

## Reflections on a Congregational Volunteer Trip to Israel

Rabbi Daniel Schweber and twelve congregants traveled to Israel on a volunteer mission from November 30th through December 9th that some participants have referred to as the “trip of a lifetime.” They met with people who shared their stories of life post-October 7, 2023, volunteered, and enjoyed some free time. Seven of the congregants on the trip — Edie Robbins, Cheryl Eisberg Moin, Sherry Husney, Alicia and Ted Lev, and Lori and Paul Freudman — shared their reflections from the trip for this article. Additional photos and reflections can be found on Temple Israel of Great Neck’s Facebook page, posted in early December.

### Edie Robbins

On December 4, we visited the organic farm, the “Salad Trail,” of Uri Alon. It was clear by everything that Uri said and did that he was determined to stay in the *otef* (the Gaza Envelope region). He showed us the best map of the *otef* that we saw on the entire trip. It was on battered metal and had clearly been an important part of his many presentations to visitors. It visually demonstrated how close we had been in the various places we had visited like Holit.

Uri’s love for life (as well as his conviction that fresh organic fruits and vegetables are essential to good health) was infectious. He described his farming method of using shredded coconut husks instead of earth and growing in elevated PVC pipes or large pots. With humor, he fed us, taught us, and encouraged us to try many of the fruits of his labor. (The strawberries and vegetables were delicious.)

The reality of remaining in the *otef* was starkly brought home

when he showed us a piece of a rocket that had fallen on his place and told us of a friend who was using rocket metal to fashion Judaica items of jewelry and a large Hanukiah. Of course, several of us made a purchase. I bought a pendant map of Israel made from such metal for my son. Sadly, it was not the only reminder of the precariousness of being in the *otef* that we heard from him. He related a heart-rending story of how his son perished during the October 7th Hamas terrorist attack. It was a sober reminder of the reality of being in the *otef* so close to Gaza.



### Cheryl Eisberg Moin

This was an extraordinary itinerary, planned and executed to perfection. From the moment the thirteen of us hit the ground, we felt that we were home. We were all on the same page in our commitment to Israel. We heard amazing speakers, had interesting and meaningful volunteer opportunities, and sufficient free time to visit with relatives and friends to add to the beauty and connection to our ancestral

homeland. Rabbi Schweber’s guidance was remarkable. He was there for us every step of the way and added immeasurably to the top notch leadership of our tour guide, Lavi, who brought us to tears at Har Herzl, the site of Israel’s national cemetery and other memorials, located on the west side of Jerusalem.

We were terribly moved on our boat ride with traumatized soldiers who are taken sailing with their “buddies” on a regular basis through the Buddy Line Program of AFINS. (Sherry Husney’s reflections on page 6 will provide more details.)

Our group members were riveted

*continued on page 6*

from the rabbi

## Rabbi Howard Stecker

rabbistecker@tign.org



## We Must Not Hide

One of my fond childhood experiences was staying up late to watch countries all over the world welcome in the New Year. Given its location, the first country shown celebrating was usually Australia. Hours before the “ball drop” in Times Square, we enjoyed watching Australians lead the way in celebration.

This year, Australia’s celebration of Hanukkah, which likewise always precedes ours by several hours, was marked by tragedy as fifteen Jews were gunned down at Bondi Beach. We in New York entered our own Hanukkah observance hours after learning of the shootings.

At our synagogue’s festive Hanukkah gathering, we took a few moments to acknowledge the tragedy. I observed that the essential *mitzvah* of Hanukkah, the lighting of the menorah, is commanded to be done in a way that publicizes the miracle. For this reason, we often see Hanukkah menorahs displayed in people’s windows and even outside in the public square.

“Each one of us is a living Hanukkah menorah.”

Following the Bondi shootings, much has been written about Jewish responses to the ever-rising

danger throughout the world. Renown Rabbi David Wolpe and antisemitism expert Professor Deborah Lipstadt wrote an article about the growing impulse of many Jews to be more reserved about publicly displaying their Jewishness. They recall how Jews traveling to Europe who wanted to find the local synagogue would be told to seek out people wearing baseball caps and suits and then follow them to services. They observe that, sadly, the tendency to hide one’s Jewishness is growing on this side of the Atlantic as well. And the attack in Australia proves, as noted by journalist Yossi Klein Halevi, that Jews are not even immune from attack in the farthest reaches of the globe.

So what should we do? How should we respond to the relentless rise in attacks on Jews the world over?

First, we have to call out all of the platforms and statements across the political spectrum that encourage violence toward Jews. Whether it be “globalize the intifada” from the left or “Jews will not replace us” from the right, the effect is the same and we cannot be quiet about any of it.

Second, unfortunately but realistically, we have to continue to invest in top-notch security so that we diminish the chances that violence will erupt in any private or public space where we may gather.

Third, we must call upon non-Jews to oppose antisemitism even as we, appropriately, continue to oppose bigotry of any kind. Yehuda Kurtzer, President of the Shalom Hartman Institute, wrote the following appeal to the broader community: “It starts with [non-Jews] taking responsibility for the antisemitism that continues to plague this society, your signaling to us that the new/old ‘Jewish problem’ is not a problem that Jews are meant to solve, and that it cannot metastasize again — as it did in the middle of the 20th century — into something far worse for our people. I need you to lead this effort, and not just for us — but for all of us.”

Finally, we need to channel the courage of our ancestors as we pledge to continue to live proudly and openly as Jews. Clearly, we should not act recklessly. But we should find a way to balance appropriate self-protection with the forthright self-expression to which we are entitled.

We must fight our enemies, but we must not allow them to define us or to constrain us. We are a people who brings light to the world. Each of us is a living Hanukkah menorah. We each deserve to shine our light wherever we live, bringing blessings to our people and to all humanity. ■

### START YOUR SUPER BOWL SUNDAY WITH A WRAP AND ROLL!

All Temple Israel members are invited to celebrate the mitzvah of tefillin at the Men’s Club of Temple Israel of Great Neck

### WORLD WIDE WRAP Sunday, February 8th

9 A.M. Sunday Morning Service in Chapel • 9:30 A.M. World Wide Wrap in Sanctuary

Charles Adler will lead our regular Sunday morning service at 9 A.M. in the Chapel.

Our World Wide Wrap service will be led by Rabbi Stecker, Rabbi Schweber, and Hazzan Shamash at 9:30 A.M. in the Sanctuary.

Men’s Club members and our clergy will be available to assist in putting on tefillin.

Following the service, please join us for breakfast in the Crystal Ballroom.



# The Tu BiShevat Seder: a Colorful, Fragrant Journey

from the president  
**Rachel Geula**

president@tign.org



**T**u BiShevat, the New Year for trees, has quietly become one of my favorite holidays on the Jewish calendar. It arrives every year on the 15th of Shevat, right when winter feels long and unrelenting, and offers a simple but powerful reminder that growth is already beginning, even if we cannot see it yet. And of course, it gives us another wonderful excuse to gather, eat, drink, and celebrate Jewish style with a seder. Please join us for our Congregational Tu BiShevat Dinner and Service on Friday, January 30th. (See box on page 19.)

We all know the Passover seder. Many of us have added a beautiful Rosh Hashanah seder to our homes as well. But did you know there is yet another seder you can host? One that is playful, meaningful, delicious, and surprisingly uplifting?

**“Set out some fruit. Pour a cup of wine. Start the seder.”**

This year, Tu BiShevat begins on the evening of Sunday, February 1, and continues through Monday, February 2, 2026.

The Tu BiShevat seder has its roots in the mystics of Tzfat,

who believed that the fruits and trees of the Land of Israel, especially the Seven Species, carry deep spiritual meaning. Their idea was that by eating fruits and drinking wine in a specific order, while reciting blessings, we draw ourselves and the world closer to spiritual wholeness.

This seder is a journey. It is colorful, it is fragrant, it is a little whimsical, and best of all, it connects us to *Eretz Yisrael* in the sweetest ways.

## The Four Cups

Like the Passover seder, the Tu BiShevat seder includes four cups of wine or juice, but here they reflect the changing seasons:

Cup 1: White wine

Cup 2: Mostly white with a splash of red

Cup 3: Mostly red with a splash of white

Cup 4: Deep red wine

As the wine deepens in color, we symbolically move from winter toward spring and full growth.

## The Fruits: Choose Ten

The fruits are traditionally grouped into categories. You do not need every fruit listed, just aim for variety.

Fruits with shells (inedible outside): almonds, walnuts, pistachios.

Fruits with pits (inedible inside): dates, olives, peaches, plums, apricots.

Fruits eaten entirely: grapes, apples, pears, berries.

The Seven Species: dates, figs, pomegranates, olives, grapes, often served with wheat or barley crackers.

Many families also enjoy adding exotic fruits such as starfruit, lychee, persimmon, or anything new and unexpected. These additions make the seder fun, spark conversation, and remind us of the beauty and diversity of G-d's world.

## Setting the Order

The seder flows naturally:

White wine with fruits that have a shell

White wine with a little red with fruits that have a pit

Red wine with a little white with fruits eaten whole

Deep red wine with the Seven Species

## The Blessings

At each stage, we pause for blessings.

Blessing over the wine:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הַגֶּפֶן  
(Recited before each of the four cups of wine.)

Blessing over fruits that grow on trees:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הָעֵץ  
(For fruits such as dates, figs, pomegranates, olives, grapes, apples, pears, and nuts.)

Blessing over fruits that grow from the ground:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי הָאֲדָמָה  
(For foods such as strawberries, melons, pineapple, bananas, and vegetables.)

Between sips and bites, many people pause to share something they are grateful for, a hope for the coming year, or a thought about Israel, nature, or growth.

What I love most is how approachable this holiday is. A Tu BiShevat seder can be twenty minutes around a coffee table or an entire evening with friends and family. It works beautifully for children, first time hosts, and seasoned seder leaders alike.

In the heart of winter, Tu BiShevat invites us to pause and reflect on growth, responsibility, and the importance of strong roots. These simple moments of gathering and connection are familiar to many of us through our time at Temple Israel.

This year, host one. Really. You may just discover a new favorite holiday. ■



from the rabbi

**Rabbi Daniel Schweber**

rabbischweber@tign.org



## American Jews Have a Role to Play in Supporting Israel Post 10/7/23

**A**s American Jews, we have a role to play in supporting Israel post October 7, 2023. Fortunately, with funding from a UJA Federation of NY grant, twelve Temple Israel congregants and I were able to go on a solidarity mission to Israel. (The grant substantially reduced the cost per person of the trip, making it easier for all of us to participate.) The goal of our trip was to share our love and our presence. Israelis are hurting and they feel isolated in the world. We listened to people's stories and promised to amplify their messages.

I am sharing some highlights from their stories in this column, while seven of the congregants who traveled with me shared their reflections in the cover story of this issue of the *Voice*, which also includes photos from our trip. Additional photos and reflections were posted to Temple Israel of Great Neck's Facebook page during our trip.

**Marcelo Burdman** is the president of Netzach Israel, the Conservative/Masorti synagogue in Ashkelon less than five miles from Gaza. He shared with us how the trauma of the rocket attacks is still present. Children still wet their beds due to feelings of anxiety. Many people are so sensitive to loud sounds that first responders changed the siren tones on emergency vehicles and many people sold noisy motorcycles. Even as Israelis do their best to move forward in daily life, the scars still ache.

**Soldiers with PTSD:** About 5-10 percent of IDF veterans have severe post traumatic stress disorder symptoms affecting daily life. Temple Israel of Great Neck is a proud contributor to the Buddy Line program of AFINS (American Friends of Israel Navy Seals). It pairs a soldier classified with PTSD with a volunteer buddy with some training. The volunteer acts as a guide and confidant. Participants do activities proven to help people with PTSD, such as scuba diving, surfing, horseback riding and free diving. The best success story we heard was of the sniper who wore a hat to calm his "inner targeting computer." At the end of his year in Buddy Line, he threw his hat into the fire. He could look at the world again.

**Kibbutz Holit** is the smallest settlement in the Gaza Envelope, less than one mile from Rafa. The terrorists arrived in Holit first — before 7 A.M. on October 7th. We met Mintz, who led us around. He moved to Holit in 2012 when he was 22 years old. Although Mintz wasn't physically present on October 7th, his heart was there when Holit lost 15 of its 150 residents. Mintz wants nothing more than to return, but his wife says the kibbutz is too much of a trigger for them. Israel has the ambitious goal to double the Gaza Envelope's 2023

population to 120,000 by 2033. It will likely be populated by new pioneers looking for beauty and willing to be front line protectors of Israel.

**Shari Mendes:** What is most sickening is the continued deliberate and hateful denial of the atrocities of October 7th by supposedly educated and reasonable people. This was evident in the stories that Shari Mendes, part of a crew that handled the bodies of female victims, told. Shari was eyewitness to the sexual violence perpetrated by Hamas, but she has faced outright denial by others that continues to this day even after they are shown evidence. The world won't accept that Jews and Israelis are victims. They must only be perpetrators. We promised to amplify her story.

**Faraj tells his story for the first time.** We visited a soup kitchen in Ofakim which was infiltrated on October 7th. While casually chatting with Faraj, the longest serving volunteer at the soup kitchen, he told us his story; it was apparently the first time he

shared what happened. Faraj was alone in his safe room but something made him go back to his home. Faraj laid down on his kitchen floor in complete silence for six hours with terrorists just outside. The next day, Faraj showed up at the soup kitchen to deliver food to everyone locked down in their homes.

Take note that Faraj responded to his ordeal with kindness and love. During this trip, I was reminded of — and rediscovered — how Israel is a country of kindness and not just during war.

We volunteered and learned about the Ofakim soup kitchen, Leket Israel, which distributes surplus food, and Pantry Packers, which is the food distribution arm of Tzedakah Central/Colel Chabad, the oldest continuously operating network of social services in Israel. ([PantryPackers.org](https://www.pantrypackers.org)) The Pantry Packers location that impressed us the most is Yad Sarah, which is a clearinghouse for medical supplies and ancillary medical support. Israel's vision is *Olam Hesed Yibaneh* — to build a world of kindness.

Yitzhak Sokolof, the CEO of our tour company Keshet, reminded us that **we have a part to play** to support Israel. Instead of just shouting aloud about Israel's problems and threats, we should advocate, visit, volunteer and, if appropriate, consider *Aliyah*. All are acceptable.

If the State of Israel is for the Jewish people, then we must rise up, support Israel, and be a part of the Jewish people. ■

**"If the State of Israel is for the Jewish people, then we must rise up, support Israel, and be a part of the Jewish people."**

# Confronting Antisemitism: An Urgent Call to Action

by Bobby Bakhchi, Chair, Israel Affairs Committee, Temple Israel of Great Neck

**A**ntisemitism — once assumed by many to be a relic of history — is resurging openly, violently, and without shame in the United States and around the world. Jews are not only being harassed or threatened; they are being attacked and killed simply for being Jewish.

Just last month, the Jewish world was once again shaken by unspeakable tragedy on the first night of Hanukkah when two gunmen opened fire at a Hanukkah celebration on Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia, murdering 15 Jews and wounding dozens more in a clearly antisemitic terrorist attack. Then, in Amsterdam, Jews attempting to celebrate Hanukkah were met with violence, intimidation, and antisemitic hatred simply for expressing their Jewish identity publicly.

Antisemitism today often comes wrapped in the language of politics and media commentary. Hostility toward Israel has increasingly become one of the most socially acceptable forms of antisemitism. While criticism of Israeli government policies — like criticism of any democracy — is legitimate, what we are witnessing goes much further: the delegitimization of Israel's right to exist, the application of double standards imposed

on no other nation, and the demonization of the world's only Jewish state.

History has taught us the peril of relying solely on the goodwill of others while lacking the ability to protect ourselves. Israel is not merely a strategic ally of the United States. It is the only democracy in the Middle

East, sharing core Western values with America. In a region dominated by authoritarian regimes and extremism, Israel stands as a beacon of pluralism and democratic values.

**If America Turns Away, Where Will Jews Go?** We must ask ourselves an uncomfortable but essential question: If political support for Israel in the United States continues to weaken, where will Jews turn?

**A Call to Action.** If we do not act, others will define the future for us. If we do act — together, with conviction — we can help ensure that the Jewish people will always have a home, a voice, and the ability to defend our way of life.

**A Dangerous Shift in Media and Politics.** A particularly troubling development is the shift among influential voices who once openly supported Israel but now engage in relentless public attacks against Israel and against pro-Israel advocacy itself. For decades, bipartisan support for Israel has been a cornerstone of American foreign policy and a critical safeguard for Jewish security. Yet today, that consensus is eroding — not only on the fringes, but within mainstream

discourse and even among some members of Congress.

## How to Support Organizations Combatting Antisemitism.

AIPAC supports Israel's future. In this environment, engagement is not optional. One of the most effective ways American Jews can help safeguard Israel's future is by supporting AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. AIPAC plays a central role in educating elected officials, maintaining bipartisan support for Israel, and strengthening the U.S.–Israel relationship. Supporting AIPAC with our time, our voices, and our financial resources is one of the most direct ways we can influence the environment in which decisions about Israel — and Jewish security — are made.

## Confronting Antisemitism at Home: the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the American Jewish Committee (AJC).

The **Anti-Defamation League (ADL)** has been a national leader in monitoring antisemitism and hate, exposing extremist movements, providing education to schools and law enforcement, and responding rapidly when Jewish communities are threatened. Through data, advocacy, and training, the ADL helps ensure that antisemitism is identified, challenged, and never normalized. The **American Jewish Committee (AJC)** complements this work on a global scale. AJC engages diplomats, government leaders, and international institutions to defend Jewish communities worldwide, combat antisemitism, and strengthen Israel's standing among democratic nations. Supporting ADL and AJC — through engagement, partnership, and philanthropy — strengthens our collective ability to respond when antisemitism appears in our neighborhoods, our institutions, and the international arena.

**Supporting our Israel Affairs Committee.** Temple Israel has been educating our congregation, community and youth about anti-semitism for years, including panels of our students talking about experiences of anti-semitism; speakers from Fuel for Truth, the ADL, and other organizations; and, more recently, discussions with politicians, social media influencers who reach a younger demographic, and others about the rise in anti-semitism, the Israel-Gaza conflict. If you share the concern for the future of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, I invite you to become part of the Israel Affairs Committee at Temple Israel and/or support the work of the committee. Contributions to the Committee help fund education, advocacy, programming, and support for organizations that defend Israel, combat antisemitism, and strengthen Jewish life locally and globally.

To donate to the Israel Affairs Committee go to: [tign.org/donate](https://tign.org/donate) and select the **Israel Solidarity Fund**. To join the Israel Affairs Committee, contact me at [bobby@hybcap.com](mailto:bobby@hybcap.com). Your support enables us to respond to events like those described above not only with words, but with meaningful action, ensuring that Temple Israel remains a strong, informed, and principled voice in support of Israel and the Jewish people. **Am Yisrael Chai.** ■

Learn more and  
support organizations  
on the front lines of  
the fight against antisemitism

[AIPAC.org](https://AIPAC.org)  
[ADL.org](https://ADL.org)  
[AJC.org](https://AJC.org)



## Reflections on a Congregational Volunteer Trip to Israel, *continued from cover page*

by all speakers, but most so by our *Shabbat* speaker, Shari Mendes, a prominent witness at the United Nations who depicted the gender-based violence and sexual mutilation on October 7, 2023. (This is further explained in Sherry Husney's reflections.)

We also heard detailed narratives from other survivors of the horrors of October 7th and from a Palestinian in the West Bank who yearns for peace with the people of Israel. This journey had a highlight every minute.

In these troubled times, seeing the vibrant activity in Tel Aviv, with streets filled with young people celebrating life in cafes, on roller skates and on bicycles, buoyed us. We saw construction projects and creativity in acts of *chesed* beyond belief throughout the land. We never felt unsafe for one second.

We loved *Shabbat* in Jerusalem, with Sherry Husney leading services at Robinson's Arch, while hearing the robust prayer of the Haredi worshippers at the Kotel and, on the other side of us, the call to prayer at the Muslim minaret — a tapestry of beautiful sounds.

In Jerusalem, the modern outdoor Mamilla Mall had throngs of young religious and secular shoppers out *Motzi Shabbos*. It was so much fun to be a part of that experience as well.

I spent parts of two days with my dear Orna and Eldad Adar whose daughter, Gili, was murdered at Nova. Sherry Husney and I visited Gili's grave and sang a psalm there. The Adars have spent the last two years creating lasting and living memorials to Gili, through treatment programs and park facilities built and named for her with the creativity and resilience that Israelis have been able to harness in their "life must go on" credo.

Thank you, Rabbi Schweber, for envisioning this unique mission and encouraging everyone to be part of it.

### Sherry Husney

*"Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh Baze"* (Translation: "All of Israel are responsible for one another.")

This phrase keeps mulling through my mind. We are all responsible for one another. Nothing demonstrated this any more clearly than this Israel trip, where we received "thank you" just for being there, just for listening and bearing witness to individuals' stories. And everyone has a story to tell. A *chayal* (soldier) with PTSD — still struggling with his physical wounds as well as the emotional strains of living day to day, who finds relief from going out onto the Mediterranean on

a boat, where all you can see for miles and miles is a clear horizon, not a cloud in the sky — was willing to sit with us for a time, a smile on his face, and enjoying the company, until he couldn't any longer, excusing himself to sit alone. This gentleman is living in a safe house, still unable to return to his own home and family. Why, you ask? We certainly didn't ask him. He was happy just being in our company for a short while, here and now with his buddy, a person who is available to him 24 hours a day, to talk, to encourage, and to be a friend, to help him reintegrate into daily life. The Buddy Line Program, which is sponsored by American Friends of Israel Navy Seals (AFINS), has received generous funding through Temple Israel's Israel Solidarity Fund. We were given personal thanks.

The wounds go deep; the scars are barely healed for all Israelis. All of the people are suffering with some level of PTSD. No matter how much trauma each individual has experienced, the only choice towards healing is moving onward and forward. And though there is a break in the fighting and missile attacks, one never knows when the next round will begin.

On Friday evening, we listened to the testimony of Shari Mendes, a 55+ year old American who made *Aliyah* 15 years ago, and decided to join the *milluim* (Israel's military reserve duty) to contribute to Israel's defense in a small way. She joined a special reserve unit whose job is to care for female soldiers who have fallen in battle. This unit was established 10 years ago, as the army realized that out of respect for women, women should care for injured women. This unit had never been called into action until October 8, 2023, when they went to the morgue established for victims of the October 7th massacre. Without describing the horrific conditions of the young women that her troupe had to cleanse and prepare for burial, she shared her feelings about being the last person that these women would be with, including

holding their hands and praying at their sides. She described one incident where French journalists were invited to the morgue, saw the body bags, and outright questioned whether the massacre had occurred! How is this even possible?

During the mission, we did our share of community work. We sorted two tons of produce at the Leket Israel warehouse, where these goods are then shipped to restaurants, soup kitchens and the needy for use. No food is wasted in Israel; anything that isn't edible for humans was sent to farms for the cattle to consume. We went to a Chabad kitchen where hot meals were prepared and packaged to hand out to the needy in the community. There we met an 80-year-old gentleman who has been part of the team for a number of years. And, for the first time, he shared with his fellow workers — and with



us — what happened to him on October 7th, when terrorists invaded his home. He heard shots being fired in the next apartment, managed to lay still on the floor for six and a half hours until the massacre ended, not knowing whether his family made it to safety across the street or if they were victims of the attack. And what did he do? The next day he returned to his task at the Chabad kitchen to help pack meals for the needy. “*Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh.*”

This is the spirit of our people, young and old, who have been living under attack and continue to live in the border cities and towns that are right near the Gaza Envelope, the *otef*.

We visited the outskirts of Kibbutz Be’Eri (not currently open for visitation), Kibbutz Holit, where we were greeted by one of its inhabitants; the kibbutz is currently deserted as it was destroyed and ten percent of the members were killed and homes were destroyed on October 7th. We witnessed construction crews working to rebuild the homes. The kibbutz sits just one mile from the Gaza fence, visible on this clear weather day. We were given instructions on how to protect ourselves in the event of a rocket attack during the visit.

On our final day, we went to Yad Sarah, an organization with satellite clinics throughout the country that provides hospital equipment, wheelchairs and adaptive devices that Israelis — Jewish, Arabs, and anyone in need — can obtain free of charge. They also provide therapy services and transportation throughout the country to the physically disabled. Our group had the opportunity to assemble aluminum crutches that will be given to those in need.

It’s hard to express the deep feelings of love, pride and admiration that I feel for Israel and our Jewish people. Everyone has a story to tell; bearing witness to each story was part of the comfort that we were able to give at each location. The spirit of our people is stronger than ever. *Hatikvah*, the hope, is evident in every corner; rebuilding is happening in all areas of the country.

Funny as it may sound, I felt safer in Israel with arms extended for a figurative hug than I do here in the United States. Even though there are differences of political opinion as to how to move forward, the Israelis are of one single mind — that they are there to stay and will do everything in their power to protect and defend the people and their land. I feel more connected to Israel, have a greater understanding of where *tzedakah* is needed, and, in one small way, feel that I am contributing to its sustenance. *Am Yisrael Chai!*

## Alicia and Ted Lev

This was truly a trip of a lifetime. We saw amazing things, went to incredible places, and met wonderful people; however, we also witnessed the atrocities of October 7th firsthand.

We went with the intention of helping the Israeli people and doing *mitzvot*. The people were so eagerly wanting to tell us their stories and every story we heard was more impactful than the last. It taught us how amazing Israelis are at supporting each other in a crisis. Everyone has a story about that day. The entirety of Israel has PTSD.

One of our favorite stories was from a man from Kibbutz Holit, which has not yet been rebuilt. When members of Kibbutz Holit ended up sleeping in a parking garage because it was the safest place they could gather, someone asked him what the people needed most. Was it food, clothing, toys for the children...? He said they needed something to sleep on, thinking that the man might help get them sleeping bags or camping pillows. Instead, the man delivered 300 mattresses and helped get them to many different places where the people needed something to sleep on.

## Lori and Paul Freudman

This was a journey that was both deeply moving and profoundly meaningful. Accustomed to traveling as a couple on our own, we could never have arranged the experiences

we had — or have met with the people we did — had we traveled without this group. (We have been to Israel several times.) Each day of this trip, we had multiple interesting opportunities visiting sites affected by the attack on October 7th, hearing stories of what Israelis lived through and are still living through, volunteering to pack food supplies, visiting Yad Sarah (which supplies Israelis in need with durable medical equipment for free, all staffed by volunteers and retirees), visiting our sister synagogue in Ashkelon, and even had some free time to help support Israel’s economy.

Our tour guide, Lavi, was knowledgeable and open with us; Rabbi Schweber provided guidance and expertise throughout the trip. Our small group formed a bond and connected in sharing this emotional experience. The Israeli people thanked us many times over and were so grateful for our visit and support when we all felt we should be thanking them for keeping the State of Israel alive and vibrant for us.

*Am Yisrael Chai!* ■





# Executive Director Jamey Kohn: Marathons are Part of My Life

by Paul Schwartz

**J**amey Kohn has been the Executive Director of Temple Israel since 2019. Before that, he held that same position at Merrick Jewish Centre. He is a member of Hillcrest Jewish Center and lives in Bay Terrace. Kohn, 50, is married to Raina, a registered nurse at Northwell Health. They have a son, Reuven, and a daughter, Samara. Fun fact: Jamey probably runs more often and for longer distances than any five people you know combined.

**You have a formidable title. What is it that you actually do?** Everything! Oversee the back office, help implement programs, financial, working with budget, among other things. Always being available; that's the key— being a good front face to the membership. I want members to always feel calm with me; I want them to feel they can call me. I give out my cell phone number to everybody. I'm the emergency dialer if somebody calls in after hours with a pastoral emergency. My kids — I've been doing this for 16, 17 years — they see a call come through and they're like "who died?" It's the job. I consider it a *mitzvah* to be able to help people in their time of need. I consider this position kind of "the buck stops here."

**When you were growing up, did you tell your parents you wanted to be the executive director of a synagogue?** Up until age six, I wanted to be a sanitation worker because I liked that they could hold onto the backs of trucks while it was driving.



Sometime in high school I thought I wanted to be an accountant. I really went to college not knowing what I wanted to do. I figured something in business.

**I heard that you played football at Mount Sinai High School in Suffolk County...** I was in their first graduating class, 1993. It was rough, we had no traditions. Football was rough. Junior year was our first year of varsity. I was

on the front line, basically on offense. I played football for four years in high school and I've never watched a televised game of football — not even the Super Bowl — ever. I got the "most improved player" award in ninth grade because my coach said "we taught Jamey what a line of scrimmage is." I never touched a football in all four years either. I blocked a pass once with my thumb.



**You also participated in shot putt, discus and wrestling...** I had the shot putt and discus record for a few years. Until eighth grade, I was very much overweight. I was 230 pounds. Then I started wrestling in eighth grade. I weighed in at 225, super heavyweight and then the following wrestling year I was trying to make weight, I was coming in at 177.

**How often has your first and last name been misspelled?** I blame the nurse. My parents say they knew the name, but they didn't know how they wanted to spell it. I joke that my first name and my last name are misspelled. And I'm not a *Kohen* either.

**You met your wife at the University at Albany...** Yes, Raina and I met at summer orientation freshman year, 1993. I was walking around by myself because I didn't know anybody. I went by the big fountain and I saw two freshmen women. I went up to them and said "how's it going?" and that was it. Raina and I ended up hanging out together, *podiating\**, playing in the fountain. We ended up living in the same dorm that fall and we were dating by that October. I proposed May 14, 1998. (\* "*Podiating*" is a University at Albany tradition of hanging out by the fountain which is located in the center of campus on the academic podium.)

**You majored in Business Administration and Japanese. Why Japanese?** I have no idea. It sounded interesting. At the time, there was a lot of business opportunity in Japan. I did a study-abroad for 10 months there. It was

humbling. I'm a 6-foot-2 Caucasian guy, standing head and shoulders above everyone else — literally — on a subway in Japan, standing out as a minority. I got a black belt in Judo while I was there. I was away from Raina for 10 months, pre-email; phone calls were twice a month for \$2.50 a minute. I made a fair amount of money in Japan, teaching English conversation, singing with kids. They paid you \$50 an hour back then. I came back with enough money to buy an engagement ring.

**What's this about you being a runner?** Age 39. I was at a New Year's Eve party in 2014 with cousins, hanging out with a guy I barely knew. Our kids went to Solomon Schechter in Queens together. And he was telling me about this mile-a-day challenge he was starting for 2015. I had too many beers and I was like, "alright, I'm gonna do it." On New Year's Day, I got up. I had never run more than two laps around the football field before. It was a metered mile. I came back, collapsed in the living room like a dead bug. I did this every day for like four, five days. I found him online at Facebook Messenger. I said, "I did it." He replied, "what did you do?" I said, "the running thing." He said, "really? I didn't think you were going to do that." I kept that up. One mile became two, then three, and so on.



**And you've basically never stopped running?** I always joke that I started hanging out with the wrong kids. I ran four races that first year. Since then I've run 79 marathons or longer. I've run five 100-mile races.

**When was your first marathon?** In 2015, I signed up for the inaugural Suffolk County Marathon which took place in September, the day before Erev Rosh Hashanah. They say when you finish a race you should strut in front of your spouse or else they'll never let you do it again. My wife, a nurse, came to see me at the finish line and she's hanging out with me on the fields and my head is down. It was a hot, hot day. I had my



head in my hands. She said, "Are you okay?" I responded, "Yeah, I'm fine." Then, I went over to the garbage can and [got sick]. And, of course, the best way to recover from a marathon is to be sitting in a pew for six hours straight for Rosh Hashanah services not moving. I'm sitting next to Raina at services the next day and she's holding my hand and I think, "this is really sweet." And then I realize she's checking my blood pressure. She said, "Yeah, you're doing fine."

**What was your fastest marathon finish?**  
New York City Marathon, 2017. I ran 4:17. I'm not a fast guy. I just like to have fun.



**Is there more to your running than exercise?**

It's all about the spirit, the *Kavanah*. When I'm on the trail of an overnight race, the sun is just coming up. I've been running for maybe 18 hours at this point, I burst out some of the morning prayers — The *Shema* or *Aleinu*. I don't know them all. And I don't care who is near me. There's a saying amongst runners that if you want to talk to God, run a marathon. If you want Him

to answer you back, run a 100-miler.

**Working in synagogues all these years, you must have stories...** Merrick Jewish Centre, my first synagogue. It was standing room only on the High Holidays during the rabbi's sermon, but few there before or after. A member sold his ticket to his neighbor. The neighbor came for Rosh Hashanah, couldn't find a seat, and went home. And then he tried to get his money back from his neighbor (our member) and the member was like "no, you bought it, it's yours." So, the guy comes to the office and said, "I want my money back. I couldn't find a seat. I'm gonna take you to court." I gave this to the volunteer who handles the tickets. And the volunteer tells him "you want to take us to court? This synagogue is made up of nothing but accountants and attorneys. Bring it." The guy sent us a small claims ticket. The volunteer who handles the High Holiday tickets went there with three of our attorneys and the guy didn't show up.

**Favorite food?** A good hamburger. Bistro Burger, they make a double. To me, it's volume. And I eat pizza constantly. I have easily half a dozen

pizzerias between Great Neck and Bay Terrace that are my go-to. My favorite of all time is Colosseo in Port Jeff Station. That's my childhood pizzeria.



**Hobbies?** Other than running? Raina and I like to go to breweries for craft beers.

**Favorite movie?** Superman. The original with Christopher Reeves.

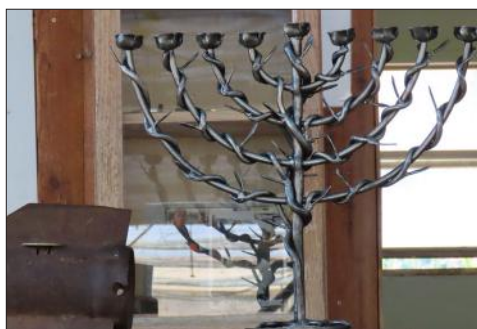
**TV show?** Probably Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

**Favorite holiday?** I like Hanukkah.

**Least favorite holiday?** Passover. We change over our dishes. I took over cleaning the kitchen from my wife when she was pregnant with our son, so I'm the one who does the six-hour clean in there.

**You are often the first person anyone sees when they arrive at Temple Israel for the High Holidays, standing outside as a greeter. What do you want to convey to members as they arrive?**  
Welcome home. ■

## More Photos from the Congregational Trip to Israel





# Beth HaGan Filled with Warmth and Celebrations

by Yve Fouladi, Director, Beth HaGan Early Childhood Center

**A**s we moved through the fall and into winter, Beth HaGan was filled with warmth and meaningful celebrations.

We kicked off the holiday season with an adorable Thanksgiving Parade, where each child created their own costume and proudly paraded for their Beth HaGan friends. Every day is a fantastic opportunity to say thank you, and at Beth HaGan, the spirit of gratitude comes naturally. Judaism aligns beautifully with Thanksgiving through its emphasis on recognizing our blessings and giving to others. Even our mornings begin with *Modeh Ani*, so gratitude is a concept the children connect to deeply because it is woven into their daily learning throughout the year—not just on Thanksgiving—making this holiday a natural and meaningful extension of Jewish values already alive in our classrooms.

As Hanukkah arrived, every corner of the school was filled with light and excitement. The festive spirit was evident everywhere — from decorated hallways to the sounds of Hanukkah songs echoing through the school. The children immersed themselves in the holiday's symbols, traditions, and sensory experiences, recognizing the scent of potato latkes and the glow of candlelight as signs of this special time.

We celebrated each day with intention and fun, from a special visit by Rabbi Stecker, who helped us begin the holiday by giving out chocolate gelt, singing, and lighting the first candle with each class, to festive activities including *sufganiyot* making, Maccabee sporting competitions, a sing-along skit performed by our *morot* (teachers), and even pressing olives to create oil in honor of the miracle of eight days. The energy throughout the building was truly contagious.

Lastly, our Beth HaGan staff has been deeply engaged in professional growth and learning. In early December, we proudly hosted a Professional Development event welcoming over 30 like-minded early childhood educators from Manhattan and across Long Island. At Beth HaGan, being joyfully Jewish, play-based, and warmly welcoming of families and traditions comes naturally, but we are always looking to be better. These core values continue to guide both our teaching and our professional learning, and our staff has embraced them with enthusiasm and dedication this month.

As we step into the New Year, may it be one of growth and renewed purpose for our children, our families, and our entire community. ■





# Temple Israel Religious School Celebrates Hanukkah

by Connie Reichman, Director of Education

This Hanukkah, our Religious School students truly brought light into our world with joyful singing of Hanukkah songs and *brachot*. We began the celebrations by baking delicious Hanukkah cookies filled with sweet surprises. Our teens entertained the elderly at the Atria Senior Living and our students created unique decorations and *chanukiyot* to proudly display in their homes.

Being in school during Hanukkah gave us many opportunities to celebrate together in meaningful and fun ways. Our festive sound-and-light party, complete with donut decorating, was one of the highlights. As the holiday drew to a close and we entered the month of *Tevet*, we gathered for a joyful *Rosh Chodesh* assembly.

Students participated in mini Maccabiah-style games, including a favorite activity — spinning a giant inflatable dreidel! Depending on the letter they landed on, children competed in different challenges with inflatable donuts. A Hanukkah-themed scavenger hunt added to the excitement, with extra points awarded for reading the words along the way. Strawberry and chocolate dreidel treats were a huge hit in the *Hay* and *Vav* classes.

Our youngest students in *Gesher*, *Nitzanim*, and *Alef* delighted their families by performing Hanukkah songs during a special holiday workshop. Families joined in the celebration and enjoyed special treats together, making it a beautiful conclusion to a joyful Hanukkah. ■





# B'NAI/B'NOT MITZVAH IN OUR TEMPLE ISRAEL FAMILY

**BENSON KURPIEL** will be called to the Torah as a *bar mitzvah* on January 17. He is the son of Morgan and Seth Kurpiel. Benson has a brother, Riley, 15. He is a seventh-grade student at Great Neck South Middle School where he is on the cross country team and is part of the HTV (Home Room TV) crew. He also plays percussion in the school band. Benson's hobbies include golf and magic. He is a member of the Great Neck Troop 10 of the Boy Scouts. He is currently a student in the Youth House and plans to continue next year. He looks forward to visiting Israel in the future.



**EMILY SARAH FORST** will be called to the Torah as a *bat mitzvah* on January 24. She is the daughter of Alana and Joshua Forst and has a sister, Molly, 14. (Emily will be reading the same Torah portion, Bo, as her father did on the *bimah* at Temple Israel in 1988.) Emily is a seventh-grade student at Great Neck North Middle School where she is on the school's field hockey and volleyball teams and plays the clarinet in the school band. Emily is an avid snow skier and loves spending any free winter weekend on the slopes at Mount Snow. She looks forward to visiting Israel in the future.



**ZIV WIENER** will be called to the Torah as a *bar mitzvah* on February 28. He is the son of Oshrat Keren Wiener and Jamie Wiener and has a brother, Ely, 16. He is a seventh-grade student at Great Neck North Middle School where he plays the saxophone in the school band. Ziv is an avid baseball player, and plays in the position of catcher on a travel team called Long Island Elite. He plans to try out for his school team in the spring. He plans to attend the Youth House next year. He looks forward to visiting Israel in the future where he has many relatives.



Temple Israel of Great Neck Film Series  
presents



**Sunday, February 1st at 11 A.M.**  
**in the Crystal Ballroom**

This is an important film about the handling of Adolph Eichman between conviction and his execution and cremation. Israelis of Mizrahi descent were used for these purposes because of emotional distance from the Shoah.

**David Oren will join us for the screening.**

*At the age of 17, David Oren, who was proficient in bakery ovens, was tasked with the cremation of Eichman's body.*

View the trailer at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2ZYMOF2XX0>

**YOUTH HOUSE HAVDALAH.** Youth House families marked the end of *Shabbat* and welcomed the new week with *Havdalah* at the home of Nicole, Gary, Sam, Tyler, Brandon and Dylan Mazer with blessings, community, and dinner.





# Temple Israel Players Announce The Addams Family Cast

*Rehearsals Began in December for March 14th and March 15th Performances*

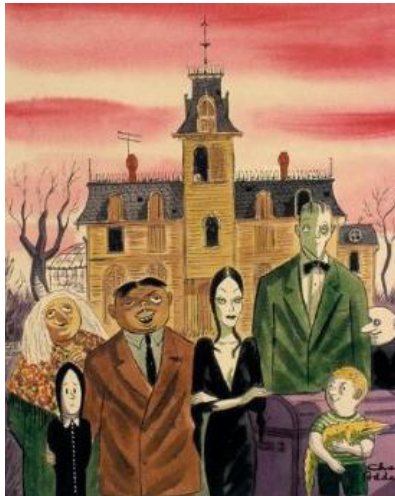
by Miriam Kobliner

**F**un fact: The musical, *The Addams Family*, which will be performed by Temple Israel Players this March, is not based on the television series *The Addams Family* that first aired in 1964, ran for two seasons, and lives forever in syndication. Rather, both the television series and the musical comedy are based, with different interpretations, on the Addams Family characters created by cartoonist Charles Addams, cartoons which first appeared in *The New Yorker* magazine in 1938. Addams's cartoons depicted an eccentric family who delight in the macabre and the grotesque and are seemingly unaware or unconcerned that other people might find them bizarre or frightening. When the idea for a musical was proposed in the mid-2000s, the Addams Foundation retained control over the show's content and insisted that the musical be based solely on Charles Addams's cartoons and not on the television series.

Interestingly, Charles Addams did not name the family members in his cartoons. Morticia and Wednesday were named when a doll collection was released in 1962, 24 years after the first Addams Family cartoon was drawn. Gomez and Pugsley were not named until the 1964 television series.

The show, fun for all ages, follows the family when Gomez

and Morticia's macabre daughter, Wednesday, now a young woman who has fallen in love with Lucas Beineke, a sweet, smart boy from a normal, respectable Ohio family, invites the Beinekes to the Addamses' home for dinner. In one fateful, hilarious night, secrets are disclosed and relationships are tested. What could possibly go wrong?



*Illustration above: The Addams Family as originally depicted in The New Yorker by cartoonist Charles Addams in 1938.*

The Addams Family cast includes Robert Aizer, Dennis Brustein, Leila Camhi, Mark Cwern, Marilyn Goldberg, Matt Hoffman, Sharon Janovic, Jon Kaiman, Kim Kaiman, Mitchell Kaiser, Abe Kanfer, Ron Klempner, Miriam Kobliner, Leah Krigsher, Sharona Laleh, Alicia Lev, Ted Lev, Danielle Matalon, Lisa Mattaway, Jack Murphy, Jennifer Murphy, Toby Nemiroff, Ofra Panzer, Lillian Rokhsar, Haley Spitzer, Steve Tasch, Debbie Volk, Ellen Weinberg, and Rochelle Yellin.

We encourage you to save the date and join us on Saturday evening, March 14 or Sunday afternoon, March 15 (or both) to enjoy the story and music and see what ensues when Wednesday and Lucas introduce their families to each other.

Tickets go on sale in February. Please consider showing support for our congregants by placing an ad in The Players' 2026 program by visiting:

<https://tinyurl.com/TIGNPlayers-ProgramAds-2026> ■

**MEN'S CLUB TRIP TO NBA G-LEAGUE BASKETBALL GAME.** The Men's Club organized a trip to see the Long Island Nets v. San Diego Clippers at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum on January 4. The group met player Ben Saraf, a 19-year-old Israeli player who is a first round draft pick for the Brooklyn Nets on assignment to the Long Island Nets. Ben has cousins who live in Great Neck. (Ben Saraf is pictured in the photo, below left, and in the group photo, below right.)



## TEMPLE ISRAEL FUND

### *In appreciation of:*

Receiving an aliyah  
RAHEL LAHIJANI

### *In honor of:*

Rabbis Stecker and Schweber, Hazzan  
Shamash, Temple Israel Staff and  
Security for maintaining a vibrant  
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ARTHUR AND CAROLE ANDERMAN  
The birth of Netta Margalit Baskin,  
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Oppenheimer  
The marriage of Benjamin Freudman,  
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DeMichie  
Wally Kopelowitz's birthday  
Lilyanna Becker, daughter of Elle and  
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Temple Israel  
 gratefully acknowledges  
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 which were received  
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 JEFFREY AND GAIL ZAHLER  
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### **RABBI STECKER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

#### *In appreciation of:*

Rabbi Stecker for officiating at the wedding of Benjamin Freudman and Erica DeMichie  
PAUL FREUDMAN AND LORI STEIN FREUDMAN  
Rabbi Stecker, Jamey Kohn and Kathy Recckia  
MADELEINE STAGLIANO SCHACHTER

#### *In honor of:*

Rabbi Howard Stecker, a true leader  
JAMEY AND RAINA KOHN  
Rabbi Stecker  
EDWARD AND REBECCA NEJAT

#### *In memory of:*

Alice Goldstein  
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Touba Victory  
PARVIZ AND SHAHLA POURMORADI

### **RABBI SCHWEBER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

#### *In appreciation of:*

The inclusion of the Unger Family Holocaust Torah in Shemini Atzeret and Simhat Torah services  
JOSEPH UNGER  
Rabbi Schweber and a wonderful Israel Trip 2025  
AMY CANTOS  
DANIEL WEINSTEIN  
Rabbi Schweber for officiating at the unveiling of her father, Paul Stein  
MARCY ALBERT

#### *In honor of:*

Rabbi Daniel Schweber, a true leader  
JAMEY AND RAINA KOHN  
Rabbi Schweber, with much thanks from the 2025 Israel Mission Trip Group  
PAUL FREUDMAN AND LORI STEIN FREUDMAN

#### *In memory of:*

Aziz Victory  
Touba Victory  
ALEXANDER AND MINA PEYKAR  
Grayce Falow  
RANDI FALOW  
Jerry Silver  
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William Berger  
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CHARLES BERGER AND ELAIN SOBOL BERGER

### **ISRAEL SOLIDARITY FUND**

#### *In honor of:*

Ethan Cohen, son of Lillian and Jason Cohen, becoming a *bar mitzvah*  
BRENDA AND LANCE GREIFF  
The birth of Meira Paige, granddaughter of Ofra and Rob Panzer  
ELISSA AND WILLIAM ROSENGARTEN AND FAMILY

#### *In memory of:*

Amir Sedaghat  
CAROLEE SOLOF AND MARC GOTTLIEB  
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Being given a High Holy Day honor and for saying prayers for their grandson who is on *misheberach* list  
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Reagan Harper Solof's 2nd birthday  
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#### *In honor of:*

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The birth of their great granddaughter, Gianna Mel Carridy-Weiss  
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To donate or to learn more about these funds, go to: [tign.org/donate](https://tign.org/donate) or call the synagogue office at 516-482-7800.

#### PRAYER BOOK FUND

*In honor of:*

Lilyanna Becker, daughter of Elle  
and Michael Becker, becoming a *bat*  
*mitzvah*

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Jack Murphy, son of Jennifer Murphy  
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*In memory of:*

Rita Emanuel  
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#### YAD B'YAD

*In honor of:*

Wally Kopelowitz chanting *haftarah* for  
his 80th birthday  
SUSAN AND DENNIS BRUSTEIN

*In memory of:*

Carole Beroff  
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#### ADELE ECKSTEIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUND

*In memory of:*

Steven Rothbaum  
ELLEN ROTHBAUM



### Shoah Remembrance Committee BOOK DISCUSSION



THE STORY OF AMERICANS  
WHO SAVED REFUGEES  
FROM THE NAZIS

## SAINTS AND LIARS

DEBORAH DWORK

All are welcome to join the discussion  
which will be led by Rabbi Schweber.

**Monday, January 26**  
**8:15 P.M.**

*Mazel tov to...*

#### ROYA AND DAVID EMRANI

on the birth of their grandchildren,  
Julian David Horowitz,  
son of Malka and Adam Horowitz,  
and Naomi Reina Weiner,  
daughter of Ashley and Zach Weiner

#### RENEE AND MARTIN KIMELMAN

on the birth of their great granddaughter,  
Gianna Mel Carridy-Weiss,  
daughter of Hannah and Alex Carridy-Weiss

#### ANGELA JONES AND JARED VAZQUEZ z"l

on the birth of their granddaughter,  
Juliet Madison DeAngelo

#### OFRA AND ROB PANZER

on the birth of their granddaughter,  
Meira Paige Feldman,  
daughter of Tamar Panzer and Andrew Feldman  
and granddaughter of Ellen and Neil Feldman



# In Memoriam

Temple Israel extends condolences to the families of:

## **NEJATOLLAH SASSOUNI**

husband of Susan Sassouni  
father of  
Sassan Sassouni, Sepideh Neissani,  
and Sayeh Khorshad  
brother-in-law of Jack Moallem  
grandfather of many grandchildren  
great-grandfather of great-grandchildren  
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

## **HELENE SCHACHTER**

mother of  
Barbara Wallner, Madeleine Schachter,  
and Amy Hyland z"l  
grandmother of  
Mark Stagliano, Emily Lozada,  
Melanie Wallner, Linden Wallner,  
Daniel Hyland, and Jessica Hyland  
great-grandmother of  
Ethan Stagliano, Ella Stagliano, Wesley Lozada,  
Damian Lozada, and Gavin Lozada  
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

## **GERALD (JERRY) SILVER**

husband of Vicki Silver  
father of Courtney Silver and Justin Silver  
grandfather of Ella Silver and Harry Silver

## **MARGALIT SHALEV**

sister of Cantor Raphael Frieder

## **JUDITH FLORENCE AKIVIS BOVERMAN**

mother of  
Ariel Boverman and Allegra Boverman  
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

## **GRAYCE FALOW**

wife of Sidney Falow z"l  
mother of Randi Falow and Mitchell Falow z"l  
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

**May their memories be for a blessing.**

## Interested in Rejuvenation Project Updates?

The latest information  
can be found on our website at:

<https://www.tign.org/rejuvenation/>

# Kiddush Sponsors

The Executive Committee and Board of Trustees of Temple Israel, on behalf of the congregation, thank the following members who have generously sponsored and enhanced the Sabbath *kiddush*.

The congregational *kiddush* on November 8 was sponsored by Jennifer and Jay Markowitz in honor of the *benei mitzvah* of their children, Amelia and Tyler.

Contributions toward the *kiddush* on November 15 were made by Jennifer Murphy and Patrick Murphy in honor of the *bar mitzvah* of their son, Jack, and by Vivian and Yuval Brash on the occasion of the *yahrzeit* of Vivian's father, Leib Katz.

A contribution towards the *kiddush* on November 22 was made by the Berookhim Family on the occasion of the *yahrzeit* of Battia Berookhim.

The congregational *kiddush* on December 6 was sponsored by Lillian and Jason Cohen in honor of the *bar mitzvah* of their son, Ethan. Contributions toward the *kiddush* were made by Rita and Alex Rozenfeld in honor of their grandson, Ethan, becoming a *bar mitzvah*, and by Sofia Sohayegh on the occasion of the *yahrzeit* of her brother, Robert Farhadian.

A contribution towards the *kiddush* on December 13 was made by Mersedeh and Farid Aminzadeh in honor of the *bat mitzvah* of their daughter, Celine.

A contribution towards the *kiddush* on December 20 was made by Mehry Geula and Family on the occasion of the *yahrzeit* of her husband, Hushang Geula.

A contribution towards the *kiddush* on December 27 was made by Wendy Sales and Dr. Arden Smith in honor of the 61st anniversary of Arden's *bar mitzvah*. ■

## Interested in sponsoring a kiddush?

Contact Jodi Engel  
in the  
Temple Israel office  
at (516) 482-7800  
or by email at  
[jengel@tign.org](mailto:jengel@tign.org)

## Wedding? Engagement? New baby?

## Mazel Tov! Share the news!

Contact Angela Jones  
in the Temple Israel office  
at (516) 482-7800  
or by email at  
[ajones@tign.org](mailto:ajones@tign.org)

## JOSH KOBLINER

CALL/TEXT JOSH AT 332.877.2848

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## Purim

begins Monday evening, March 2nd

Check weekly upcoming events emails to find out  
what is being planned, including Megillah readings,  
family events, an Addams Family Musical teaser,  
and more!



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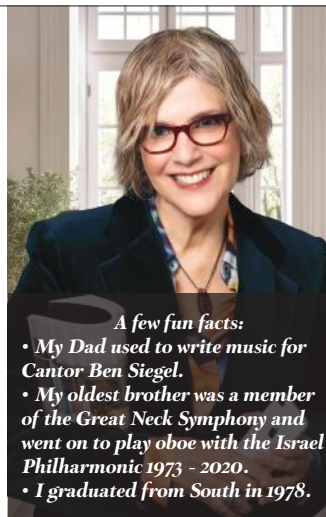
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*A few fun facts:*

- My Dad used to write music for Cantor Ben Siegel.
- My oldest brother was a member of the Great Neck Symphony and went on to play oboe with the Israel Philharmonic 1973 - 2020.
- I graduated from South in 1978.



## D'var Torah

D'var Torah summaries written by Rabbi Marim D. Charry can be found on the Temple Israel website:

<https://www.tign.org/learn/dvrai-torah/>

A printed booklet of the D'var Torah summaries is available by calling the Temple Israel office.

**SHEMOT** • January 10

**VAERA** • January 17

**BO** • January 24

**BESHALACH** • January 31

**YITRO** • February 7

**MISHPATIM** • February 14

**TERUMAH** • February 21

**TETZAVEH** • February 28



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Temple Israel of Great Neck

*Voice*

Miriam Kobliner, Editor & Creative Director

### Editorial Committee:

Susan Brustein, Rachel Geula, Miriam Kobliner, Jamey Kohn, Marc Langsner, Paul Schwartz, Rabbi Daniel Schweber, Deborah Volk

Editorial Assistance provided by: Angela Jones, Rob Panzer  
Photographers: Robert Lopatkin, Ofra Panzer, and TIGN Staff

Editor Emeritus: Marc Katz

### TEMPLE ISRAEL OF GREAT NECK

108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023

P: 516.482.7800 | F: 516.482.7352

[info@tign.org](mailto:info@tign.org) | [www.tign.org](http://www.tign.org)

Temple Israel Voice (USPS #078-740) is published monthly by Temple Israel of Great Neck at 108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023  
Periodicals postage paid at Great Neck, NY 11021  
Postmaster: Send address changes to:  
Temple Israel Voice, 108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 11023  
Subscription: \$5.00 per annum

### TEMPLE ISRAEL STAFF

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\*Deceased

# Upcoming Events

*Events are being added. For more details and updated information, check weekly emails and [www.tign.org](http://www.tign.org).*

**Jews and the News** • with Rabbi Stecker • Tuesday, January 13 @ 2 P.M.

**Torah Portion of the Week Through the Lens of Commentators** • with Rabbi Schweber • Tuesday, January 20 @ 8:15 P.M.

**Book Discussion: Saints and Liars by Deborah Dwork**

hosted by Shoah Remembrance Committee Holocaust Book Club • Monday, January 26 @ 8:15 P.M.

**Jews and the News** • with Rabbi Stecker • Tuesday, January 27 @ 2 P.M.

**Torah Portion of the Week Through the Lens of Commentators** • with Rabbi Schweber • Tuesday, January 27 @ 8:15 P.M.

**Congregational Tu Bi Shevat Service and Dinner** • Friday, January 30 @ 6 P.M.

**Comedy Night** • co-hosted by Temple Beth-El of Great Neck and Temple Israel • Saturday, January 31 @ 7 P.M. at Temple Beth-El

**Film Screening: June Zero** • hosted by Temple Israel Film Series • Sunday, February 1 @ 11 A.M.

**Midnight Run** • a Youth House project (all are encouraged to donate items needed, listed on website) • Saturday, February 7 @ 7 P.M.

**World Wide Wrap** • hosted by the Men's Club • Sunday, February 8 @ 9:30 A.M.

**Family Hamantaschen Event** • a Religious School Event • Sunday, February 8 @ Noon

**Jews and the News** • with Rabbi Stecker • Tuesday, February 10 @ 2 P.M.

**Jews and the News** • with Rabbi Stecker • Tuesday, February 24 @ 2 P.M.

**Purim** • Monday evening, March 2 & Tuesday, March 3 (Check website and weekly emails for details.)

**The Addams Family Musical** • Saturday evening, March 14 & Sunday afternoon, March 15 (Tickets go on sale in February.)

### Online Programs:

**JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM** • Dates and times vary. Check website and weekly emails.

**ADVANCED HISTORY SEMINAR** • Thursdays at 9:30 A.M. (TIGN Zoom)

**SCHMOOZE WITH SOME JEWS ON ZOOM** • following Shabbat services (TIGN Zoom)