



TEMPLE ISRAEL CHRONICLE



"Dor L'Dor – Generation to Generation"

Volume 15, Issue 7

July/August 2016 ✪ Sivan/Tammuz/Av 5776

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

Officers:

Robert Greenwald, President
David E. Schwager, Esq.
Chairman of the Board
Bedonna Mitchneck
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

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Temple Israel 94th Annual Dinner & Meeting held on June 5, 2016



**Officers (first row) Dan Messinger, Rabbi Kaplan, Bob Greenwald
(second row) Debbie Troy, Abbe Kruger, Jeff Yelen, Joe Mitchneck**



**New Board Members (first row) Sheri Robzen,
Carol Baltimore (second row) Mark Robzen,
Rabbi Kaplan, Jane Messinger**



**Outgoing Board member Lesa Gelb, Past
President Ina Lubin, Outgoing Board member
Juidge Coplan**

Rabbi Kaplan

Writes...



Dear Friends,
In May, our past president **David Smith** drove with me to Georgetown, Delaware, not too far from Rehoboth Beach at the invitation

of Beverly and Bruce Cottle, formerly of the Wyoming Valley. I met Beverly a few years ago after **Ida Miller** noticed her cart filled with Passover items in Price Chopper. Since Ida knows every Jewish person in town, and has probably done their living room, she was surprised to find someone she didn't know shopping for Passover.

It turns out that Beverly is a devout Christian, and she was preparing a seder meal for her "Bible Ladies" with whom she has a weekly study group. Ida invited Beverly and Bruce to the JCC seder, and we became friends. Beverly went to Israel twice with us, and an additional time last year with a group of pilgrims that included seven busloads of Christian tourists to the Holy Land. She confided in me that she liked our "Jewish" trips much better!

Beverly was friendly with the assistant pastor at a very large non-denominational evangelical church in nearby Georgetown. They were having a "Stand with Israel" program and she wanted me to come and give a brief address to the hundreds of people that would be there. I agreed, and David Smith agreed to drive.

We arrived about noon and the early afternoon program for about 65 church members was already underway with a panel that included two Orthodox rabbis who spoke about their personal connection to Israel and about the anti-Israel BDS (Boycott, Divest, and Sanction) movement now gaining strength on American college campuses. I spoke about American Jews in general, and why more Christians support Israel

than do many American Jews.

I was sitting next to Reverend Mark Biltz, who was to be the keynote speaker that evening at the main program. He was from a very large congregation in Tacoma Washington, and he happened to be the one who took those seven busloads of Christians to Israel that Beverly joined. I didn't tell him that she liked our trips better.

He had just written a book called "God's Daytimer" in which he makes the case for Christians to be aware of

faith without understanding and appreciating the Judaism of the Torah. He is also the regional director of CUFI, Christians United for Israel, which was sponsoring the evening program.

He speaks all over the world on behalf of the millions of members of CUFI. I felt honored to have met him.

After the panel discussion the pastor of the church showed David and me the new buildings that were on the property adjacent to the original church building. They were huge. Our new 3rd

Avenue project could fit inside these buildings, which were laid out simply and without fancy architectural frills. It was all about how to best utilize the space for their growth. And these buildings were only the meeting rooms, gym, and classrooms for the new 2500 seat sanctuary building that is yet to be started. Their current new looking 750 seat sanctuary does not accommodate the three full services each weekend of all ages, but mostly younger families who overflow that space.

When I asked the pastor how many solicitation letters he needed to send out to raise the money for the current seven million dollar expansion, he said there were no solicitations. People simply drop off their checks as they leave services. He's never had to ask for donations. These folks are devout Christians who take their Bible quite seriously. And when

they read in the Torah that they are commanded to tithe, to give ten percent (before taxes!) to the Temple, they do. They are paying for the new construction with cash.

As David and I closed our dropped jaws, we got ready for the evening program. An American and Israeli flag were on each chair in the sanctuary where about four or five hundred people gathered. Later on the pastor apologized for the poor turnout! We were lucky to have 35 people gather in Wilkes Barre at the JCC to celebrate Israel Independence Day and he felt



the Mo'adim, the Torah's account of the Divinely mandated festivals, including Rosh Chodesh each month, the Days of Awe, Passover, Sukkot, and Shavuot, etc. He speaks and reads Hebrew fluently, and had also published a calendar for the year for Christians that contains (in Hebrew and English) all of the Torah's festival days. The pictures on each page were taken by his wife, a photographer, from their recent trips to Israel.

This is not a "Messianic Jew" or a "Jew for Jesus". He and his congregation are 100% Christian, but they believe they can't be true to their

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Cantor's Notes



Cantor Ahron Abraham

Tisha b'Av is the saddest day of the Jewish year. The Rabbis held that it was preordained to be a day of tragedy for the Jewish People. According to the Talmud, God marked the ninth of Av as a day of calamity because of the negative report given by 10 of the 12 spies sent by Moses to reconnoiter the Promised Land. Upon hearing the report, the Children of Israel displayed ingratitude and a complete lack of faith in God by crying and complaining that they should never have left Egypt. As a result, God declared: "You wept without cause; I will therefore make this an eternal day of mourning for you." It was then decreed that on Tisha b'Av the Temple would be destroyed and Israel would go into exile.

The destruction of both Temples and the loss of the ancient Jewish state were not the only sad events to have occurred on the ninth of Av. By tragic coincidence, many other calamitous events in Jewish history happened on this day. In 133 CE the Bar Kochba revolt against the Romans came to an end with the massacre at Betar. A year later, the Romans plowed over the Temple Mount and built a pagan city on the site. In 1290 in England and 1492 in Spain, the Jews were expelled on Tisha b'Av. WW I began on Tisha b'Av, and there are those who see the connection of that day with the start of a long period of suffering for our people which included pogroms and massacres, culminating with the Holocaust of WW II.

Since the reestablishment of the State of Israel in 1948 there has been much discussion as to whether Tisha b'Av should still be observed. This sentiment increased with the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967. Although the modern state of Israel has brought a renewed sense of pride to our people unmatched in the past 2000 years, there is still a place for Tisha b'Av in Jewish observance. It serves to remind us of the need for moral and ethical living. It focuses attention in the universal aspects of the Messianic hope. Perhaps most importantly, it gives us a sense of our most impressive and often tragic history, the sacrifices and suffering of past generations, and affords us an opportunity to learn from our past in order to preserve our future.

Tisha b'Av falls on August 14 this year. We will read the Book of Lamentations, chanted with the special *Eicha* trope, at the 5:15 minyan on August 13. Special readings including *Kinot* (Elegies) will be included in the Sunday morning service on the 14th.

Rabbi *continued from page 1*

bad that only 500 Christians came out to stand with Israel! The music was wonderful- mostly from the Psalms and stressed the importance of Israel. One of the choir members led Hatikvah as everyone rose and waved their Israeli flags throughout the room. It was quite powerful. I had a whopping eight minutes to speak, and said how overwhelmed I was to be surrounded by pure love for Israel and the Jewish People. It was resounding and unequivocal. Let's face it, one would never get that feeling in a gathering of Jews. You know the joke- you have two Jews you end up with three opinions.

But these were not automatons. They were all from different backgrounds and different walks of life. But they shared in common values and ethics they learned from the Bible, including our Torah. I told them that they were probably thinking to themselves, "Gee, what a shame. He seems like such a nice guy. It's sad he's going to rot in Hell for not accepting Jesus!" When they stopped laughing, I

told them not to worry because a) I was going to buy an asbestos suit and b) when it's my turn to get into the next world and if it turns out the guy standing there directing traffic either up or down is Jesus, I'll say "Oy G'valt! Did I get this one wrong!" and he will hopefully have pity and let me in.

I was impressed with the devotion to Torah that these people had, and that they were proud of it. I was blown away by the reality that the vast majority of them literally think about God every single day of their lives, and make many of their life decisions only after turning to their Bible and praying about what God would want them to do. Aside from devout Hassidic Jews, who really might not think about God the same way but instead act on perfunctory adherence to Jewish Law, I just can't think of any Jews I know, myself included, who hold God in such esteem and literally fulfill the Torah's command: SHIVITI ADONAI L'NEGDI TAMID, "I hold God up before me at all times" (Psalms 16:8).

Some of you are saying, "If you liked it so much, get a job there!" I don't meet their criteria. But I did get an invitation to return next year to be the keynote speaker.

I'm deeply committed to our Visioning process at Temple Israel. I'll be sharing with you in the September issue of the Chronicle an idea for the new Jewish year ahead. My trip to Delaware wasn't where I'd rather be. But it was inspirational. My goal is to get me and maybe a few of you to become closer to God and Torah. Not simply to observe more laws or become stricter adherents to Halacha (Jewish Law), nor even to become bigger donors to Temple Israel (although I wouldn't turn such donations away!). But rather to become deeper, more spiritually uplifted Jews who are willing to let a glimpse of God into our daily routines.

Enjoy the summer!

Rabbi Kaplan

SCHOOL NOTES

Happy July Birthdays to Our Students

July 12 Ari Bartolai
July 14 Nora Seeherman
July 16 Marilyn and Sinclair Ogo



Happy August Birthdays to Our Students

August 4 Ethan Kruger
August 7 Ilana Drak, Cole Winters
August 10 Haley Rudofker
August 16 Halle Kranson
August 24 Sophia Kruger
August 31 Bari Lefkowitz

Book Club

The book club will meet on Sunday, August 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Ann & Marvin Smith. The selection is *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf.



Synopsis:

A spare yet eloquent, bittersweet yet inspiring story of a man and a woman who, in advanced age, come together to wrestle with the events of their lives and their hopes for the imminent future.

In the familiar setting of Holt, Colorado, home to all of Kent Haruf's inimitable fiction, Addie Moore pays an unexpected visit to a neighbor, Louis Waters. Her husband died years ago, as did his wife, and in such a small town they naturally have known of each other for decades; in fact, Addie was quite fond of Louis's wife. His daughter lives hours away in Colorado Springs, her son even farther away in Grand Junction, and Addie and Louis have long been living alone in houses now empty of family, the nights so terribly lonely, especially with no one to talk with. Their brave adventures—their pleasures and their difficulties—are hugely involving and truly resonant, making *Our Souls at Night* the perfect final installment to this beloved writer's enduring contribution to American literature.

Cemetery Plantings



Spring is here and people will begin planting flowers on the graves of their loved ones. **(Please note: as previously published, planting of shrubbery is not permitted in the cemetery).** If you need assistance,

please contact our cemetery caretaker, Paul Lehman by calling his wife, Carla at 814-6834. Please note that no garbage cans are available in the cemetery, so when you finish, please take your trash with you.

Honoring Our Veterans On Memorial Day

For the second year, Temple Israel's Social Action Committee joined forces with **Sam and Barbara Greenberg** in honoring our Jewish veterans by placing new flags on the grave sites of those buried in the eight Jewish cemeteries in our region. Sam, a World War II veteran and past Commander and past National Commander of Jewish War Veterans USA, along with his wife Barbara, past president of Jewish War Veterans USA Auxiliary, have been fulfilling this mitzvah for the past 38 years.

Tremendous thanks to all those who volunteered: **Lisa and Fred Brown, David Schwager, Bob Greenwald, Janet and Mark Finkelstein, Rosalie Feldman, Jane Messinger, Myer Messinger, Matt Kruger, Sheila Rosenthal, Charles Rappaport, Shelly and Ina Lubin, Dick Goldberg, Celia and Ed Connor, as well as Barbara and Sam Greenberg. Abbe Kruger and Janet Finkelstein** co-chaired the effort.

The volunteers were grateful for the opportunity to honor the veterans and humbled by their courage and sacrifices. "May we never forget their service."



SHABBAT SCHEDULE

July

SHELACH

Friday, July 1
 Candle lighting time8:21 p.m.
 Saturday, July 210:00 a.m.
 Minchah5:15 p.m.
 ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

KORACH

Friday, July 8
 Candle lighting time8:19 p.m.
 Saturday, July 910:00 a.m.
 Minchah5:15 p.m.
 ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

CHUKAT

Friday, July 15
 Candle lighting time8:16 p.m.
 Saturday, July 1610:00 a.m.
 Minchah5:15 p.m.
 ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

BALAK

Friday, July 22
 Candle lighting time8:10 p.m.
 Saturday, July 2310:00 a.m.
 Minchah5:15 p.m.
 ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

PINCHAS

Friday, July 29
 Candle lighting time8:04 p.m.
 Saturday, July 3010:00 a.m.
 Minchah5:15 p.m.

August

MATOT-MASEI

Friday, August 5
 Candle lighting time7:56 p.m.
 Saturday, August 610:00 a.m.
Naming of Winnie Rose Levine
 Minchah5:15 p.m.
 ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

DEVARIM

SHABBAT CHAZON

Friday, August 12
 Candle lighting time7:46 p.m.
 Saturday, August 1310:00 a.m.
 Minchah5:15 p.m.
 ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

VA'ETCHANAN

SHABBAT NACHAMU

Friday, August 19
 Candle lighting time7:36 p.m.
 Saturday, August 2010:00 a.m.
 Minchah5:15 p.m.
 ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

EKEV

Friday, August 26
 Candle lighting time7:26 p.m.
 Saturday, August 2710:00 a.m.
 Minchah5:15 p.m.

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
 FEED THE HOMELESS FUND
 FRIEDMAN INTERFAITH ENDOWMENT
 ROBERT FRIEDMAN LITURGICAL MUSIC FUND
 IRWIN H. GELB EDUCATIONAL 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

RALPH & MURIEL KLEIN MEMORIAL FUND
 HANNAH & WILLIAM S. KLINE LIBRARY FUND
 CINDY & MATT KRUGER B'NAI MITZVOT CANDLESTICK FUND
 LANDAU PAVILION FUND
 JONAS & MILDRED LANG CHILDREN'S 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
 PASCALE/KAPLAN EDUCATIONAL FUND
 ALICE, DR. WILLIAM, I. MALCOLM
 AND STANLEY PEARLMAN ENDOWMENT
 CHARLES & ROSE POPKY EDUCATIONAL 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)
 FRED & MARGOT SCHWAGER MEMORIAL FUND
 SHAFFER SHABBAT KIDDUSH FUND
 SHAFFER SUKKAH ENDOWMENT
 EVA & NATHAN SHAIMAN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND
 SILBERMAN MEZUZZAH FUND
 SIMS ENDOWMENT
 MARK SLOMOWITZ MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT
 HAROLD & VELMA SMITH HEBREW SCHOOL FUND
 THE DAVID & LILLIAN THALENFELD JEWISH
 ENRICHMENT ENDOWMENT FOR STUDENTS
 MAX & TILLIE UNGAR FAMILY
 MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT
 USY/KADIMA FUND
 MORRIS VILENSKY MEMORIAL FUND

☆ July Yahrzeits ☆

Week of July 1 – July 8: Alvan Baum, Max Bergsmann, Norman Chariton, Morris Feld, Sarah Feldstein, Al Friedman, Israel Ghingold, Hyman Goldstein, Isadore Greenwald, Kathy Harris, Freyda Leah Israel, Fannie Jacob, Leonard Kanner, Isidore Kornzweig, Richard Kraus, Sarra Libman, Henry Messinger, Melba Murzin, Paula Newirth, Vivian Reisman, Morris Rosenbaum, Mollie Rosenthal, Saul Rubel, Nathan Shaiman, Howard Sten, Ben Strauss, Lillian Teitelbaum, Harvey Trachtenberg, Bella Utan, Elaine Vale, Jerry Walzer, Anita Weiss, Charles Wolfe, Edith Wolfe

Week of July 9 – July 15: Leon Blum, Rose Brown, Robert Capin, Morris Cohen, Iosif Elkin, Sophie Friedgood, Herman J. Goldberg, Tillye Greenberg, Abner Grossman, Sylvia Heit, Jacob Kimhi, Merle Klavonski, Douglas Klee, Henry Korn, Cheryl Koval, Robert Kramer, Isador Levin, Michal Libman, Selma Lurie, Rose Miller, Sandor Mittelman, Louis Moskowitz, Esther Nakkache, Raymond Oxman, Deborah Pearlman, Louis Raker, Alan J. Rosenberg, Michele Rudnick, Joseph Silberman, Howard Ufberg, Anna Waldman, Libby Weisberger, Ruben Witkowski, Michael Zachar

Week of July 16 – July 22: Isaac Baicker, Elaine Baron, Benjamin Bravman, Simon Coblentz, Lena Cohen, Lenard Cohen, Hyman Davidowitz, Honnie Duncan, Julius Farber, Louis Feldman, Betty Frier, Esther Greenbaum, Norma Greenberg, Rubin Greenberg, Stephen Greenberg, Esther Kaufer, Joel Levey, Sheldon Mermelstein, Ida Meyer, Pearl Moss, Arnold Nachlis, Nancy Pascale, Lillian Poplin, Peggy Reinstein, Mamie Savitz, Joseph Schoenholtz, Rivkah Schwarzblatt, Louis Shaffer, Bertha Siegel, Samuel J. Slomowitz, Mildred Sugarman, Calvin Ungar, Lisa Volodarsky, James Weiss, Selma Zneimer

Week of July 23 – July 31: Daniel Amdur, Eleanor Barr, Joseph Block, Morris Cutler, Joan Davis, Louis Feldman, Margaret Karassik, Minnie Klein, Gertrude Koff, Sam Kornfeld, Louise Kupperman, Joseph Leventhal, Sarah Levy, Sylvia Mittelman, Jerome Newman, Rose Newsbaum, Ronald Popky, Harry Poplin, Joseph Rabinowitz, Eva Reisman, Ruth Rothman, Julius Savitz, Elizabeth Scott, Irving Shulman, Lena Siegel, Marc Sirota, Leah Trompetter, Leah Ufberg

☆ August Yahrzeits ☆

Week of August 1 – August 8: M.D. Brandwene, Arthur Burnat, Ruth Cavanaugh, Elizabeth Dattner, Mildred Dattner, Esther Engel, Jean Mittelman Epstein, Leonard Friedman, Albert Gelb, Manny Gordon, George Green, Sam Hirshowitz, Morris Israel, Carol Swit Kaplan, Woodrow Kaufer, Joseph Kellner, Ella Kluger, Isaac Krasno, Mildred Leventhal, Ned Levey, Bernard Morris, Frieda Morris, Beverly Morrow Siegel, Dorothy Nachlis, Morris Perloff, Philip Plaksin, Tillie Plotkin, Eugene Rosen, Lottie Rosenthal, Alfred Rothschild, Bertha Saidman, Joseph Savitz, Jack Schoenfeld, Stephanie Schurak, Albert Schwager, Juliette Stein Brown, Alfred Stern, Louis Unterberger, William J. Weisberger

Week of August 9 – August 15: Myron Ball, Abraham Barras, Bernard Bartikowsky, Mildred Brown, David Clearfield, Joan Betty Fishman, Fannie Goldstein, Lillian Grabar, Harold Hyman, David Jacobs, Sarah Kanoff, Ida Levitt, Hannah Mendelssohn, Mervyn Mersay, Bessie Naveen, Charles Nelson, Sidney Newman, Aaron Rand, Rose Rinzler, Wayne Robertson, Sara Saidman, Bette Schechter, Charles Shapiro, Albert Sussman, Louise Tischler, Rebecca Tishman, Al Ufberg

Week of August 16 – August 23: Irving Baron, Joseph Blum, Irving Brown, Adele Coblentz, Max Cohen, Oscar Connor, Manny Cumsky, Jacob Feldman, Hyman Goichman, Julius Greenberg, Sol Gutterman, Oscar Hacker, Minnie Harris, Beatrice Hearst, Leopold Hochberger, Nathan Iscovitz, Emil Kellner, Irving Kirshner, Benjamin Klavonski, Jacob Klavonski, Ruth Korson, Irving Lang, Dora Levinson, David Libenson, Barbara Miller, Max Moskowitz, Sara Newman, Murray Popky, Arnold Rifkin, Minna Rosenbaum, Louis Rubel, Ethel Sadock, Michael Salamon, Zelda Salamon, Arthur Savitz, Harry Savitz, Marion Smulyan, Mary Waxman, Sol Weiss

Week of August 24 – August 31: Tillie Bell, Jack Bergsmann, Leonard Berman, Howard Biederman, Arnold Bleyer, Betty Weisberger Bohm, Fae Boxer, Philip Bravman, Earl Robert Congleton, Marjorie Leila Congleton, Theodore Diamond, Ruth Falk, Lena Fierman, Harry Frank, Leon Franklin, Sidney Friedman, Adele Gevirtz, Max Goldstein, Frederick Gordon, Sadie Grossman, Joel Hanovice, Samuel Hanovice, Ruth Kluger, Jean Levin, Sara Levinson, Theodore Levinson, Jacob Levy, Henry Mermel, Aronita Mitchneck, Harry Mitchneck, Abe Naveen, Rose Plessett, Bertha Rappaport, Sarah Robin, Elsie Salsburg, Michael Schoenholtz, Hilde Schwager, Rosalind Schweiger, Mildred Silberman, Rosalyn Smulowitz, William Speizman, Milton Wiener, Israel Zager, Barbara Zwirn

Women's League:

The newly appointed Temple Israel Presidium has already met and is hard at work planning this year's events. We will strive to engage as many members as possible by offering interesting topics and programs. If you have a fresh, new idea we would love to hear from you! We will also attempt to plan events at alternating times to accommodate the various schedules and needs of today's active women. Additionally, we have considered offering transportation and/or childcare for those in need to increase access and participation in our programs. That being said, plans for our Opening Meeting are well underway. We have also begun preparing for our highly anticipated Challah and Honey High Holiday fundraiser. We count on the generous support and assistance of many to guarantee its continued success, and we hope we can count on you. Until then, enjoy the rest of your summer!

The Presidium,

Janet, Sheri, Amy and Renea

We are Women's League • We are Sisterhood • We are Temple Israel

Mazel Tov to:

- Carol Baltimore on the marriage of her son, Louis to Lindsey Linkow
- David & Janet Hoffman on the birth of their grandson, Benjamin Reid Hoffman

Condolences to:

- Howard Gonchar on the passing of his brother, Leonard
- Lynn Gonchar on the passing of her husband, Leonard
- Sandy Herschenfeld on the passing of her brother, Leonard
- David Hoffman on the passing of his brother, Jeffrey
- David Volodarsky on the passing of his father, Vladimir

From Our President. . .



Robert Greenwald

The following are remarks presented by Bob Greenwald at the annual dinner held on June 5, 2016.

Rabbi, Cantor, Madam Past President, current and past members of the Board, fellow congregants, friends and family, game 2 of the NBA finals starts soon so let me try and get us out in time.

- To begin, I have several people to thank,
- ~ **Ann Smith** and the nominating committee for advancing our new team of officers and trustees
 - ~ **Debbie Schonfeld** and the dinner committee for all your hard work
 - ~ Our friends here at the Woodlands for a wonderful affair
 - ~ My extended family for grounded values
 - ~ My parents for showing me always the right way
 - ~ My sister and brother for their own brand of leadership
 - ~ My children for making my life whole
 - ~ And my wife **Nan** for her love and support... and only laughing a little each night I leave for a meeting

I want to talk about passages from a couple of books.

One I'm sure you know, is our own Etz Hayim – you know – the big red one. This coming Shabbat we'll begin the Book of Numbers – well how about these numbers... in a 2 year term as president there were

- ~ 2 sets of High Holiday services
- ~ 104 Shabbat services
- ~ An average of 2 meetings per week, that's 210 meetings – I'm guessing that's understated

And let's say those events average 75 minutes

That's 24,250 hours at minimum that **Ina** gave to the Temple. This is the definition of a tough act to follow, thank you Ina. In gratitude, based on the hourly rate provided by **Sue Kluger** yesterday, I have a check for you for \$619,980. please don't cash it right away.

B'MIDBAR is the first chapter in the Book of Numbers and tells of Israel's journey from Sinai to the Promised Land. As Harold Kushner says, at the conclusion of the book, a new generation who had not known slavery, for whom the revelation at Mt Sinai was tradition rather than personal experience were set to enter the Land.

Isn't this similar to our new generation where we've not lived through World Wars, the Depression and the Holocaust? Hasn't our path been cleared for us by our ancestors? As they did, we need to see the world in a new light, always mindful of how we got here, but aware of the new world we are living in. There will be change, there always has to be change. We have to see the good work we're doing and embrace it.

As I was working on this speech, thinking how can I still talk about Visioning after everything that has been said and done about it, the phrase "So it goes" came to mind.

Some of you have heard it, and maybe even said it. In my younger days when I could actually sit and read a book, Kurt Vonnegut was my favorite. So I looked online for the context of the expression...it's amazing what you can find on

the internet!

I found a site called 15 things Kurt Vonnegut said better than anyone else. The phrase is from his book *Slaughterhouse 5* and speaks to the inevitabilities in life; or as it says on the site "words that simultaneously accept and dismiss everything"

That seemed a bit harsh for the extraordinary work that Ina and the Bold Leadership group has done and will continue to do. Luckily, the site has 14 others, so with apologies to Rabbi and Cantor and others that might be offended; here is #5 on the list – from *Cat's Cradle*

"She was a fool, and so am I, and so is anyone else who thinks he sees what God is doing"

The context?

The protagonist Jonah recalls being hired to design and build a doghouse for a lady in Newport, R.I., who "claimed to understand God and His ways of working perfectly." With such knowledge, "she could not understand why anyone should be puzzled about what had been or about what was going to be." When Jonah shows her the doghouse's blueprint, she says she can't read it. He suggests taking it to her minister to pass along to God, who, when he finds a minute, will explain it "in a way that even you can understand." Jonah was fired

Like Vonnegut's Jonah, I certainly don't know God's plan. But I'm confident in His or Her hand in my life. When I saw a sundrenched mountainside in Colorado, I became aware that the ability to see it and comprehend its beauty cannot be happenstance. Or that the miracle of our children cannot be only good fortune. Every day, if you look, you will find signs – little miracles of your own. When you open your eyes to them, they will open your heart.

When you find that miracle, that spark – that connection to God and Faith, share it with us. Help us build our congregation around you. Push us to be Jewish differently. Lord knows we have an abundance of talented people on staff, on the Board and in our committees, looking for a new and better way to engage with you.

I am humbled by your confidence in me. Every week since saying yes, I have been greeted by someone offering good wishes and support. It's a heartwarming experience.

I am also mindful that this is sacred work. I hope that with support of the Congregation, the clergy, staff and the newly elected Board of Trustees, can continue the kinetic visioning process – so that ALL of our members can find that Temple Israel is the welcoming spiritual home is has been for generations.



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.

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

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Wilkes-Barre, PA Permit No. 105
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Change Service Requested

July 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	Shabbat services, 10:00 a.m. 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	Shabbat services, 10:00 a.m. 9
10	11	12	13	14	15	Shabbat services, 10:00 a.m. 16
17	18	19	20	21	22	Shabbat services, 10:00 a.m. 23
24	25	26	27	Executive Committee 7:30 p.m. 28	29	Shabbat services, 10:00 a.m. 30
31						

August 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. 2	3	4	5	Shabbat services, 10:00 a.m. 6 Naming of Winnie Rose Levine
Book Club – 7:00 p.m. at the home of Ann & Marvin Smith 7	8	9	10	11	12	Shabbat services, 10:00 a.m. 13 Erev Tisha B'Av – 5:15 p.m.
Tisha B'Av 14	15	16	17	18	19	Shabbat services, 10:00 a.m. 20
21	22	23	24	Executive Committee – 7:30 p.m. 25	26	Shabbat services, 10:00 a.m. 27
28	29	30	31			