

Three Couples will be Simhat Torah Honorees on October 15

by Miriam Kobliner

Three couples will receive Temple Israel's highest religious recognition when they are called to the *bimah* at the *Simhat Torah* service on Wednesday, October 15. A luncheon will follow the service.

Danielle and Steven Spitzer, *Kallat v'Hatan Torah* (bride and bridegroom of the Torah) will be called to the reading of the concluding verses of the Book of Deuteronomy. Shiphra and Bobby Bakhchi, *Kallat v'Hatan Beresheet* (bride and bridegroom of Genesis) will be called to the reading of the opening verses of the Book of Genesis. Susan and Dennis Brustein, *Kallat v'Hatan Maftir* (bride and bridegroom of the *Maftir* reading) will be called upon to chant the *Haftarah* from the Book of Joshua.

When speaking about the honorees, Rabbi Stecker commented, "All of our honorees have contributed to our synagogue in multiple ways and are shining examples of commitment to Judaism, Israel, and just making life better for the people around them. I look forward to celebrating with them, their loved ones, and our Temple Israel community."

The celebration of *Simhat Torah* will begin on the evening of Tuesday, October 14. The congregation will celebrate the cycle of the reading of the Torah by joyously carrying the Torahs outside and dancing in front of the synagogue on Old Mill Road, weather permitting, followed by *Minhah* and *Ma'ariv* in the Sanctuary.

Simhat Torah Honorees: Danielle and Steven Spitzer with their daughter, Haley (top); Bobby and Shiphra Bakhchi (middle), and Susan and Dennis Brustein (right).



DANIELLE AND STEVEN SPITZER KALLAT V'HATAN TORAH

Danielle and Steven Spitzer have been members of Temple Israel for over 10 years. Steven grew up on the Lower East Side of Manhattan and Danielle grew up in Lynbrook, both crediting their parents for providing them with a Jewish upbringing and encouraging strong Jewish identities. Danielle and Steven are now instilling that in their daughter, Haley, who attends the Temple Israel Religious School.

At Temple Israel, Steven is a member of the Board of Trustees, the Men's Club, and has—as he likes to say—"played two humans and a cow (not at the same time)" in Temple Israel Players' shows. (More specifically, he was Motel in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Benjamin in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and Milky White in *Into the Woods*.) He also founded and manages the Temple Israel softball team. Danielle is equally involved as the co-chair of Temple Israel's Religious School Education Committee, a member of Golda and part of stage crew for The Players. (Danielle and Steven's daughter, Haley, is also part of Temple Israel Players.)

The Spitzers consider Temple Israel their second home and are very excited and humbled to receive this honor.

► continued on page 13



**TEMPLE
ISRAEL**
of Great Neck

JOIN US FOR MINYAN

Monday through Friday mornings at 7:30 a.m.
Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.
Sunday through Thursday evenings at 8:00 p.m.

JOIN US FOR SHABBAT

Friday evenings: check website or call office.
Saturday mornings at 9:15 a.m.
Tot Shabbat & Jr. Congregation at 10:30 a.m.

www.TIGN.org



Learning to Listen as We Enter the New Year

A central moment of Jewish prayer involves the recitation of “*Shema Yisra’el*.” The word “*shema*,” which means “listen,” contains three Hebrew letters whose sounds can help guide us to listen more effectively. The first letter, *shin*, makes the sound “shhh.” In order to listen, we first need to be quiet. Whether we want to listen to the sounds of a bird or an orchestral piece or another

human being, we first have to quiet our own voices. How often are we unable to listen because we can’t stop ourselves from making noise? Forcing ourselves to be quiet is the first step of listening.

“I believe that we need to do a better job of listening.”

The second letter, *mem*, makes the sound “mmm,” which can

signify processing or consideration. Once we have listened, we can take a moment to process what we have heard, to begin to consider the implications. This can be especially helpful when we listen to another person. Instead of forming some argument to convince the other person of our point of view, we let the words sink in on their own terms. That can be difficult, especially if we are used to viewing conversation primarily as a means of advancing our own agendas. Allowing the words of the other to sink in before we respond is the second step of listening.

The third letter, *ayin*, as vocalized in the word *shema*, makes the sound “ahhh.” If we are able to keep quiet long enough to listen and to begin to process what we’ve heard, then we may come to a moment of understanding. “Now I get it,” we may reflect privately or out loud as we gain an insight that we hadn’t previously considered. The “ahhh” moment can be unsettling, especially if it challenges our prior perspective. But it can also be constructive, ultimately inspiring us to chart a better course of action than we otherwise might have.

Seeing how often we talk at, post at, and lecture at one another, I believe that we need to do a better job of listening. Take a moment to imagine how much you could learn by listening more carefully to the people with whom you share your home, synagogue or community. One of the reasons I enjoy *kiddush* at our synagogue is because it gives me a chance to listen to people of all ages and backgrounds. Sometimes I need to remind myself to follow the three steps I outlined above. Shhh. Mmm. Ahhh. Invariably when I do so, I come away with a deeper understanding of people than I would have if I simply did most of the talking.

Perhaps you’ve heard about the ancient rabbinic sages Hillel and Shammai who often disagreed about matters of Jewish law. In most cases, the Talmud tells us, we follow the opinion of Hillel. Why is that? Not because Hillel was more learned. The reason is because Hillel had the practice of listening to Shammai before he would offer his own opinion. Listening is a sign of respect, but it is often also a precursor to increased wisdom.

As we strive to listen more intentionally to one another, perhaps we can also learn to pay greater attention to the symphony of nature that surrounds us. And who knows? We may even learn how to listen to the *kol demama daka* that we reference during the High Holy Days, the still, small voice that vibrates through everything and can help guide our journeys in a painfully uncertain world.

Deanna and I wish you and your loved ones *Shanah tovah um’etukah*. May it be a good, sweet year of listening, learning and understanding for us, our people, and all humanity. ■

JOIN RABBI STECKER
FOR THE ANNUAL
JACK STEIN MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM

THE PROMISE OF AMERICA

Yom Kippur Day • Thursday, October 2nd
3 P.M. in the Sanctuary

Three members of our congregation who grew up in other countries will compare being Jewish in the countries of their youth with being Jewish, and raising Jewish children, in the United States.

Eleanor Askari, who grew up in Iran,
Kiu Geula, who grew up in Germany, and Ruth Greener,
who grew up in Brazil, will discuss their experiences and
perceptions with Rabbi Stecker.

**Information about Temple Israel's
High Holy Days services
can be found on our website:**

<https://www.tign.org/happenings/high-holy-day-information-2025-5786/>

A Table Big Enough for All of Us



When I think of Rosh Hashanah, I always come back to the holiday table. In my home, it's filled with the familiar and the unexpected: apples dipped in honey, chives, zucchini, beans, tongue, beets, dates, popcorn, and pomegranate. Each food carries a meaning, a small prayer for the year ahead.

- Apples and honey remind us to seek a year filled with sweetness, goodness, and joy.
- Chives symbolize our hope that harmful influences and those who wish us ill will be cut off from our lives.
- Zucchini reflects our prayer to be spared from hardship and discomfort, and that any harsh decrees against us be torn up and replaced with blessing.
- Beans are for growth in happiness and wisdom, that our lives be enriched with understanding and gladness.

“May we continue to sit around this great table together. May we bring out the best in one another. May the year ahead be filled with sweetness, growth, abundance, and joy.”

enmity and hostility be brought to a close.

- Popcorn is our reminder not to take life too heavily — to keep joy, laughter, and lightness close at hand.
- Pomegranate seeds represent abundance, that our year be filled with *mitzvot*, with goodness, and with countless blessings.

The table is set with intention, but its real beauty is not only what's on it. It's who's around it. Every seat matters. Every person brings something of their own. That's what makes it whole.

To me, Temple Israel is an extension of that table. It's where we come together as one community, each of us adding our voice, our energy, our presence. Some lead, some listen, some teach, some learn, some volunteer quietly behind

from the president
Rachel Geula

president@tign.org



the scenes, and some simply show up to pray, to sing, or to celebrate. Each role is important. Together, we grow.

This past year has reminded us again how vital our synagogue is — as a place of prayer, of learning, of support, and of joy. It doesn't happen on its own. It happens because of you — our members, our staff, our clergy, and our lay leaders who bring their hearts and their hands to make Temple Israel what it is.

As we enter 5786, may we continue to sit around this great table together. May we bring out the best in one another. May the year ahead be filled with sweetness, growth, abundance, and joy.

Shanah tovah um'etukah—Sal-e No Mobarak—Happy New Year. ■

HIGH HOLY DAYS TICKETS PICKUP TIMES

AT THE TEMPLE ISRAEL OFFICE

Sunday, September 14
9:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Monday, September 15
9:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Tuesday, September 16
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, September 17
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Thursday, September 18
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Friday, September 19
9:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.

Sunday, September 21
9:30 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Reminder: Members are required to be paid in full or have a payment plan in place to receive their tickets.

from the rabbi

Rabbi Daniel Schweber

rabbischweber@tign.org



The Language of the Heart

A Hasidic parable is told of an illiterate peasant boy sitting in synagogue on Yom Kippur. His father told him to just sit quietly, adding that if he listens to the *hazzan*, all of their prayers will be answered. The boy remains silent all Yom Kippur day until the final *Neila* service. Everyone in the synagogue is fervently praying. They clearly know what they are reading and saying.

The boy wants to join in the prayer but he can't read. He only knows how to recite the alphabet. The boy starts first in a whisper, "*aleph, beit, veit, gimmel, daled.*" He says to God in his heart: "This is all I can do. God, You know how the prayers should be pronounced. Please, arrange the letters in the proper way."

The boy gets more and more confident and gets louder and louder, with more and more intensity he recites the letters. "*Hey, vav, zayin, chet...*" The people around him begin to mutter, complaining he is disturbing their prayers. But the holy *Baal Shem Tov*, the founder of Hasidism, immediately silences them, and declares "because of this boy's prayers, the gates to heaven are wedged open for the last few minutes of Yom Kippur, allowing our prayers in."

The story teaches that the most important thing on Yom Kippur, or any day, is one's inner heart and pure intention (*kavanah*), not necessarily intellectualism or perfectly recited prayers.

This July, I devoted my sermons to Hebrew. Many of you shared feeling inadequate and ashamed of your Hebrew knowledge. I shared how studying Hebrew and improving in Hebrew prayer takes a lifetime. There is no need to feel ashamed. Many others are in the same situation.

Indeed, Jewish tradition favors praying in Hebrew as a way to connect our prayers to those of generations of our ancestors and to Jews around the world. The

spiritual language of Judaism is Hebrew. I encourage all of us to continue to advance in our Hebrew knowledge.

God does indeed understand all languages, including the language of heart. Therefore, I encourage all of us to attend services this High Holy Day season. Listen and hum along with the music. Try to recite some Hebrew and certainly pray in the language in which you are most comfortable. Wishing you and yours a *Shanah tovah um'etukah Tikateivu* - May you be inscribed for a sweet and good new year.

"...the most important thing on Yom Kippur, or any day, is one's inner heart and pure intention (*kavanah*), not necessarily intellectualism or perfectly recited prayers."

Here are a few important Hebrew words for this High Holy Days period.

Yamim Noraim. The Hebrew term for the High Holy Days, meaning "Days of Awe" or "Days of Reverence".

Aseret Yemei Teshuva. The "Ten Days of Repentance" that occur between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Kippur - Kapara. *Kapara* is often translated as atonement. It literally means purging of the stain or guilt of sin. Yom Kippur is the day to purge our guilt through fasting, prayer and confession.

Teshuvah. A crucial concept during the High Holy Days, this word means "returning" or "repentance," referring to the process of moral self-assessment, seeking forgiveness, and resolving to do better.

Gmar Hatimah Tovah. Literally "A good signing/sealing." This is a traditional greeting during Yom Kippur, referring to the belief that on Rosh Hashanah our fates are written, or inscribed, in the Book of Life, and on Yom Kippur we are sealed in it.

Chet. Sin or misdeed.

Yizkor. Literally "May God remember," Yizkor is a prayer service in memory of the dead, which is held on Yom Kippur. ■

Rabbi Schweber and the Shoah Remembrance Committee
Holocaust Book Club
welcome and encourage you to join them for a discussion about:

SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL HAPPENED

by Yvette Manassis Corporon



In this engrossing peek into a little-known chapter of World War II, and one family's tale of finding the lost pieces of its own history, a woman sets out to track down the descendents of the Jewish family her grandmother helped hide seventy years earlier.

**Monday, September 15
8:15 P.M.**

Everyone's Contribution Helps to Strengthen Temple Israel: The Kol Nidre Campaign

by Arden Smith

And so the story goes... In a great wine-making town in Eastern Europe (or Northern Iran near the Caspian Sea), word came that the great *rebbe* (the *chachum gadol*) was coming to the town in the following year. The town's elders and Torah sages decided to collect the best of each vintner's production every week before the Sabbath. They fashioned a great vat and a sturdy set of steps leading to the top of the vat. Each week, every vintner would pour a goatskin flask full of his wine into the vat.

One "*reb yid*"—whose name is not important and whose wine wasn't the best nor the worst—decided that he could fill his goatskin flask with water and no one would know.

At the end of the year, the grand *rebbe* (the *chachum gadol*) came. He ascended the steps with a crystal goblet created for the occasion. He scooped the goblet into the vat and held the glass high over his head for all to see. And there, gleaming in the sun, was a crystal clear glass of water. There must have been quite a few "*yidlach*" whose names were "not important."

...

We are a very large congregation. It is often too easy to feel like no one will notice if we don't participate, if we don't contribute to the Kol Nidre Campaign. We think: "Nobody will know the difference...My contribution won't make a difference..."

Well, every contribution counts. Every contribution helps and all of the contributions add up. And, we need your help!

Our Kol Nidre Campaign is counted on to help pay for the day-to-day operating expenses of our synagogue. The funds are not for the future; it is to help us pay our operating expenses now.

As a large synagogue and a well-recognized center for Jewish life in our community and beyond, we have robust programming—including well-known guest speakers—for all ages and interests, twice-daily weekday services, and

lifelong Jewish education offerings, among other programs and services. All of these programs and services provide plenty of opportunities for us to come to our synagogue and gather together. That said, we have a large overhead which includes the salaries of everyone who works in our building, plus security expenses, and repairs and maintenance of our building and grounds. Our doors are open and we're here to serve you for your religious, social, cultural, and spiritual needs. But, all of that costs money that membership dues alone don't cover.

If you have been generous to Temple Israel in the past, we thank you and we ask you to continue. If you have never contributed to the Kol Nidre Campaign, we ask you to think of the cost of a dinner at a local restaurant when you go out with your family. Please consider donating at least the cost of that one dinner and "have dinner with us" now.

Relating back to the story about the vintners donating their wine, but giving water instead...

Let's all give our best "wine." Let's not have clear water when we open and tally the pledge cards. Temple Israel needs your assistance. Every contribution counts and makes a difference.

I, my fellow trustees, and our Executive Committee, ask each of you to consider the vital role of our synagogue in sustaining Jewish life in our Temple Israel community and to respond generously to this year's Kol Nidre Campaign. ■

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
5786:
Rosh Hodesh**

women
gathering together
to learn,
grow in spirit,
and create community

FIRST MEETING:
Sunday,
September 14
10 A.M.
Temple Israel Library

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

ASHLEY DEMERS was called to the Torah as a *bat mitzvah* on September 6. She is the daughter of Lindsey and Andrew Demers and the granddaughter of Temple Israel members Brenda and Michael Gutkin. She has a brother, Eric, 15. Ashley is an eighth grade student at Great Neck North Middle School where she was a member of the school tennis team. Ashley enjoys playing tennis and competing in tournaments. She plans to visit Israel in the future.

LILYANNA BECKER will be called to the Torah as a *bat mitzvah* on October 25. She is the daughter of Elle Becker and Michael Becker and the granddaughter of Temple Israel member, Glenda Becker. Lily has a brother, Noah, 15. She is an eighth grade student at Great Neck North Middle School where she plays lacrosse and field hockey. Lily takes art classes at Gold Coast Art Center and spends her summers at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires. She visited Israel in August 2023 and looks forward to returning for another visit.



AMELIA MARKOWITZ will be called to the Torah as a *bat mitzvah* on November 8, sharing the *bima* with her brother, Tyler. She is the daughter of Jennifer and Jay Markowitz. Amelia is a seventh grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. Amelia enjoys dancing and takes classes outside of school. She looks forward to visiting Israel in the future.



TYLER MARKOWITZ will be called to the Torah as a *bar mitzvah* on November 8, sharing the *bima* with his sister, Amelia. He is the son of Jennifer and Jay Markowitz. Tyler is an eighth grade student at Great Neck North Middle School. Tyler enjoys basketball and swimming for the North Middle School team as well as outside of school. He also collects and sells sports cards. Tyler looks forward to visiting Israel in the future.

Sheldon Horowitz to Return as Guest Hazzan for HHD

The clergy at Temple Israel are pleased to welcome back Dr. Sheldon Horowitz 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; a cantor) for more than 40 years. In addition to being our Guest Hazzan for the High Holy Days last year and this year, he has led services at Town & Village Synagogue (NYC), the JCC of West Hempstead (Shaaray Shalom), Tradition at Morse Life Independent Living (West Palm Beach, FL), and Temple Israel (Vestal, NY).

A life-long special educator, Hazzan Horowitz has extensive experience teaching children and adults with neurodiverse learning and behavioral profiles in *bar* and *bat mitzvah* preparation and in study to enhance their joyful participation in *tefillah*. He is also a contributing author in an upcoming anthology titled, *A Different Spirit: Creating Meaningful B'nai Mitzvah for Children with Disabilities*. That collection, edited by Howard Blas and Ilana Trachtman, will be released in February 2026. ■



MEN'S CLUB OF TEMPLE ISRAEL

JETS GAME TAILGATE



**SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 19, 2025**

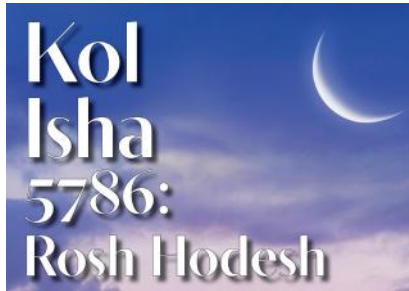
METLIFE STADIUM

CHECK WEEKLY EMAILS AND WEBSITE FOR
MORE INFORMATION

Calling All Temple Israel Women: Join Us for Kol Isha

by Rahel Musleah

Last year's *Kol Isha* program showed just how powerful a community of women can be. Nearly 70 women participated in a six-month journey of learning and leadership, culminating in inspiring *Shabbat* services that we led ourselves. The program strengthened our community, enriched Jewish knowledge, and energized our congregation.



Building on that success, I'm thrilled to introduce *Kol Isha 5786*, which will focus on the spiritual richness of *Rosh Hodesh* (the New Month). Traditionally, *Rosh Hodesh* is a significant time for women, filled with spiritual meaning,

ancient texts, and beautiful music. By studying and learning to lead this service, we will gain a deeper connection to our traditions and develop skills we can use year round.

Here's what we will explore:

- *Rosh Hodesh*: Learn about the history and contemporary relevance of this women's holiday.
- *The Book of Ruth*: Delve into this timeless narrative and its themes of faith, loyalty, and family.
- *Service Leadership*: Learn to lead key parts of the *Rosh Hodesh* service, including *Hallel* and *Torah* reading. These skills will also empower our women to contribute with confidence to *Shabbat* and holiday services throughout the year.

Program Activities:

- *Weekly Learning Sessions*, September 14, 2025 – May 17, 2026: Sundays, 10 - 11 A.M.
- *Monthly "Classic" Rosh Hodesh Study Groups*: In-depth study of the Book of Ruth. One Sunday a month, closest to *Rosh Hodesh* of that month. 11 A.M. - noon.
- *Congregational Celebration*, Sunday, May 17, 2026: A joyous *Rosh Hodesh Sivan* service with instrumental music and a celebratory brunch for all the participants and their families and friends, as well as the rest of the congregation.

- *Shavuot Integration, May 21-23, 2026*: Opportunities to lead *Hallel*, chant from the Book of Ruth, and lead a study session during the holiday.

How to Participate:

Full Commitment: Attend weekly Sunday sessions from September to May to fully experience the embracing power of our community of women. Weekly learning and leadership development.

Limited Participation: Flexible options are available for those with less availability. Choose from:

- Attending the monthly "classic" study groups.
- A special Mother-Daughter-Sister Prayer Experience.
- Other options tailored to your interests and schedule.

Mark Your Calendar:

Our first meeting is on Sunday morning, September 14, at 10 A.M. in the Library. Everyone is welcome, regardless of singing ability or Hebrew level!

Temple Israel women, please join us for a year of learning, leadership, inspiration, and camaraderie. *Kol Isha* will not only deepen your own spiritual growth but will also help us build a stronger, more vibrant Temple Israel community. ■

Photos below: Some of the women who participated in Kol Isha 5785, which culminated with Shabbat services in May 2025.



Let's Review Temple Israel's Security Plan for the High Holy Days

by Susan Brustein

Temple Israel has a safety framework that is designed to keep everyone safe. The framework consists of four specific protocols that have been developed by our Security Committee working with Jerry White, our Head of Security and his team of security professionals. Should there be an emergency situation at Temple Israel, the steps we take within this framework will be directed by our security professionals.

There are four protocols in our plan, and the decision on which plan we follow is largely determined by both the nature and location of danger.

Please familiarize yourself with the descriptions of our protocols; knowing what to expect can make our responses less scary, more efficient and safer.



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.

The Safety and Security Committee has begun to train members of our community on the specifics of these protocols and will be offering more training opportunities.

The action we will take in a situation will always be decided by our security professionals.

When you enter a room, take a quick survey of the entire room. The exits will be indicated by bright signs in both the Sanctuary and the Ballroom.

Your PRIMARY exit in an emergency will depend on your location. Your seats are color coded to match your primary exit, but knowing the location of all exits is important in case your primary exit is blocked, or you are not at your assigned seat. (See diagram of emergency exits on the following page.)

Our evacuation plan begins with evacuating Children's Services to a safe space so parents can reunite with their children away from danger.

Helpers will be available to help congregants with limited mobility evacuate in an emergency.

I'd like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe new year. ■

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, Ofra Panzer, and Rob Panzer. We are especially grateful to Zachary Goldfarb, Joshua Charry, and Joshua Forst for their expertise in developing these plans.

Break-the-Fast

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025

following the sounding of the shofar
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

hosted by the Men's Club • catered by Bagel Mentch
All are welcome, but 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.

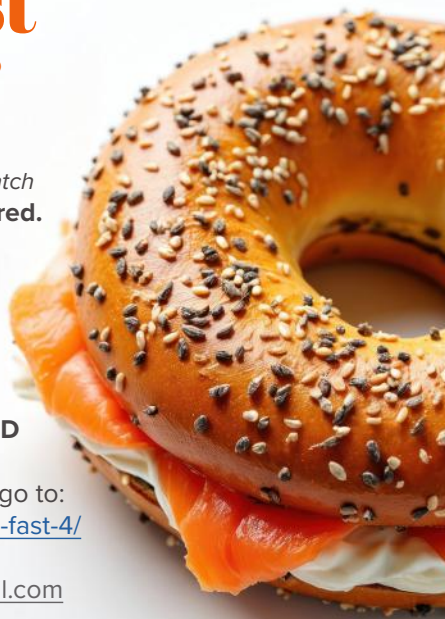
**RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT REQUIRED
BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH**

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

<https://www.tign.org/events/mens-club-break-the-fast-4/>

or contact:

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



THE TEMPLE ISRAEL MUSEUM

will be open on
Yom Kippur

Wednesday,
October 2nd
1 P.M. – 4 P.M.

View the impressive
collection of beautiful and
important Judaica.

What if there is a medical emergency?

Trained medical responders, identified by their Red Vests, are located in all our 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.



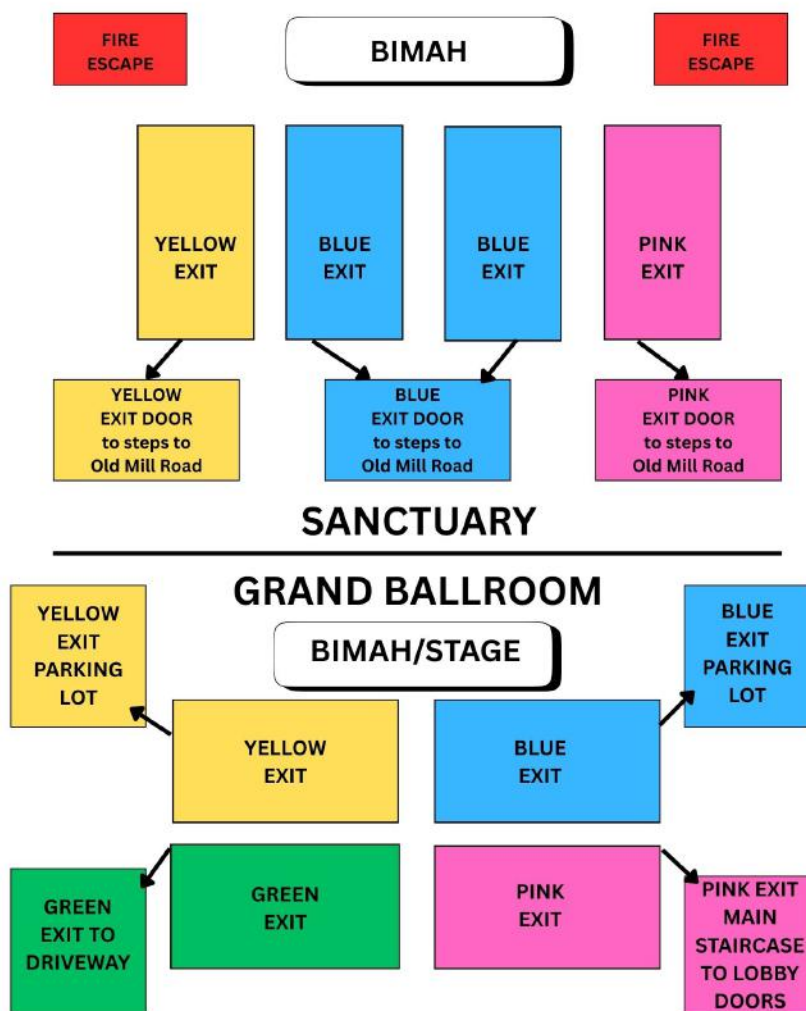
If you are trained medical responder and want to join our Red Vest Team, please complete an online application at <http://tign.org/redvests>

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?



A Bright New Year at Beth HaGan



Save The Dates
for our 2026 Spring Musical
Saturday Night, March 14
Sunday Afternoon, March 15

Stay Tuned
for our BIG REVEAL
and AUDITIONS
in the fall!

TIGN
Players

Hear Our Voice: A Prayer for the New Year

by Ellen Charlop

Hear our Voice
Spare us and have compassion on us
And Receive our prayer
Return us
So that we may return to You
Renew our days as before

Shemah Koleinu is an exquisite prayer and occurs as one of the central parts of the holiday service.

It is unusual in that the form of the words is in the imperative. We are demanding that G-d hear our voice. Our appeals to G-d are more than a plea. We are commanding that G-d hear us. The prayer is also in the plural. So it is not our individual voice, but rather our collective voice. We come before G-d as a community, all praying for forgiveness and appealing to G-d as one unified force.

In addition it says listen to our voice and not listen to our prayer.
A prayer implies something that is scripted.
When you speak in your own voice it is more personal, emotional and genuine.

“Shemah Koleinu is an exquisite prayer and occurs as one of the central parts of the holiday service.”

The next part of the prayer is a bunch of “don’ts.”
Six times the word “Al” is repeated, which means Do not.

We are imploring that G-d not cast us away from G-d’s presence.

Not take away G-d’s divine essence from us.
Not cast us away in time of our old age and vulnerability.
Not abandon us.
Not be distant from us.

This time of year is a period of introspection when we take a spiritual accounting and strive to find the best version of ourselves.
We are making a commitment to try to do better and we want G-d to respond.

When you’re in a relationship and you haven’t been your best, but you are ready to do the work to fix it, you say to your partner, don’t walk away.
Don’t give up on me.

We are in a covenant with G-d. A covenant means we can demand things of G-d.

Part of the deal is that if we commit to do the work, G-d is committed to stay with us.
Now we are saying,

Listen to what we have to say!
Listen to what is in our hearts!
We want to do better.
Don’t abandon us.
Stay close to us.

The prayer continues with three central verbs, also imperatives, that will repeat throughout the service:

Pardon us - *S'lach Lanu*
Forgive us - *Mechal Lanu*
Atone for us - *Chaper Lanu*

The final verses are a gorgeous poem whose words reinforce our relationship and reciprocity with G-d. Do these things we ask of you because this is how we see ourselves connected to You.

We are in a relationship. We belong together.

Anu Amecha- We are Your People
Vatah Elokeinu- and You are our G-d...
We are Your children and You are our Parent
We are Your servants and You are our Master
We are Your congregation and You are our Portion
We are Your heritage and You are our Destiny
We are Your flock and You are our Shepherd
We are Your vineyard and You are our Guardian
We are Your creatures and You are our Creator,
We are Your Beloved and You are our Beloved
We are Your treasured possession and You are near to us
We are Your people and You are our King
We are the ones You address and You are the One to whom we speak

This beautiful poem is a reminder of our relationship with G-d and the many forms it takes.

He is close like a Parent and awesome like a King.

We are reiterating these connections. There’s repetition and redundancy.

We are reminding G-d and we are reminding ourselves.

May our voice reach the gates of heaven, and may we feel G-d’s closeness at Rosh Hashanah and throughout the New Year.

Shanah tovah um’etukah. Wishing you a sweet New Year filled with renewal, hope, and peace. ■

ELLEN CHARLOP is a member of Temple Israel and a life-long student of Kabbalah and Jewish mysticism. She enjoys writing about insights on Torah, the holidays, and the Jewish calendar. Ellen has lived in Great Neck for over 30 years.



Congregation Elects a VP and Trustees at Recent Meeting

by Miriam Kobliner

At the Congregational Meeting in June, members elected Lisa Goodwin to the Executive Committee, serving as a vice president, three new trustees to the Board of Trustees—Sepi Delijani, Paul Schwartz and Jeff Zahler—and trustees elected to fill interim resignations—Ted Lev, Bruce Rothstein, Arden Smith, and Eleanor Yomtobian-Askari.

This article will introduce Lisa, Paul, Jeff, Bruce and Arden. Sepi, Ted and Eleanor will be introduced in the November/December issue of the *Voice*.

LISA GOODWIN grew up at Temple Israel, where her parents and grandparents were members. Lisa served as a trustee for six years, co-led the *Shabbat* Project several years ago, and is responsible for coordinating the recent speaker series at Temple Israel, including the recent evening with Jonah Platt. She is also an active member of Golda and the Membership Committee. Lisa and her husband, Jeff, have three sons who attended Beth HaGan and the religious school. Lisa is an attorney and college essay coach.

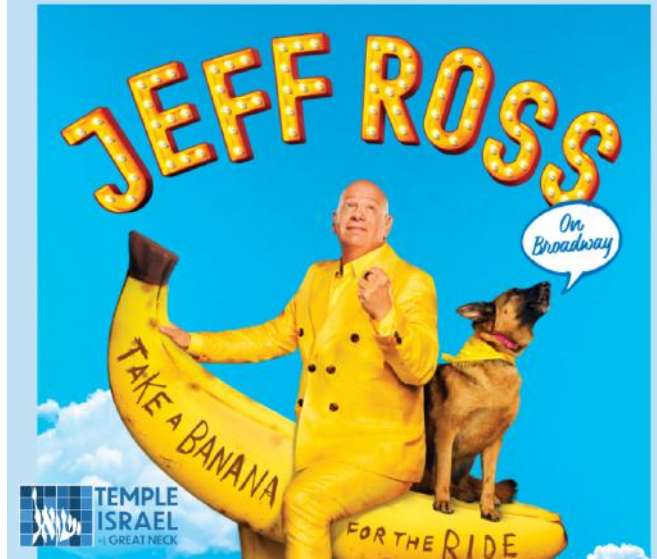
PAUL SCHWARTZ and his wife, Jutta, have been members of Temple Israel since 1998. Their children, Elena and Jared, attended Beth HaGan and religious school at Temple Israel. Paul is a member of the Communications Committee and the Merger Committee. Professionally, Paul is a sportswriter working for the New York Post. Since 1994, he has been the beat writer and columnist covering the New York Giants.

JEFF ZAHLER has been a member of Temple Israel for 23 years. He and his wife, Gail, have five children collectively, three of whom went to religious school and had their bar mitzvahs at Temple Israel. They have nine grandchildren. Jeff retired from a long career in education that started with teaching math to junior high school students, eventually moving up the ranks of the teachers' union. He was the Director of Staff of the United Federation of Teachers before moving to Chief of Staff of the American Federation of Teachers. He is now retired.

BRUCE ROTHSTEIN has been a member of Temple Israel for 45 years. His three children attended Beth HaGan and the religious school. He is a semi-retired investor.

ARDEN SMITH has been a member of Temple Israel for about 40 years, serving in many synagogue roles throughout the years. He was the founder of the Kol Nidre Campaign and continues to chair the campaign since its inception about 30 years ago. (See Arden's article about the Kol Nidre Campaign on page 5.) In addition to all that Arden does for Temple Israel, he has been a member of the Advisory Board of the Center for Jewish Studies at Queens College for over 20 years. He is a retired podiatric physician. Arden and his late wife, Susan, raised two sons who attended religious school at Temple Israel and are now attorneys. He also has a grandson. Arden is currently engaged to Temple Israel member Wendy Sales. ■

Men's Club of Temple Israel of Great Neck TRIP TO BROADWAY



**Thursday, September 25th
7:30 P.M.**

Meet at the Nederlander Theater
208 West 41st Street, NYC

Learn more and purchase your ticket at:
<https://www.tign.org/events/mens-club-trip-to-broadway/>



**Sunday, September 28th
Noon to 2 P.M.**

Temple Israel Courtyard

No charge, but an RSVP would be helpful
for planning purposes.

Learn more and RSVP at:
<https://www.tign.org/events/welcome-back-bbq-3>

Preparing for the High Holy Days, recalling the Sounds of the Shofar

T'KIAH. Pronounced tuh-KEE-ah, the *t'kiah* blast is one long note that acts as a kind of summons.

On Rosh Hashanah, we are traditionally called to reaffirm God's sovereignty.

SHEVARIM. Pronounced shih-vah-REEM, this word literally means "breaks" or "fractures." The *shevarim* blast is three medium-length notes that have been compared to the sound of weeping. **T'RUAH.** Pronounced tih-ROO-ahh, the *t'ruah* blast is a series of very short, staccato sounds that have been compared to an urgent alarm, calling us to rouse from our spiritual slumber. The three blasts are sounded in various combinations during the shofar service on Rosh Hashanah. They are traditionally concluded with one long **T'KIAH GEDOLAH** (or "great *t'kiah*") which is similar to, but much longer than, the standard *t'kiah*.

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. ■



HIGH HOLY DAYS 5786 YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

ROSH HASHANAH
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 & WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

PRESCHOOL through PRE-K (AGES 2-4)**

Room 15/16 will be open 10:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

From 11:30 A.M. to 12:15 P.M., Morah Donna will lead a special holiday program filled with songs, stories and activities. Babysitting for ages 4 and up is available before and after Morah Donna's service. One parent/guardian is required to accompany children under the age of 4.

KINDERGARTEN through 2ND GRADE**

Multipurpose Room will be open 10:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

From 10:30 A.M. to 11:15 A.M., Morah Donna will lead a fast-paced interactive program blending familiar prayers and stories with props, discussions and enthusiastic singing. The remainder of the session will be supervised by babysitters. Age-appropriate games and snacks will be available.

3RD through 7TH GRADE FAMILY SERVICE

10:30 A.M. - Noon in the Crystal Ballroom

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 activities.

8TH through 12TH GRADE TEEN SERVICE

10:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. in the Blue Room

Danny Mishkin, former Youth House director, will be joined again by Eliana Schulman, leading a service that will include Torah reading, shofar blowing, great discussions and creative activities.

YOM KIPPUR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

PRESCHOOL through PRE-K (AGES 2-4)**

Room 15/16 will be open 11:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

From 11:45 A.M. to 12:30 P.M., Morah Donna will lead a special holiday program filled with songs, stories and activities. Babysitting for ages 4 and up is available before and after Morah Donna's service. One parent/guardian is required to accompany children under the age of 4.

KINDERGARTEN through 2ND GRADE**

Multipurpose Room will be open 11:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

From 11:00 A.M. to 11:45 A.M., Morah Donna will lead a fast-paced interactive program blending familiar prayers and stories with props, discussions and enthusiastic singing. The remainder of the session will be supervised by babysitters. Age-appropriate games will be available.

3RD through 7TH GRADE FAMILY SERVICE

11:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. in the Crystal Ballroom

Geoff Epstein and Rahel Musleah lead a service that blends traditional and innovative prayers and melodies, Torah reading, interactive games and activities.

8TH through 12TH GRADE TEEN SERVICE

11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. in the Blue Room

Danny Mishkin, former Youth House director, will be joined again by Eliana Schulman, leading a service that will include Torah reading, shofar blowing, great discussions and creative activities. All are welcome!

****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 to receive matching wristbands for security purposes.

SIMHAT TORAH HONOREES *continued from front page*

Danielle works at Northwell Health in Human Resources leading the Cultural Architecture team that focuses on supporting leaders in fostering an engaging and inclusive experience for all 104,000 team members. She helps develop programs, education and resources for leaders to support every moment that matters while a team member is at Northwell.

Steven works in Human Resources, specifically in Compensation Design and Planning. Steven currently works as a Director of Total Rewards at TKO, supporting WWE, UFC, IMG Media, PBR and OnLocation.

SHIPHRA AND BOBBY BAKHCHI KALLAT V'HATAN BERESHEET

Shiphra and Bobby Bakhchi have been members of Temple Israel of Great Neck for the past 16 years. Bobby is a member of the Board of Trustees and the chair of the Israel Affairs Committee, overseeing robust programming and educational programs about Israel.

Bobby grew up in Cold Spring Harbor. He earned his bachelor's degree from Hofstra University, then earned a J.D. from Hofstra Law School. He is currently the president of Hybrid Capital, Inc., a real estate finance and development firm.

Shiphra grew up in Great Neck. She earned her bachelor's degree from Columbia University and a master's degree from New York University. She holds a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Yeshiva University's Ferkau Graduate School of Psychology. She is currently practicing as a clinical psychologist in New York City.

Shiphra and Bobby have three children. Their eldest son, Isaac, is a sophomore at Great Neck North High School. Their daughter, Celine, and their son, Jacob, fraternal twins, are in sixth grade. They are both looking forward to leading services on the *bima* for their *b'nai mitzvah* in September 2027. Shiphra and Bobby, along with their families, are looking forward to continuing to be a part of the leadership endeavors at Temple Israel.

SUSAN AND DENNIS BRUSTEIN KALLAT V'HATAN MAFTIR

Susan and Dennis Brustein have been members of Temple Israel—a place they call their spiritual home “and so much more”—for forty-one years. Even before they moved to Great Neck in November 1984, they had already become members, enrolling their son, Evan, in Beth HaGan, and their daughter, Andrea, in the Aleph class of the religious school. Parental study groups led by Rabbi Marim Charry helped them forge friendships and sparked their ongoing search for Jewish enrichment. Friendships were formed and deepened from their connection to the synagogue as have their connections with Rabbi Stecker, Rabbi Schweber and Hazzan Shamash. Susan and

Dennis speak about how participation in *Shabbat* and *Yom Tov* celebrations continues to add meaning to their lives.

Over the years, they have remained engaged both intellectually and socially, taking advantage of the many opportunities Temple Israel has offered, including two two-year programs—Total Torah and Meah—and two courses presented at Temple Israel by Rabbi Neil Gillman.

After celebrating two *b'nai mitzvot*, a wedding (Andrea and Michael), an *auf ruf* (Evan and Rachel) and being blessed with five amazing grandchildren (Renata, Alex, Gideon, Samantha and Joshua), they refer to Temple Israel as their true home. Susan, who is currently a VP on the Executive Committee has served on the Board of Trustees or Executive Committee under several Temple Israel presidents, originally serving in the early 1990s. Dennis has been actively involved in the Men's Club over the years and continues to participate in many synagogue activities.

A professional educator, Susan started her career as a Chemistry teacher before becoming an Assistant Principal supervising Math, Science and Technology at Townsend Harris High School, a role she held for 26 years before retiring. Dennis is a retired dermatologist who currently mentors new dermatology residents as a Clinical Assistant Professor at NYU Langone Medical Center. ■

SUKKOT & SIMHAT TORAH EVENTS ON THE CALENDAR

Men's Club “Sports Bar” in the Sukkah
Thursday, October 9 @ 7 P.M.

Shabbat Service in Sanctuary & Dinner in the Sukkah
Friday, October 10 @ 6:45 P.M.

Open Sukkahs at the Rabbis' Homes
Saturday, October 11 @ 1 P.M.

Dancing with the Torahs on Old Mill Road
Tuesday, October 14 @ 6:30 P.M.

Simhat Torah Service with Honorees
Wednesday, October 15 @ 9:15 A.M.

Check weekly emails and the website for updated information.

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In appreciation of:

Receiving an *aliyah*
IRAJ & ALIEH NEJAT
RAHEL LAHIJANI & SHAHIN NATAN

In honor of:

Gala honorees Sam and Sherry Husney
STUART & JANET BOSSERT
Iris and Charles Adler's 60th wedding
anniversary and 48 years of friendship
GEORGE ABRAHAMS
Karen Lewkowitz and Monte Miller
upon the birth of their granddaughter,
Naomi Yael
MARSHALL RUBIN
Parvaneh Khodadadian's 80th birthday
EBBY & RACHELLE OHEBSHALOM
The baby naming of our daughter Aliza
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Morris Forgach
ROBERT & SUSAN LOPATKIN

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through
September 7, 2025.

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son of Miriam and Kenneth Kobliner, to
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Rabbi Schweber for officiating at the
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BRUCE BROMBERG

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In memory of:

Arlene Kurfurst
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Rabbi Stecker for officiating at the
wedding of their son, Jordan Smith, to
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In honor of:

Their 25th wedding anniversary, and
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Amherst
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June Goltche
DAVID KHORSHAD
The birth of their great granddaughter,
Lyla June Goltche
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ERIC ITZKOWITZ & AUDREY KENT ITZKOWITZ
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Marty Domnitch
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Smiles on the First Day of Religious School



In Memoriam

Temple Israel extends condolences
to the families of:

FLORENCE PORETSKY

mother of Joel Poretsky, Barbara Singer, and Sheryl Martin
grandmother of Lauren Hoffman, Eric Poretsky,
Lori Singer, Allison Singer, Scott Martin, and Jason Martin

MILDRED BROMBERG

mother of Bruce Bromberg, Jill Bromberg,
and Marci Gietter z''
grandmother of Shayna and Emily
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

VICTOR BEKKER

father of Karen Bekker
grandfather of Aviv and Shoshana

BERNICE TANENBAUM

wife of Joseph Tanenbaum z''
mother of Seth, Mark, Daniel, and Richard
grandmother of Molly, Jessica, Gregory, Noah, Kasey,
Charlotte, Sam, Lea, Theodore, and Miranda
great grandmother of Oscar, Leo, Pearl, Selene, and Poppy
and esteemed member of Temple Israel

May their memories be for a blessing.

Mazel Tov to...

DANA & SASI LILIENTHAL

on the birth of their son,
Liam Isaac Elya Lilienthal

VIDA OHEBSHALOM & DAVID KHORSHAD

on the birth of their granddaughter,
Lyla June Goltche

RACHELLE & EBBY OHEBSHALOM

on the birth of their great-granddaughter,
Lyla June Goltche

JULIA & ADAM WITTENSTEIN

on the birth of their twin children,
Maya Claire Wittenstein and Jacob Rhodes Wittenstein

Congregation Thanks Kiddush Sponsors

Appreciation is expressed by the Temple Israel officers and Board of Trustees to members who have generously sponsored and enhanced the Sabbath *kiddush*.

A contribution towards the *kiddush* on July 19 was made by Sofia and David Sohayegh on the occasion of the *yahrzeit* for David's father, Morad Sohayegh.

A contribution towards the *kiddush* on July 26 was made by Ingrid and Robert Fishman on the occasion of the *yahrzeit* of Ingrid's mother, Charlotte Gevantman.

Contributions toward the *kiddush* on August 9 were made by Ingrid and Robert Fishman on the occasion of the *yahrzeit* of Ingrid's sister, Judith Gevantman, and by Mahvash Abitbol and the Rafii Family on the occasion of the *yahrzeit* of their mother, Mouluk Rafii.

Contributions toward the *kiddush* on August 16 were made by the Greiff and Slawin families on the occasion of the *yahrzeit* of Brenda's father, Dr. Leo I. Slawin, and by the Berookhim family on the occasion of the *yahrzeit* of John's father, Nejatollah Berookhim.

Contributions toward the *kiddush* on August 23 were made by Sarah and Rabbi Daniel Schweber in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary and their daughters, Natalie and Alexandra, beginning their journey at UMass Amherst, and by David Khorshad and Vida Ohebshalom and Rachelle and Ebby Ohebshalom on the occasion of the birth of David and Vida's granddaughter and Rachelle and Ebby's great-granddaughter, Lyla June Goltche.

Contributions towards the *kiddush* on August 30 were made by Ellen and Martin Domnitch and Claire and Harris Bornstein on the baby naming of their granddaughter, Layla Ann Domnitch.

A contribution towards the *kiddush* on September 6 was made by Lindsey and Andrew Demers in honor of the *bat mitzvah* of their daughter, Ashley. ■

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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.

KI TAVO • September 13

NITZAVIM • September 20

VAYELEKH • September 27

HA'AZINU • October 4

[CHOL HAMOE'D SUKKOT] • October 11

BERESHIT • October 18

NOAH • October 25

LEKH-LEKHA • November 1



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*Deceased

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

Shabbat Service at Steppingstone Park • Friday, September 12 @ 5 P.M.

Healing and Meditation Shabbaton with Miriam Bursky-Tammam • Saturday, September 13 @ 9:15 A.M.

An Inspirational Selichot Service • Saturday, September 13 @ 8:30 P.M.

Kol Isha 5786: Rosh Hodesh • Sunday, September 14 @ 10 A.M.

Drawing Parallels with Simon Deng • Sunday, September 14 @ 5 P.M. (offsite at Inn of Great Neck)

Something Beautiful Happened, a Shoah Remembrance Committee Book Discussion • Monday, September 15 @ 8:15 P.M.

Rosh Hashanah Services • Monday, September 22 through Wednesday, September 24 (see website for details)

Jeff Ross: Take a Banana for the Ride, a Broadway show with the Men's Club • Thursday, September 25 @ 7:30 P.M.

Welcome Back BBQ • Sunday, September 28 @ Noon - 2 P.M.

Yom Kippur Services • Wednesday, October 1 through Thursday, October 2 (see website for details)

Men's Club hosts a Break-the-Fast • Thursday, October 2 after the shofar sounds

Men's Club "Sports Bar" in the Sukkah • Thursday, October 9 @ 7 P.M.

Shabbat Service in Sanctuary & Dinner in the Sukkah • Friday, October 10 @ 6:45 P.M.

Open Sukkahs at the Rabbis' Homes • Saturday, October 11 @ 1 P.M.

Dancing with the Torahs on Old Mill Road • Tuesday, October 14 @ 6:30 P.M.

Simhat Torah Service with Honorees • Wednesday, October 15 @ 9:15 A.M.

Men's Club Tailgate at Jets Game at MetLife Stadium • Sunday, October 19 • all day

Musical BINGO with Congregation L'Dor V'Dor (at Temple Israel) • Sunday, October 26 @ 5:30 P.M.

Story of a Life, a Shoah Remembrance Committee Book Discussion • Monday, October 27 @ 8:15 P.M.

Women's Struggle for Freedom in Iran, presented by GOLDA • Wednesday, October 29 @ 7:45 P.M.

Online Programs:

JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM • ADVANCED HISTORY SEMINAR • SCHMOOZE WITH SOME JEWS ON ZOOM

Upcoming Events