



TEMPLE ISRAEL CHRONICLE

"Dor L'Dor – Generation to Generation"



Volume 19, Issue 1

January 2020 ✪ Tevet/Shevat 5780

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

Officers:

Joe Mitchneck, President

School Board Chair:

Bedonna Mitchneck

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

Phone: (570) 824-8927

Layout Design courtesy of
Bedwick & Jones Printing.

Join us for Groh Minyan Breakfast January 19th

Guest Speaker: Pastor Moses Andrade

Topic:

The background and history of the Seventh Day Adventist tradition
and how it often intersects with Judaism



Rabbi Kaplan met Pastor Andrade through Rev. Bob Zanicky. Because the Seventh Day Adventist church celebrates the weekly Sabbath on Saturday (hence the name "Seventh Day") he is available to sing in the choir at 1st Presbyterian Church. His magnificent bass voice provides the foundation for that amazing choir and he even shared his talent on our Bima along with a wonderful D'var Torah some weeks ago.

Moses Andrade has been a pastor for 22 years, is of Jamaican descent (and Sephardic Jewish lineage from Spain), and also directs the elementary school at his church. He has three daughters, Angelisa, Tirzah, and Arielle, who are all accomplished in their fields.

Pastor Andrade will be sharing with us some background and history of the Seventh Day Adventist tradition, and how it intersects often with Judaism, for which he has a deep respect.

Minyan: 8:30 a.m. ~ Breakfast: 9:00 a.m. ~ Speaker: 9:30 a.m.

RSVP to the Temple Office 570-824-8927 by January 16th

Rabbi Kaplan



Writes.

**Rabbi's Eulogy
for Alison Miller
Kovalchik
12-15-19**

As I stared at
the brochure
for our next

Israel trip November 5-16, 2020, I didn't know the right words to use to sum up Alison's life. She was a part of every trip we've taken in our community whether she was well enough to go or not. She would offer suggestions for our itinerary, share experiences of her past visits, spend countless hours scouring the Internet for new and off the track places that would be appropriate for the group we were bringing.

She was never certain her health would allow her to go. One time she took her portable nebulizer with her and the tour bus stopped one morning in Bet She'an in the Galilee on our way to the Golan Heights because she needed a prescription refilled and the tour guide helped get it all worked out. We joked back then about her staying in Israel after we all left so she could check herself into Hadassah Hospital and perhaps finally get some answers about her multiple debilitating medical conditions. We joked, because she wouldn't think of actually doing that. At least not until her children Jacob and Alexandra were about 60 years old! It was always Alison's dream to live out her days in Israel.

And not just in Jerusalem. But far to the north, just a few miles south of the border with Lebanon, in a little town with homes with red roofs, where we visited during a special needs Bar Mitzvah where kids from local towns came to celebrate their coming of age despite various handicaps they had. She told me that's where she wanted to live. Its name is Kfar Vradim, the village of roses.

Alison made the beautiful mantle with the view of Jerusalem that adorns our reader's table in our chapel. We thought it should be here today as we say goodbye.

There is also a beautifully adorned Hamsa, the protecting hand of God, that hangs in our chapel. Alison will always be with us.

When I got to the community Alison was the stalwart administrator of Temple B'nai B'rith. There were good times and difficult times with the changing staff at the congregation. And ultimately she moved to Temple Israel where her grandparents Jack and Ethel Groh were longtime members and her grandfather stood on the Bimah each and every



Shabbat as Gabbai, and oversaw the daily Minyan in our chapel for years.

Her pride and joy in life were her children. Alison and Marc did a beautiful job of raising such wonderful and devoted children. And Alison was devoted to her father Larry and her mother Barbara, both of whom she loved very much and looked after them as best as she could even as she was dealing with her own illnesses. Chris and his kids, and Jeff and Robin and their families have always been partners in seeing to the needs of their family. One of Alison's greatest trips to Israel was when she was able to bring her dad Larry along, and he loved it.

As we've heard, Alison's email address was Aliah1948@aol.com. It was her hope to make Aliyah to Israel. She couldn't leave her kids here. She needed to wait until they were completely settled.

So now it's time for that Aliyah, that rising upward. And she will be even beyond the heights of Israel in heaven. There is a tradition that each time we recite the Kaddish for a loved one, it boosts them higher up toward God's heavenly throne. I don't think too many of us have known anyone whose starting point on that journey is so close

to heaven, so far up there, such a great Aliyah as Alison. She can use her own angelic wings to help on the journey. Her name Feigele means a bird, and her mother loved yellow butterflies so this is a family that knows instinctively how to rise up, how to make Aliyah.

I've written to the rabbi in Kfar Vradim with the hopes that instead of doing the usual tree planting on our trip in November, that perhaps we could plant trees near those red roofed homes in Kfar Vradim, to keep Alison's memory alive for generations to come in the place she held close to her heart. I'd like to dedicate this trip to Alison, and I invite her friends and family and especially our congregation to consider joining us in November to hopefully plant a tree in her memory.

The psalmist wrote: V'hayak'eitzshatul al palgeimayim- "And she shall be like a tree planted by the streams, bearing fruit in its season, whose foliage never withers." May her final Aliyah be blessed, and may her soul be bound up in the bond of everlasting life. Amen.

-Rabbi

Address Updates Needed

Please be sure to update your bank with our new address if you send your payments in directly through your bank:

**613 S.J. Strauss Lane, Suite #2,
Kingston, PA 18704**

While we are in transition, our Temple Israel office at the JCC will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

At other times, to contact Rabbi Kaplan, please text or call his cell phone 570-357-5367 or email him: rabbi@templewb.org



from Cantor

Should we continue daily minyan? Is it important? Does it matter? I can't help but ask these questions. Our minyan attendance is low— mornings we generally have 5 people, evenings, 2-5. I'd say 95% of the time we don't get the requisite ten. Is it worth continuing?

Unequivocally, yes, we need daily minyan. To understand why, let's first discuss a bit of the history behind group prayer. We Jews have always accepted and encouraged individual prayer, but coming together as a congregation was preferable since ancient times. Ultimately, the rabbis decided that a minimum of 10 adults was required to do a complete service. Why ten? God agreed to spare Sodom and Gemarah if 10 righteous people could be found. Later on in our history, 10 of the 12 spies sent out by Moses bring back a negative report on the Promised Land. Since God refers to these 10 as an "evil assembly" the rabbis understood that 10 constituted a group or congregation. For centuries, Jews have sought each other out, even when in under populated areas, to form minyanim so as to be able to read Torah and recite kaddish. Minyan is also a great equalizer – 9 incredible scholars could be gathered and could not do a complete service, but the addition of an uneducated, simple Jew would make it possible.

For several years now, we at Temple Israel have allowed kaddish to be said no matter how many people show up for service. Indeed, we would almost never be able to say kaddish otherwise. Some might say that you might as well stay home and say the prayers by yourself if we don't have a full minyan. I disagree. Praying with half a minyan is more fulfilling and

comforting for people saying kaddish, as many of you who have joined us can attest. Having a minyan to go to is comforting, even if you don't attend regularly.

There are about 10 individuals in our congregation that participate at various times during the week. These individuals have made minyan a part of their routine. They know from personal experience how valuable the service is to our congregation, and they are to be commended for their dedication. There are members (although not as many as in the past) who come to say Kaddish when they have a yahrzeit. Some come to say prayers for healing for themselves, loved ones and friends. We also occasionally get out of town visitors who, looking for a minyan, find us on the internet and join us for services. A congregation that has a daily minyan makes a good impression on visitors and members alike. It shows that we're still alive, a place where you can come every day to commune with and pray to God.

Help keep Temple Israel's minyan alive. I've asked before and I'm asking again – give us even one or two minyanim a month. That will help sustain daily services and give you an opportunity to understand Jewish prayer better. Evening services are daily at 5:15 PM. Morning services are at 7:15 AM Monday and Thursday, and 8 AM Sunday. I hope you will join us!

-Cantor



Cantor leading a Chanukah program at the Wyoming Valley Children's Association

Like Shira? Join Shira!



Many people commented on how the Shira group enhanced our services during the holidays. Actually, the people who enjoyed it the most were the members of the Shira group themselves! We really have fun practicing, participating and performing together. Now it's your opportunity to become a part of it! It's **"open enrollment"** season for Shira. If you'd like to join us, contact Cantor or Janet Finkelstein and let us know.



New Machzor Dedications

We have hundreds of New Machzors (High Holiday prayer books) in need of some love! Dedicate one in honor or memory of a loved one today for a \$36 donation. Call the office or email info@templewb.org today!



Midrasha Happenings

On Friday night December 13, Rabbi Mollo was formally installed as the Rabbi of Temple B'nai B'rith. It was a lovely evening. Midrasha looks forward to many years of our combined school working together. The school board wishes Rabbi and his family Mazel Tov on this special occasion. December is a month filled with excitement and fun. Midrasha is busy learning about the story of Chanukah and the Miracle of the oil that lasted eight nights. Our children learned new songs and practiced old songs to sing for our community Chanukah dinner at the Friedman JCC. This year the dinner was held on the first night of Chanukah. Children when accompanied by an adult were guests of the Hebrew school. All that attended had a good time

Rabbi Mollo and Rabbi Kaplan continue to encourage our post Bar and Bat Mitzvah students to attend classes once a month in order to prepare for confirmation in the spring. This class will be a good way for teens to continue their Jewish education and discuss topics that are relevant in the world today. Teens will have the opportunity to meet with their peers and spend time together. A special trip is being planned for all students who attend classes. If you have any questions about the program please contact either Rabbi Mollo or Rabbi Kaplan.

Winter is in full swing and there will be times when Hebrew school will be cancelled due to the weather. If the public schools are cancelled so is Hebrew School. Gerri will always send you a text to keep you updated.

At anytime you can always contact Rabbi Mollo or Gerri with questions or concerns you may have about your child. They are always available to talk with you. Rabbi Mollo and Gerri and all of the teachers are looking forward to the second half of the school year.

-Bedonna Mitchneck
School Board Chair



Happy January Birthday to Our Student

Jan. 17: Ilana Rosenthal



Attention Snowbirds



We need all winter addresses and the dates you plan to be away. Please note, even if we had this on file previously, please resend to info@templewb.org or call the office so we can verify that all membership information is correct. Thank you!

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 30, 2020.

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 2019-2020 school year must be received by the Temple office by May 22, 2020. All awards will be made after May 31st. For more information, please call Debbie Schonfeld at the Temple office.

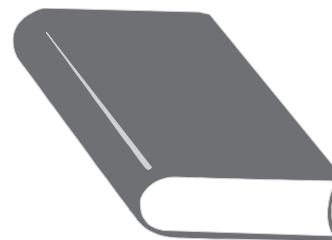
Heidi Mitchneck Seeherman Annual Toy Drive

A joint project between the Jewish Community Center, Temple B'nai B'rith, Temple Israel and Congregation Ohav Zedek. Toys from Heidi were gifted to over 300 children ages infant to 12 years who were from needy homes. Thank you to all who donated to this wonderful project!



Book Club

The book club will meet on Sunday, January 12, 2020 at Theo's Metro, Kingston 6:00 p.m. (if dining) 6:15p.m. (discussion). The selection is *The Red Thread* by Ann Hood



Synopsis: In China there is a belief that people who are destined to be together are connected by an invisible red thread. Who is at the end of your red thread?" After losing her infant daughter in a freak accident, Maya Lange opens *The Red Thread*, an adoption agency that specializes in placing baby girls from China with American families. Maya finds some comfort in her work, until a group of six couples share their personal stories of their desire for a child. Their painful and courageous journey toward adoption forces her to confront the lost daughter of her past. Brilliantly braiding together the stories of Chinese birth mothers who give up their daughters, Ann Hood writes a moving and beautifully told novel of fate and the red thread that binds these characters' lives. Heartrending and wise, *The Red Thread* is a stirring portrait of unforgettable love and yearning for a baby.

SERVICE SCHEDULE

VAYIGASH

Friday, January 3

Candle lighting time.....4:23 p.m.

Saturday, January 4.....10:00 a.m.

Special Shabbat

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

VAYECHI

Friday, January 10

Candle lighting time.....4:29 p.m.

Saturday, January 11.....10:00 a.m.

Haftarah will be chanted by Sara Friedman

Minchah.....5:00 p.m.

SHEMOT

Friday, January 17

Candle lighting time.....4:37 p.m.

Saturday, January 18.....10:00 a.m.

Haftarah will be chanted by David Bravman

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

VA'ERA

Friday, January 24

Candle lighting time.....4:45 p.m.

Saturday, January 25.....10:00 a.m.

BBYO Shabbat

Haftarah will be chanted by BBYO members

Minchah/Midrasha Havdalah5:15 p.m.

☆ YAHREZEITS ☆

Week of January 1 — January 8

Ethel Baum, Leon Chassen, Myer Cutler, Selma Danoff, Lorraine Deutschman, Julie Domowitz, Adolf Ehrenkrantz, Harry Fiegelman, Milton Frank, Brad Friedman, Eugene Goldstein, Selma Hymen, Dora Jacobs, Harry Jacobs, Louis Jordan, Sheldon Kanner, Jean Kranson, Augusta Levy, Sarah Bergman Levy, Ida Lisnov, Herman Mendelssohn, Bertha Meyer, Morris Nelson, Harold Novzen, Margaret Novzen, Sarah Park, Ida Pollock, Mildred Popky, Robert Prashker, Bernard Racusin, Isadore Hyman Rifkin, Theodore Rosenthal, Sima Shylapochnik, Sam Sirota, Jeffrey Stark, Ruth Sten, Sarah Strassman, Anna Strauss, Beatrice Weber, Ida Zatcoff, Alvin Zigun

Week of January 9 — January 15

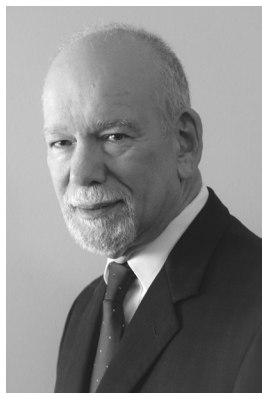
Linda Abrams, Rae Abrams, Eva Barker, Dora Baron, Minnie Benovitz, Judith Berson, Bertha Bravman, Gladys Brown, Kathy Cohen, Gussie Cutler, William Davidowitz, Jack Feldman, Charles Fortinsky, Robert Fortinsky, Martin Frank, Harold Golubock, Boris Gurevich, Ethel Kaufman, Harry Kestenbaum, Paul Miller, Dr. Jacques Mitrani, Sam Mittleman, Henry Pollock, Helena Prashker, Sam Rosenberg, Adeline Rosenfeld, Joseph Rosenzweig, Helen Sager, Milton Schweiger, Esther Smith, Samuel Soble, William Stein, Mark Taranto, Hannah Tepper, Saul Troy, Clifford Wachtel, Samuel Weisberger, Lillian Willner

Week of January 16 — January 22

Israel Bell, Emanuel Bransdorf, Joseph Cimmet, Charles Cohen, Louis Cohen, Max Cohen, Maynard Cohen, Eli Cutler, Herman Deutsch, Richard Dorf, Edward Dunner, Bessie Fendler, Bernard Flamenbaum, Anna Friedman, Lou Gallow, Sarah Gelb, Marvin Gibelman, Harry Goldberg, Judith Harowitz, Lillian Hochberger, 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, Gladys Smulyan, Hermine Wigman, David Zitofsky, Sharon Zwirn

Week of January 23 — January 31

Isaac Brown, Martin Brown, Josiah S. Clachko, Eva Cohen, Fanny Cohen, Susan Coleman, Abe Dattner, Mac Duncan, John Eckert, Ivan Falk, Eric Feldman, Pauline Gelb, Bertha Ginsberg, Moishe Gitelson, Louis Goldenheim, Beverly Goldwein, William Gourvitz, Eugene Gray, Bernard Grossman, Florence Grossman, Hadassah Israel Harris, Wesley Harris, Nancy Hinerfeld, Frances Hurwitz, Aron Jacob, Leona Kafrissen, Raymond Kaufer, Natalie Kellner, Gussie Kestenbaum, Sarah Kurland, Nathaniel Landau, Anna Levinson, Hyman Levinson, David Lubin, Irene Lyons, Estelle Meyer, Allen Miller, Mollie Mittelman, Raymond Morris, Anna Moskowitz, Sol Nudelman, Hilda H. Rifkin, Melvin Robbins, Samuel Rosenfeld, Ann Rosenthal, Hilda Rothschild, Julia Lieberman Smith, Allan Warner, Ethel Weiss, Sylvia Weiss, Beatrice Wrona, David Yelen



From the President...

The month of December has seen quality participation at Temple and Community activities, some of which are continuing programs and some

Hanukkah events. Following is a review of those completed and those to take place after this article was written.

December 8th we had another lively, interesting and educational exchange of ideas at our Bible and Bagels discussion group. Ten members enjoyed Rabbi Kaplan's interpretation of the Hanukkah story and everyone is looking forward to future sessions.

December 15th our Shira Group with the Freilox and Bagels Klezmer Band entertained the residents of the Jewish Home. These Temple members sang holiday tunes and provided a festive time for all who attended. This program was sponsored by the Wilkes-Barre Auxiliary of the Jewish home and is one of many programs they sponsor.

December 22nd our synagogue, along with Temple B'nai B'rith, Congregation Ohav Zedek and the Friedman JCC, is participating in a community Hanukkah Dinner. A highlight of the dinner will be entertainment by our Midrasha students along with Rabbi Larry Kaplan, Cantor Abraham, Rabbi David Kaplan and Rabbi Mollo. This dinner will welcome the Festival of Lights and should be well attended.

December 29th will be our next Minyan followed by Yoga. We have a group of people who are enjoying this monthly program and would love to have more people join them. These sessions are no cost for all participants and do not require any previous experience. Please feel free to join them. I would be remiss if I didn't thank everyone who have donated toys, made monetary donations, or have helped sort, wrap or deliver for our "Toys From Heidi" annual toy drive. This year we were able to provide toys to 720 needy children in our area. Bedonna and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping support this program in memory of our daughter.

I am sure January will continue our strong tradition of quality programs for all our members. Please continue to show your support for our Temple by your participation in these activities

-Joe Mitchneck



ATTENTION TORAH ENTHUSIASTS:

Bible & Bagels Dates Set 1/5, 3/15, 4/19

Dr. Jeff Lubin is the new Chair of these stimulating morning discussions led by our clergy. Please contact the office or email Jeff if you are interested in participating or sponsoring a session. He can be reached at thelub@epix.net.

**Sundays in the vestry
following 8:00 a.m. minyan**

Mazel Tov to:

Rabbi & Gerri Kaplan on the birth of their granddaughter, Gianna Marie Sofia

Michael & Lois Rittenberg on the marriage of their daughter Sarah to Seth Hoch

Condolences to:

The family of Stuart Abrams on his passing
Sidney Friedman on the passing of his brother,
Dr. Phillip Friedman

The family of Frieda Hirschhorn on her passing
Chris Miller on the passing of his sister,
Alison Kovalchik

Cheryl Levey on the passing of her brother,
Mark Levey

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January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 No Midrasha	2	3	Shabbat Services 10:00 a.m. 4
Bible & Bagels 8:30 a.m. No Midrasha 5	6	Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. 7	8	Midrasha 3:30 p.m. 9	10	Shabbat Services 10:00 a.m. 11
Midrasha 8:45 a.m. Book Club at Theo's Metro 6:00 p.m. 12	13	14	15	Midrasha 3:30 p.m. Executive Committee 7:00 p.m. 16	17	Shabbat Services 10:00 a.m. 18
No Midrasha 19 Groh Minyan Breakfast 8:30 a.m.	20	21	22	Midrasha 3:30 p.m. 23	24	Shabbat Services 10:00 a.m. Midrasha Havdallah 5:15 p.m. 25
Midrasha 8:45 a.m. 26	27	28	29	Midrasha 3:30 p.m. 30	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
DAVIDOWITZ GROH MINYAN ROOM 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 ROSEN 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
SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE FUND
THE DAVID & LILLIAN THALENFELD JEWISH ENRICHMENT ENDOWMENT FOR STUDENTS
MAX & TILLIE UNGAR FAMILY MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT
USY/KADIMA FUND
MORRIS VILENSKY MEMORIAL FUND