



**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

### *Our Spiritual Pensions—*

As delivered in synagogue on the second day of Rosh Hashanah

There are certain words that are freebies on any given New York Times crossword puzzle. They're all three-letter words, so you don't get any big breakthroughs. Poem of praise? *Ode*. Historical period? *Era*. Retirement savings in-brief? *IRA*. That's "in-brief" because it's an abbreviation, although I needed Google to confirm for me that it stands for Individual Retirement Account. (It is not named after a Mr. Ira Roth.) The concept of a retirement fund, of deferred benefit, is a sophisticated idea that requires a certain faith in the system that we will reap our just rewards at a future time.

In Jewish theology, the great innovation of the rabbis of the Talmud was the concept of the World-to-Come, which is essentially a deferred-benefit system for ethical and righteous behavior. The ancient rabbis were just as aware as we are that good people often get a raw deal, while bad people sometimes prosper, and justice can be elusive. The Torah seems to suggest immediate returns. You perform the mitzvot and the rains come and you prosper. You break the covenant and things fall apart. But real life rarely works that way. So the rabbis, influenced in part by the Greek idea of an immortal soul, argued that in the World-to-Come, the *olam habah*, God will see to a great accounting of all our deeds. Those who did works of righteousness in this life, but were not rewarded, shall enjoy a healthy maturation of their investments in the World-to-Come. Correspondingly, those who behaved badly in this life and got away with it will find an uncomfortable future waiting for them on the proverbial other side. People often ask me if Judaism believes in heaven and hell. We do, but Jewish heaven and hell is administered by accountants, stacking all our meritorious deeds against our infractions, not losing sight of any credit or debit, and determining our place in the future world that we end up deserving.



## President's Column

As delivered in synagogue on Yom Kippur

"I wouldn't want to belong to a club that would have me as a member," a famous Jew once said. That quip took on a different meaning for me this past year when I became a member in a club I definitely did not want to join.

I hadn't been looking for more demands on my time. Like you, I sort of have a full plate these days. I also didn't hear wonderful things about this club. Friends and family who are members had little to say about it, and none of it positive. The club, which does not advertise, has no membership card, secret handshake, or club house. It does not have committees, and it does not charge dues. Okay—no committees or dues? Perhaps those are positives.

Being a club, it does have standards. Two, actually. First, admission is restricted to those who meet the club's singular admission requirement. Second, members are obligated to recite an oath from time to time. As to the first admission requirement, you have to have lost a parent. As to the second, you have to recite a special kaddish. The club I am talking about is, of course, the mourners' club.

So, for the past ten months, at Friday evening services, after the Aleinu, when most of the congregation sits down, I remain standing to say the mourners' kaddish for my mother, Lynn Goldfarb of blessed memory. Mom's illness, diagnosed shortly after the High Holidays last year, took her from us by the end of the secular year and made me a member for life among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

I do not stand alone to mourn, however. I am comforted knowing that other Temple Israel members stand alongside me. Some lost a parent or family member this past year. Others are observing yartzheit for a loved one long since departed.

Not only do I not stand alone to say kaddush, but, throughout the initial mourning period, I was lifted by the love and support of the entire Temple Israel community. Whether it was the thoughtful shiva call you made, food for the shiva, a kind note to me, food for the shiva, a generous donation to



## Sisterhood News

### Upcoming Events

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

**Thursday, October 13, 7:30 pm: Sisters in the Sukkah.** Israeli dancing, schmoozing, and refreshments in the sukkah.

**Saturday, November 19, 7:00 pm: Sisterhood Invites You to a Grown-up Party.** We all need a post-Covid night out. Join us for an evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, yummy desserts, wine, and drinks at Temple Israel. Open to all adults in the TI, RCBI, and TBS community. The cost is \$18 per person; RSVPs required: please check your email and the weekly announcements for details.

Other planned events include a **Hanukkah party on Monday, December 19**; a **Lunar New Year's Party and paid-up membership luncheon on Sunday, January 22**; and a **Purim party on March 2**. Please join us, and please feel free to contact us with ideas for future events!

### Past Events

On September 15, Sisterhood held its first event of the programming year, Game Night. Attendees played Trivial Pursuit and mah-jongg, and following longstanding Sisterhood tradition, ate chocolate and drank wine. This event showed once more that Sisterhood is a great way for congregants of all generations to come together.

A wonderful Sisterhood tradition is providing honey to the entire congregation before Rosh Hashanah. Thanks to many volunteers, led by Stephanie Gottesman, this large undertaking went off without a hitch. It is truly a team effort. We are very grateful to *David Millman*, who organizes the delivery routes with an engineer's precision. *Frankie Bordowitz, Debbie Cantor, Sue Flanzman, James Goldfarb, Susie Goldstein, Stephanie Gottesman, David Millman, Sharon Mosenkis, Tova Samuels, Stacey Scott, and Linda Weisberger* packaged the honey for delivery.

The following individuals delivered honey to congregants: *Scott Baslaw, Liz Bussi, Marc Cantor, Brian Della Torre, Tamara Freeman, Jill Good, Nadine Genet and Leigh Brown, James Goldfarb, Stephanie Gottesman, Scott Leiman, Lois Lipeles, Robin Kanen, Susan Kornblit, Amanda Mackzum, David Millman, Sharon Mosenkis, Linzie Peckis, Jo Rosen, Tova Samuels, Stacey Scott, and Cindy Zirkin*. We are very, very grateful to all of you for your help!



*Sisterhood members enjoyed learning and playing mah jongg at Game Night in September.*

***Debbie Cantor and Elaine Silverstein, Copresidents***



**Harry Grant Man  
of the Year**

**James Goldfarb**



**Youth of the Year**

**Jake Cohen**

**Youth of the Year**

**Ethan Holden**

**Awards**

Each year, Brandeis Men’s Club, in association with the Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs, honors the man or woman whose work, dedication, and achievements set an example for others to follow. This honor goes to a deserving community member who stands above the rest as a problem solver, organizer, and community leader.

The Youth of the Year award goes to a young member of our congregation who exhibits qualities and achievements that point them toward positions of future leadership in the community. This year, the selection committee had an impossible choice. Knowing that “if you choose not to decide, you still have made a choice,” we are blessed with two Youths of the Year whose achievements are unique and equally meaningful.

**Events**

Join BMC for **Steak & Scotch in the Sukkah on Sunday, October 16** at 5:00 pm at Temple Israel. This annual family-focused event is an opportunity to socialize and engage in the mitzvah of eating a meal in the sukkah. Non-steak eaters and non-scotch drinkers are welcome too. RSVP and pay via Venmo@BMC-TI. The cost is \$18 per person. Sponsorship opportunities may still be available; contact [MensClubEvents@synagogue.org](mailto:MensClubEvents@synagogue.org) for more information.

Another annual fall tradition is the **cemetery cleanup at the Temple Israel section of Cedar Park and Beth El Cemeteries**. We had fun and served the TI community by honoring those who cannot look after themselves anymore.



*Thank you to Bob Rohrberger, Evan Dobkins, Marc Lipkovitz, David Millman, Evan Fleischmann, and he who remains anonymous.*

The next **BMC meeting will be on November 8**. To stay up to date, subscribe to the BMC calendar feed:

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/09a2e4136700441b92501d47a2233e4c@synagogue.org/9e8fc2b079c34ceba4a41ccde2b3f6bb10926211279108558050/calendar.ics>

**Evan Fleischmann, President**



## A Message from Jessica

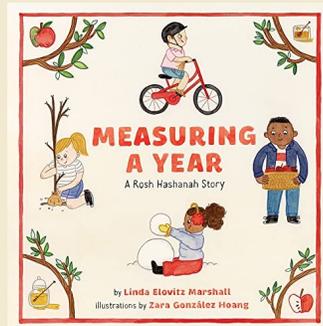
### **PJ Library**

If you are a family with young children, or a grandparent of a young child, and you do not already know about PJ Library, you should (<https://pjlibrary.org/home>). The PJ Library sends out books with Jewish content every month for free with no strings attached. There are also events and opportunities for gatherings, but the most wonderful part of PJ Library is getting the new special book every month.

### **Looking Back and Forward**

This year for Rosh Hashanah, PJ Library sent a book called *Measuring a Year: A Rosh Hashana Story* by Linda Elovitz Marshall with illustrations by Zara Gonzalez Hoang. It is such a sweet book. It starts with the opening question “How do you measure a year?” and then gives you different ways to measure. Is it by how much you grew, or pictures you took, or trees you planted? Maybe by pictures you’ve drawn or people you’ve met.

The book, despite being written for very young audiences, has had me thinking about how to measure this past year and how we might look at the year moving forward. There were seismic shifts throughout last year school year. Remember how we started the year masked and finished the year seeing each others’ faces? We scheduled snacks, changed course, and returned to snacking together? Are these ways to measure a year?



What will this academic year bring? Our Hebrew school students will be able to measure tefilot learned, shabbats together at Shabbat School, songs learned in music, and Sundays spent learning together. Will our families be able to count how many new friends they’ve made in this community? Or interesting conversations they’ve had with their kids after a Sunday Hebrew school session? Should we measure in tzedakah collected or projects that get sent home?

The beautiful little book has me thinking about measuring all sorts of experiences and marking them in my mind. Shabbat meals together. Friends who come to dinner. Sleepovers my 10-year-old has with her peers. Baseball games my son plays in. So many opportunities for growth, change, and progress.

Most notably for me, the things I want to count are experiences that involve community. I urge you to think about how you want to count this year. What Jewish milestones do you want your kids to meet? How can you help them count those goals and measure a year so that when we close the book on Hebrew School 2022-23 we feel proud of our work? However you decide to measure, may this year bring you blessings, friendship, health, and community.

### **Jessica Spiegel, Director**



## YOUTH

Youth is looking forward to a fun year ahead. We are hoping that Covid numbers stay low so we can do more activities out of the synagogue setting.

Both the **Kadima** and **USY** youth groups are part of **FLIPPER**, which is sponsored by the **Fair Lawn Jewish Center/ Congregation Bnai Israel, the Jewish Community Center of Paramus/ Congregation Beth Tikvah, and Temple Israel Jewish Community Center of Ridgewood.**

Our local Kadima group is open to all students in grades 4-7. However, nationally sponsored events are limited to sixth-to-eighth graders. FLIPPER’s first **Kadima activity** will take place at the **Fair Lawn Jewish Center on October 23.** Additional events will follow on **November 20** and a **Hanukkah celebration on December 17.**

Our local **USY** group is open to all students in grades 8-12. However, nationally sponsored events are limited to ninth-to-twelfth graders. The **first activity will take place at Temple Israel at 1:00 pm on October 2.** Save the date of **October 30** for a second event. On **November 20**, USY is invited to join the **Bergen County High School of Jewish Studies (BCHSJS) on a scavenger hunt in New York City.** Also look for a **Hanukkah-themed event on December 3.**

The cost for membership is \$18 a year, and all in-house events are free to members. Kadima and USY are open to everyone, whether they are synagogue members or not, so please bring your friends! If you have any questions please reach out to the **youth advisor Marcia Kagedan**, 201-815-8136 or [edudirector@chsb.org](mailto:edudirector@chsb.org).

## Ritual Roundup

Shanah Tovah! Summer is over, leaves are falling, football is heating up, and New York baseball continues. We saw the classic Star Trek episode Plato's Stepchildren at Selihot, heard the shofar at Rosh Hashanah, fasted for Yom Kippur, and are now bundled up eating in the sukkah.

In the Torah we're just beginning (literally) as we start back up in Bereishit with stories of creation, the flood, and the patriarchs and matriarchs.



### Here are the upcoming simchas and ritual events:

- **October 12: coffee with the Rabbi in the sukkah**
- **October 16: Hoshanah Rabbah**
- **October 17: Shemini Atzeret/Yizkor**
- **October 18: Simchat Torah, with congratulations to our honorees: Anne Wolf and Evan Fleischmann**

### A final thanks to our gracious hosts of the 2022 Summer Sunday minyanim:

- Tricia and Howard Schreiber
- Miriam and Scott Baslaw
- Annette and Andy Lieb
- Alyson Yashar and James Goldfarb
- Alla and Rabbi Fine

### Many thanks to all the people who contributed to our warm and meaningful High Holidays:

- **Services:** Nanette Rosenbaum, Cantor Joel Leibowitz
- **Shofar:** Cantor Joel Leibowitz, Ariel Fine, Dan Schuler
- **Torah:** Chris Dobkins, Elaine Silverstein, Cantor Joel Leibowitz, Elyse Levene
- **Haftarah:** David Millman, Tamara Freeman, Stephanie Gottesman, Rick Lustig
- **Choir and Bimah Band:** Tamara Freeman, leader
- **Family Services:** Brian Della Torre, manager
- **Ushers, chairs:** Evan Fleischmann, organizer
- **Countless logistical items:** Jose, Maureen and Neil

Please feel free to sign up to do a Torah or haftarah 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, Chair

## WE WELCOME A NEW STAFF MEMBER



When I came to Temple Israel over thirteen years ago I was excited to become part of a staff committed to maintaining a home of Jewish learning and spirituality. I have been blessed over these years in working with wonderful individuals who have served our community. We were sad to say goodbye to **Tina Polen** this summer as she retired and moved to Virginia. I want to thank all those members on Saturday mornings who helped us with the work that goes on behind the scenes in setting up and cleaning up after our fantastic Shabbat kiddush luncheon lovingly prepared most weeks by **Bob Dworkin and the Kiddush Club**.

While there are many opportunities for volunteering at the synagogue, much of the Shabbat work is now being performed by **Neil Loughran**. Neil joined our staff at the beginning of September as assistant custodian. Working under Jose's supervision, Neil has truly stepped up to the plate for us in a new position at a time that we needed him. When you see Neil around the synagogue, please welcome him to our family if you have not already.

While Neil has lived in a number of places throughout the country and Europe, he is a real Ridgewoodian, born and raised here and a proud graduate of Ridgewood High School. **Welcome to Temple Israel, Neil!**

# MUSICAL NOTES



Our two delightful **Shabbatot Under the Summer Sky** will give us wonderful, warm memories while we enjoy the cool autumn weather and the 5783 yom tov.

The **Temple Israel Choir and Bimah Band** were joined by the **Glen Rock Jewish Center Choir** for our moving Selichot services. Tamara Freeman directed the summer rehearsals and music for the services. Our choir and band also shared their talents for Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidrei, and Yom Kippur. Kudos and sincerest thanks to:

**Choir:** *Debbie Cantor, Dennis Rawlins, Bob Dworkin, Marc Cantor, Tova Samuels, Cindy Zirkin, Ross Mattio, Elaine Silverstein, Harlan Rosenthal, Elyse Beidner Levene, Cantor Joel Leibowitz.*

**Temple Israe'lights Bimah Band:** *Marc Cantor (guitar), Susan Kornblit (guitar) Bonnie Kaplan (keyboard and piano) Artie Bressler (bass clarinet), Wayne Miller (percussion), Tamara Freeman (violin).*



*Selichot Choir and Temple Israe'lights Bimah Band Photo taken by Rob Kern*

## Please save the following dates for Music Committee events:

### 2022

- October 14:** *Bimah Band Shabbat*
- November 11:** *Bimah Band Shabbat and community dinner*
- November 22:** *Interfaith Thanksgiving service with the TI choir*
- December 11:** *Open Mic, 3:00-5:00 pm*
- December 23:** *Bimah Band Shabbat during Hanukkah*

### 2023

- January 20:** *Bimah Band Shabbat*
- February 4:** *America Israel Cultural Foundation Concert & Tu Bishvat reception*
- February 17:** *Bimah Band Shabbat*
- March 4:** *Purim Shpiel, 8:00 pm*
- 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*

We are already excited about Purim! If you would like to audition for the **Purim shpiel**, please see the flyer in this issue of *Temple Talk*. The shpiel will be directed by our very own **Andy Lieb**.

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

## Adult Education

Our **September 18 town hall forum** featured legislators from New Jersey's 38<sup>th</sup> district: **State Senator Joe Lagana, Assemblywoman Lisa Swain, and Assemblyman Chris Tully**. Each guest shared their background and the legislative work they are currently involved with. Topics included state taxes, bipartisan efforts to find common ground in New Jersey to get things done, and infrastructure changes for water safety. Assemblywoman Lisa Swain spoke about special efforts to combat anti-semitism in a program she is supporting called "End Jewish Hatred."

The opportunity to meet these politicians was met with positive energy to find out more about how efforts are made to improve the quality of life in NJ. The questions got to a granular level giving participants answers to changes and improvements that affect them personally.

This meeting was a benefit for the politicians and the congregants, who had an opportunity to interact in ways they could not do on their own. The legislators enjoyed the opportunity to meet us and inform us of their efforts and increase their profiles. This town hall forum gave the participants a chance to know our politicians on a more personal basis and share that knowledge with friends and neighbors.

**October 22 at 12:30 pm will be our next forum** featuring **State Senator Kristin Corrado and Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips from the 40<sup>th</sup> district**, which includes Ridgewood.

*Robert Smolen, Chair*



*Pictured from left to right: Assemblyman Chris Tully, Assemblywoman Lisa Swain, Robert Smolen, State Senator Joe Lagana*

## TEMPLE ISRAEL HAS A NEW TENANT



You may have noticed that our building, which was usually quiet and sleepy on weekdays, is now filled with boisterous high school students. No, we have not started a day school; rather, we are very pleased that **Ohr Yisroel, a boys yeshiva**, has joined us as a tenant. Ohr Yisroel is a rapidly growing non-traditional Orthodox yeshiva. Ohr Yisroel encourages student-directed learning with teachers helping to guide students to find their own path of secular and Jewish learning.

Ohr Yisroel is in our building Mondays through Thursdays. While there will be a period of adjustment from a quiet empty building to one filled with high school kids, we are working to insure a minimal disruption to our normal weekday routines. School and Temple Israel leaders are committed to working together to make this relationship succeed.

Beyond the very helpful rental income, the additional cleaning demands of the school have facilitated the hiring of **Neil Loughran** to help Jose. Neil's hours will allow us to also provide better service to our members on Shabbat. We should also take pride in providing a space for these students to grow as young adults and having our building used to further Jewish education throughout the week.

**Ohr Yisroel has also added amenities.** They furnished a student lounge in the kiddush room with couches, hammocks, and ping pong tables. They also set up basketball hoops in the parking lot, a small gym, and more. Over the weekend, our students in NNJA and BCHSJS are able use them.

Many people have worked very hard to make this rental a reality. Special thanks go to **Rabbi Fine, Maureen, and Jose** for managing the move-in and day-to-day relationship. Thank you also to **Wayne Miller** for his work in setting up the new wifi and monitoring the video feeds and to **Joe Landau** for his work in setting up the key fobs. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact **Rabbi Fine, Brian Della Torre or James Goldfarb** for more information.

## Membership

### Welcome to New Members

Many people have joined Temple Israel this summer as new members. We extend a warm welcome to:

- *Charlotte, Robert, and Claire Ayes, Ridgewood*
- *Avi, Malika, Yonaton, and Daniel Baranes, Ridgewood*
- *Sarah, Michael, Emma, and Daniel Baum, Ridgewood*
- *Naomi, Darren, Sadie, and Ruby Coffin, Fair Lawn*
- *Sabina Kirillov and Robert and Nathaniel Fakheri, Paramus*
- *Caryn, Neil, Benjamin, and Mia Friedman, Ridgewood*
- *Emily, Benjamin, Eliana, and Adam Gojman, Allendale*
- *Jill, Adam, and Sean Good, Paramus*
- *Steven Kandler, Wanaque*
- *Deborah Kirschner, Fair Lawn*
- *Cheryl and Larry Klein, Glen Rock*
- *Elina Kruglyak, Franklin Lakes*
- *Wendy and Steve Lerman, Fair Lawn*
- *Marissa, Michael, Lily, and Jason Lieb, Glen Rock*
- *Lois and Marin Lipeles, Glen Rock*
- *Einat, Avi, Nathaniel, and Daniella Naveh, Fair Lawn*
- *Debra and Craig Padover, Woodcliff Lake*
- *Linzie Steinbach and Jason, Samuel, Matthew, and Lily Peckis, Wyckoff*
- *Rahel Shapiro, Hackensack*
- *Stuart, Aiden, and Dereck Schneider, Ridgewood, who have joined RCBI*
- *Linda and James Weisberger, Ridgewood*

### We also welcome as new gifted members:

- *Ariana, Mitchell, and Hunter Ayes, Hillsdale*
- *Dara, Ilya, and Rebecca Goldman, Fair Lawn*
- *Lindsay and Adam Matloff, Hawthorne*
- *Jocelyn Lieb and Dan, Andrew, Joseph and Daniel Schapira, Mahwah*
- *Liza, Corey, and Stella Wisk, Ridgewood*

### Save The Dates

This fall please save **Friday November 11 for a Shabbat dinner**. The Bimah Band will be playing that evening during services beginning at 6:30 and dinner will follow services. Save December 17 for a community wide Hanukkah party.

Wishing everyone a healthy and a happy New Year. Shana tova.

### Jo Rosen and Jay Hyne, Co-chairs



*Smiles from Temple  
Israel Open House on  
August 14, 2022.  
Photos by Jo Rosen  
photography.*

# Scenes from a Summer Soiree—August 23rd, 2022

Photos courtesy of David Namerow and Jo Rosen



## B'yachad

Greetings from B'yachad. For those of you who may be unfamiliar with B'yachad, we are a young-family group that aims to meet monthly. We plan fun gatherings that are usually centered around the holidays. Please feel free to join us! It is a great way to feel part of the Temple Israel community. If you would like to be added to the mailing list or have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to [jenblanck@gmail.com](mailto:jenblanck@gmail.com) or [caryncap718@yahoo.com](mailto:caryncap718@yahoo.com).

During August, the **Bergers** graciously hosted a pool party where we swam, ate, and made new friends. In September, we started off by celebrating Rosh Hashanah with a family friendly activity. **Caryn Friedman** ran a great event for the younger kids, who decorated honey jars and baked apple pies for the upcoming holiday.

Please join us for a B'yachad sukkah potluck on October 15. Time and place to be announced. An email with more details will go out at least in a week in advance. Looking forward to seeing you.



## TI HAS A BRAND NEW PLAYGROUND

Have you noticed the new playground at Temple Israel? It is hard to miss! The playground is the brainchild of **Kara Miller** and will provide hours of entertainment for our kids and more time for parents to hang out. **Kara and Richard Fells** put in several very sweaty days to lay the cushioned tiles and they coordinated the entire project.

The new playground has already gotten a lot of use and positive reviews by both kids and adults. The playground is not only a fun and safe place to play, it is also a great visual advertisement that Temple Israel welcomes families with young children. An unexpected outcome of Covid was beginning to use our outdoor space more, and this project is part of a larger effort to transform this area into a space that can be used for services, events, socializing, and more.

Thank you to everyone who donated their time and money to get this project off the ground and running. We are still soliciting donations to add a **ga ga pit** for older kids and to create a **patio area with outdoor permanent seating for everyone to enjoy**. Please contact **Maureen Nassan** in the Temple Israel office if you are able to contribute

Thank you to everyone who worked on the planning and construction and who generously donated.



## 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**

## A VISIT FROM THE RABBI

Tara Maurizi was rushed to the hospital on a September Thursday because of excruciating abdominal pain. Complications; tests; and various wires, tubes, and medication made it virtually impossible for her to even leave her bed. Her husband, Craig, was working and watching their children who were not allowed to visit because they are under eighteen. The depression became almost as bad as the stomach pain.

Tara painted this picture because she wanted us to understand the extent to which the rabbi's visit made a difference. When Rabbi Fine walked into her room, she was of course surprised but moreover (she writes):

*I actually felt hope, healing, and happiness for the first time in what felt like forever. I realize this may sound 'over-the-top' but I can't find the words to explain how much his visit meant to me. He quite literally cured me. His visit gave me faith and hope. I went from hunched over to sitting up straight. He reminded me of life outside those walls. While our conversation was no more religion filled than it would be with my neighbor, his taking the time to come and visit me meant the world to me. My family and I are reminded every time we walk through the doors (or in the last two years into the parking lot) of Temple Israel that it is our family, our second home, and our safe place. I couldn't feel more lucky to have such an incredible leader and more importantly friend!*

This note is being shared in *Temple Talk* to underscore what being in a synagogue community can mean for our members. Thank you Rabbi Fine for being present.

## YOUR DONATIONS MATTER

Your food and clothing donations make a big difference. We received the following thank-you from **Judy Saydah of Ridgewood Social Services**, a reminder that we have many neighbors who continue to need our support.



*Thank you so much for organizing the Temple Israel food drive for Social Services. Our need for food is tremendous and we rely on these food drives to keep our shelves stocked. It was great to have the collection in person. The rain even held off. We got about one and a half carloads.*

Thanks again for your support, and if you are interested in doing other food drives during the year, let us know.

The system the Rabbis constructed works perfectly as long as you have faith in something that you can neither see nor touch. Like any financial system, the system of Rabbinic theology works for those who can agree to have faith in the market, and that the values that we trade around have meaning. Our actions and deeds have value and meaning, even if their rewards are only realized as a deferred benefit.

The High Holidays take us through our annual audit. Rosh Hashanah is called *Yom Hadin*, the Day of Judgment, when the accounting is made of where we ended up last Sunday, which was the last day of the Jewish fiscal year. What would our "retirement" in the World-to-Come look like if we were to stop "working" this world today? Can we live off our pension funds of mitzvot performed, or do we have too many debts to pay off, too many expenses to allocate whatever small merits we might have earned? How do we appear in the ledger of the Book of Life?

The liturgical calendar assumes that we want to improve our portfolios. We are given another week to right some wrongs, to show our concern for others, to try to fix a relationship in need of healing, to make things better for those around us. In the Unetaneh Tokef prayer we say that Tshuvah, Tefillah and Tzedakah, repentance, prayer and deeds of loving-kindness, can avert the *ro'a gzeirah*, the "evil decree." The program of the days leading up to Yom Kippur is essentially a stimulus plan. If everyone intensified their religious and ethical behavior, the market would respond, and our "retirement forecasts" would improve. On Rosh Hashanah we welcome the new year and pray for sweetness and health, but by Yom Kippur we can make it better, we can change our destinies, we can manipulate our returns. That's the hopeful message of Unetaneh Tokef. The prayer begins with a sense of despair, that we pass by God as sheep before the shepherd with no control over who shall live and who shall die. But after we turn the page in the mahzor we discover that we can control our destinies. We can't control when we die, but we *can* control how we live the remainder of our lives, and we can influence and change the decree, improve our fortunes, grow our retirement funds.

The liturgy of the High Holidays is steeped in metaphor. Yesterday I talked about God as king or sovereign. Today I guess it's Chancellor of the Exchequer. The important thing is that we use the metaphors as aids to help us get to their lofty meanings, and not get lost in the details along the way. Over the past year I faced an interesting teaching challenge where I needed to translate the idea of spiritual resilience and renewal without recourse to the metaphors and symbols of our tradition, or any other specific faith tradition. As a volunteer chaplain for the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, I was asked to give a weekly lecture to police officers about spirituality in the face of adversity. New Jersey has one of the highest rates of death by suicide among police officers, a growing trend that is attributed not only to the high stress of a police officer's job but also the declining status of police officers in American society in the wake of the ongoing plague of racism in this country. In response to this alarming trend, the former attorney general of New Jersey, Gurbir Grewal of Glen Rock, mandated a curriculum of resiliency training for all police officers in the state. Each county prosecutor's office was responsible for the resiliency training in its respective counties. The state-wide curriculum included units from substance abuse and family life to meditation and mindfulness. Here in Bergen County, there was initial training for chaplains and department chiefs and for what the attorney general called "resiliency officers" who are to serve in every department so that officers have someone to go to other than their chief to talk about issues. The resiliency officers were supposed to conduct the training in

each department, but the prosecutor's office decided to centralize the training so that a core group of teachers would reach every officer. In what was a significantly ambitious undertaking, we worked with groups of 50 to 100 officers every week for what amounted to a full day at the police academy in Mahwah. For the better part of a year, I was at the police academy almost every Thursday morning for an hour, as I was a preferred instructor for the unit on spiritual resiliency. Last month, after working through the current class of officer candidates, we reached every police officer in the county.

While I had an outline of my talk from Trenton, it was not an easy task. "Spirituality" is not an easy subject to explain in any context, but all the more so in a government context when I can't "establish" a specific religious approach. And not to mention having to teach to a room of a hundred folks I have never met before and knowing that I am the only one in the room unarmed! The rat-tat-tat of the outdoor firing range would wake me up as I walked from my car to the lecture hall. Then, going through the prepared curriculum PowerPoint slides, I relied on my understanding of the anthropology of religion, trying to lay out the commonalities of all faith traditions in helping us carve some order out of chaos. That works for professional law and order people. I talked about symbols, but instead of religious symbols, I spoke about the symbol of the flag, and of the seals on the badges we all wore in that hall. My point was how symbols and rituals help us make order out of the chaos we encounter, how they strengthen us in the face of disorder.

I talked to them about how we need to count our blessings, beginning at the start of each day with gratitude for another day of life. I told them the story, a true story, about a member of this congregation whom I counselled some years ago as he sat at home in hospice care at the end of his life. "What do I do with this, Rabbi?" he asked me, "Knowing that I have only a week or so left?" He could no longer leave his house, it was too late to knock off items from the bucket list. "Tell me about the blessings you enjoyed in life," I asked him. And then, instead of dwelling on the short horizon of his future, he looked back on a lifetime of memories, and his expression lighted.

We all need to count our blessings, but we can also look back on how we brought blessings to others. I suggested to my police officer audience that we think about the sum of our good works as a spiritual pension fund. "You and I will unlikely become wealthy from the professions we chose," I told them. "But we take comfort in slowly building up our pensions, knowing that when we are no longer earning, we can at least hope to live off of the returns of the funds we have set aside for that future time." I suggested to my officers that they consider the concept of what I like to call a "spiritual pension." Every time we help another person, every time we make a difference, each action that carves order out of the surrounding chaos, we make a deposit in our spiritual pensions. I explained to them that they have the extraordinary potential to perform acts of lovingkindness in helping bring some order to people's lives in time of need. Breaches in civil order, catastrophic events of nature, and other emergencies, find people in positions of great vulnerability and fear. Bringing calm and assurance, a steady hand, a firm path out of danger, is an opportunity not only to help a victim but also to bring meaning into the life of the one offering the help.

When we help other people, I told my classes, we make deposits into our spiritual pensions that we can draw on later in our lives, when we recall those moments and appreciate the blessing of being able to help others. And when we make those withdrawals, when we reflect on the good things we have done, we don't deplete our savings. Those remembrances of deeds of

lovingkindness will continue to nourish us without ever depleting their principal. We can all enjoy the wealth of a spiritual pension, a wealth that is never consumed, a source of comfort throughout our lives of the meaningful acts that we performed, of the meaning and purposefulness that has marked our lives.

In the Rosh Hashanah Musaf at the beginning of the Zikhronot section devoted to God's memory of us, we address God, saying: *Atah zokher ma'aseh olam ufoked kol yetzurei kedem*. "You remember the deeds of the world and You are mindful of Your creatures since the beginning of time" is the translation in our mahzor. I would translate the sentence as: "You remember the works of the world and recall the products of the past." We imagine God as the ultimate accountant and auditor. But the context of this sentence in the Rosh Hashanah liturgy is to recall our actions for good, that our merits may help secure a favorable judgment, an extension of credit for another year. We understand God to be all-remembering, and we believe that by asserting that our deeds of merit will not get lost under a sea of chaos and disorder, the falling shorts, the missed opportunities, the unreconciled relationships, the disappointments, the regrets, the misdeeds. We know God remembers those. We assert that God also remembers the good things we have done.

But we also recognize that the way we imagine God is a reflection of how we understand ourselves. It is easy for us to remember where we fell short, easy to recall disappointments. Recalling what we did right, remembering how we helped someone else even if it meant little to us at the time, is harder to do. That's the practice of spiritual resiliency that I have tried to teach at the police academy. When we feel the weight of our disappointments and frustrations weighing us down, we need to open the accounts of our good deeds and be reminded of the blessings we have brought into the world.

When we learn how to do that, if we can reflect our imagining of God's mercy and compassion back onto ourselves, then we can reap the rewards of our spiritual pensions whenever we wish. We do not need to depend on the Talmudic deferred benefit scheme of the World-to-Come. We can draw on our pensions now. The principal is safe, and there is no early withdrawal penalty.

We assembled in this room again on Yom Kippur, as we beat our chests with the *Al Hets*, recounting our transgressions. But what we do on Rosh Hashanah, celebrating the arrival of a new year with those we love, is just as important. Maybe more so. As I sat with that man in home hospice years ago, and he started to talk about the good he did in his life, his accomplishments at work, the life he and his wife provided for their children, the pride in his grandchildren, the smile grew on his face as if he were at that moment tasting a slice of apple dipped in honey.

### 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.

the temple in my mother's memory, or food for the shiva (there was a lot of food for the shiva) the outpouring of support from the Temple Israel community comforted and helped me and Alyson manage through those miserable initial days of life without mom.

When I needed my Temple Israel community most, my Temple Israel community was here for me. Is it here for you? And will it be here for you when you need it most? Let me recount some of the ways in which we strive to be here for you, our members, when you need or want Temple Israel. Some of these might be obvious, others less so, and in certain instances, that might be a function of where you are in life.

### Education

When you want to learn, Temple Israel is here for you. Jews are known as people of the book. Temple Israel takes that to heart by providing numerous opportunities for you and your family to continuously learn, not only about our religion and our history, but also about social, political, and cultural matters that are relevant to us as Jews, New Jerseyans, Americans, and citizens of an increasingly fragile world. Whether it is Rabbi Fine's annual class, adult education lectures, presentations sponsored by our other committees, Hebrew school, or the Bergen County High School of Jewish Studies, there is a wealth of opportunities to come together to learn and grow.

This year, the Adult Education Committee is trying something new. Monthly programs, which we are calling *Temple Talks*, modeled after Ted Talks, will fall within one of four themes: politics, family, religion, and aging. The next presentation, the second of the three politics programs, will be Saturday, October 22, directly after shabbat services. It will be a town hall with State Senator Kristin Corrado and Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips. I want to extend a special thanks to Bob Smolen, who took the idea of a speakers' series and ran with it.

This year, the rabbi's class will expand upon Rabbi Fine's History of Antisemitism class from last year by diving into select topics on antisemitism, guided by Dara Horn's best seller, *People Love Dead Jews*. Using Ms. Horn's text as a jumping off point will serve us well when Ms. Horn joins us this spring as the speaker at the Holocaust remembrance service.

### Social Action

When you want to make a difference, Temple Israel is here for you. As Jews, we have a historically unique role to play in identifying and striving to remediate injustice and other challenges that rend the social fabric, particularly in our own community. Temple Israel's Tikkun Olam Committee has served as a fulcrum for tackling hunger and homelessness, gun violence, antisemitism, and racism through an array of volunteer programs, like cooking meals for those who are food insecure and organizing the annual blood drive, as well as social issue awareness events, such as the annual gun violence lecture. I want to thank Bob Rohrberger and Annemarie Roscello, who have led these effort—Bob for many years—as well as Nadine Genet and Sue Hill, for their work on food insecurity in our community. Have you been looking for an opportunity to make the world a better place? Reach out to any of them to learn more.

### Chesed

When you are laid up, whether from illness or a procedure, Temple Israel is here for you. Our Chesed Committee arranges for meals to be sent, for assistive equipment to be provided to our ailing and recovering members, and for rides to doctors' appointments. As a relatively new member, I signed up for the

Chesed Committee. Elyse Levene was running it then and continues to run it to this day. If you have been on the receiving end of a chesed delivery, you have Elyse and her caring committee members to thank.

### Schmoozing

When you want to chow down, kibbitz, or commune, Temple Israel is here for you. My fondest memory of Temple Israel, other than the b'nei mitzvahs of my three children, was Yom Ha'atzma'ut 2021. On an overcast, breezy, but warm early spring day, Temple Israel's parking lot was bursting with members mirthfully mixing across the generations. It was the first in-person social event we had held since we had shut our doors thirteen months earlier. And the desire to gather in person was palpable. A special thank you to Manny Haber, chair of our Israel Action Committee, and Scott Baslaw, Evan Fleischmann, and the Brandeis Men's Club, for throwing such terrific parties for our community.

Our annual Yom Ha'atzma'ut celebration is but one of many events we hold each year to bring our members together to renew and strengthen our friendship and affection for one another. Had enough kitchen-time preparing for the first seder? Family not sticking around for the second seder? Why not join us for the community seder at the temple on the second night of Passover? I attended this for the first time this spring. It was wonderful to recount the Exodus, while sharing the Shulchan Orech—the Passover Feast—with friends. And returning home from the seder that night, I didn't miss one bit the usual exhaustion of slaving away in the kitchen for days on end. We have Susie Goldstein, Irene Bressler, Alla Fine, and Nancy Bortinger to thank for organizing these special community gatherings.

And let's not forget Sisterhood's Progressive Dinner. The dinner is going to take another year off. But in its stead, Sisterhood intends to hold a grown-up cocktail party on Saturday, November 19, from 7:00 pm, here at the temple. Coming just after these holidays and the election, and just ahead of Thanksgiving, we might all need a drink.

### Pastoral Care

When you need emotional or spiritual support, Temple Israel is here for you. To say that the last few years have been stressful for our families, community, nation, and the world would be gross understatement. Who hasn't grieved the loss of a loved one, to Covid or otherwise, experienced economic strain, or felt paralyzed by political tension or the rise of antisemitism? Would it help to have the calming voice, understanding manner, and spiritually broad shoulders of a trained professional to whom you can unburden yourself?

I am referring to Rabbi Fine, of course. While we are aware that Rabbi Fine visits the sick in the hospital and makes shiva calls to our houses of mourning, we might lose site of the fact that his rabbinic education includes training as a spiritual counselor; providing pastoral counseling to our members in need is an integral part of his lived professional experience. So on a deeply personal level, when you need a confidante, Temple Israel, Rabbi Fine, is here for you. I want to thank Rabbi Fine for this un-sung aspect of his calling.

My mother firmly believed in the importance of the temple to the Jewish community in which she was raised, 20 miles south of here, and the Jewish community in which she and my father raised my sister and me, 320 miles north of here. At the temple where I grew up, there wasn't a job my mother didn't do, except president, or a committee she didn't serve on or chair. There wasn't a donation she didn't make first, before she would solicit others to donate. A working professional woman in a place and

at a time where that was unusual and not always supported, she was selfless with her limited time and resources because she and my father wanted to create a community that would help raise their children in the traditions of our people and sustain them as they grew older, which it has done.

While I could not have named it then, one reason Temple Israel was such a comfortable fit for Alyson and me when we settled in Bergen County eighteen years ago was because this community shares that same ethos. Temple Israel members might come from different walks of life, have different social and political preferences, and approach Judaism from different perspectives. But we all want something similar from Temple Israel. We want it to be here for us, providing the services we desire, when we desire them most. Many members help secure that by their generosity of time, know-how, or financial support. But we could always benefit from more.

As we begin a new year, the temple's leadership renews its commitment to providing programs and services that you desire—to meet you where you are when you want to connect. If we are falling short, help us out. Call it to our attention, propose a solution, or, like my mother, be part of the solution yourself. With your commitment and support, we can create a sustaining, self-supporting temple – one that is, and will be, here for you when you need it. Now that's a club I would want to join.

L'shanah tova.

James Goldfarb



### 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  
and Jewish Community Center

Temple Talk  
News you can  
use from the TI-  
JCC community

### Temple Talk Staff

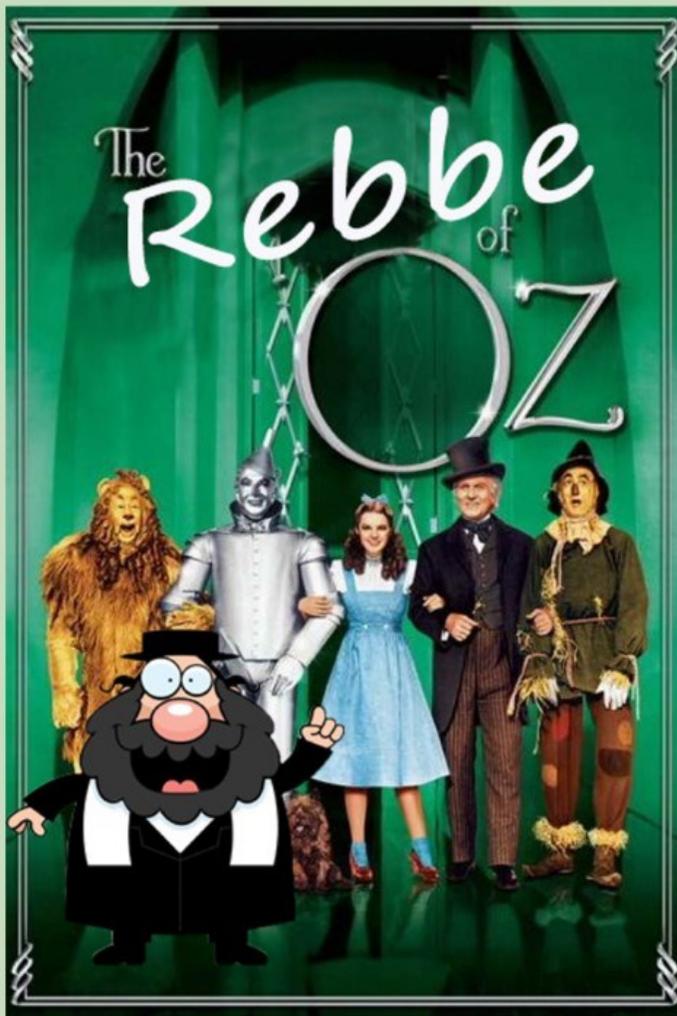
Coordinator: Nadine Genet

Editor: Anne Wolf

Designer: Lorissa Lightman

# Temple Israel Players

Announce auditions for the  
2023 Purim Shpiel !!



## Auditions:

\*\* Sun. Nov. 13  
@ 11:00 am

\*\* Mon. Nov. 14  
@ 7:00 pm

## Show Night:

\*\* Sat. March 4

## Cast

8 Adults

8 Children

\* ***NO acting***

***experience needed!***

For more information:

Andy Lieb / [Andymarc@aol.com](mailto:Andymarc@aol.com)

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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*B'yachad families decorated honey jars and baked apple pies for Rosh Hashanah.*