



# TEMPLE ISRAEL CHRONICLE



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

Volume 15, Issue 6

June 2016 ✪ Iyar/Sivan 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:**

Ina Lubin, President  
David E. Schwager, Esq.  
Chairman of the Board  
Deborah Troy  
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, 10:00 AM**

See Detailed Shabbat Schedule  
Inside

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## It's Not Too Late to Make Your Reservation!

*The Board of Trustees of Temple Israel  
cordially invites you to join us in honoring*

*Ina Lubin  
Outgoing President*

*and*

*Bob Greenwald  
Incoming President*

*at Our 94th Annual  
Dinner and Meeting*

*Sunday, June 5, 2016*

*5:00 p.m. at The Woodlands Inn and Resort*

*\$40 per person*

*RSVP by May 27, 2016*

*5:00 p.m. Cash Bar*

*5:45 p.m. Dinner*

# Rabbi Kaplan

*Writes...*



It has been a wonderful two years having **Ina Lubin** as President of Temple Israel. We have all benefitted from her loyalty and dedication to her role as leader and visionary. We are poised to take on the future, with fewer members, with a smaller school, and with less money than we have known in the past- but with a better vision, greater self-awareness, and an emerging plan of action to remain vibrant and secure, both financially and spiritually, than ever before. This positive thrust for Temple Israel is the result of the hard work and effort that was the hallmark of Ina's tenure.

I'll be honest, when I first heard about the "visioning process" that would involve making "sculptures" at a day-long retreat for the board of trustees, I was thinking of a nice way to say I would be out of town that weekend. I kept thinking of piles of play

dough on the tables in the vestry. I have been part of strategic planning before, but it usually meant spending hours trying to come up with a mission statement, and that was about it.

But Ina knew what needed to be done, and she did the background work and lined up the right people to make our board retreat a major success. The sculptures weren't piles of clay, they were where Temple Israel has been, and where we need to go in the future. Sculpture #1 included everything we saw in ourselves in our past and present. Sculpture #2 forced us to move those things from Sculpture #1 that were absolutely crucial for our future onto the second table, and leave behind those things which would not allow us to progress and remain vibrant.

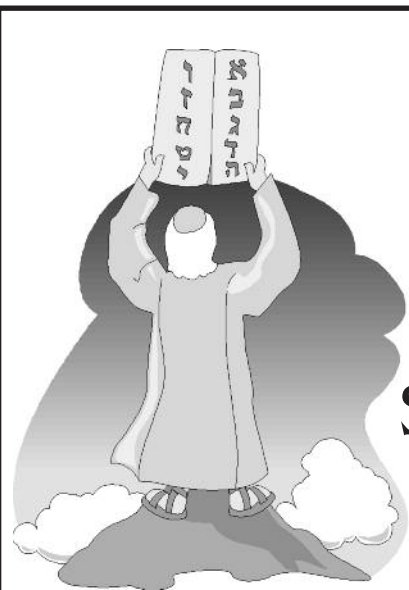
By the end of the day we had begun to make a handful of Bold Statements which we have continued to clarify and hone. Statements about our leadership and staff, our worship, and our commitment to our general and Jewish community. We have already put

into effect some innovative programs and services to try to make our Bold Statements come alive.

None of this would have happened had Ina not gently moved us forward. With talented help from professionals like Liz Alperin Solms to "transformation specialists" at United Synagogue, Ina has positioned us to face the future with excitement. And she has provided for **Bob Greenwald** wonderful possibilities.

I thank Ina for her energy and zeal and her commitment to our Temple and its future. I know we will continue to see a lot of her as she continues to serve in her position as past president to provide ongoing support for our visioning process. Ina's involvement with Dinners for Kids and Children and Youth and so many other worthy causes in our community brings pride to our Temple Family. I'm certain I speak for the entire congregation in saying Yashar Koach to Ina for a job well done!

*Rabbi Larry Kaplan*



## Shavuot Service Schedule

### Shavuot Study Session

Saturday,  
June 11, 2016  
following Kiddush

### Festival Service/Yizkor

Sunday, June 12, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

## Mazel Tov to:

- Cantor & Carole Abraham on the birth of their grandson, Wes Abraham
- Leamor Kahanov & Mitch Wasik on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Noam Wasik
- Joe & Bedonna Mitchneck on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Samantha Seeherman
- Jay Seeherman on the Bat Mitzvah of his daughter, Samantha Seeherman
- Sheila Seeherman on the Bat Mitzvah of her granddaughter, Samantha Seeherman
- Susan & Judd Shoval on the birth of their granddaughter, Zaytoun Zelda Shoval Manassah

## Condolences to:

- Judy Bachman on the passing of her sister, Lorraine Rubin
- The family of Dr. Isadore (Irv) Berger on his passing
- Leo Minkoff on the passing of his brother, Stanley Minkoff
- Irwin Sagenkahn on the passing of his wife, Sally Lee Sagenkahn

# Cantor's Notes



Cantor Ahron Abraham

Probably the most neglected of all Jewish holidays is Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks. One of the *Shalosh Rigalim* (3 pilgrimage festivals), Shavuot was quite popular in ancient times. It was a period of great celebration and joy, when our ancestors brought first fruits to the Temple. We are no longer a nation primarily made up of farmers, and that, along with its location at the

end of the school year has diminished the observance of Shavuot in modern times. This is unfortunate, considering the Festival's great religious significance, aside from its agricultural ties.

On Shavuot we celebrate the giving of the Ten Commandments, the very essence of our sacred teachings, and an important foundation of Western Civilization. It is meritorious to study the Ten Commandments any time, but it's a special mitzvah for every Jew to hear them chanted on the first day of Shavuot. The famed 12th century scholar Abraham Ibn Ezra stated: "All interpretations (of biblical passages) which are not according to the logic of the trope (the cantillation symbols) should not be followed." Our sages believed that the trope, properly chanted, clarified the meaning of the text. We cannot fully understand the text without the benefit of its melody. The cantillation of the Commandments is especially beautiful. There are actually two sets of trope symbols, the so-called upper set for public reading and the other for private study. Although it is always desirable to present both the words and music of a parsha as accurately as possible, it is especially important to strive for perfection when chanting the Ten Commandments. Those of you who have some familiarity with trope will notice that the "upper set" uses more of the elaborate tropes and also joins certain verses to each other. For instance, verses 8-11 (which discuss Shabbat) actually sound like one verse instead of four. If you were listening without a copy of the text in front of you (as the vast majority did in ancient times) you would hear those four verses together as one commandment. What a perfect example of how critical music is to our understanding of the text!

There are other unique liturgical opportunities on Shavuot. The Book of Ruth is read (using a special trope reserved for the *megillot* read on the three Festivals) and the medieval liturgical poem known as *Akdamut* is chanted responsively with the congregation using a melody we also employ for chanting the *Hagaddah*, as well as the Festival *Kiddush*. These musical settings act as a spiritual guide, bringing our souls out of the mundane, the commonplace, and transporting us to a special level where we stand side by side with the ancient Israelites, receiving the Ten Commandments with them millennia ago. Come celebrate Shavuot with us this year, **Sunday, June 12**. As you listen to the 10 Commandments, feel spiritually connected to our ancestors and join them as they accepted the charge to be God's people – "All that the Lord has spoken we will do and learn to understand."

## Slate of Officers, 2016-2017

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Ann Smith, is pleased to present the following slate of officers and board members to be elected at the Annual Dinner on June 5, 2016:



### Officers for Election to One Year Term

President.....Bob Greenwald  
 First Vice President.....Abbe Kruger  
 Second Vice President.....Joe Mitchneck  
 Secretary .....Debbie Troy  
 Treasurer .....Jeff Yelen  
 Financial Secretary.....Dan Messinger



### Board Members for Re-Election

Janet Finkelstein  
 Linda Greenwald  
 Ryan Kranson  
 Steve Rosenthal  
 Amy Schwartz



### New Board Members

Carol Baltimore  
 Rob Friedman  
 Hal Levine  
 Jane Messinger  
 Mark Robzen  
 Sheri Robzen  
 Ellen Smith



### Respectfully Submitted

Ann Smith, Chair  
 Rosemary Chromey  
 Abbey Green  
 Bob Greenwald  
 Larry Keiser  
 Abbe Kruger  
 Barbara Levy  
 Fred Levy  
 Jack Savitz  
 Jill Schwartz  
 Ellen Smith  
 Ex officio:  
 Ina Lubin  
 David Schwager

# SCHOOL NOTES

## Happy June Birthday to Our Students


June 12 Kylie Kranson | June 13 Claire Capin | June 29 Diane Friedman



## Hebrew School at a Glance



# SHABBAT SCHEDULE



## BECHUKOTAI

Friday, June 3  
Candle lighting time.....8:13 p.m.

## Dor L'Dor Shabbat

Saturday, June 4 .....10:00 a.m.  
**Haftarah will be chanted by David Schwager**  
Minchah .....5:15 p.m.

☆☆☆☆

## BEMIDBAR

Friday, June 10  
Candle lighting time.....8:17 p.m.

Saturday, June 11 .....10:00 a.m.  
**Haftarah will be chanted by Mark Finkelstein**  
Minchah .....5:15 p.m.

☆☆☆☆

## NASO

Friday, June 17  
Candle lighting time.....8:20 p.m.

Saturday, June 18 .....10:00 a.m.  
**Haftarah will be chanted by Dan Messinger**  
Minchah .....5:15 p.m.

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## BEHA'ALOTECHA

Friday, June 24  
Candle lighting time.....8:22 p.m.

Saturday, June 25 .....10:00 a.m.  
**Adult Bat Mitzvah Reunion**  
**Haftarah will be chanted by Rosemary Chromey**  
Minchah .....5:15 p.m.

Because of the HIPAA Laws, we do not always know if our congregants are in the hospital (especially if they were taken by ambulance to the emergency room). If you know of someone who is in the hospital and has not been seen by the Rabbi, please call the office and let us know they are in.

Thank you



## Temple Website

You can check on the Temple's activities, services, calendar and events. Go to [www.templewb.org](http://www.templewb.org). It is a simple and quick way to get information.

## 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.



Like us on  
**facebook** 

**Temple Israel Wilkes Barre**

## Attention Members:

Temple Israel is now on **facebook**.

Follow us at **Temple Israel Wilkes Barre**. Get updates and news about all that's happening at your synagogue! Be sure to Like our page and visit often!

If you  us,  
then  us.



**All Shabbat services will begin at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted**

☆ JUNE ☆  
 YAHRZEITS

**Week of June 1 – June 8:** Emil Alinikoff, Rabbi Hyman J. Barras, Jack Breslaw, Benjamin Chafetz Morris Cohen, Rose Dorf, Morris Feldman, Samuel Feldman, Allen Gilbert, Ethel Groh, Louis Haber, Harry Hershey, Leroy Hurwitz, Roslyn Hurwitz, Arthur S. Hymen, Barbara Imbriglia, Marvin Judd, Sarah Kanner, Hyman Kaplan, Rachel Kissel, Zelda Kurlansky, Saul Lang, Saul Linzer, Marion Matthews, Barbara McCoy, I. Louis Robbins, Jonathan Rudofker, Samuel J. Sagenkahn, Abe Savitz, Solomon Senior, Jeanne Sherman, Bret Silberman, Ruth Silver, Sylvia Steiner, David Thalenfeld, Isadore Thalenfeld, Alan Trompetter, Harold Weber, Barbara Whalen, Esther Wolfe

**Week of June 9 – June 15:** Ruth Block, Leah Bravman, Katherine Cohen, Sam Fainberg, Mrs. A.H. Gallow, Molly Goodman, Hazel Jaffie, Rose Lubin, Frank Lurie, Ruth Malett, Herman Marcus, Helen Mermelstein, Marvin Nachlis, Morris Nachlis, Irving Pezzner, Roslyn Picker, Tillie Rosenn, Stanley Scheer, Maurice Sirkin, Naomi (Bohrer) Soble, Marion Trachtenberg, Herbert Trompetter, Louis Weiner, Gussie Wendum, Mary Yelen

**Week of June 16 – June 22:** Albert Adelson, Meral Berger, Ben Cohen, Ruth Cohen, Jeffrey Duncan, Belle Feldman, Gussie Feller, Max Fine, Eva Freed, Morris Gershen, Isidore Goldstein, Ida Gourvitz, Simy Halioua, Harry Hoder, Lena Holtzman, Jane Karnofsky, Morris Kurlansky, Blanche Levine, Nona Libenson, Matilda Mersay, Rose Miller, Phyllis Mitchneck, Julia Pezzner, Sarah Popky, Marvin Rappaport, Grace Rosenthal, Max Rosenthal, Samuel Saddock, Mary M. Schnair, Geraldine Schonfeld, Edith Seeherman, Ben Silverstein, Helen Sirkin, Jerry Sirota, Ted Smulowitz, Mollie Toiv, Benjamin Trichter, Morton Weiss, Thelma Witkowski, Shirley Yelen

**Week of June 23 – June 30:** Norman David Cohen, Herbert Edelglass, Joseph Engel, Joseph Falk, Zali Feldman, Esther Fields, Alan Fishman, Dora Fortinsky, Irwin Gelb, Shelley Gelb, Louis Gibelman, Marion Gilbert, Sidney S. Greenwald, Harry Hess, Jack Klein, Mark Kornfeld, Barney Miller, Philip Miller, Kate Newirth, Gerald Oppenheimer, Heidi Seeherman, Evelyn Shapiro, Arthur Silverblatt, Nancy Skolnik, Ethel Slaff, Ruth Stoll, Miriam Tomberg, Sarah Waldman, Beatrice Weseley, Louis Yudkowitz

## Women's League:

On Wednesday, May 25, 2016, the Women's League held its closing luncheon at the Woodlands Inn and Resort. During the luncheon, the installation of the new Presidium was held. For those who were not in attendance, the following is a brief introduction to the incoming Women's League Presidium for Temple Israel:

**Janet Finkelstein** has been a member of Temple Israel for the past 28 years. She is presently serving on the Temple Israel board and formerly served on the Temple Israel school board. Janet is married to Mark Finkelstein, and they have two children, Steven and Katie.

**Sheri Robzen** and her husband Mark have been members of Temple Israel for the past 8 years. Sheri is currently concluding her two year term as a member of Temple's Executive Board. She has been actively involved with the Women's League annual Challah and Honey fundraiser, as well as various Social Action Committee projects.

**Amy Schwartz** has been a member of Temple Israel for the last 5 years. She and her husband Kenny along with their children, Jason and Sara moved to this area from New York in 2011. Amy presently serves on the Temple Israel Board of Trustees and also served as a co-chair for the Women's League Annual Challah and Honey fundraiser, last year.

**Renea Hammerman** along with her husband Buddy and children Noah and Rebecca have been members of Temple Israel for the past 6 years since moving to the area from Pittsburgh in 2010. There, Renea served on the Hebrew school board and as a Sisterhood Past-President. While at Temple Israel, Renea has become more active with the Women's League over the past year and also co-chaired the Annual Challah and Honey fundraiser.

Together the four of us humbly accepted the honor of serving on the Presidium and would like to recognize and thank the immediate past Presidium: **Anita Coplan, Bedonna Mitchneck, and Cooky Savitz** for their years of service and dedication to the Temple Israel Women's League. We recognize that we have big shoes to fill but we are committed to upholding the high standards of the position.

*Janet, Sheri, Amy and Renea*

*Janet, Sheri, Amy and Renea*

# From Our President. . .



Ina Lubin

## From My Perspective:

I am filled with many emotions as I complete my tenure as President of Temple Israel. My two year term flew by quickly. The months and days were filled with the expected and unexpected. My aim was always to keep the best interest of our congregants as a priority in every

conversation and decision. With my crystal ball always close at hand, my other priority was to work with the Board to begin to prepare Temple Israel for its future.

As I wind down, my last month has been packed with Jewish life cycle passages, Temple business, services and programs, and Jewish community events.

Our Law Day service, once again so capably chaired by Attorneys **Johanna Gelb** and **Barry Dyller**, brought local attorneys together in our sanctuary on a Shabbat morning. Johanna's and Barry's coordination of the details for this service made all of us proud hosts as we honored those who practice law in our area.

Our 2016-17 budget was readied for approval by our Board of Trustees with the recently approved thirty year financial plan guiding our revenue projections and expenditures.

Incoming President, **Bob Greenwald**, **Sheri Robzen**, **Rosemary Chromey**, **Rabbi Kaplan** and I journeyed to NYC for an orientation to a United Synagogue leadership development program opportunity (*Sulam for Current Leaders*) for our Board of Trustees. We all left the briefing feeling optimistic about the possibility this program offers to equip our board with the tools to manage the change needed for our continued sustainability as a congregation.

**Samantha Seeherman** and **Noam Wasik**, each celebrated their Bat Mitzvahs leading from the Bimah with poise and confidence. Mazel Tov to them and their families.

Women's League celebrated its closing meeting with the installation of our new Presidium, **Janet Finkelstein**, **Renea Hammerman**, **Sheri Robzen** and **Amy Schwartz**. Our kippahs go off to **Anita Coplan**, **Bedonna Mitchneck** and **Cooky Savitz** for their devoted leadership as our most recent Presidium. We hope they will stay involved in Women's League so we can continue to benefit from their wisdom and experience.

Honoring our veterans will take a priority as we approach Memorial Day with the Groh Minyan Breakfast featuring Clem Glover who served in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, followed by our congregant volunteers

placing American flags on the grave sites of our Jewish vets . A special thanks to **Sam Greenberg** for his guidance and **Janet Finkelstein** and **Abbe Kruger** for their oversight.

Our religious school wrapped up its academic year, with a program celebrating Israel's Independence, and a demonstration of the students' prayer and blessing skills. Thanks to all of our religious school teachers, **Lesley Baltimore**, **Einat Davidowitz**, **Karen Marcus**, **Lynnette Kislin**, **Lew Marcus**, **Rabbi Perlman** and **Cantor Abraham** for their devotion to their students. We also recognize **Rabbi Kaplan**, **Gerri Kaplan**, Principal and **Debbie Troy**, School Board Chair for their leadership.

Sadly as of this writing, we have lost two long term congregants **Sally Sagenkahn** and **Dr. Isadore Berger**. Our condolences to their families. They will both be very much missed by our congregation and the greater Jewish community.

**Rabbi and Gerri Kaplan's** granddaughter's naming will take place during a late May Shabbat service. It should be an emotional day for all of us as we celebrate her new life and good health in spite of her difficult beginnings.

This month's community events included Holocaust Memorial Day, the Israeli Independence Day celebration, the Interfaith Tea hosted by B'nai B'rith, the Wilkes-Barre Jewish Home Auxiliary luncheon, and the Wilkes University Max Rosenn Lecture. They were all very moving programs that paid tribute to each of their specific intentions with inspirational speakers and presentations.

There are few other leadership volunteer positions that give one the opportunity to actively participate in so many diverse and meaningful programs, activities and worship services. I have been enriched by all that I have experienced!

However, I am ready to transition back to 'retirement' and am excited to support **Bob Greenwald** as he assumes the President's role. Bob has the business sense, wisdom, patience, good judgement and decision making skills to honor the position, and to be an excellent steward for our synagogue. Most importantly he wants to do what is best for Temple Israel.

As I have said, my main priority for my term in office was to prepare Temple Israel for its future. We have begun the process, and with Bob's leadership, it will continue.

Thank you for giving me the honor of being your President!

My Best Regards,

*Ina*

## 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 or trees 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.



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

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**Change Service Requested**

June 2016								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
			1	Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	2	3	Shabbat Service, 10:00 a.m.	4
Annual Dinner, 5:00 p.m.	5	6	7	8	9	10	Shabbat Services, 10:00 a.m.	11
Shavuot Festival Service/Yizkor 10:00 a.m.	12	13	14	15	16	17	Shabbat Services, 10:00 a.m.	18
19	20	21	22	Executive Committee, 7:30 p.m.	23	24	Shabbat Services, 10:00 a.m.	25
26	27	28	29	30				

## 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