? Today is the day for the Jewish speaker, so even if I were not wearing a kippah, you would assume I'm Jewish. But you have probably met Jewish women who don't wear kippot. How do you react? Do you believe that Jews can be trusted? Do you agree, as I heard a German Protestant minister say, that as a minority, Jews must always defer to the opinions or needs of the majority? I am a rabbi. Perhaps some of you are thinking, "That's interesting. I didn't know women can be rabbis." Others may be uncomfortable because they believe, "women shouldn't be religious leaders." I am very overweight – well, okay, I'm an American so perhaps my size confirms some prejudices. Statistics for 2001 say Americans, 5% of the world's population consume enough extra calories per day to feed 80 million people. Finding that statistic, by the way, motivated my latest attempt to diet. You are kindly requested to remind me of that if you see me reaching for sweets. And, while we're talking about prejudices, I'll say right now – I did not vote for George Bush either time, and I have been against the war in Iraq from the beginning. But -- why did I feel it necessary to share that? And those of you who laughed or nodded – why? What assumptions do you have about Americans?

How do you react to the fact that I am sharing personal information? This is not unusual among Americans, but, I'm told, can be deeply shocking to Europeans among others.

Your answers to these questions, if you can answer them at all, influence how you respond to what I say. So has my asking them. Of course, the answers don't reveal everything you might assume about me. But had I not asked these questions, you might not have been aware of some of the factors influencing your response to my talk this morning.

Our perspectives are also subtly shaped by things we cannot identify. A July 31, 2007 New York Times article, "Who's Minding the Mind?" reported that psychologists were able to alter study participants' judgments of a stranger by handing them a cup of coffee. On the way to the laboratory, students met a laboratory assistant, who was holding textbooks, a clipboard, papers and a cup of hot or iced coffee — and asked for help with the cup. "The students who held a cup of iced coffee rated a hypothetical person they later read about as being much colder, less social and more selfish than did their fellow students, who had momentarily held a cup of hot coffee." Think about this when you decide whether to have hot tea or cold water after our session.

Only by identifying and confronting the components of our own worldviews, as best we can, and being open to the perspective of "others" can inter-religious learning take place on more than a very superficial level. This conference presents a wonderful opportunity to begin. At the JCM thirteen years ago, I met a German Muslim woman who has become a very close friend: Shaykha Halima Krausen. Halima doesn't like me to say that she is "the leader" of the German speaking Muslim community in Hamburg. In German, the word "leader" is *Führer* which, after World War Two has a negative connotation. As we haven't found a substitute, and as "leader" accurately conveys what she does, she tolerates the linguistic discomfort.

I know that among Europeans, to share one's experiences can be understood as bragging or arrogance. This is not ordinarily true among Americans, and I have Halima's permission. So please accept that I am being culturally appropriate – at least to my own cultural background – to share something about our friendship. Our story illustrates many of the challenges, and rewards, of inter-religious learning: learning about, learning from, learning with the other.

In March 1995, two months before my ordination, I attended my first JCM. The project group I chose was Qur'anic Arabic. Halima was the teacher. I was impressed by her gentle manner, her constant smile, and her laughter. I was surprised by how much I learned. On Shabbat afternoon, Halima and I took a walk in the woods. We began a conversation that has continued: via snail mail, the internet, telephone, and during visits to each other's communities. The assumptions each of us had led to misunderstandings – sometimes over simple things -- that we laugh about now. Had either of us been less committed to success, our friendship might have faltered. And the reason for the failure might have been added to any negative assumptions about "the other."

Simple things – like a towel and a toilet. During my first visit to Hamburg, Halima almost concluded that I am inconsiderate and wasteful. She could hear that every time I used the toilet, I didn't stop the flush when the job was done – usually midway. "After big business you can let it go all the way. But every time?" she bristled. And had Halima pinched the towel I brought – she could have displayed it as evidence that I am provocative. It had a picture of a tour bus, a map, and the words, "Israel the Jewish Homeland." I will never forget the look on her face as she saw it and sputtered, "What is with that towel -- propaganda?"

Halima couldn't know that I had never encountered a "flusher" that could be pressed to stop. And I couldn't know that she paid for water. In the US, at that time, water meters were unusual and environmental concerns not yet emphasized. The towel? I had received it as a souvenir when I participated in a group tour. For some reason I thought I had to bring a towel to Hamburg. I chose the largest one I owned with no thought whatsoever to what was printed on it. Which, in retrospect, was foolish.

Her tone of voice could have made me think that Halima is unreasonable. After all, this was my first trip to Germany – how could she expect me to know these

things? And why didn't she ask quietly? I was able to tell her I would never do anything purposely to annoy her. I needed her help to learn. And she could explain that the emotion I heard came from the stress she felt in having me visit, because she wanted me to be comfortable. We both wanted the friendship to work. But we had to work hard to see the world through each other's eyes. These days I like to tease her. If she seems annoyed at something, I ask her about it "so I can be certain to do it again!" And we both laugh.

Sometimes misunderstandings evoke strong feelings that are difficult to identify. Asking ourselves what the situation or the feelings remind us of can be helpful. I was equally anxious when Halima visited me for the first time. Halima planned to explore New York City on a day I had to be in my office. My anxiety manifested itself in a series of instructions on how to stay safe. The reality is, I projected my own insecurities onto Halima. Only to her, they sounded like commands and made her wonder whether she had found a second mother – not a compliment – or whether I had had a conversation with her mother-in-law. By that I mean, she wondered whether the cultural situation in the US was similar to that in Pakistan where a guest is taken care of within an inch of her life! On Halima's first trip to Pakistan, her mother-in-law worried that Halima wouldn't be able to handle herself with taxi drivers or in the marketplace. Halima understood her concern to be a loving response. But was my reaction cultural or controlling? And of course she could very well be on her own. After all, she had traveled by herself and with her husband throughout the Muslim world – information I couldn't know until we talked about it later. Did I think she was naïve or stupid! See the problem?

And we expect our leaders to be able to sort out complex international conflicts in short order! While sitting around a conference table holding glasses of iced water! And what happens after you drink a lot of water? We assumed that visiting a mosque or synagogue together shouldn't be problematic: and had two surprises.

We stopped into a mosque in New York City. The idea was for Halima to do her afternoon prayer. We'd have a look around together. We agreed I should wear a headscarf. Things began well enough. I sat in a chair and watched as Halima began to pray. It was also time for Mincha, the Jewish afternoon prayer. Why not? So I stood next to her. And I felt my spiritual connection intensify as it combined with hers. Afterwards we were invited to meet the imam. What did the imam see? Two women wearing headscarves. He asked Halima, "Sister, how long have you been a Muslim?" She shared her story. Then he turned to me, "And you sister?" "I'm not a Muslim...." I appreciate fine preaching – but his theme was dark and threatening: if I did not accept Islam – voluntarily of course, the Qur'an says there is no compulsion in religion -- I would end up in a place so hot iced water wouldn't help. I wasn't upset because Halima was angry enough for both of us. And quite embarrassed too. If I had not had the opportunity to discuss the episode with Halima, I might have assumed that all Muslims share that imam's belief. Halima assured me they certainly do not.

My community next. One Shabbat morning we went to

the Orthodox synagogue in Hamburg. My grandparents had taught me that if I ever needed help anywhere in the world, find a synagogue. I understood that to mean anyone who came with me would be greeted as my friend. But Halima was a Muslim woman wearing an Allah pin – potential terrorist. Anticipating their anxiety, Halima had tried to reach someone by phone to tell them we were coming – no luck.

To my horror, we were separated, questioned, and Halima's bag was searched -- even though I explained who I was in Hebrew to the Israeli guard. Halima was relaxed, because she knew that Jewish institutions in Europe have to have security. When they asked her if she had a knife she laughed and said, "No, but I have a spoon!" I was in tears. A cornerstone of my worldview had shattered. And I recognized for the first time that there are places we cannot automatically walk arm in arm together. Of course, the security check was just a delay. We soon went inside.

We have had more "traditional" interfaith opportunities – studying Hebrew and Arabic texts, discussing similarities and differences until late in the night, ringing up the other to ask how she understands an item in the news. We have also shared joys and sorrows. By reciting Psalms in the early morning hours in the US, I was "with her" at an emotional memorial service in Hamburg. She offered a blessing at the wedding of my daughter. Late one night, after I underwent complicated surgery, I rang her knowing she was awake and worried. Over time, the lens with which we each view the world expanded to include the perspective of "the other." We have evolved a shared view of humanity. Human needs are more important than politics.

But the journey has been painful as well. In his book "Talking with the Other," Jonathan Magonet wrote, "Like the prophet Isaiah, whose mouth has been touched by the purifying coal from the altar (Isaiah 6), those who have experienced dialogue have become mediators between two domains, answerable to both but always potentially misunderstood by both. The risks inherent in participating in dialogue should not be underestimated by those who undertake it for the first time. The hardest part is returning home."

As a rabbi, I am expected to interpret world events for my community. But the story of Cheju-do and my friendship with Halima have taught me that reality is multi-faceted and therefore illusive. It is no longer possible for me to formulate, let alone to present, what I now know would be simplistic responses. Instead, I discuss the potential affect on the people involved. Or how my friendship with Halima informs how I understand what has happened. At times this has left me feeling outside a community that expects a strong statement. But at other times, this has enabled me to speak effectively to the emotions of the moment. On September 11, 2001 – I was scheduled to speak at a state-wide interfaith conference. When I arrived, I was told that participants knew that the Twin Towers had been attacked, but not that they had fallen. I was asked to make that announcement at the plenary session. An imam was to speak on the panel – a man I had not met. I knew the image of a rabbi and an imam together would be important in the days ahead. He agreed. What to do? I remembered a song Halima and I had taught religious school children in Hebrew and Arabic.

Cont.on page 14

*After sharing the news, the imam and Isang, Hayvaynu Shalom Aleichem; Ji'na Bi Salam 'Alaykum – We Brought Peace to You. The entire conference soon joined us. Over the years that followed, I met or heard from many of the people who were present. They affirmed that our action began the process of healing. Halima, along with members of her community, has participated in reading the names of Holocaust victims at memorial ceremonies in Hamburg. Imagine the impact of the sight of Muslims sharing the Jewish community's pain?*

*We see ourselves as unofficial ambassadors of inter-faith understanding – watching heads turn as we walk together: she in her headscarf, me in my kippah; hearing all conversation stop as we board a bus. Challenging stereotypes. Evoking questions.*

*We learned early on that groups we speak to are more interested in our friendship than in any other topic we might present. How we connect as people seems more powerful than facts about Islam and Judaism.*

*Of course, studying other religions and their sacred texts is important. How else can we confront the challenges of inter-religious learning? In my experience, this happens best by opening ourselves to the worldview of other people by spending time with them in their homes and communities; by developing the capacity to be inquisitive instead of reactive; by understanding that there can be a disconnect between objective and perceived reality – and recognizing that sometimes one is more important than the other; by identifying and questioning our own assumptions.*

*Earlier I asked – what do you see when you look at me? I end with the following question – would your initial reaction have been different had I looked like this? Thank you for the privilege of addressing you this morning.*

Copyright 2008 Rabbi Gloria S. Rubin

I first met Gloria in shul. We immediately connected. I don't know if it had any importance, but both of us were wearing custom made *tallitot*, designed and made by the same textile artist in Jerusalem. Goodbye Gloria, we will think of you every night when the phone rings after Shabbas is over.

*Rabbi Fine, cont'd from p. 1*

“teacher.” She was always a teacher. Her degrees only struggled to keep up with who she was.

If you knew Gloria well, you knew that about her. She would say your name, and look at you with her eyes, waiting for the response from her pupil. That was her way, and we loved her for it.

Gloria retired after serving a congregation in Meriden, Connecticut for eight years. I was serving in Middletown, Connecticut, for some of those same years, first as the cantor at the synagogue that is now home to the one she served, and later as interim Jewish chaplain at Wesleyan. I was part time and regret that our paths did not cross then, but that loss was corrected later on. I first got to know Gloria when I was a rabbi in

Westchester, before coming to New Jersey. I put a question to the Rabbinical Assembly listserv if anyone had any rabbinic sources I could use to go along with a classic Star Trek episode for a program I was thinking of doing for Selihot. Gloria replied and called me directly. “I have a lesson plan!” she said. And it meant so much for her to share it, to keep teaching. My Temple Israel friends know that the Star Trek Selihot program continues!

I can't even begin to describe what a blessing it was for me to have Gloria in my congregation, for a colleague to become a congregant, and for Gloria to become my friend. We continued to learn from each other up to the end. I can't tell you how many times Gloria tried to convince me of her theory of the centrality of tree worship in the Torah. We took time in this past year to partake in continuing education offerings of the Rabbinical Assembly that related to her interests, and she audited Ira Spar's courses at Ramapo College. She took such joy in talking through and debating the different theories of ancient Israelite religion, even engaging me and Ira in discussion just days before her passing. Learning sustained her soul.

Gloria was a teacher, but she was also a rabbi's rabbi. I have been speaking with a number of my colleagues about Gloria. Someone shared with me how Gloria reached out to her when this colleague was just beginning her career in Connecticut. “She was a mentor to me,” this colleague wrote to me, “She took me out to lunch, told me about her routine of getting up at 5am, writing every morning, etc.” A few months ago the Rabbinical Assembly reached out to Gloria and asked her to serve as a Career Coach for colleagues in the placement process. She called me and asked for advice. “Should I do it? I would like to, but I don't know how much time I have.” “We all have the time we have,” I answered, trying desperately to offer some wisdom, to at least reflect back to Gloria what she knew was right. “If you have Torah to teach, then teach it.” And so she did, continuing to make a difference, up to just a few weeks before the end.

What made a difference for her was her family. In the acknowledgements to the second edition of *Living With Your New Baby*, Gloria writes: “A special thank you to my husband Marty who takes 100% interest in everything I do and shares equally in the work that results; my children, Kenny and Becky, who have taught me more about parenting than any book, lecture or workshop.” She loved her family. Gloria was not afraid to die, but she was grateful for the “extended time” if we can call it that, that she had to be with them, to be the wife, mother and bubbe that she loved being. Through her illness she was always worried more about Marty than herself, because he, and the family they built together, was her life. 100 per cent, as she writes in her book. I was looking over the membership application for Temple Israel I mentioned before that she filled out a decade ago. On it we ask for the wedding date. She wrote: “6/27/1950.” Now Marty, you and Gloria were married a long time, but not that long. June 27, 1950, I figured out, is her birthday, not anniversary. Ok, so she was filling it out quickly. But maybe she was also saying, in a way, that Marty was her life. Which he was.

Her last lesson, the Torah that she shared with me from her hospice bed and with everyone else whom she spoke with at the end, was that she was grateful for all she had in her life, and she was grateful to be rewarded at the end with dignity and awareness. This even though we lost her so soon. She apologized to me for not getting around to writing her eulogy for me to deliver. “So if you think of nice things to say about me, say them. And if you don't, then don't.” I told her it would not be difficult to say nice things about her. But it is very difficult to lose her. May her memory continue to instruct us and be for us a blessing. *Yehi zikhrach barukh.*

an evening) event that you look forward to participating in annually (or maybe it's not annually) to raise funds for the Temple. So stay tuned for an invite to those sessions, and do not hesitate to contact me in the meantime with your suggestions.

Another case in point. Attendance at our Shabbat services is modest (but loyal). One thing I have learned as president is that not everyone connects with Judaism through weekly worship. (Before becoming president, I did connect to Judaism through weekly worship, but more so in the breach than in the observance.) Might more people connect through services if we mixed it up a bit? Different Friday evening service times, altering the Hebrew-English balance, new nigunim (melodies), novel locations? While we are and will remain an egalitarian, Conservative congregation, we have room within that construct to explore ways to encourage greater participation in and connection with religious services. I hope that we will survey the congregation about this in the fall, probably after the High Holidays.

Another of our goals: shoring up our finances. This begins with passing a balanced budget. "Balanced" not only in the sense that our projected revenues are at least equal to our projected expenses. But also in the sense that our assumptions are sound. We do not have expense assumptions; our expenses are fixed and knowable, except for unforeseen capital expenditures (say, if the roof caves in ... for which we have Endowment funds; note, we have no reason to expect the roof to cave in). Our revenue assumptions include the number of members (which drives dues) and the amount of donations. I am delighted to share that at its June meeting, the Board of Trustees passed a balanced budget for 2022-2023, and we will be sharing it with the members over the summer. I want to thank our Treasurer and Finance & Budget Committee chair, Scott Leiman, and the Finance & Budget Committee for their hard work these past few months to bring the budget process to this successful conclusion.

The budget underscores that dues and donations are critical to sustaining Temple Israel. Our membership numbers – and, therefore, dues revenue – have held steady the past few years. Normal course member resignations have been matched by normal course member additions. But we can do better in attracting new and retaining current members. And we must do better given our congregation's demographics, which are weighted more toward the empty nesters and retiree cohort who understandably wish to spend more time on the links in warmer climes or visit grandchildren who live away.

Rethinking our dues structure might be one way to do better, and Merille Siegel has graciously agreed to chair a committee to study our dues structure. I look forward to reporting back to the congregation on what comes from the efforts of that committee, and I thank Merille in advance for agreeing to continue to serve the congregation. On a separate track, but chugging in the same direction, we will explore how we may continue to improve our marketing efforts, especially by targeting potential members where they are and making frictionless their on-boarding. By frictionless, I mean making joining Temple Israel as easy as filling out an on-line membership application and submitting it right from our website homepage. Other shuls in the area have that capability. Why not us?

As for donations, please keep making them.... But seriously, a heartfelt thank you on behalf of the congregation to everyone who donates. Your generosity helps us provide all those connections for our members. Here too, however, we can and must do better. Of course, I am not asking those I have just thanked to dig deeper. That would be crass (but not entirely out of bounds). Rather, I want to explore a long-term giving (or development) campaign. This campaign is at the "I have this idea ..."

stage. I look forward to discussing it further with our Charitable Giving chair, Bob Obeiter, among others, and creating a more concrete concept in the coming year.

Dues and donations are not our only revenue sources. We also generate income from tenants that use our beautiful facility when we are not using it, particularly on weeknights. The income from these tenants is helpful, though modest. Here too, we can do better. To that end, we will be engaging a real estate broker to market our facility to other potential tenants. To be clear, we are not looking to displace our current evening tenants, two of whom have been with us for many years. We simply are looking to increase our utilization of the building. If you know an organization, school, or non-profit in need of space, please contact our Facilities chair, Alex Rothschild.

Security has been a hot topic in Jewish institution circles this past year. Continuing to enhance your physical safety while at Temple remains a top priority for the Board. If you want to learn about our latest efforts, please see Joe Landau's article on page 10.

Finally, strategic relationships. We are excited about the potential for TI and our friends at Temple Beth Sholom of Pascack Valley. As I indicated at the General Membership meeting, we each have our own processes to go through as TBS winds down its affairs and we discuss what a common future might look like. I look forward to sharing more in the coming year. Meantime, you might hear or read about the Bergen County Synagogue Alliance or BCSA. This is an informal effort among local Conservative congregations to co-program events to bring more Bergen County Jews together for, among other things, Tikkun Olam programs, Sisterhood and Men's Club events, and adult education classes. Other congregations involved in BCSA include JCC Paramus and Fair Lawn Jewish Center. I look forward to announcing events and dates for BCSA events as they become available.

Those are among the goals for the coming year. Ambitious? Perhaps. But when an organization is fortunate enough to have dedicated volunteers, talented staff, forethinking members, and the resources to aim high, the ambition to do better seems prudent, yes?

James Goldfarb, President

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## 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.



## 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

# ROSH HASHANAH HONEY SALE

What's the Buzz? **It's the annual Sisterhood honey sale.** Share the tradition of apples dipped in honey and help Temple Israel & Jewish Community Center at the same time. Sisterhood is offering our members the opportunity to share the sweetness of Rosh Hashanah by sending gifts of delicious golden honey. You can send honey to your family, friends, teachers, synagogue staff, children in college and/or the entire congregation. Each package contains a cheerful gift card and a jar of honey. Delivery by mail will be made prior to Rosh Hashanah.

Individual honey gifts to TI-JCC member families and synagogue staff cost \$15.00 each and can be purchased by circling the names of your choice on this form or send to the entire congregation for \$198. Members may send friends and relatives honey by attaching a separate list of names and addresses for each jar of honey, at a cost of \$15 per jar.

Thank you for supporting Sisterhood.



Please mail your check payable to *Temple Israel Sisterhood* with this form and your non-member name and address list to:



Temple Israel & JCC Sisterhood Rosh Hashanah Honey Sale  
475 Grove Street  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

Orders must be received NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1, 2022

Questions? Please email Stephanie Gottesman at [stephaniegottesman@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniegottesman@gmail.com)

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Your Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Give to the entire synagogue (includes Rabbi, Education Dir., office & custodial staff) \$198.00

Total individual gifts \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Attach list of names & addresses for non-members)

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CHECK \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CIRCLE THE NAMES OF THOSE FAMILIES TO WHOM YOU'D LIKE TO SEND A GIFT OF HONEY:

This list is pulled from our most recent membership roster. If your name does not appear, please forgive the oversight and let us know so that you will be included on future lists. Thank you.

AGINS, AUDREY MEYERS & SCOTT  
ALBESCU, SONIA  
ALTERMAN, CHERLY & ALLAN  
ALTMAN, ROZ  
ALTSCHER, DEBRA & STANLEY  
AMBROSIUS, MICHAELA  
AMOS, TAMARA & ALBERT  
AMSTERDAM, SUSAN  
ANTEBI, KIM & HENRI  
ARMSTRONG, SANDY & DONALD  
ARONEANU, CORINA & ANDREI  
ARONOV, ANASTASIYA PISKAREVA  
& ARTHUR  
AUERBACH, EVELYN  
AUSTEIN, EMILY & JOSHUA  
AYES, CHARLOTTE & ROBERT  
BAKAL, MIRIAM & TODD  
BARANES, MALIKA & AVI  
BARUCH, NAOMI & YIGAL  
BASLAW, JOAN & SCOTT  
BAUM, SARAH & MIKE

BENKEL, SUSAN & HERBERT  
BERGER, ROBYN & JAY  
BERLIN, MELISSA & DANIEL  
BERKOWITZ, RACHEL & CHARLES  
BERMAN, ROSLYN & MYRON  
BERNHARDT, ARLENE & MARC  
BIRENBAUM, SUE HILL & LESTER  
BIXON, PHYLLIS & GARY  
BLUMENKRANZ, STEPHANIE &  
GREGORY  
BOBER, JANET & BERNARD  
BOLLENS, HELGA  
BORDONARO, JANICE & BRUCE  
BORDOWITZ, FRANKIE & ELI  
BORTINGER, NANCY & ARIE  
BRAFF, IVONE & JEFFREY  
BRANDENBURG, ANNE WOLF & IRA  
BRESSLER, ARTIE  
BRESSLER, BARBARA & STEVEN  
BRESSLER, IRENE  
BRODY, LAURA & PHILIP

BROWN, NADINE GENET & LEIGH  
BRUNN, SHARI & KEVIN  
BUCKWALTER, ALAN  
BUSCH, RENEE  
BUSSI, ELIZABETH & URI  
BUTENSKY, DEBRA  
CANTOR, DEBRA & MARC  
CAPLAN, CARYN GOODMAN & MITCHELL  
CARDAMONE, KATHI & PATRICK  
CARUSO, DEBRA & STEPHEN  
COHEN, HEATHER & RANDY  
CHASE, RENA LEVYKH & ALEXANDER  
COFFIN, NAOMI & DARREN  
COHEN, HEATHER & RANDY  
COLEMAN, SUSAN  
COX, ARLENE & DAVID  
DAVIS, LINDA & ABE  
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DELLA TORRE, MARCY & BRIAN  
DESHEPLO, AIMEE  
DICKMAN, CAROL  
DOBKINS, CHRISTINE & EVAN

DWORKIN, BOB  
EFRAT, ANAT & AVIV  
EISENBERG, DEBORAH & HARRY  
ELIAHOV, CELINE & ELIE  
ELMAN, SUSAN & MARK  
ENGLE, TRUDE & HOWARD  
FAKHERI, SABINA KIRILLOV & ROBERT  
FELDMAN, BETTE  
FELS, CARLA & RICHARD  
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FIEDLER, SARAH  
FINKE, HENRY  
FISHBEIN, SUSAN FLANZMAN & DANIEL  
FLEISCHMANN, ANNEMARIE ROSCELLO & EVAN  
FLEISCHMAN, ROBERTA & CHARLES  
FLICKER, JOAN & KEITH  
FORSTOT, ROCHELLE & JONATHAN  
FRANK, SHERRY & STEPHEN  
FREEDLAND, JUDY BASLAW & JOE  
FREEMAN, TAMARA & BARRY  
FRIEDMAN, ALISA & MARC

FRIEDMAN, CARYN & NEIL  
FRIEDMAN, DORI & RABBI GERALD  
GENKIN, LISA & STEVEN  
GLICK, JUDY  
GOJMAN, EMILY & BENJAMIN  
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GLUCK, HAYLEY & JEFF  
GOLDBERG, BETH  
GOLDFARB, ALYSON YASHAR & JAMES  
GOLDSTEIN, SUSAN & SHELDON  
GOODFRIEND, ROBERT  
GORDON, GLORIA & JEFFREY  
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GREEN, SUSAN  
GREENBERG, BEATRICE  
GROH, JODY & ANDREW  
GROSS, SUSAN & IRA  
GROSSMAN, LIZ & SETH  
GRUNAT, JACLYN CALEM & JOSHUA  
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HALPERN, RITA  
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KAHAN, NAOMI  
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KLEIN, HEDY  
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LAXER, STACY & MARC  
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LEVENE, ELYSE & LOUIS  
LEVI, STEPHANIE & ARIE  
LEVINE, EMILY  
LEVINE, ROBERTA  
LEVINE, ROBIN & RICHARD  
LEVITSKY, SHARON & KENNETH  
LEVY, CAROL & LEONARD  
LEVY, TERRI & MOSHE  
LIEB, ANNETTE & ANDREW  
LIEB, MARISSA & MICHAEL  
LIEBERSTEIN, GLORIA  
LIEBOWITZ, CANTOR JOEL  
LINCOLN, MICHELLE LEVINE & PAUL  
LINDENBERG, ERIN & MATTHEW  
LIPKOVITZ, MARK  
LIPSKY, DANIELLE & DAVID  
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LOVETT, ANITA & JOEL  
LUSTIG, KAREN & RICHARD  
MACKZUM, AMANDA & KENT  
MARCYES, SYLVIA FLESCHER & THOMAS  
MARGULIES, MARTHA & JAMES  
MATTHEWS, ALYSSA  
MATZA, ILENE  
MCGRAW, JORDANNA & ROSS  
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MICHALOWICZ, TERRI & MARC  
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MOSENKIS, SHARON & DAN  
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NOVEK, CONSTANCE  
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RADVINSKY, MARINA & DAVID  
RAWLINS, DEBORAH & DENNIS  
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ROHRBERGER, RISA & ROBERT  
ROSEN, ANDREA & DAVID  
ROSEN, JANE & RICHARD  
ROSEN, JOHANNA & MICHAEL  
ROSEN, RHODA & ARNOLD  
ROSENHOLZ, FIONA & LEO  
ROSENTHAL, NANETTE ROSENBAUM & HARLAN  
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ROTHENBERG, IVEN & DEANA  
ROTHSCHILD, JOY  
ROTHSCHILD, LAURA & ALEX  
RUBENSTEIN, JOANNE & MARK  
RUBIN, MARTIN  
RUBIN, ROANN & JAY  
RUBINOFF, SUSAN  
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SCHADMI, ELISA & ITAI  
SCHRAN, ALICIA ORELLANA & SETH  
SCHEPS, LYNN & MICHAEL  
SCHNAITTACHER, RICHARD  
SCHRAUB, MARION  
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SHAPIRO, RAHEL  
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SOLOMON, LORI  
SOMMER, MARJORIE & ROBERT  
SONNEBERG, CAROL & MICHAEL  
SPAR, REBECCA & IRA  
SPECTOR, GAY & SALEK  
SPRINGER, LAUREN & JAY  
STEINER, ROBIN & MICHAEL  
STOLEROFF, PHYLLIS  
SUSSMAN, GAYLE & ROBERT  
TEPPER, BRIAN  
TEPPER, WILLOW & PAUL  
THALER, ELAINE SILVERSTEIN & BRUCE  
TOBIN, BERYL & RICHARD  
TRIGGER, MARISSA SWEIG & DALE

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UNGER, WALTRAUD & DANIEL  
VAN GROVER, LINDA & ROBERT  
VOGEL, CARLA & DENIS  
WALKER, ELIZABETH & SCOTT  
WECHSLER, SANDY & JOE  
WEIS, ERIC  
WEISBERGER, LINDA & JAMES  
WEISS, BONITA & DAVID  
WEISSMAN, BARBARA & ALLAN  
WEITZ, JEN BLANCK & EVAN  
WHITTAKER, LORISSA LIGHTMAN & JEFFREY  
WIESELBERG, ZIVA DAVIDOVICH & LEEOR  
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ZONENSHINE, MARCIA MINUSKIN & JEFFREY  
ZUR, TRACY & BEN-TZION

TEMPLE ISRAEL & JCC STAFF  
FINE, ALLA & RABBI DAVID  
MOSE, RABBI LEIAH & ROSS MATTIO  
NASSAN, MAUREEN  
SERNA, JOSE  
SPIEGEL, JESSICA

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FACULTY

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

## Donations & Dedications

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

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

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

Temple Israel Operating Fund any amount

### DEDICATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

The following are suggested giving opportunities in which the funds are used to support specific areas of synagogue life.

**Temple Israel Chai Campaign Fund** any amount

Funds the major capital improvements from our synagogue building renovation

**Religious School Enrichment Fund** any amount

Funds religious school enrichment programs & materials

**Temple Israel Torah Campaign:** Funds ritual needs such as Torah scroll repairs, prayer books, etc. **\$1800 Parsha**

**Endowment Funds \$25,000 to establish a fund; \$18 donation to established funds**

Each Fund has a specific purpose. Consult column on the right

**Susan Reeve/Temple Israel Feed the Hungry Fund** any amount

Funds Temple Israel's Tikkun Olam Feed the Hungry Program

**Kiddush Club** Funds the kiddush when there is no regular kiddush sponsor \$144

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund** any amount

Funds charitable purposes, at the discretion of the Rabbi

**Assistant Rabbi's Discretionary Fund** any amount

Funds charitable purposes, at the discretion of the Cantor

## Endowment Funds

### TEMPLE ISRAEL GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND

**PURPOSE:** To fund maintenance and/or capital improvement projects to Temple Israel properties.

### AMSTERDAM FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

**PURPOSE:** To provide siddurim to Temple Israel religious school students.

### DONALD & HELEN FELLOWS MEMORIAL HOLOCAUST EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND

**PURPOSE:** To fund the education program portion of the Annual Holocaust Remembrance.

### PHYLLIS ANN ZWEIG FRIEDMAN ENDOWMENT FUND

**PURPOSE:** To provide scholarship to a Temple Israel high school student to attend an Israel/Eastern Europe educational program.

### DAVID & SARA GOODMAN ENDOWMENT FUND

**PURPOSE:** To fund supplemental Jewish experiences for Jewish youth.

### DAVID & SALLY KIRSCH SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

**PURPOSE:** To provide scholarship to a religious school graduating student for continuing Jewish religious education.

### ALEXANDER & SOPHIE PURITZ MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

**PURPOSE:** To fund the Temple Israel Annual Hanukkah Party, which shall include the distribution of silver dollars to all students.

### MAX AARON STRACHMAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUND

**PURPOSE:** To purchase educational materials for the library as well as fund library related educational events.

### WILLIAM & RHODA TOONKEL

### JEWISH MUSIC ENDOWMENT FUND

**PURPOSE:** To promote Jewish musical education for the Temple Israel religious school, as well as other musical and cultural experiences for Temple Israel and Jewish Community Center.

### Contribution Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks for General Donations or Dedications should be made payable to Temple Israel.  
Checks for an Endowment or Discretionary Fund should be made payable to the specific Fund.**

This contribution is \_\_\_\_\_ in honor of or \_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**TEMPLE  
ISRAEL**

and Jewish Community Center

**475 Grove Street  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450**

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*Jazz musicians playing June 12 concert: **Mark Brandenburg, guitar, Dale Healey, vocals, Takashi Otsuka, bass and John Clay, drums.** Photo courtesy of Bruce Thaler.*