



TEMPLE ISRAEL CHRONICLE



"Dor L'Dor – Generation to Generation"

Volume 9, Issue 1

January 2009 ✪ Tevet/Shevat 5769

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

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David Smith, President
Alan S. Hollander, Esq.,
Chairman of the Board
Adina Rosenthal,
School Board Chair

Sisterhood President:

Dr. Dana Goldstein

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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Nogin Family Presents Hebrew School with Menorah

At the suggestion of Rabbi Perlman, our Hebrew School students set out to build a full size Chanukah Menorah. The Nogin family took the suggestion to heart. Eric Nogin and his sons Matthew and Sam built this wonderful full size Menorah and presented it to the school. Jodi explained that she provided spiritual support for the project. It will be a special addition to our Temple and religious school.



Hebrew School Students Attend Chanukah Workshop at the JCC on December 14, 2008



Rabbi Kaplan *Writes...*



Dear Friends,
Well you know how it is—you say something you think is humorous and you end up hurting someone's feelings. In last month's column

I wondered who would have intentionally located the rest rooms of our Sanctuary building halfway down the stairs, rendering them inaccessible to those with difficulty climbing steps. Of course, eighty years ago we lacked the medical science that today helps us to live long enough and well enough to actually come to Temple even if we can't climb stairs. Most people in the 1920's didn't live long enough to be faced with that handicap, so a building with many steps was commonplace.

But when I wrote about that I didn't realize that **Phyllis Mitchneck's** father, Nat Meyer, of blessed memory, was the Chairman of the Temple Israel Building Committee. So I humbly apologize for suggesting that Nat Meyer had done anything imprudent. In fact, he was responsible for producing a magnificent building. And together with his wife, Gert, Temple Israel was at the forefront of



their lives. Gert was on the Temple Israel School Board, and a fascinating commemorative booklet was

produced in 1930 celebrating the first 10 years of our religious school. I found this picture of Nat and Gert in that publication, which can be seen in its entirety on our website: <http://www.templewb.org/TempleIsraelSchool/index.htm>

And getting into the spirit of the holiday, our students visited Heritage House to sing Chanukah songs for the residents. We arrived just as the students from Wilkes-Barre Academy were finishing singing Christmas carols. So at the end of our program, we joined voices and sang the Peter, Paul and Mary song, "Light One Candle" which describes our ancestors' fight for freedom. I particularly liked the WB Academy kids' unique Kippot.



Last month I was invited to discuss religion on WVIA with Dr. Fahmy (Muslim), Msgr Quinn (Catholic), and Kevin Lynn (I have no idea) on the State of Pennsylvania show. It was broadcast from the high definition studio that was dedicated a few months ago to our own Bob and Shirley Fortinsky. Believe me, the jazz concert at the dedication was much more enjoyable than the discussion on religion. Dr. Fahmy always makes a very nice presentation of Islam, and is always quite gracious. Msgr. Quinn is a fine speaker and seems like a good teacher of Catholicism. And Kevin Lynn is, well, contrarian. At

least when it comes to religion. If we really want to save money in our renovation project at Temple Israel, we should invite Kevin to chair it- He sees absolutely no value in houses of worship. He can accomplish the same thing in the comfort of his home.

And in a quick reference to the Christian ideology of "original sin" he remarked that Christianity sees us all as basically bad. I couldn't let that fly by so I asked if Msgr. Quinn could react to that claim, which he did cogently. Judaism also has a concept of original sin, but a much less intense version. Essentially Jewish tradition holds that we human beings were created by God with the ability to choose to do both good and bad, and that while we are created with a tendency toward selfishness, God gives us the choice to do good. And then Judaism actually legislates goodness through the Mitzvot.

But I left feeling sad for Kevin Lynn. Not only has he no God that he can turn to for support and comfort, he has none to whom he owes anything either. And that means he can only be thankful to either nature or his fellow human beings for everything he has in life. Which means a life without blessings. Because there can only be blessings if there is one who blesses. People don't bless each other. Only God blesses. Nature doesn't bless us with anything, only God does. I joked on the program that we were all trying to convert Kevin to one of our religions. But I knew it was only a joke.

I look forward to more public discussions of religion and theology. As difficult times surround us, I pray that we'll all find comfort and support by recognizing the blessings God bestows upon us.

Rabbi Kaplan



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.

Cantor's Notes



Cantor Ahron Abraham

An old Yiddish proverb states, "Nine rabbis do not constitute a minyan, but ten cobblers can." Minyan is not just the purview of a select few, but a privilege and obligation borne by every member of the community.

There are several explanations given for why 10 adults constitute a prayer quorum. Abraham's argument with God that Sodom should be spared for the sake of 10 righteous individuals, the 10 sons of Jacob who went down to Egypt to buy food, and the 10 negative spies are several other Biblical examples. The rabbis of the Talmud used various interpretive techniques to infer from these stories that sanctification should occur in the midst of a congregation of 10. This is why prayers such as Barchu, Kaddish, and perhaps most importantly the reading of the Torah portion, can only be recited in the presence of a minyan. There's so much history and tradition behind the

institution of the minyan – we mustn't minimize its importance.

The concept of the minyan reflects Judaism's emphasis on the religious community. The health of our minyan reflects the health of our congregation and the community as a whole. Our morning minyan meets on Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays, and it is rare that we have 10 in attendance. The same is true for evening minyans, which still meet every day at 5:15 p.m. As an accommodation we recite one Mourner's Kaddish at the end of each service. This certainly helps to comfort someone who attends to say Kaddish, but doesn't fix the problem.

It would take only a few of you to make minyan work. Our usual number of attendees at morning minyan is 7 – we're that close. Three more people on average would allow us to read the Torah and do a complete service. I want you to know that a prominent member of the minyan takes the bus to get to services each morning because that individual loves Judaism and Temple, and wants the minyan to survive. There are others who attend regularly who don't have a strong religious background, but have learned to appreciate minyan and now find it spiritually fulfilling. You, too, will get something out of these services, if not religious or spiritual, then certainly the satisfaction of connecting with your people and our heritage.

You can help me fix the minyan by calling and agreeing to attend on a Monday, Thursday or Sunday morning for one month. If you're willing to continue after that, great! If not, that's fine too – you'll have done your part and others can take over for the next month. This can work! Help me make this effort a success!



Hebrew School 6th & 7th grade students visited the Mikvah with Rabbi Perlman & Cantor Abraham

Pictured are, front row - Abby Winters, Sam Kornfeld, Rebecca Schulman, Rabbi Perlman; back row - Andrew Greenwald and Ben Gelb-Dyller.

Temple Israel Family Shabbat Service and Dinner

Save the date—Friday, January 16, 2009 for a Shabbat service and dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the Temple Vestry. We're combining our dinner and service at the table to welcome Shabbat with prayers, singing, and a wonderful meal! Watch the mail for your invitation. We look forward to seeing you there!

School Notes

*Happy
January
Birthdays
to Our
Students*



January 8	Mallory Lefkowitz
January 16	Garrett Brand
January 17	Kyle Deutschman
January 17	Ilana Rosenthal
January 18	Sam Kornfeld
January 28	Gabrielle Grossman
January 29	Julie King
January 30	Boaz Saidman

Hebrew School students learning to make Havdallah candles at Bais Menachem



Rebecca Schulman making a blanket to be presented to a resident at the Jewish Home in Scranton.

Attention Snowbirds

If you are planning on heading south or elsewhere for the winter, please call the Temple office with your winter address and the dates you will be there. We want to make sure you receive your Temple mailings, including your *Chronicles*.

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 re-imbursement and a copy of the grades for courses taken during the 2008-09 school year must be received by the Temple office by May 29, 2009. All awards will be made after May 31st. For more information, please call Debbie Schonfeld at the Temple office.

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 13, 2009.

Book Club

The Book Club will meet on Sunday, February 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Sandie Lefkowitz. The selection is *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.



Synopsis

Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak's groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich.

Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen

books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau. This is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul.

Mazal Tov to:

- Shelley & David Barras on the birth of a grandson, Ethan Abraham Barras
- Essy & Bill Davidowitz on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Harrison Davidowitz
- Sylvia Moskowitz on the birth of a great-grandson, Ethan Abraham Barras
- Eileen Trompeter on the birth of a great-granddaughter, Haidyn Kinnee

Condolences to:

- Gladys Cohen on the passing of her brother, Dr. Alex Kurland
- Robert Friedman on the passing of his mother, Pauly Friedman
- Sidney Friedman on the passing of his wife, Pauly Friedman
- Rhondi Nachlis on the passing of her mother, Evelyn Zigun
- Jan Picker on the passing of her mother, Leatrice Davis Warren

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Vayigash

Friday, January 2

Candlelighting time4:29 p.m.

Saturday, January 3.....9:30 a.m.

Haftarah will be chanted by David Bravman

Minchah.....5:15 p.m.

☆☆☆☆

Vayechi

Friday, January 9

Candlelighting time4:36 p.m.

Saturday, January 10.....9:30 a.m.

Haftarah will be chanted by Deborah Troy

Minchah.....5:15 p.m.

☆☆☆☆

Shemot

Friday, January 16

Candlelighting time4:43 p.m.

Saturday, January 17.....9:30 a.m.

Haftarah will be chanted by Cantor Ahron Abraham

Minchah.....5:15 p.m.

☆☆☆☆

Va'era

Friday, January 23

Candlelighting time4:51 p.m.

Saturday, January 24.....9:30 a.m.

Haftarah will be chanted by Atty. Jerry Chariton

Minchah.....5:15 p.m.

☆☆☆☆

Bo

Friday, January 30

Candlelighting time5:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 31.....9:30 a.m.

Haftarah will be chanted by Rabbi Larry Kaplan

Minchah.....5:15 p.m.

Family Havdallah Service

☆ January Yahrzeits ☆

Week of Jan. 1 – Jan. 8: Rae Abrams, Ethel Baum, Leon Chassen, Myer Cutler, Selma Danoff, Lorraine Deutschman, Julie Domowitz, Adolf Ehrenkrantz, Harry Fiegelman, Milton Frank, Brad Friedman, Eugene Goldstein, Selma Hymen, Harry Jacobs, Louis Jordan, Sheldon Kanner, Jean Kranson, Augusta Levy, Sarah Bergman Levy, Ida Lisnov, Herman Mendelsohn, Bertha Meyer, Morris Nelson, Zalman Newmark, Harold Novzen, Sarah Park, Henry Pollock, Ida Pollock, Mildred Popky, Bernard Racusin, Isadore Hyman Rifkin, Sam Rosenberg, Theodore Rosenthal, Sima Shylapochnik, Sam Sirota, Jeffrey Stark, Sarah Strassman, Anna Strauss, Alvin Zigun

Week of Jan. 9 – Jan. 15: Eva Barker, Dora Baron, Minnie Benovitz, Judith Berson, Bertha Bravman, Gladys Brown, Kathy Cohen, Gussie Cutler, Jack Feldman, Bernard Flamenbaum, Martin Frank, Ethel Kaufman, Harry Kestenbaum, Paul Miller, Dr. Jacques Mitrani, Sam Mittelman, Sahajo Pruyt, Joseph Rosenzweig, Helen Sager, Milton Schweiger, Esther Smith, Samuel Soble, William Stein, Mark Taranto, Hannah Tepper, Saul Troy, Samuel Weisberger, Lillian Willner

Week of Jan. 16 – Jan. 22: Israel Bell, Emanuel Bransdorf, Joseph Cimmet, Charles Cohen, Louis Cohen, Max Cohen, Maynard Cohen, Eli Cutler, Herman Deutsch, Richard Dorf, Mac Duncan, Edward Dunner, Bessie Fendler, Anna Friedman, Lou Gallow, Sarah Gelb, Marvin Gibelman, Harry Goldberg, Bernard Grossman, Judith Harowitz, Lillian Hochberger, Frances Hurwitz, Lillian Izenberg, Lena Joseph, Phyllis Kaplan, Jeanne Kaufman, Stuart Kaufman, Nat Landau, Lena Lebowitz, Harold Lefkowitz, Reuben H. Levy, Laura May, Elky Pezzner, Anne Rifkin, Isabelle Savitz, Eva Shaiman, Max Silverman, Gladys Smulyan, Hermine Wigman, Sharon Zwirn

Week of Jan. 23 – Jan. 31: Alvin Baldinger, Isaac Brown, Martin Brown, Josiah S. Clachko, Eva Cohen, Fanny Cohen, Susan Coleman, Frank Coplan, Abe Dattner, Ivan Falk, Pauline Gelb, Bertha Ginsberg, Moishe Gitelson, William Gourvitz, Eugene Gray, Sadye Greenblott, Florence Grossman, Wesley Harris, Nancy Hinerfeld, Aron Jacob, Raymond Kaufer, Gussie Kestenbaum, Sarah Kurland, Nathaniel Landau, Ralph Levy, David Lubin, Allen Miller, Mollie Mittelman, Raymond Morris, Anna Moskowitz, Sarah Moskowitz, Sol Nudelman, Rhoda Perlman, Hilda H. Rifkin, Melvin Robbins, Samuel Rosenfeld, Ann Rosenthal, Hilda Rothschild, Harry Slomowitz, Julia Lieberman Smith, Ethel Weiss, Beatrice Wrona, David Yelen

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

January 1	Dr. Richard Levy, Beverly Nachlis	January 19	Gladys Cohen, Marsha Levenson, Beverly Nachlis, Stuart Abrams, Esther Bratkowsky
January 2	Frann Edley, Harold Golubock, Rhondi Nachlis	January 20	Irving Moskow, Jewel Jacobs, Nancy Judd, Mildred Silberman, Eileen Trompetter, Jack Savitz, Betty Frier
January 3	Dr. Gary Frank, Harold Hymen, Janet Hoffman, Louis Kranson	January 21	Cantor Ahron Abraham, Judy Fleischman
January 4	Dr. Irvin Jacobs	January 22	Edwin Duncan, Dr. Ira Grossman, Dr. Loren Grossman, Dr. Richard Grossman
January 5	Essy Davidowitz	January 23	Bea Weber, Joan Meyer
January 6	Dr. Zavier Newmark, Margaret Novzen	January 24	Gladys Cohen, Dr. Michael Harris, Gerald Rothschild
January 7	Bruce Deutschman, Abbey Green, Ruth Sten, Ida Miller	January 25	Marilyn Rosenberg, Natalie Kellner
January 8	Stuart Abrams, Beverly Nachlis	January 26	Bill Harrison, Nancy Messinger, Daniel Messinger
January 9	Joseph Cutler, Debby Chernus, Selma Mitrani, Jack Rosenzweig, Dr. Jay Willner	January 27	Audrey Zinman, Mimi Sirkin, Janice Savitz
January 11	Harold Frank, Marion Frank, Ernest Weisberger, William Weisberger	January 28	Lynda Newirth, David Bravman, Susan C. Yelen
January 12	Jane Feinstein	January 29	Marion Trachtenberg, Saralee Colson, Martin Jacob, Gladys Cohen
January 13	Estelle Karp	January 30	Toby Coleman
January 14	Eleanor Cohen, Lynn Keiser, Iris Levy	January 31	Dr. Richard Levy, Lesley Baltimore, Julie Norton, Louis Kranson
January 15	Dana Goldstein, Sarah Newmark		
January 16	Bruce Fendler, Jesse Izenberg, Rabbi Larry G. Kaplan, Sandie Lefkowitz		
January 17	Atty. Richard Goldberg, Anne Rappaport, Larry Rifkin		
January 18	Joseph Cutler, Irwin Gelb, Natalie Kellner, Richard J. Levy		

From Our President. . .



David Smith

For most of us, unless you are involved in some capacity as a lay person or volunteer, it is not possible to know how much time, energy, and caring is required to operate our

congregation spiritually, operationally, and socially.

Our clergy is immersed in our lives inside and outside of our Synagogue. Our religious school educates our children to assure the future of our

Jewish identity is secure. Our lay members help conduct our Shabbat and daily services. Our board members evaluate the needs of our congregation and make the best decisions for our future. Our committees, Sisterhood, and Book Club continue the long tradition of offering a place for everyone. Our staff administers the details required to manage 400 families and keep our two properties and buildings clean and safe.

I can tell you everyone involved has only the best interest of Temple Israel in mind as any activity is planned and executed. Their passion and

concern is a testament to the proud tradition we have had for so long.

If you would like to get involved in any way, please let me know. We can surely find a comfortable situation that suits you. Please bring your talents to our attention so you can also be a part of the heritage and beauty of Temple Israel.

David Smith
work: 822-6100
home: 696-3883
David@templewb.org

Rabbi Kaplan's Lunch and Learn at the JCC

Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009 at Noon
Tu B'Shevat and Biblical Environmentalism



טו בשבט



Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009 at Noon
Was Queen Esther Embarrassed to be a Jew?

Please RSVP to the Barbara Sugarman at 824-4646

NOTICE

Due to new regulations by the U.S. Postal Service, any mail that cannot be delivered because of an incorrect address will be returned and a "return fee" of 50 cents per item will be charged to Temple Israel. It is important that you notify the Temple office if your address is incorrect, if there are changes, or if you are going away for an extended period of time. We do not want to have to pay these fees for undeliverable mail.

Thanks for your cooperation.

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

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January 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	Shabbat Services, 9:30 a.m. David Bravman, Haftarah 3
4	5	Hebrew School 6	7	Hebrew School Rabbi Kaplan's Lunch & Learn - 12 noon - JCC 8	9	Shabbat services, 9:30 a.m. Deborah Troy, Haftarah 10
11	12	Hebrew School Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m. 13	14	Hebrew School 15	Shabbat dinner, 6:00 p.m. 16	Shabbat services, 9:30 a.m. Cantor Ahron Abraham, Haftarah Hebrew High School, 4:00 p.m. 17
18	19	Hebrew School 20	21	Hebrew School 22	23	Shabbat services, 9:30 a.m. Atty. Jerry Chariton, Haftarah 24
25	26	Hebrew School 27	28	Hebrew School 29	30	Shabbat services, 9:30 a.m. Rabbi Larry Kaplan, Haftarah; 5:15 p.m. minyan, followed by Family Havdallah service 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)
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 (\$18 MINIMUM)
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 SHAFFER SUKKAH ENDOWMENT
 SIDDUR HADASH (\$36)
 SILBERMAN MEZUZZAH FUND
 SIMS ENDOWMENT
 MARK SLOMOWITZ MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT
 USY/KADIMA FUND