



# TEMPLE ISRAEL CHRONICLE



*"Dor L'Dor – Generation to Generation"*

Volume 11, Issue 3

March 2011 ✪ Adar I/Adar II 5771

*Temple Israel, an egalitarian Conservative synagogue rooted in a rich heritage of traditional Jewish values, is committed to enhancing the religious, spiritual, educational and cultural life of its members and the larger Jewish community through a commitment to Torah, our community, and continuity and growth amid change.*

**Staff:**

Larry G. Kaplan, Rabbi  
Ahron Abraham, Cantor  
Gerri Kaplan, Principal  
Debra Schonfeld, Administrator  
Marie Blizzard, Chronicle Editor

**Officers:**

Frederick R. Levy, President  
Ann D. Smith, LCSW,  
Chairman of the Board  
Abbe Kruger,  
School Board Chair

**Schedule of Services**

**Minyan:**

**Monday & Thursday Mornings,  
7:15 AM**

(Other days by arrangement with  
Cantor Abraham)

**Sunday Mornings, 8 AM**

**Sunday through Saturday**

**Afternoons, 5:15 PM**

**Shabbat Services:**

**Saturday Morning, 9:30 AM**

*See Detailed Shabbat Schedule  
Inside*

Phone: (570) 824-8927

Fax: (570) 824-0904

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Bedwick & Jones Printing.

## Come Celebrate Purim



**Sunday, March 13  
Purim Carnival at the JCC**

12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Admission is \$5.00 for adults

\$2.50 for seniors,

includes Congregant Lunch  
& Entertainment

\$10 for children ages 4-16  
children under 4 are free.

Maximum cost per family is \$25.00.



### Come in costume for the parade!

Many activities will be held for children & families,  
including craft booths, face-painting, lunch & entertainment.

For more information, call Barbara Sugarman at 824-4646.

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### Saturday, March 19

Purim plays, Megillah reading, Pizza & Hamantashen  
at Temple B'nai B'rith at 6:00 p.m.

Reservations are required.

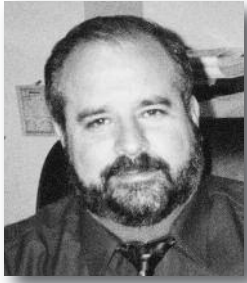
Call Temple Israel at 824-8927  
or e-mail [office@templewb.org](mailto:office@templewb.org).

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### Sunday, March 20

Temple Israel Minyan at 8:00 a.m.  
followed by Megillah reading

# Rabbi Kaplan *Writes...*



Dear Friends

Over the past few months I've written about many "macro" issues- from the value of a racially diverse teaching staff in

our public schools to the question of vitriolic political speech to pushing our trip to Israel (which unfortunately will need to wait for next year). I want to bring us back to talk about events happening here at home, and specifically in my home.

Last week our JCC hosted over 150 teens at a B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO) convention. Kids were bussed in from all over eastern PA for a pretty intense weekend of study, worship, and fun. When I addressed the convention on Shabbat morning at their innovative musical service, I asked the out of town kids to raise their hands, and then pointed out to our two dozen or so local teens that there really are a lot of Jewish kids in the world! Friendships were made over the weekend and I believe our local teens will be participating in many more activities both here and beyond.

The community was asked to help provide housing for the out of town teenagers over the weekend. Many families agreed to do so- including some who have no children at home now. And despite the 13 of us living in the Kaplan house currently, Gerri said she had room for ten more over the weekend. And so we literally had our own convention on Ridge Avenue.

Which brings me to other news. The youngest of our 13 was out of the house for the weekend. Our 10 month old foster baby was spending two days with his parents. And since he sleeps (and wakes up often) in our room, despite having a house full of a few dozen teenagers, it was a very quiet few nights. And since his mom and dad have worked hard to obtain housing and transportation and employment, he will probably be

going home to them for good very soon. Most of our foster children have not returned to their biological parents, but instead have been adopted. What is unique about the baby's parents is that they are actually a couple, in other words, there's a mom and a dad who are together raising this child. They're not married yet, and hopefully that will come in time, but they have worked very hard to bring this baby home and we have been impressed with their progress.

And as if to calm our concerns about his future, his parents have asked Gerri and me to be the baby's godparents. That's truly unique. This is probably one of the only children that is the result of a young father who is African American and a young mother who is of Eskimo descent who has a rabbi and rebbitzin as his godparents. I've joked that with that pedigree he's destined to get into any college he wants with a full paid scholarship!

We're pleased that we'll be in his life, and I expect that his future will include a familiarity with Judaism and our traditions. As foster parents, keeping a supportive posture with the birth parents has been valuable to us. It now looks as though we will at some point in the future be adopting our three year old who was with us from birth and who eventually returned to his mother for a number of months. We kept in close contact with her, and unfortunately her support system was lacking and she was unable to provide a consistently good environment for him. We once again became his foster family, and, because of our relationship with his mom and siblings, he will ultimately be part of our clan.

I share this with you to remind everyone of how much each of us can do with regard to Tikkun Olam, helping to repair the world. It may seem like a lot, but in reality once you have a bunch of kids in your home, another few aren't that noticeable. And knowing what a difference we can make in the futures of these children is a blessing for us.

I fully expect that our two 3 year olds and even the 10 month old

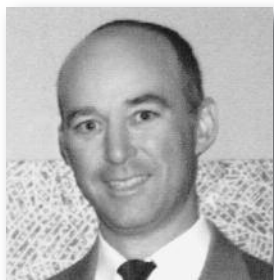
"godson" will ultimately be at UHI. With all the dire concern about the future of our Jewish community, can you imagine what an impact we would have on our demographics if we all considered becoming foster families and ultimately adopted a child?

Don't be concerned about extra noise and cramped space that another child might bring to your home. It's like the story of the man in the shtetl a few hundred years ago who complained to his rabbi that his house was too small and he couldn't stand the calamity he came home to each evening with all of his children and family living inside. The rabbi said he could help and instructed the man to bring his chickens inside the house that evening. The next day the man went back to the rabbi to say that it was a horrible night and he couldn't get any sleep with those chickens in the house. The rabbi told him to bring in the two sheep the man had on his farm. The man did so but the next day he ran to the rabbi saying it was even worse than before and he couldn't take it anymore. So the rabbi told him to bring the cow inside as well and that would solve the problem. The man did so, but came angrily to the rabbi the next day to say none of this had worked and he was ready to leave his home for good. So the rabbi told him to go home and take out all the chickens and the sheep and the cow. The man did this and came back the next day to tell the rabbi he never realized how quiet and spacious his home actually was!

Anyway, the BBYO teenagers have left, and we're back to only 13 of us at home. And the house seems so quiet and empty....

*Rabbi Kaplan*

# Cantor's Notes



Cantor Ahron Abraham

Purim is the joyous holiday celebrating a Jewish victory over enemies who sought to destroy us. Megillat Esther (Book of Esther) falls into the category of "historic novel" – probably fictitious. Its main characters even borrow names from Persian gods

(Esther–Ishtar, Mordecai–Marduk)! The

Megillah, however, is firmly based in the history of the Persian Empire and its relationship to the Jews.

Around 597 BCE, Babylon under the leadership of Nebuchadnezzar defeated the Kingdom of Judah and destroyed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. Members of the Judean upper class were exiled to Babylon. This "remnant" of the Jewish people heeded the words of the prophet who instructed them to "...work for the good of the city where I've taken you as captives, and pray to the Lord for that city. When it prospers, you will also prosper" (Jeremiah 29:7). This attitude allowed the Jews to rise to the upper echelons of Babylonian society, and 70 years later they backed the Persians, who conquered the Babylonian Empire. The Persian king Cyrus was such a friend to the Jews that the prophet Isaiah referred to him as the messiah (Isaiah 43:24-28). Cyrus allowed the Jews to return to Israel, ordered them to rebuild the Temple, and even gave them back the Temple treasure which had been stolen by Nebuchadnezzar (Ezra 1:1-11). Cyrus was so highly regarded by the Jews that some legends claim he may have been of Jewish decent, possibly the son of

Esther and Achashveros (interesting, but unlikely). Whatever the case, we know that the Jews were prominent in Persian society and held important positions of leadership, something that the Purim story describes. We also know that there were enemies of the Jews living in the Persian Empire who conspired against them. The Megillah correctly describes the social and political atmosphere of the historic period in which it is based, whether the characters are fictitious or not.

The book of Esther contains almost no reference to God. Mordecai vaguely alludes to the fact that the Jews will be saved by someone else if not by Esther, but that is the closest the book comes to mentioning the possibility of divine help. We learn from this that God often works in ways that are not apparent, in ways that appear to be chance, coincidence or even good luck. Looking back from our perspective, God's plan is obvious in the actual history of the period – the remnant of Judah returned, built the second Temple and reestablished Jewish government in the region, just as the prophets foretold. The people of the time had Isaiah, Ezekiel and others to encourage them, but ultimately had to have faith that God had a plan - a lesson we all can learn.

I'm looking for new haftarah readers of every skill level! Experience is not necessary – if you have basic Hebrew reading skills, I'll teach you the rest. If you're interested in commemorating a special day, chanting a haftarah is a wonderful way to celebrate with the congregation. Please call me if you're interested.

**CANTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:  
1-3 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.**

## Rabbi Kaplan's Lunch and Learn at the JCC March 10 at 11:15 a.m.

With Purim Around the Corner...Alcohol in Jewish Life – L'chayim or the opposite?

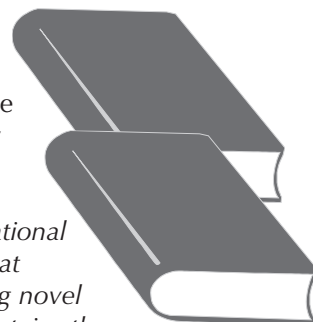
To RSVP, call Barbara Sugarman at the JCC at 824-4646.

## Book Club

The Book Club will meet on Sunday, March 27, 2011 at 7 p.m. at the home of Ann & Marvin Smith. The selection is *Great House* by Nicole Krauss.

### Synopsis

*Finalist for the 2010 National Book Award in Fiction, Great House is a powerful, soaring novel about a stolen desk that contains the secrets, and becomes the obsession, of the lives it passes through. Krauss's remarkable achievement with Great House is to atomize the essential isolation that is part of the human condition and reflect it back to us in a way that makes us feel a little less alone.*



# SCHOOL NOTES



## Happy March Birthday to Our Students

March 2	Asa Saidman
March 2	Haley Friedman
March 14	Zev Kornfeld
March 16	Matthew Nogin
March 20	Kelsey Kayton
March 21	Sarah Schulman
March 24	Sophia Soifer



## Bar Mitzvah of Sam Nogin

My name is Sam Nogin. I will be celebrating my Bar Mitzvah on Sunday, March 6th at 10 am at Temple Israel. Please join my

brother, Matthew, my mom and dad and all my family and friends for this special event. I am in the 7th grade at Wyoming Valley West Middle School and my favorite subject is Social Studies. I play basketball for the JCC in Wilkes-Barre and I also play baseball for the undefeated Kingston Rays. I cannot wait to spend my fifth summer at Camp Ramah!

# SHABBAT SCHEDULE

## PEKUDE SHABBAT SHEKALIM

Friday, March 4  
 Candlelighting time.....5:39 p.m.  
 Saturday, March 5.....9:30 a.m.  
**Haftarah will be chanted by Rabbi Kaplan**  
 Minchah .....5:15 p.m.  
 Sunday, March 6  
**Bar Mitzvah of Sam Nogin.....10:00 a.m.**

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## VAYIKRA

Friday, March 11  
 Candlelighting time.....5:47 p.m.  
 Saturday, March 12.....9:30 a.m.  
**Family Service in the Vestry .....10:30 a.m.**  
**Haftarah will be chanted by Sara Williams**  
 Minchah .....5:15 p.m.

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## TZAV SHABBAT ZACHOR

Friday, March 18  
 Candlelighting time.....6:55 p.m.  
 Saturday, March 19.....9:30 a.m.  
**Haftarah will be chanted by Atty. Jerry Chariton**  
**Kiddush will be sponsored by Ruth & Jerry Chariton in honor of Jerry's special birthday**  
 Minchah .....5:15 p.m.  
**Purim Parade & Dinner at Temple B'nai B'rith .....6:00 p.m.**

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## PURIM

Sunday, March 20  
**Minyan followed by Megillah Reading.....8:00 a.m.**

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## SHEMINI

Shabbat Parah  
 Friday, March 25  
 Candlelighting time.....7:02 p.m.  
 Saturday, March 26.....9:30 a.m.  
**Haftarah will be chanted by Cantor Abraham**  
 Minchah .....5:15 p.m.

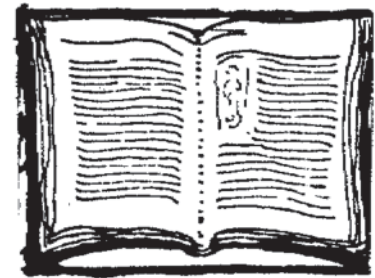
# Scholarship Aid Available for USCJ Summer Programs

Limited financial aid is available for USCJ-approved summer programs, including Camp Ramah, USY on Wheels, and student trips to Israel. Assistance is based on both financial need and merit. Letters of request must be submitted to the Temple office by March 25, 2011.



# Funding Available for Jewish Studies

The Max & Tillie Ungar Family Memorial Endowment provides tuition reimbursement for college students who have successfully completed



courses in Jewish studies. Requests for reimbursement and a copy of the grades for courses taken during the 2010-11 school year must be received by the Temple office by May 27, 2011. All awards will be made after May 31st. For more information, please call Debbie Schonfeld at the Temple office.

## Eastern Pennsylvania/Delaware Region



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Howard M. Levinson, Esq.

Eastern Pennsylvania/  
Delaware ADL

Barry Morrison  
*Regional Director*

Arnold Delin  
*Regional Chair*

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Sandy Rifkin  
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Eugene Roth, Esq.  
Steven Roth, Esq.  
David Schwager, Esq.  
Gretchen Sevison  
Margie Ufberg  
Richard Williams

Save the Date  
**DR. SUSAN SORDONI**

To Receive

**2011 DISTINGUISHED  
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

**Sunday, April 10, 2011**

**Woodlands Inn & Resort  
Plains Township, PA**

**Reception 5:30 P.M.  
Dinner 6:30 P.M.**

For reservations, contact Lynette at  
826-5600





# MARCH YAHRZEITS



**Week of March 1 – March 8:** Rose Bransdorf, Murray Bratkowsky, Ruth Breslaw, Lloyd Cadbury, Israel Fleischman, Jean Friedman, Edward Kanner, Harriet Kelley, Belle Kluger, Miriam Landau, Nat Meyer, Kenneth Miller, Max Minkoff, Frieda Nataupsky, Robert Rosenbaum, Joseph Schiffman, Max Silverman, Sol Trompetter, Elinor Weisbrod

**Week of March 9 – March 15:** Sophie Blum, Eva Domowitz, Jacob Fortinsky, Arthur Frank, David Lieberman, Lillian Oppenheimer, Joseph Plotkin, Ruth Prashker, Florence Lee Rose, Ralph Sirota, Irvin B. Siswein, Evelyn Sondheim

**Week of March 16 – March 22:** Reichel Dunner, Bessie Frank, Jacob Isaacs, Howard Klein, Dr. Isadore Krasno, Morris Moskow, Helen Nachlis, Jacob Schiffman, Karen Smulowitz, Sandra Warshal

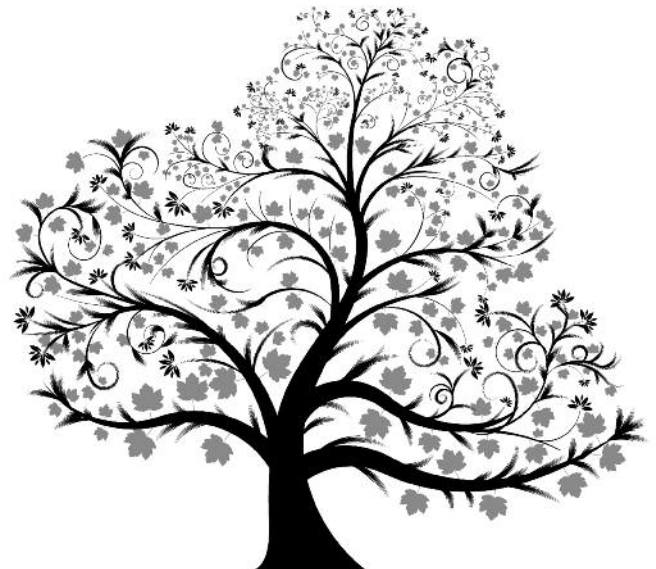
**Week of March 23 – March 31:** Gerald Amerman, Harry Anker, Florette Marcus, Martin Nussenbaum, Esther Rosenfeld, Gerald Seeherman, Benjamin Toiv, Jack Trompetter, Risya Tsigelman

Please note the following local members who are observing yahrzeits during the month of March and try to attend minyan with them in order that they may say Kaddish:

March 1	Esther Bratkowsky	March 14	David Lieberman
March 2	Eileen Trompetter	March 15	Allen Plotkin, Norman Sondheim
March 3	Ida Miller, Naomi Meyer, Leo Minkoff	March 18	Albert Frank, Pamela Klein, Sylvia Klein, Melvin Warshal
March 4	Richard Levy	March 19	Bill Isaacs, Celia Krasno, Ina Lubin
March 5	Dr. Gilbert Fleischman, Dr. Gary Nataupsky	March 20	Sally Connor
March 6	Judy Geller	March 22	Irving Moskow
March 7	Joan Rittenberg	March 24	Elina Levinson
March 9	Irene Blum	March 28	Elizabeth Newsbaum
March 10	Robert Fortinsky, Dr. Alan Frank, Mildred Frank, Carol Jackier King, Lorry Weisberger	March 29	Herta Ghingold
March 12	Robert Prashker	March 30	Eileen Trompetter
March 13	Ruth Sten		

## Plant a Tree in Israel

As part of the JNF forests in Israel, The Jonathan Robert Keiser Forest was established in memory of Lynn & Larry Keiser's beloved son, Jonathan, obm. Your donation of \$18.00 per tree will contribute to this worthy cause. Please make your check payable to Temple Israel and include the name of the person(s) you would like to honor or memorialize with a tree planted in Israel. We'll send you (or the recipient you provide) a beautiful certificate from the JNF suitable for framing. For more information, call the Temple office at 824-8927.



# From Our President. . .



Fred Levy

One of the new initiatives at Temple Israel is having Shabbat Family Services periodically during the year in which a shorter family service will be conducted from 10:30 to 11:30 in the Temple's vestry. It is our hope to attract young families to these services while the traditional Saturday Shabbat service will be conducted in the sanctuary

between 9:30 and 11:30, as always. At the conclusion of both services, everyone will join together for a Kiddush in the Vestry. We hope this new format is appealing to all, and we encourage your attendance. Please watch the Temple calendar for the exact dates of these special Shabbat Family Services and make your plans accordingly.

I am also happy to report that the Kiddush Committee, under the leadership of **Rob Friedman**, has evaluated the four caterers and decided to retain **Dror Levi** for the majority of our Kiddushes and **Lynn Keiser** for our special Kiddushes. The cost of sponsoring a Kiddush is \$288 and \$162 to co-sponsor. We encourage any congregant or family to sponsor a Kiddush. This is a perfect opportunity to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, Haftorah reading, or commemorate a *yahrzeit*. It is also a wonderful way to enjoy and share a family event at Temple Israel. Please call the Temple office to coordinate dates and availability.

Rabbi Kaplan, Cantor Abraham, the office staff, and the Board of Trustees are here to serve you. **WE WELCOME YOUR IDEAS, YOUR SUGGESTIONS, AND YOUR PARTICIPATION!!**

**See you on Shabbat!  
See you at the Kiddush!!**

*Fred Levy*

## Mazel Tov to:

- Estelle Freedman on the birth of a great-granddaughter
- Nancy & Louis Freedman on the birth of a granddaughter
- Max & Sandra Fine on the marriage of Jeff & Amber Fine

## Condolences to:

- Abbey Green on the passing of her father, Harvey Deutschman

## We Care

Want to attend services or Temple events, but have no transportation? Just call the Temple office a few days in advance and we will try to arrange a ride for you.



## Sisterhood Update

**By-Laws Update:** The Sisterhood by-laws, last revised in 1998, are in need of an update to reflect changes in the structure and philosophy of our organization. Members will be invited to give their input on the proposed changes, which will be followed by a vote at the spring closing meeting.

**Interfaith Tea:** This annual community-wide event hosted by a different house of worship each year is being held at St. Peter and Paul's Church in Plains on **Tuesday, May 24th @ 1PM**. Anne Rappaport and Charlotte Cutler are representing our Sisterhood on the planning committee. Let's plan to have a good turnout from Temple Israel! While more information will follow, we encourage all Sisterhood members to reserve this date and time on their calendars.

**Mid-Atlantic Regional Women's League Conference, Willow Grove: Sunday, May 1st:** the regional Women's League invites all Sisterhood members to attend a day full of information and camaraderie with Sisterhood members from congregations in the northeast region. Please consider attending. More information will follow once we have more specifics on the activities planned for the day. A carpool will be organized so we can travel as a group to Willow Grove.

**Spring Activities:** So many ideas, and so little time!

- We are planning several educational activities over the next several months to include a series entitled *Minyan, Mikvah, and Manna*. Watch for the details and plan to register for those that attract your interest.
- Save the Date: **Wednesday, May 18th @ 6PM** for a closing Sisterhood get together to include a 'Kitchen Shower'. The shower theme is due to a need to upgrade our kitchen serving pieces and add or replace other items needed for our Shabbat Kiddushes and congregational receptions/ meals.
- A trip to the new National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia is also on the list of Sisterhood experiences that we hope to schedule in the near future.

**THANK YOU** to all the women of the congregation that joined Sisterhood this year...and a very special thank you to those lifetime members who made a voluntary contribution to the national per capita.

To Contact Sisterhood: [Sisterhood@templewb.org](mailto:Sisterhood@templewb.org) or call the Temple Office at 824-8927.

Temple Israel  
 236 S. River St.  
 Wilkes-Barre PA 18702

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March 2011										
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday				
		Hebrew School Board of Trustees meeting, 7:30 p.m.	1	2	Hebrew School	3	4	Shabbat services, 9:30 a.m.	5	
Bar Mitzvah of Sam Nogin, 10 a.m.	6	7	Hebrew School	8	9	Rabbi's Lunch & Learn at the JCC, 11:15 a.m.  Hebrew School	10	11	Shabbat Services, 9:30 a.m.  Family Services, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  Confirmation class, 4 p.m.	12
Chevra Kadisha Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. at Ohav Zedek;  Purim Carnival at the JCC, 12-4 p.m.	13	14	Hebrew School	15	16	Hebrew School	17	18	Shabbat Services, 9:30 a.m.  Purim Parade & Dinner at Temple B'nai B'rith, 6 p.m.	19
Minyan followed by Megillah reading, 8:00 a.m.  Purim Seudah at the Woodlands	20	21	Hebrew School	22	23	Hebrew School	24	25	Shabbat Services, 9:30 a.m.	26
Book Club at the home of Ann & Marvin Smith, 7:30 p.m.	27	28	Hebrew School	29	30	Hebrew School	31			

## Temple Israel Funds

The following is a listing of Temple Israel funds to which donors may contribute for memorials, simchas, recoveries, etc. Minimum contribution is \$5.00 unless otherwise noted.

DR. AND MRS. HAROLD BERSON FUND  
 THE MURIEL BRAVMAN MEMORIAL FUND  
 BUILDING FUND  
 BIBLE FUND (\$10)  
 CHAI CONTRIBUTIONS (\$18)  
 SALLY & RALPH CONNOR  
 HIDDUR MITZVAH FUND  
 JOSEPH N. COPLAN PRAYER BOOK FUND  
 CHARLOTTE & JOE CUTLER FUND  
 ETZ CHAIM BIBLE (\$118)  
 FEED THE HOMELESS FUND  
 FRIEDMAN INTERFAITH ENDOWMENT  
 ROBERT FRIEDMAN LITURGICAL MUSIC FUND  
 HAPPY DAY FUND  
 ENID HERSHEY KIDDUSH CUP FUND  
 HIGH HOLIDAY PRAYER BOOK FUND (\$7.50)  
 LAWRENCE HOLLANDER B'NAI MITZVAH  
 PRAYER BOOK FUND

MARION & JACOB ISAACS ENDOWMENT  
 DORIS & SIDNEY KEISER KERUV FUND  
 EMIL & NATALIE KELLNER HEBREW SCHOOL FUND  
 ESTHER & NATHAN KLEIN  
 PASSOVER ENDOWMENT  
 HANNAH & WILLIAM S. KLINE LIBRARY FUND  
 LANDAU PAVILION FUND  
 LEVY CHAPEL FUND  
 BEN LIBENSON MEMORIAL ART FUND  
 FRANK & HILDA LUBIN  
 FEED THE HOMELESS FUND  
 LYONS EDUCATION FUND  
 MINNIE MORRELL MUSIC FUND  
 MINYAN FUND  
 BARBARA NEWSBAUM MILLER  
 PRAYER BOOK FUND  
 SAM NELSON CARE PACKAGE FUND  
 DORIS & JEROME NEWMAN  
 EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT FUND

PRAYER BOOK FUND  
 RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND  
 RABINOWITZ TALLIT FUND  
 JOAN F. & HERBERT L. RITTENBERG FAMILY  
 ENDOWMENT  
 SALLYANNE, HAROLD & FRANK SCOTT ROSENN  
 COMMUNITY SERVICE ENDOWMENT  
 SAIDMAN-GREENWALD TORAH FUND  
 (\$18 MINIMUM)  
 SANCTUARY FUND (\$25)  
 SHAFFER SHABBAT KIDDUSH FUND  
 SHAFFER SUKKAH ENDOWMENT  
 SIDUR HADASH (\$36)  
 SILBERMAN MEZUZZAH FUND  
 SIMS ENDOWMENT  
 MARK SLOMOWITZ MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT  
 HAROLD R. SMITH HEBREW SCHOOL FUND  
 USY/KADIMA FUND  
 MORRIS VILENSKY MEMORIAL FUND