

Speaking with Cantor Cattan About Music, Spirituality, Community and Connection as Temple Israel Prepares for the High Holy Days

by Paul Schwartz

A synagogue is always abuzz with activity amid preparations for the arrival of the High Holy Days. Temple Israel is no exception. In addition to refreshed interior and exterior spaces and the usual preparations by the office staff, volunteers, and clergy, the congregation is also set for a new experience, as this will be the first Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in Great Neck for Cantor Luis Cattan.

For some members, this will be the continuation of a developing spiritual and liturgical relationship with the new cantor, who was officially welcomed into the Temple Israel family on July 1st. For many others, the High Holy Days will be the first time they hear Cantor Cattan's davening and get a sense for his leadership from the *bimah*.

"My first responsibility is to listen," Cantor Cattan said about his mindset leading into his first High Holy Days in his new post.

"To include some of Temple Israel's musical traditions, honor the legacy of the exceptional cantors who preceded me, and understand what these sacred days mean to this particular community.

"I hope the services will feel both familiar and renewed. The traditional *nusach* and beloved melodies should tell people, 'You are home,' while carefully chosen new melodies and interpretations can invite us to listen again and discover something we may not have noticed before. Together with Rabbis Howard Stecker and Daniel Schweber, and our guest *hazzan*, Sheldon Horowitz, I hope to convey warmth, clarity, spiritual depth, and a genuine love for prayer and for people. I want congregants to feel seen and heard and to know that their voices matter.



"Of course, I hope the music will be beautiful. But my greatest hope is not that people will leave saying, 'I heard beautiful singing.' I hope they will say, 'I prayed. I felt connected. I was part of a community, and together we found our voice.' "

Here are more thoughts from Cantor Cattan as the sound of the shofar nears:

As a cantor, what is the first thing that comes to your mind when someone mentions the High Holy Days?

"The first word that comes to mind is responsibility. The privilege and responsibility of standing before the congregation as its *shaliach tzibbur*, their emissary, their representative in prayer. The High Holy Days require much more than vocal or musical preparation.

"They demand spiritual, intellectual, and emotional preparation. I must ask myself what these words mean to me this year, what our community has experienced, and what people may be carrying with them when they enter the Sanctuary. It is usually a mix of unworthiness and honor, of the

adrenaline of embarking into uncharted spiritual territory and the confidence of having been doing this for almost four decades. The *Yamim Nora'im* invite us to listen: to the words of the liturgy, to our conscience, to one another, and to the still, small voice within us. I see my role as being the one to help transform a room filled with individuals into a singing and praying community.

Anyone who attends High Holy Day services will notice that there are certain special melodies that resonate, year to year. What are the nuances of the melodies you will incorporate into your davening this *continued on page 10*

from the rabbi

Rabbi Howard Stecker

rabbistecker@tign.org



Controlling Our Own Behavior

“Each person is fit to be righteous like Moses, our teacher, or wicked, like Jeroboam. Similarly, he may be wise or foolish, merciful or cruel, miserly or generous, or acquire any other character traits. There is no one who compels him, sentences him, or leads him towards either of these two paths. Rather, he, on his own initiative and decision, tends to the path he chooses.” (Maimonides, Laws of Repentance, 5:2)

We recognize that so much that occurs in the wider world is beyond our control. And indeed we also understand how little control we have over our own lives. So what, if anything, can we control?

Roughly one thousand years ago, the renown Jewish thinker Maimonides stated without qualification that we can control our own behavior. This may seem obvious, but he understood that we often excuse our behavior by claiming that we are destined to act in certain ways. Not so, argued Maimonides. We have the freedom to choose, not only the actions we take, but the personality traits we embody. And because we have the freedom to choose, we also have the responsibility.

As we approach Rosh Hashanah together, I urge us to think carefully about small changes we can make to our behavior. Can we make healthier decisions when it comes to eating and exercise? Can we check in regularly with a family member or friend? Can we make time in our schedules once a week to join Temple Israel's daily *minyan* so that our fellow community members can recite *kaddish*? Can we volunteer with an organization to advocate for a cause that we believe is just?

If you have ever tried to make small changes to your behavior, you likely have discovered two things. First, it's hard to get started. Second, once you do start, you set off a positive chain reaction. You discover the benefits of healthy food and exercise choices which in turn motivate you to continue making those choices. You build connections to family and friends which inspire a desire for even deeper connections.

You discover the power of prayer and community and want to learn and do more. You discover that your moral voice can make a difference and want to amplify your voice further.

Rather than allowing us to feel overwhelmed by the many challenges in our lives and in our world, our tradition requires us to

make changes to our behavior, to “cultivate our own gardens,” as the philosopher Voltaire put it.

Our behavior is the one realm that we can control. So let's figure out what small changes we are willing to make. I'm confident that from those changes, we will feel repercussions that will help us to understand just how much influence we can have, not just on ourselves, but on the world around us.

May we enter 5787 feeling empowered, rather than overwhelmed. Deanna and I wish you a good, sweet New Year, a year in which your choices bring blessings for you, your loved ones, our people, and all humanity. ■

“May we enter
5787 feeling
empowered,
rather than
overwhelmed.”

BREAK•THE•FAST MONDAY• SEPTEMBER 21

following the sounding of the shofar
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

Hosted by the Men's Club • Catered by Bagel Mentch

All are welcome; reservations are required.

\$40 per person for TIGN members
\$45 per person for non-members
\$10 for children under 8 years of age
No additional charge for more than two children
under the age of 8 in the same family.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENT REQUIRED
BY NOON ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH

For more information or to make a reservation, go to:

<https://www.tign.org/events/break-the-fast-2/>

or contact:

Charles Adler • 516-482-4421 • ciadler.ca@gmail.com



THE SIMHAT TORAH HONOREES ARE...

HATAN V'KALAT TORAH:
ERIC AND AUDREY ITZKOWITZ

HATAN V'KALAT BERESHIT:
SETH AND MORGAN KURPIEL

HATAN V'KALAT MAFTIR:
DR. YOSEF AND LOUISE SOLEYMANI

A SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE VOICE
WILL BE E-MAILED TO CONGREGANTS
BEFORE ROSH HASHANAH – AND
PRINTED COPIES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT
HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES – WITH AN
ARTICLE ABOUT THE
SIMHAT TORAH HONOREES.

Before They Become Memories

One of life's great ironies is that we almost never know that we are living the moments we will one day miss the most.

We call them "the good old days." But the truth is, we almost never know we are living them while they are happening. At the time, they are just... days.

We rush from one responsibility to the next. The phone rings at the wrong moment. The children are loud. The calendar is full. There are errands to run, emails to answer, people waiting for us, and a list that somehow never gets shorter. We spend so much time thinking about what comes next that we barely notice what is happening now.

"May 5787 bring health, peace, sweetness, and blessing to every member of our Temple Israel family, to the Jewish people... and to... those we love."

a holiday table and realize that someone who once sat there is no longer with us. We hear a familiar song and are instantly transported back to another chapter of our lives. We remember our children when they were little, our parents when they were younger, friends we used to see every week, or a home that once seemed so ordinary.

And suddenly we realize: Those were the good old days.

But what if these are, too?

What if there are moments happening in our lives right now that one day we will wish we could experience just one more time? Maybe it's the chaos around the *Shabbat* table. Maybe it's the sound of children laughing in another room. Maybe it's a conversation with an aging parent, a walk with your spouse, or simply walking into synagogue and seeing familiar faces who have become part of your extended family.

Maybe the moments we treasure most are the ones we hardly notice at all.

Judaism has a remarkable way of reminding us to pay attention.

Before we eat bread or drink wine, before we enjoy the fragrance of spices, witness the beauty of nature, or experience something new, we pause to say a blessing. Those blessings are not only expressions of gratitude, they

And then, almost without realizing it, years pass.

One day, we come across an old photograph and think, Look how young everyone was. We remember

from the president
Rachel Geula

president@tign.org



are a way of training our hearts. They teach us that holiness is rarely found only in life's extraordinary moments. More often, it is discovered in ordinary moments that we choose not to overlook.

Perhaps that is one of Judaism's greatest gifts. It teaches us not simply to be thankful, but to notice.

On Rosh Hashanah, we ask God for another year of life. We pray to be inscribed in the Book of Life. We pray for health, for peace, for our families, for our community, for Israel, and for a year filled with blessing.

But perhaps the holiday asks something of us as well.

If God grants us another year, how will we live it?

Will we hurry through it, always waiting for the next milestone? Or will we recognize that this ordinary Tuesday, this *Shabbat* dinner, this conversation after services, this family gathering, may one day be the very moments we wish we could have back?

Life will never be perfect. There will always be something unfinished, something uncertain, something we wish were different. If we wait until everything is exactly as we want it to be before we allow ourselves to appreciate life, we may spend our lives waiting.

Perhaps a life of blessing is not something we discover after everything is resolved. Perhaps it is something we recognize in the middle of an unfinished life.

As we enter 5787, perhaps our challenge is not to find more in life, but to notice more of the life we already have. To linger at the table a little longer, make the phone call we've been meaning to make, tell someone we love them, offer forgiveness more freely, say thank you more often, and put our phones down long enough to truly see the people around us.

Because someday, we may look back on this very season of our lives and realize that these were some of the good old days. How wonderful it would be if we recognized them while we were still living them.

May 5787 bring health, peace, sweetness, and blessing to every member of our Temple Israel family, to the Jewish people everywhere, and to all those we love.

May this be the year we choose not to postpone gratitude, not to overlook the ordinary, and not to wait for today's blessings to become tomorrow's memories.

Shanah Tovah U'Metukah. ■

from the rabbi

Rabbi Daniel Schweber

rabbischweber@tign.org



High Holy Days are an Opportunity for Gratitude

When my daughters were young, we had au pairs from tropical countries in South America which use the Metric system. I got good at translating distance and temperature. In winter, I would shock them by saying it's -12C (10F)! It made it easy for us to choose useful Xmas presents for them!

Measurement systems are subjective and agreed upon by convention. They are products of culture. Without judgment, American culture prides itself on individuality and being different from the rest of the world. Maintaining the English system is one major way we are different.

For Jews, the Jewish calendar is our major way of being different and celebrating our culture. We live our day to day life in 2026 but we live Jewishly and spiritually in 5786 — and soon to be 5787.

The rhythms of the Jewish calendar give meaning for us Jews. The Jewish calendar beautifully follows the rhythms of nature with its lunar-solar connection. Months are based on the moon. There are leap years to sync to the sun. The cycle of holidays and *Shabbat* give us our identity and connection to our history, both the good and the bad.

“Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur teach us that forgiveness, repentance and positive change are possible.”

This balance of nature and history is pronounced in the seven weeks between Tisha Be'Av and Rosh Hashanah.

Summer begins its rather steep descent to autumn. The days get shorter faster and the humid days yield to cooler nights. We also make a spiritual ascent from the sadness of Tisha Be'Av to the renewal of Rosh Hashanah.

Yes, life has its share of sadness and sorrow. But there is much sweetness and renewal in life as well. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur teach us that forgiveness, repentance and positive change are possible. The myriad of symbolic foods demonstrate that much in this world is good and sweet. We just need to focus on that and not let sorrow and anger overtake us.

As we approach 5787, I encourage you to take stock of all there is to be grateful for. Psalm 92, the psalm for *Shabbat*, helps us get in the mood. “It is good to give thanks to God... for how great is Your creation; how intricate Your design of the universe.

L'shabah Tova Umituka Tikateivu.

May you all be inscribed and sealed for a sweet and healthy new year. ■

Founder of Israel Guide Dog Center Brings Client and Guide Dog to Temple Israel

Approximately 40 people attended the recent warm and inspiring presentation by the Israel Guide Center.

Founder Noach Braun shared the origin of the Center and introduced client Achiya Klein and his dog, Joy. Achiya was tragically blinded in a Gaza tunnel years ago. Happily, Achiya was able to rediscover his independence

thanks to the ongoing support of the Israel Guide Center and the guide dogs they provided.

Noach invited everyone to visit the Center, located south of Tel Aviv, when in Israel.

Learn more at IsraelGuideDog.org ■



The Kol Nidre Campaign: An Investment in Our Spiritual Future

by Arden Smith

As we approach the High Holy Days, it is again time to think about our annual Kol Nidre Appeal, the congregation's single most important fundraiser.

Our beloved Rabbi Waxman, *zichron livracha*, who served as Senior Rabbi of Temple Israel for 55 years, had often stated that the synagogue is the central institution in diaspora Jewish life. Our synagogue, Temple Israel of Great Neck, must continue to serve the spiritual, educational and social needs of our diverse congregational family, as well as provide the resources which enable us to transmit our traditions to the next generation in order to continue the unbroken chain of Jewish continuity. With so many functions to fulfill and such a wide array of services which we provide, paying for them can be difficult and is a never-ending challenge.

As you probably know, our financial needs cannot be met by the collection of dues alone. For example, in our Religious School, which has seen a huge influx of new families, tuition only covers one third of the expenses required to operate the program, but having an outstanding Religious School program is essential to building the foundation for the next generation of committed Jews. Although we have had to significantly raise our security fee this year — an investment in our safety and a “sign of our times” — our security will still be partially subsidized by our synagogue. Likewise, adult education, family programming, social action, and cultural activities — programs that are an integral part of how the synagogue seeks to enrich the lives of our members — are generally provided without an associated fee. What all these services have in common is that they require money to undertake. Our Kol Nidre Appeal is significant in allowing us to continue to provide these high-quality services as well as providing for the daily operations and maintenance of our synagogue.

Temple Israel provides the resources and the caring community to make holidays, life cycle events and Jewish

family life in general richer and more meaningful. Again, this all comes with a cost. Our community has undergone significant demographic changes and over the last few years many of our significant benefactors and patrons have passed away. WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

“...[we] must continue to serve the spiritual, educational and social needs of our diverse congregational family, as well as provide the resources transmit[ing] our traditions to the next generation...”

With your committed participation in past Kol Nidre campaigns, you have helped our beloved synagogue maintain a state of financial good health.

Wendy and I, the Executive Committee, and my fellow trustees ask each of you to consider the role of our synagogue in sustaining [normative] Jewish life in our community in determining your contribution to this year's Kol Nidre Appeal.

L'Shana Tova U Metuka ■

ARDEN SMITH has been the Chair of our Kol Nidre Campaign since its inception. He recently returned to the Board of Trustees after previously serving on the Board almost 30 years ago. Dr. Smith serves on the Advisory Board of the Center for Jewish Studies at Queens College. He also volunteers as the final President of the Maspeth Jewish Center, a synagogue in the neighborhood where Dr. Smith had his office, as it goes through the process of closing and disbursing its funds.



Kol Isha
THE WOMEN'S LEARNING COMMUNITY OF
TEMPLE ISRAEL OF GREAT NECK



*Women of Temple Israel,
join us for Kol Isha this year...*

In weekly classes led by Rahel Musleah, women will explore and learn to lead the Shabbat Musaf service. While Musaf originated in ancient times, its contemporary meaning encourages us to mark sacred time with intentionality.

SUNDAYS
10 A.M. - 11 A.M.
TEMPLE ISRAEL LIBRARY

DUE TO THE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE, WE
WILL MEET ON WEDNESDAYS AT 7 P.M.
FROM SEPTEMBER 9 - OCTOBER 7

CHECK E-MAILS FOR MORE DETAILS

Rabbi Lisa Sacks to Speak at 9/11 Memorial Service

*Rabbi Sacks will recall her
experience being at 7 World
Trade Center that day*

This year's 9/11 Memorial Service will take place on Wednesday, September 9th at 6 P.M. on the Saddle Rock Memorial Bridge. (The change in date is due to Rosh Hashanah beginning at sundown on September 11th this year.)

Our speaker will be Rabbi Lisa Sacks.

On September 11, 2001, Rabbi Sacks, then an Assistant Commissioner for the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services, was called to the NYC Office of Emergency Management at 7 World Trade Center after the planes struck the Twin Towers. When the towers fell, she was trapped there.



Rabbi Sacks will speak about her experience on that day, her role in the government's response and recovery efforts, and her process of healing from the resulting post-traumatic stress.

Rabbi Lisa Sacks now serves as Rabbi and Director of Lifelong Learning at Bet Torah, a Conservative synagogue in Mt Kisco, New York, and is married to Temple Israel's Cantor Luis Cattán.

The Men's Club of Temple Israel has organized the 9/11 Memorial Service on the Saddle Rock Bridge every year for the past 25 years. Marc Katz chairs that committee. ■

Temple Israel's Security Plan: Keeping Our Community Safe

by Susan Brustein

With the High Holy Days approaching, a time when most congregants and many guests will be in the building, it's a good time to review our safety protocols.

Temple Israel's Safety and Security Committee meets regularly throughout the year to ensure that our campus is a safe one. Our new security team, Upfront Security Agents, not only keeps us safe from intruders, but they are also trained in CPR, AED (automated external defibrillator) use and Stop-the-Bleed Protocols, and can take charge of medical emergencies until EMS arrives.

As a review ahead of the High Holy Days, we encourage you to refer to the boxes on the next page to know what to do if there is a medical emergency or if there is a non-medical emergency. Please familiarize yourself with these procedures so you know what to expect and can respond appropriately.

PLANNING FOR ROSH HASHANAH AND YOM KIPPUR

Please remember:

- Bring your personal ticket as identification.
- The only cars that will be allowed entry into our parking lot will be those with a permit from the Temple Israel office. Please contact Executive Director Jamey Kohn prior to the High Holy Days if you need a parking permit. Those members who demonstrate a need for access to the parking lot, such as those requiring handicapped parking, will be issued the permit.

Trained medical responders will be present in the Sanctuary and the Grand Ballroom, identified by their red vests. The ushers know where each "red vest" is seated. If you are a trained medical responder and want to volunteer to be a "red vest," please complete an online application at: <http://tign.org/redvests>

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

As part of our safety protocols, we ask that all children who will be participating in the children's services be brought to their service by an adult and picked up from that same location at the end of the session. Please note: Parents of children under the age of four must stay with their child during the program. All adults are welcome to stay with their older children.

For our youngest children, you will receive a matching wristband that will identify caretakers. Make sure you and the child you are leaving in our care are both wearing your wristband.

Knowing that the Security and Safety Committee has planned for all contingencies, I hope that you will be able to relax and immerse yourself in the beautiful spirit of our services and really enjoy the time we spend together in prayer. I wish for each of us a year filled with good health, with friends and family, and peace. ■

*shanah
tovah*



SUSAN BRUSTEIN is a Vice President of Temple Israel and the chairperson of the Safety and Security Committee. Other members of the Safety and Security Committee are Joshua Charry, Joshua Forst, Zachary Goldfarb, Toby Katz, Richard Kestenbaum, Jamey Kohn, Susan Lopatkin, Rob Panzer and Ronen Sarraf. We are especially grateful to Zachary Goldfarb, Joshua Charry, and Joshua Forst for their expertise in developing these plans.

WHAT IF THERE IS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY?



Trained medical responders, identified by their Red Vests, are located in all our major services. They will take charge in a medical emergency until EMS arrives. Ushers know where to find our "Red Vests" if they are needed.

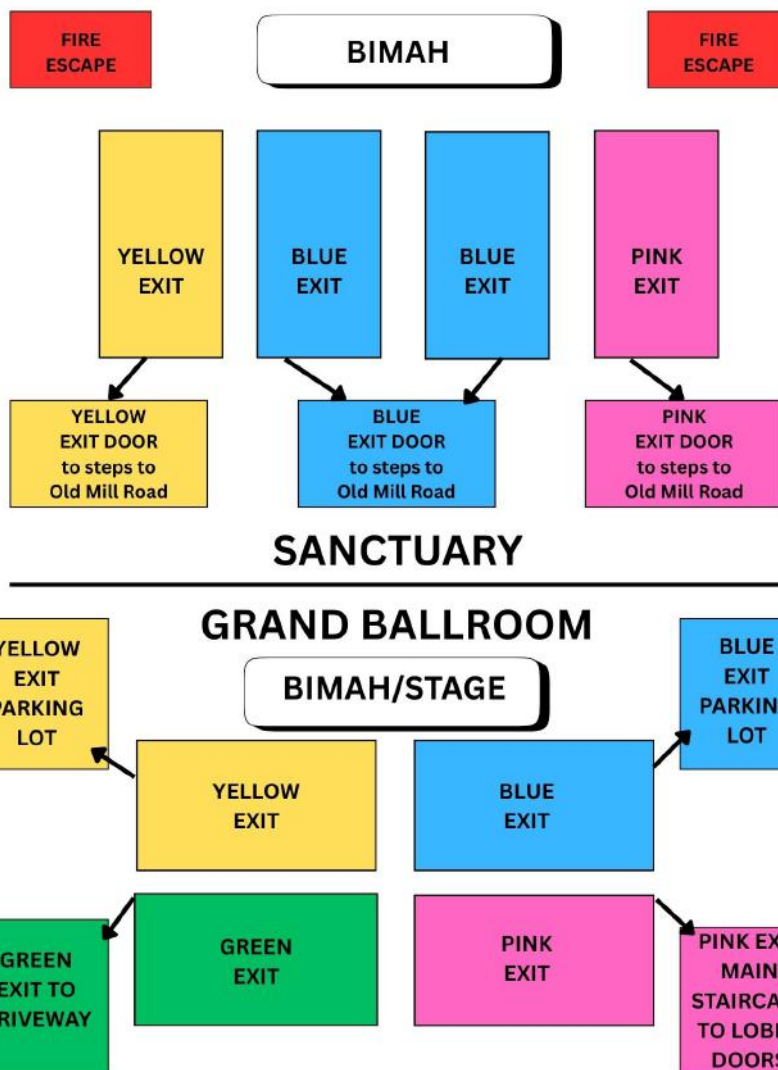
If you are trained medical responder and want to join our Red Vest Team, please complete an online application at <http://tign.org/redvests>

If a MEDICAL EMERGENCY requires an ambulance:

- FIRST call **516-482-5000** (Vigilant Fire Dept.)
- THEN call **911**
- NEXT find a **RED VEST** to take charge until EMS arrives

Temple Israel has multiple AEDs (automated external defibrillators) in both adult and child sizes, Stop the Bleed Kits, and trauma bags with oxygen tanks.

What if we need to evacuate?



NON-MEDICAL EMERGENCIES: KNOW THE PROCEDURES



SHELTER-IN-PLACE addresses dangers outside our building (i.e.: severe weather or human actions).



HOLD-IN-PLACE keeps an area clear when there is a localized emergency (i.e.: someone needs medical care).



We **EVACUATE** when we need to clear the building quickly because the danger is inside our building, (i.e.: fire).



LOCKDOWNS are called when there is an immediate threat of violence from which we cannot escape. Each area locks its doors and waits for the police to respond.

Should we ever need to leave the building in an emergency, Children's Services will be evacuated first and brought to a safe location where they can reunite with their parents.

Join other Temple Israel members on a visit to the

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

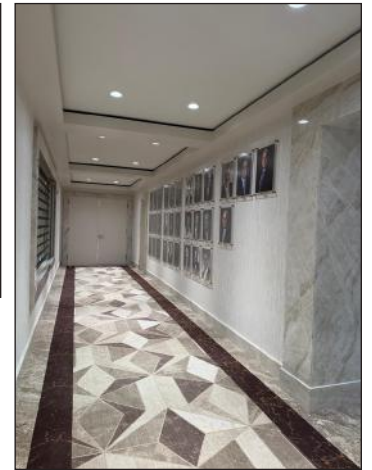
Washington, D.C.

**WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 11, 2026**

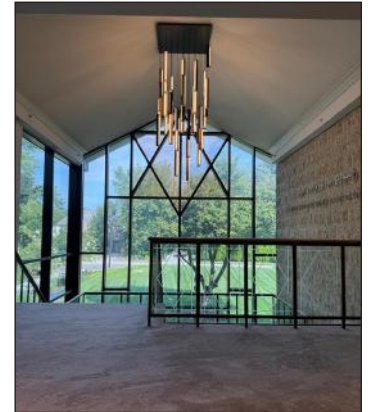
Former Temple Israel member and USHMM staff member Amy Katz Kardon will take our group on a private tour of the museum.

More details are on our website:
tign.org

REJUVENATED SPACES AT TEMPLE ISRAEL



With several Rejuvenation projects completed and more underway, Temple Israel will look a bit different to congregants who haven't been in the building for a while. Among the many changes are those pictured here: fresh paint on the exterior of the building; a newly landscaped front lawn with beautiful trees adorning the walkway from the street; a newly tiled back patio; and refurbished hallways throughout the building, with new wallpaper and carpeting, including beautiful new stone mouldings in the Sanctuary-level hallways. You'll also notice a newly installed ramp providing easier access to the Sanctuary. Inside the Sanctuary, the wood wainscoting has been newly stained, the chandeliers have been refurbished, the podiums were refinished, and the ark was enlarged along with many other improvements throughout the space. We look forward to welcoming you back and sharing these changes when you come to Temple Israel for the High Holy Days, *Shabbat* services, *minyan*, or any of the many other things happening in our building. ■



JACK STEIN MEMORIAL YOM KIPPUR SYMPOSIUM

HOW DO YOUNGER JEWS RELATE TO ISRAEL?

A CONVERSATION WITH SHANIE REICHMAN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026 (YOM KIPPUR)

3:15 P.M. • SANCTUARY

Shanie Reichman is the Director of Strategic Initiatives and Director of IPF Atid at Israel Policy Forum, where she helps emerging leaders engage seriously with Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A participating author in the book *Young Zionist Voices*, Shanie grew up in Great Neck and currently resides in New York City, where she is pursuing an M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies at CUNY Graduate Center. Shanie will speak with Rabbi Stecker about the challenge and inspiration of helping younger Jews to understand and deepen their relationship to Israel.



A HIGH HOLY DAYS REUNION
FOR TEMPLE ISRAEL ALUMNI
AGES 21 TO 30

LET'S CATCH UP

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
SERVICES ON
BOTH DAYS OF ROSH HASHANAH

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 &
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

CHECK SIGNS FOR ROOM LOCATION
WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

HIGH HOLY DAYS 5787 FAMILY PROGRAMS

ROSH HASHANAH • SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

BABYSITTING AND PLAYROOM (AGES 2-7)

Room 15/16 will be open 10 A.M. - 1 P.M.

Games, snacks and activities. One parent/guardian is required for children under the age of 4.

PRESCHOOL THROUGH PRE K (THROUGH AGE 4)

10:15 A.M. - 10:45 A.M. • Multipurpose Room

Morah Donna will lead a special holiday program filled with songs, stories and activities.

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 2ND GRADE

10:45 A.M. - 11:45 A.M. • Multipurpose Room

Morah Donna will lead a special holiday service blending familiar prayers, songs and stories.

3RD GRADE THROUGH 6TH GRADE FAMILY SERVICE

10:30 A.M. - Noon • Blue Room

Led by Geoff Epstein and Rahel Musleah. This service will be a blend of traditional and innovative prayers and melodies, Torah reading, interactive games and creative activities.

7TH GRADE THROUGH 12TH GRADE TEEN SERVICE

10:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. • Pine Room

Danny Mishkin will be leading a service including *tefillah*, Torah reading, shofar, great discussions and activities.

YOM KIPPUR • MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

BABYSITTING AND PLAYROOM (AGES 2-7)

Room 15/16 will be open 10:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

Games, snacks and activities. One parent/guardian is required for children under the age of 4.

PRESCHOOL THROUGH PRE K (THROUGH AGE 4)

10:30 A.M. - 11 A.M. • Multipurpose Room

Morah Donna will lead a special holiday program filled with songs, stories and activities.

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 2ND GRADE

11 A.M. - Noon • Multipurpose Room

Morah Donna will lead a special holiday service blending familiar prayers, songs and stories.

3RD THROUGH 6TH GRADE FAMILY SERVICE

11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. • Blue Room

Led by Geoff Epstein and Rahel Musleah. This service will be a blend of traditional and innovative prayers and melodies, Torah reading, interactive games and creative activities.

7TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE TEEN SERVICE

11 A.M. - 1 P.M. • Pine Room

Danny Mishkin will be leading a service including *tefillah*, Torah reading, shofar, great discussions and activities.

****IMPORTANT NOTE:**

While children in these services can attend without a parent or guardian if over the age of 4, a parent is REQUIRED to accompany the child(ren) for the initial drop-off of the children's service to receive matching wristbands for security purposes.

Speaking with Cantor Cattan, *continued from front page*

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur?

"The special musical character of the High Holy Days begins with *nusach*; the traditional musical language of Jewish prayer. *Nusach* is not simply a collection of melodies. It is a musical grammar made of modes, motifs, and cadences that tells us where we are in sacred time.

"Often, before we even understand the words intellectually, the music tells the soul: Rosh Hashanah has arrived, Yom Kippur has arrived, and so on. Some of these motifs and melodies have been transmitted for centuries. They carry the memories of generations and connect us with Jews who prayed these same words long before us. My approach is to preserve that musical architecture while also using classic *hazzanut*, beloved congregational melodies, my Sephardic and Ashkenazic inheritance, and contemporary or Israeli settings when they genuinely illuminate the text. The variety is always intentional. Sometimes the cantor carries the prayer for the congregation; sometimes the congregation carries it together. The music must always serve the words, the spiritual intention, and the community, not the other way around.

Do you have a favorite High Holy Day prayer?

"It is difficult to choose only one, but *Unetaneh Tokef* has always affected me deeply. It confronts us with our vulnerability: 'We come from dust and return to dust... like a passing shadow, a vanishing cloud, and a fleeting dream.' Yet it does not leave us in despair. It challenges us to respond through *teshuvah*, *tefillah*, and *zedakah*, through transformation, prayer, and acts of justice and generosity.

"I am also fascinated by the way contemporary Israeli music can open an ancient prayer from a new direction. Hanan Ben Ari's *Yesh Kan Yoter Mizeh* ("There Is More Than This"), which I included in our Selichot Service, draws upon the language of *Unetaneh Tokef* but insists that there is more to us than the temporary body and the passing shadow. For me, that is the heart of the prayer: our mortality should not prevent us from always striving to grow spiritually; it should awaken us to life's holiness with constant gratitude."

The *Hineni* prayer always puts the cantor in a spotlight. Do you have a unique connection with that prayer?

"*Hineni* means, 'Here I am,' but it is not a declaration of confidence. It is a confession of inadequacy and vulnerability. The cantor steps forward and admits: I am not necessarily worthy of representing this congregation, but I am present, and I am prepared to serve. When I was younger, I naturally experienced

Hineni more as a significant cantorial moment. Over the years, however, I have come to understand that it is not really about the cantor. It is about the sacred responsibility entrusted to the cantor by the community.

"Today I experience *Hineni* as an act of *tzimtzum*, of making space. The cantor steps forward but must also move the ego aside so that the words of the liturgy and the voices of the congregation can be heard. Every year, I feel the presence of the people around me: their hopes, gratitude, grief, uncertainty, and prayers. *Hineni* reminds me that I am not an isolated artist before an audience. I am standing with and for a community as their cantor." ■

בְּרֹאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה יִכְתְּבוּ, וּבְיוֹם צוֹם כְּפוּר יִחַתְמוּ: כָּמָה יַעֲבִירוּ וְכָמָה יִבְרֹאוּ, מִי יִחְיֶה וּמִי יָמוּת, מִי בִקְצוֹ וּמִי לֹא בִקְצוֹ. מִי בְּמִיָּם וּמִי בְּאֵשׁ. מִי בְּקֶרֶב וּמִי בְּחֵיָה. מִי בְּרָעַב וּמִי בְּצָמָא. מִי בְּרַעַשׁ וּמִי בְּמַגָּפָה. מִי בְּחִיָּקָה וּמִי בְּסִקְלָה. מִי בְּנוֹחַ וּמִי בְּנוֹעַ. מִי יִשְׁקֹט וּמִי יִטְרֹף. מִי יִשְׁלֹוּ וּמִי יִתְיַסֵּר. מִי יַעֲזִיב וּמִי יַעֲשֶׂר. מִי יִשְׁפֹּל וּמִי יָרוּם:

Some of the Hebrew text of Unetaneh Tokef.

Sheldon Horowitz to Return as Guest Hazzan for High Holy Days

Temple Israel will welcome Dr. Sheldon Horowitz back for a third year as Guest Hazzan for the High Holy Days. A former member of Temple Israel, Hazzan Horowitz has been a *Shaliach Tzibbur* (person who leads the congregation in prayers) for more than 40 years.

Outside of being a *Shaliach Tzibbur*, Hazzan



Horowitz works with adults and children with neurodiverse learning and behavioral profiles to help them prepare for their *bar* and *bat mitzvah* and in study to enhance their joyful participation in *tefillah*. He is a contributing author of *A Different Spirit: Creating Meaningful B'nai Mitzvah for Children with Disabilities*, edited by Howard Blas and Ilana Trachtman, released in February 2026. ■

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More details will be revealed soon.

In Memoriam

**Temple Israel extends condolences
to the families of:**

DR. EVA EBIN

mother of Jane Tuvia, Susan Thalehm,
Amy Landesberg and Paul Ebin z"l,
grandmother of 22 grandchildren
great-grandmother of 58 great-grandchildren
Shoah survivor and esteemed member of Temple Israel

ESTHER SLOYER

mother of Michael Sloyer, Elliot Sloyer, and Gary Sloyer z"l
grandmother of Rebecca, Coby, and Zimrat
great-grandmother of Nava and Daria
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

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wife of Alan Solomon z"l
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grandmother of Lila, Sabrina, and Joshua
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

JOSHUA MARK FLEISCHER

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father of Samantha and Max
son of Renee Fleischer and Elliot Fleischer z"l
brother of Deborah Fleischer and Corey Fleischer
uncle of Becky and Hannah Rose

ANNELIESE BREITKOPF

mother of Jutta Schwartz and Gitta Breitkopf
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mother of Lynn Rudich, Sara Prager, and Michael Rudich
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husband of Elsie Schiff
father of Samuel Schiff and Michael Schiff
grandfather of Logan Schiff, Mallory Torres,
Eden Schiff, Alexandra Schiff and Mia Schiff
brother of Susan Kaufman
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

May their memories be for a blessing.

The sounds of the shofar, as blown
by Abby Bernstein, can be heard at
<https://tinyurl.com/TIGNshofar>. (If
you are reading the online version
of the Voice, just click the link.) We
will also hear the shofar sounds in
person on the High Holy Days. ■



Mazel Tov to...

DANA & RICHARD WEBER

on the birth of their granddaughter,
Gemma Florence Weber,
daughter of Alex and Kristina Weber,
and granddaughter of Patricia York (George York z"l).

JACQUELINE SHIRIAN (SAID SHIRIAN z"l)

on the engagement of her son,
Mark Shirian, to Rona Neman,
daughter of Mitra and Saeed Neman.

FARNAZ & SHAHRAM DELAFRAZ

on the birth of their granddaughter,
Kaya Esther Gabay,
daughter of Shauna and Daniel Gabay,
and granddaughter of Esther and Robert Gabay.

FARNAZ & SHAHRAM DELAFRAZ

on the birth of their grandson,
Isaac Noah Sakhaee,
son of Elana and Andrew Sakhaee,
and grandson of Javid and Nina Sakhaee.

LINDA & SETH HOROWITZ

on the birth of their grandson,
Gregory Allan Horowitz,
son of Marissa and Jared Horowitz,
and grandson of Lori and Jeffrey Grill.

MOREL TOMER ISH YEMINI & STEVEN RABIEI

on the birth of their daughter,
Eliyah Rabiei.

HAZZAN SUZANNE G. MAZEL & GEOFFREY R. MAZEL

on the birth of their granddaughter,
Ella Betty Goldman,
daughter of Mandy and Zach Goldman

JOELLE & GEOFFREY SEROTA

on the birth of their granddaughter,
Willow Fay Mehr,
daughter of Elizabeth and Wesley Serota.

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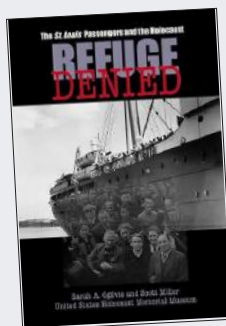
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Tuesday, September 22
Wednesday, September 23
& Thursday September 24
9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Friday, September 25
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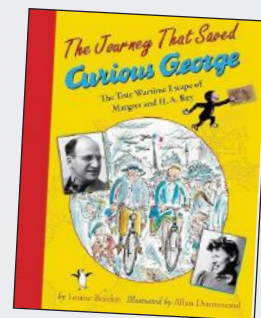


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**MONDAY
OCTOBER 19
8:15 P.M.**



THE JOURNEY THAT SAVED
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THE TRUE WARTIME ESCAPE OF
MARGARET AND H.A. REY

**MONDAY
NOVEMBER 16
8:15 P.M.**

INFORMATION ABOUT
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HIGH HOLY DAYS SERVICES

CAN BE FOUND
ON OUR WEBSITE:

[HTTPS://WWW.TIGN.ORG/
HAPPENINGS/HIGH-HOLY-DAY-
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A contribution towards the *kiddush* on July 11 was made by Gilbert Berookhim to commemorate the *yahrzeit* of his wife, Jurga Kulyste.

A contribution towards the *kiddush* on July 18 was made by Ingrid Fishman to commemorate the *yahrzeit* of her mother, Charlotte Gevantman.

Contributions toward the *kiddush* on July 31 were made by the Slawin and Greiff Families to commemorate the 5th *yahrzeit* of Brenda's father, Dr. Leo I. Slawin, and by Ingrid Fishman to commemorate the *yahrzeit* of her sister, Judith Gevantman.

A contribution towards the *kiddush* on August 8 was made by John Berookhim to commemorate the *yahrzeit* of his father, Nejatollah Berookhim. ■

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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.

NITZAVIM - VAYELEKH • September 5

[ROSH HASHANAH] • September 12

HA'AZINU • September 19

[SUKKOT] • September 26

V'ZOT HA BERAKHAH • October 3

BERESHIT • October 10

NOACH • October 17

LECH-LECHA • October 24

VAYERA • October 31



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Events are being added. For more details and updated information, check weekly emails and www.tign.org.

From Many Traditions, One Sacred Song: A Selihot Experience • Saturday, September 5 @ 9 P.M.

Men's Club hosts the 9/11 Memorial Service: 25 Years of Memory • Wednesday, September 9 @ 6 P.M.

Kol Isha Musaf Class • Wednesday, September 9 @ 7 P.M.

Rosh Hashanah Services • Friday, September 11 through Sunday, September 13 (see website for details)

Kol Isha Musaf Class • Wednesday, September 16 @ 7 P.M.

Yom Kippur Services • Sunday, September 20 through Monday, September 21 (see website for details)

Men's Club hosts a Break-the-Fast • Monday, September 21 after the shofar sounds

Kol Isha Musaf Class • Wednesday, September 23 @ 7 P.M.

Sukkot • beginning Friday, September 25

Shabbat Service in the Sanctuary & Dinner in the Sukkah • Friday, October 2 • Service @ 6 P.M.; Dinner @ 6:45 P.M.

Kol Isha Musaf Class • Wednesday, September 30 @ 7 P.M.

Simhat Torah • Saturday, October 3 through Sunday, October 4

Kol Isha Musaf Class • Wednesday, October 7 @ 7 P.M. (last day of special schedule)

Kol Isha Musaf Class • Sunday, October 11 @ 10 A.M. (regular schedule)

Shoah Committee Book Discussion of Refuge Denied: The St. Louis Passengers and the Holocaust by Sarah A. Ogilvie

Monday, October 19 @ 8:15 P.M.

Temple Israel Players Big Reveal of their Spring Musical and Audition Prep • Wednesday, October 28 @ 6:30 P.M.

Congregational Meeting • Monday, November 2 @ 8:15 P.M.

Temple Israel Trip to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum • Wednesday, November 11

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