



# TEMPLE ISRAEL CHRONICLE



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

Volume 17, Issue 7

July/August 2018 ✪ Tammuz/Av/Elul 5778

*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:**

Joseph Mitchneck, President  
Larry S. Keiser, 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, 10:00 AM**

See Detailed Shabbat Schedule  
Inside

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## Temple Israel 96th Annual Dinner & Meeting held on June 10, 2018



**Officers: Debbie Troy, Joel Zitofsky, Joe Mitchneck, Atty. Jeff Yelen, Rabbi Kaplan (missing from photo is Dan Messinger)**



**New Board Members: Judge Lesa Gelb, Cooky Savitz, Joe Mitchneck, Rabbi Kaplan (missing from photo are Lisa Klee & Dr. Jeff Lubin)**



**Outgoing President: Bob Greenwald, Incoming President, Joe Mitchneck, Rabbi Kaplan (outgoing board members missing from photo are (Sy Adelson, Janet Finkelstein, Linda Greenwald, Amy Schwartz)**

# Rabbi Kaplan *Writes...*



Dear Friends,  
Lashon  
HaRah means  
“The Bad Tongue”  
and is a Jewish  
concept of  
guarding against  
saying anything  
mean or nasty to  
or about anyone.

If everyone observed this Mitzvah there would be much less unhappiness in the world. As Dennis Prager asked decades ago, what brings you more sadness-nature (illness, hurricanes, volcanoes, etc.) or other people? The answer is clear- most of our unhappiness is caused by other people. And much of that is due to what other people say to or about us.

Of course, we are those other people. So the personal prayer following the Amida, one of the only prayers in our Siddur written in the first person instead of written for the community, asks God to “Guard my tongue from evil and my lips from being offensive.” But we’re living in a day where watching what we say (or text, email, or tweet) threatens to stifle our individuality and our ability to share our feelings. And nothing seems to be more sacrosanct these days than our own personal feelings, or those of our group. Even micro aggressions- barely perceivable and seldom intentional slights against some group- are taken seriously by many. The phrase “Sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me” is dead. The ideal of developing a thick skin to ignore nasty comments is no longer an ideal. Instead, remain thin skinned and let someone in authority know the moment your feelings are hurt.

Since traditional religious values like avoiding Lashon HaRah are no longer taught or modeled in public places, we’re much more vulnerable to hearing nasty comments. Only the fear of being sued or fired or destroyed on Facebook or Twitter can potentially reduce the offending remarks.

But while the Mitzvah of avoiding Lashon HaRah applied to every nasty comment regardless of who said it, today we see different standards of

which comments are to be tolerated and which are to be shamed. Anyone may say, print, or tweet anything about the President (of the country, not the Temple) no matter how harsh, cruel, nasty, etc. The Office of the President, it is argued, no longer holds any sanctity because of his own words and tweets. So parents will call him all kinds of names in front of their children, and some will encourage their children to do the same. After all, if we’ve already tossed the adage “Sticks and stones”, let’s also jettison the idea that we don’t do things that we detest when someone else does them. Let’s just join in and copy the exact same behavior we find distasteful. Dignity is gone, and while we may blame the President for that, we’re doing nothing to stop its decline when we are undignified.

It is interesting to see the consequences of nasty behavior in public. Rosanne Barr (who happens to be Jewish) tweeted nasty things about a woman who worked in the Obama administration. Though these nasty comments caused this woman no harm, since everyone roundly denounced them, Rosanne Barr was fired and her show was cancelled within hours and all the people who worked on that show also lost their jobs. Barr begged to be forgiven but was denied.

But when Samantha Bee, another television comedienne with her own show called Ivanka Trump (who is also Jewish) a vulgar name (slang of female anatomy) after Ms. Trump posted a picture of herself and her baby online- entirely devoid of any political motive- much of the media applauded her for doing so, and almost no mainstream media outlet condemned her. She went beyond the slur to suggest that Ivanka Trump should seduce her father in order to encourage him to change his immigration policies. Unlike the Rosanne Barr comment, which she tweeted on her own, Samantha Bee’s comments were scripted and were part of her show. There was no negative fallout from her employer. Her show, apparently, must go on.

While I don’t see an anti-Semitic conspiracy here, I do see different standards and unfair lack of balance. It

seems that it’s not the nastiness of the comments that is of concern, the HaRah part of the Lashon, as it were, but rather political considerations. And apparently they trump (sorry) the Mitzvah of avoiding Lashon HaRah.

It’s time to clean up our act. And using politics as a shield for being able to openly use foul language and to slander political opponents shouldn’t be encouraged even when the President is doing so. It’s bad enough that the President has acted basely and is not to be seen as a role model for our children. But other presidents have also exhibited horrendous behavior while on the clock and its not as if people reacted by engaging in intimate relationships with their young staff members to show how upset they were with such behavior. It’s time to clean up our rhetoric and get back to civility. We should bring back yet another old adage that made perfect sense: If you don’t have anything nice to say, keep your mouth closed.” And hopefully, if we take such a dignified approach, we might be able to teach even presidents to rise to the occasion. Judaism demands nothing less.

As the summer winds down and we enter the month of Elul before Rosh HaShanah, let us N'TZOR LISHONI MEI RAH US'FATAI M'DABER MIRMA- Guard our tongues from evil and our lips from being offensive.

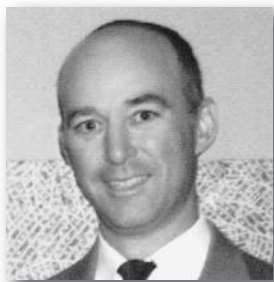
*Rabbi Kaplan*

**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**



# Cantor's Notes



Cantor Ahron Abraham

Birthright Israel has become so well-known and common in Jewish communities that we take it for granted – that is until your children or grandchildren experience it. Two of my children, Jonathan (27) and Elizabeth (19) just returned from separate Birthright trips, and both had amazing experiences. So what is Birthright – just a free trip to Israel, or a whole lot more?

Birthright Israel was founded in 1999 in response to diminishing travel to Israel by young Jews. The idea was to stimulate interest in Judaism and Israel and to bring Diaspora Jews and Israelis closer. During its first year, Birthright sponsored 9,000 participants, thanks to the generosity of a core group of philanthropists. The tremendous interest in the program made it clear that a major fundraising campaign was needed so that the program could be expanded. Birthright Israel Foundation was formed, and now sends 40,000 young Jewish adults to Israel every year. To date, over 600,000 young Jews have participated in the program.

Birthright is a 10 day, all-expense paid trip to Israel for young Jews ages 18-32. There are a variety of trip possibilities (Liz went on a Hillel trip and Jonathan did Israel Outdoors). All trips bring the participants to sites of major importance such as Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Masada and Yad Vashem. Groups of Israeli soldiers travel with the Birthright groups, not for security (although there is security with every group) but for the purpose of interacting with and getting to know each other, their interests and passions. This is possibly one of the most valuable aspects of the trip, making it possible for Israelis and Diaspora Jews to better understand each other. Guided discussion sessions explore topics such as Jewish tradition in the modern world, how Jewish life in Israel differs from Jewish life abroad, and how mandatory military service impacts young Israelis' perceptions of service and commitment to their country. There are also well-balanced sessions discussing the history and politics of the region. Yes, Birthright trips are very educational, but they're also a lot of fun! From mud baths at the Dead Sea to camel rides and camping overnight in a Bedouin camp, Birthright participants have the time of their lives!

Perhaps the best evidence for the value of Birthright that I've seen was the reaction of my two children. I expected Liz to have a very positive experience – she's just finished her first year of college and went with a Hillel group from school. She did in fact rate the trip a 10 out of 10. But it was Jonathan's reaction that really impressed me. He's now 27, on his own and working in Philadelphia. Although he certainly identifies as Jewish, it's not a major part of his life. He decided to go on the trip mostly to not pass up the opportunity. He (and we) did

not expect the impact the trip would have on him. We received several messages from him during the trip saying he was not coming back! Jonathan's perspective on Israel, world politics and being Jewish were molded very positively by Birthright – exactly as the trip is designed to do.

So, if you, your child or grandchild is considering Birthright – don't hesitate. It's a fantastic opportunity that should not be passed up. I also encourage you to contribute to the Birthright Foundation. This organization and its programs are perhaps the most effective and important means we have to build a new generation of energized, involved Jewish leaders. If you would like more information about Birthright or know a young person who might be interested, contact me and I'll be glad to help you learn more.



# SCHOOL NOTES

## Happy July Birthdays to Our Students

July 14 Nora Seeherman  
July 16 Marilyn and Sinclair Ogo



## Happy August Birthdays to Our Students

August 4 Ethan Kruger  
August 7 Ilana Drak  
August 16 Halle Kranson  
August 24 Sophia Kruger

## 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 trees or 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.

No garbage cans are available in the cemetery, so when you finish, please take your trash with you.



## Bat Mitzvah of Nora Seeherman



Hi, my name is Nora Seeherman. I am the daughter of Jay and Heidi (obm) Seeherman. I am the granddaughter of Sheila and Steven (obm) Seeherman, and

Bedonna and Joseph Mitchneck. I have an older sister, Samantha. I attend Bear Creek Community Charter School where I will be going into 8th grade. I will be turning thirteen in July. At school I am in Student Council and National Junior Honor Society. I enjoy playing field hockey for the Coughlin Crusaders. I also enjoy playing with my dog, Mabel. For my Bat Mitzvah project I have chosen to take part in the Toys From Heidi toy drive. I will be helping to collect new toys for the holiday season. I am looking forward to my Bat Mitzvah and being able to spend time with my family and friends.

## Attention Members

Temple Israel is 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!



## Are You A Foodie?

There's growing interest amongst several members in creating FOODIE events and programming. We're considering:

- ~ Jewish Foods Cooking Series (Demos/Tastings)
- ~ Cherished Family Recipe Exchange
- ~ Temple Israel Cookbook as Fundraiser
- ~ Progressive Dinner
- ~ Jewish Holiday/Israeli Food Education Series

We'd like to hear from you if you are interested too! Email [info@templewb.org](mailto:info@templewb.org) or call Jane Messinger at 570-690-1452



**Temple Israel Wilkes Barre**

# SHABBAT ★ SCHEDULE

## July

### PINCHAS

Friday, July 6  
 Candle lighting time .....8:20 p.m.  
 Saturday, July 7 .....10:00 a.m.  
 Minchah .....5:15 p.m.

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### MATOT-MASEI

Friday, July 13  
 Candle lighting time .....8:17 p.m.  
 Saturday, July 14 .....10:00 a.m.  
 Minchah .....5:15 p.m.

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### DEVARIM

### SHABBAT CHAZON

### EREV TISHA B'AV

Friday, July 20  
 Candle lighting time .....8:12 p.m.  
 Saturday, July 21 .....10:00 a.m.  
 Minchah .....5:15 p.m.

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### VA'ETCHANAN

### SHABBAT NACHAMU

Friday, July 27  
 Candle lighting time .....8:06 p.m.  
 Saturday, July 28 .....10:00 a.m.  
 Minchah .....5:15 p.m.

# SHABBAT ★ SCHEDULE

## August

### EKEV

Friday, August 3  
 Candle lighting time .....7:59 p.m.  
 Saturday, August 4 .....10:00 a.m.  
 Minchah .....5:15 p.m.

☆☆☆☆

### RE'EH

### ROSH CHODESH

Friday, August 10  
 Candle lighting time .....7:50 p.m.  
 Saturday, August 11 .....10:00 a.m.  
 Minchah .....5:15 p.m.

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### SHOFTIM

Friday, August 17  
 Candle lighting time .....7:40 p.m.  
 Saturday, August 18 .....10:00 a.m.  
 Minchah .....5:15 p.m.

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### KI TETZE

Friday, August 24  
 Candle lighting time .....7:30 p.m.  
 Saturday, August 25 .....10:00 a.m.  
**BAT MITZVAH OF NORA SEEHERMAN**  
 Minchah .....5:15 p.m.

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### KI TAVO

Friday, August 31  
 Candle lighting time .....7:18 p.m.  
 Saturday, September 1 .....10:00 a.m.  
 Minchah .....5:15 p.m.

## Mazel to

- Joan & Marty Meyer on the birth of their great-grandson, Miles Bravyak

## Condolences to:

- Surita Coplan on the passing of her sister, Gloria Greenberg Specter
- Shirley Green on the passing of her sister, Eve Ziegler
- The family of Annabel Morris on her passing
- Margie Rifkin on the passing of her mother, Elaine German



**Temple Israel Wilkes Barre**

# ☆ July Yahrzeits ☆

**Week of July 1 – July 7:** Daniel Amdur, Joseph Block, Morris Cutler, Joan Davis, Louis Feldman, Margaret Karassik, Minnie Klein, Louise Kupperman, Joseph Leventhal, Sylvia Mittleman, Jerome Newman, Rose Newsbaum, Harry Poplin, Eva Reisman, Fannie Richter, Ruth Rothman, Julius Savitz, Irving Shulman, Lena Siegel, Marc Sirota, Leah Trompetter, Leah Ufberg

**Week of July 8 – July 14:** Eleanor Barr, Arthur Burnat, Ruth Cavanaugh, Elizabeth Dattner, Mildred Dattner, Esther Engel, Jean Mittleman Epstein, Leonard Friedman, Albert Gelb, Manny Gordon, Carol Swit Kaplan, Elkin Kaplan, Woodrow Kaufer, Joseph Kellner, Ella Kluger, Mildred Leventhal, Sarah Levy, Bernard Morris, Morris Perloff, Philip Plaksin, Tillie Plotkin, Ronald Popky, Joseph Rabinowitz, Eugene Rosen, Lottie Rosenthal, Alfred Rothschild, Joseph Savitz, Jack Schoenfeld, Albert Schwager, Juliette Stein Brown, Louis Unterberger, William J. Weisberger

**Week of July 15 – July 21:** Myron Ball, Bernard Bartikowsky, M.D. Brandwene, Mildred Brown, David Clearfield, Lillian Grabar, George Green, Sam Hirshowitz, Harold Hyman, Morris Israel, Sarah Kanoff, Isaac Krasno, Ned Levey, Hannah Mendelssohn, Frieda Morris, Beverly Morrow Siegel, Dorothy Nachlis, Bessie Naveen, Sidney Newman, Bertha Saidman, Sara Saidman, Stephanie Schurak, Charles Shapiro, Alfred Stern, Albert Sussman, Louise Tischler, Al Ufberg

**Week of July 22 – July 31:** Irving Baron, Abraham Barras, Joseph Blum, Irving Brown, Adele Coblentz, Max Cohen, Oscar Connor, Manny Cumsky, Jacob Feldman, Joan Betty Fishman, Hyman Goichman, Fannie Goldstein, Julius Greenberg, Sol Gutterman, Oscar Hacker, Minnie Harris, Beatrice Hearst, Leopold Hochberger, Nathan Iscovitz, David Jacobs, Emil Kellner, Irving Kirshner, Benjamin Klavonski, Jacob Klavonski, Shirley Klein, Ruth Korson, Irving Lang, Dora Levinson, Ida Levitt, David Libenson, Mervyn Mersay, Barbara Miller, Max Moskowitz, Charles Nelson, Sara Newman, Murray Popky, Aaron Rand, Arnold Rifkin, Mrs. Rose Rinzler, Wayne Robertson, Minna Rosenbaum, Louis Rubel, Ethel Sadock, Michael Salamon, Zelda Salamon, Arthur Savitz, Harry Savitz, Bette Schecter, Marion Smulyan, Rebecca Tishman, Mary Waxman, Sol Weiss

# ☆ August Yahrzeits ☆

**Week of August 1 – August 7:** 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, Leon Franklin, Sidney Friedman, Frederick Gordon, Sadie Grossman, Samuel Hanovice, Ruth Kluger, Leah Levanthal, Jean Levin, Sara Levinson, Theodore Levinson, Jacob Levy, Henry Mermel, Aronita Mitchneck, Bertha Rappaport, Sarah Robin, Elsie Salsburg, Michael Schoenholtz, Rosalind Schweiger, Rosalyn Smulowitz, William Speizman, Milton Wiener

**Week of August 8 – August 14:** Beth Abrams, Esther Beber, Avram Behar, Marian Blum, Clara Brown, Maxine Coblentz, Harry Frank, A.H. Gallow, Jack Geller, Murray Geller, Adele Gevirtz, Max Goldstein, Ruth Gordon, Connie Green, Polina Gurevich, Joel Hanovice, Lenore Harris, Anna Idelchik, Herbert Levy, Harvey Miller, Harry Mitchneck, Ruth Morris, Abe Naveen, Rose Plesssett, Harry Rifkin, Bertha Rosenthal, Hilde Schwager, Meyer Schwartz, Mildred Silberman, Marjorie Slomowitz, Henry Thalenfeld, Isaac Werner, Israel Zager, Barbara Zwirn

**Week of August 15 – August 21:** Mollie Abrahamson, Elaine Adelson, Stuart Beck, Anna Birnbaum, Bessie Bloom, Matilda Burnat, David Feldman, Jack Friedman, Arthur Gelfand, Samuel Goldstein, Morris Greenberg, Rose Greenberg, Jacob Groh, Ethel Haber, Philip Hershkwitz, Irving Hinerfeld, Seymour Hirschhorn, Geraldine Hyman, Sylvia Isaacs, Mollie Kaplan, Howard Kayton, Sidney Keiser, Anna Krotick, Dr. Lewis Krotick, Mildred Lang, Amy Levitin, Lewis Mermel, Sylvia Messinger, Eva Raub, Irving Robin, Ethel Schoenholtz, Seymour Schoenholtz, Murray Sims, Bruce Smulowitz, Norman Sondheim, Samuel H. Stuttman, Shirley Troy, Ethel Wachtler, Margaret Weisberger, Pauline Yourdon

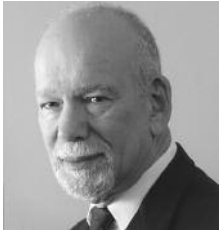
**Week of August 22 – August 31:** Marsha Alter, Phyllis Berger, Robert Berman, Marie Blizzard, Esther Bratkowsky, Gladys Cohen, Ronnie Cooper Haims, Ethel Cutler, Harry Danoff, Morris Ehrenreich, Bert Feldman, Rebecca Feldman, Helen Feltz, William Fertig, Gerald Freedman, Daniel Gordon, Philip Gray, Jennie Gutterman, Joseph Hollander, Nathan Hyman, Louis Isaacs, Milton Krotick, Harry Kuffler, Jacob Libenson, Mollie Libenson, Dr. Alfred Meyer, Harry Minkoff, Anne Null, Mitchell Plesssett, Rose Popky, Leona Racusin, Miriam Rips, Gilbert Roth, Isaac Rudolph, Shirley Rudolph, Joseph S. Savitz, Irving Schoenholtz, Benjamin Schonfeld, Samuel Slaff, Dorothy Slaff Dattner, Velma Smith, Constance Stern, Samuel Utan, Esther Weiss

## 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	RALPH & MURIEL KLEIN MEMORIAL FUND	RABINOWITZ TALLIT FUND
THE MURIEL BRAVMAN MEMORIAL FUND	HANNAH & WILLIAM S. KLINE LIBRARY FUND	JOAN F. & HERBERT L. RITTENBERG FAMILY ENDOWMENT
BUILDING FUND	CINDY & MATT KRUGER B'NAI MITZVOT CANDLESTICK FUND	SALLYANNE, HAROLD & FRANK SCOTT ROSENAN COMMUNITY SERVICE ENDOWMENT
BIBLE FUND (\$10)	LANDAU PAVILION FUND	SAIDMAN-GREENWALD TORAH FUND (\$18 MINIMUM)
CHAI CONTRIBUTIONS (\$18)	JONAS & MILDRED LANG CHILDREN'S FUND	SANCTUARY FUND (\$25)
SALLY & RALPH CONNOR HIDDUR MITZVAH FUND	LEVY CHAPEL FUND	FRED & MARGOT SCHWAGER MEMORIAL FUND
JOSEPH N. COPLAN PRAYER BOOK FUND	BEN LIBENSON MEMORIAL ART FUND	SHAFFER SHABBAT KIDDUSH FUND
CHARLOTTE & JOE CUTLER FUND	FRANK & HILDA LUBIN FEED THE HOMELESS FUND	SHAFFER SUKKAH ENDOWMENT
FEED THE HOMELESS FUND	LYONS EDUCATION FUND	EVA & NATHAN SHAIMAN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND
FRIEDMAN INTERFAITH ENDOWMENT	MINNIE MORRELL MUSIC FUND	SILBERMAN MEZUZZAH FUND
ROBERT FRIEDMAN LITURGICAL MUSIC FUND	MINYAN FUND	SIMS ENDOWMENT
IRWIN H. GELB EDUCATIONAL FUND	BARBARA NEWSBAUM MILLER PRAYER BOOK FUND	MARK SLOMOWITZ MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT
HAPPY DAY FUND	SAM NELSON CARE PACKAGE FUND	HAROLD & VELMA SMITH HEBREW SCHOOL FUND
ENID HERSHEY KIDDUSH CUP FUND	DORIS & JEROME NEWMAN EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT FUND	SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE FUND
HIGH HOLIDAY PRAYER BOOK FUND (\$7.50)	PASCALE/KAPLAN EDUCATIONAL FUND	THE DAVID & LILLIAN THALENFELD JEWISH ENRICHMENT ENDOWMENT FOR STUDENTS
LAWRENCE HOLLANDER B'NAI MITZVAH PRAYER BOOK FUND	ALICE, DR. WILLIAM, I. MALCOLM AND STANLEY PEARLMAN ENDOWMENT	MAX & TILLIE UNGAR FAMILY MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT
MARION & JACOB ISAACS ENDOWMENT	CHARLES & ROSE POPKY EDUCATIONAL FUND	USY/KADIMA FUND
DORIS & SIDNEY KEISER KERUV FUND	PRAYER BOOK FUND	MORRIS VILENSKY MEMORIAL FUND
EMIL & NATALIE KELLNER HEBREW SCHOOL FUND	RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND	
ESTHER & NATHAN KLEIN PASSOVER ENDOWMENT		

# From Our President. . .



Joe Mitchneck

**The following are remarks presented by Joe Mitchneck at the annual dinner held June 10, 2018**

Good evening. Rabbi, Cantor, current and past Board members, Temple members, friends, and family who are with us tonight. It is an honor to stand before you and be installed as Board President. Temple Israel and its

members have become an extended family for me and Bedonna, and we are very thankful for your support. Speaking of family, Bedonna and I are very fortunate to have with us tonight our daughter Ivy Frajerman with her husband Eric and children Noah, Brett, and Alana, with Eric's parents Harry and Myrna Frajerman; our son-in-law Jay Seeherman who was married to our daughter Heidi of blessed memory, with their daughters Samantha and Nora, with Jay's mother Sheila Seeherman; our daughter Robyn Finberg with her husband Brad and their children Brie and Derek; my sister Sandie Buller and Bedonna's brother Hal Levine. Thank you all for sharing this night with us.

Many thanks to Fred Levy, nominating committee chairman, and the nominating committee for selecting outstanding new board members and officers. Our new board members are Judge Lesa Gelb, Lisa Klee, Dr. Jeff Lubin, and Cooky Savitz, and they will help bring new ideas to our board. Our officers are Jeff Yelen, V.P. Finance and Development; Debbie Troy, V.P. Religious and Educational affairs; Dan Messinger, V.P. Congregational Engagement; and Joel Zitofsky, V.P. Administration and Recording Secretary. They have served many years on our board and have gone through invaluable leadership training. As you can see by their titles, they are prepared to take on more defined roles as part of their duties. Also, many thanks to Debbie Schonfeld and the dinner committee who have made the dinner arrangements and especially to Debbie who has provided support for all Temple activities for many years.

As many of you are aware, Conservative Judaism has gone through many changes over the last two or three years. Recently I attended Sulam for Officers, a training program sponsored by the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism and I am proud to say our congregation has been at the forefront in and have already implemented many of the new ideas discussed at this conference. USCJ has actively promoted a more modern approach to Conservative Judaism, and our leadership has embraced and promoted many of these ideas. Through our Visioning Process we have formulated five Bold Statements that we use as our roadmap. The road hasn't been easy, but thanks to the dedication of many people including Rabbi Kaplan, Cantor Abraham, Bob Greenwald, Ina Lubin, Rosemary Chromey, Sheri Robzen, and Abbe Kruger, we are on track to achieve our goals.

The ways we reach out to our members and potential members is in transition. We have identified different

groups of Jews who are unique in their diversity: by age (millennials, baby boomers, seniors), by life choices (interfaith couples), and by religious beliefs. Rabbi Mike Uram, author of a book titled "Next Generation Judaism", discusses what he calls Empowerment Jews versus Engagement Jews. Empowerment Jews regularly participate in Jewish activities, socialize with many other Jews, and feel comfortable in formal Jewish settings, such as Shabbat services. Engagement Jews socialize with more people from different backgrounds, feel deeply Jewish but don't necessarily feel the need to seek out Jewish experiences, and fear they don't have enough Jewish knowledge to feel comfortable at prayer services. Our Temple Israel leadership is working to provide meaningful prayer services, social interaction, and community engagement to have all Jews feel welcome and meet their individual needs. It will be our Board's role to continue to nurture our programs, prayer services, and community participation to offer opportunities to all Jews no matter what their background.

In Sh'lach L'cha, our Torah portion this week, Moses was commanded by God to send 12 scouts (the leaders of the 12 tribes) to visit the land of Canaan to determine if the land was fertile, whether the people strong or weak, and whether the cities were open or fortified. After 40 days they returned with clusters of grapes and had gathered pomegranates and figs to show the land was flowing with milk and honey. Ten of the scouts reported that the people living there were too strong and the cities were greatly fortified. Two scouts, Caleb and Joshua, insisted that the land can be conquered as God had commanded. The people rebelled and God punished the people by making them spend forty years in the wilderness, one year for each day of the expedition. We want our members to be like Caleb and Joshua and not be naysayers. Temple Israel does not have forty years to think about our next steps. We must act now as a unified group to achieve our goals. We need our members to be open-minded to change and support our new programming whether it be social action or new ways to celebrate at services or community projects.

We need to continue to grow and evolve. Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher, has been quoted as saying "change is the only constant in life." Let's hope for the support of our members as we continue our quest for progress in this ever changing world.

## 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.

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

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**Change Service Requested**

July 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	Shabbat Services 10:00 a.m. 7
8	9	10	11	12	Shabbat Dinner 6:00 p.m. in the Vestry	13 Shabbat Services 10:00 a.m. 14
15	16	17	18	19	20	Shabbat Services 10:00 a.m. 21 Erev Tisha B'av 5:15 p.m.
Tisha B'av 22	23	24	25	Executive Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m. 26	27	Shabbat Services 10:00 a.m. 28
29	30	31				

August 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	Shabbat Services 10:00 a.m. 4
Pauly Friedman Walk/Run at Misericordia 9:00 a.m. 5	6	7	8	9	10	Shabbat Services 10:00 a.m. 11
Bible and Bagels 8:30 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	Nora Seeherman Bat Mitzvah 10:00 a.m. 25
26	27	28	29	30	31	