



TEMPLE ISRAEL CHRONICLE

"Dor L'Dor – Generation to Generation"



Volume 18, Issue 10

November 2019 Chesvan/Kislev 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
Jane Messinger, Executive Director
Gerri Kaplan, Principal

Officers:

Joe Mitchneck, President
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 P.M.**

Shabbat Services:

Saturday Morning, 10:00 AM

*See Detailed Shabbat Schedule
Inside*

Phone: (570) 824-8927

Email: office@templewb.org
Website: templewb.org

Layout design courtesy of
Bedwick & Jones Printng.

Join us! Friday, November 8th at 6pm



unplug, nosh, be thankful, connect

Musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service

followed by

Shabbat Dinner

**Take a few hours out of your busy life to gather
at the synagogue with members, family, friends!**

**We'll say blessings, sip some wine,
dine, kibbitz, and socialize.**

**Dairy Meal. Exact menu yet to be determined.
As always, salad, fruit and dessert will be served!**

\$15 per person, \$7 for kids 4-13, free for children under 4

RSVP's due by Nov. 5th

Call the Temple Office or email info@templewb.org

Rabbi Kaplan



Writes...

On Thursday, November 15 Gerri and I will be the honorees at the first Brandon's Forever Home gala event, called "Homes for the Holidays". Brandon's Forever Home is a 501c3 charitable organization located in downtown Hazleton created to raise awareness about children in foster care and their need for permanent loving homes. It was founded by Attorney Lorine Ogurkis and State Rep. Tarah Toohil. They purchased an actual home on Church Street and over



the past few years have filled it with donated clothes, shoes, costumes, books, supplies, toys, and just about anything a foster child might want or need to feel more "normal" and more accepted. They supply tutoring, mentoring, and care for foster children. And the foundation promotes permanent families, or "forever families" for the foster children in Luzerne County.

Lorine writes on the Brandon's home page: "Since its inception, Brandon's Forever Home has worked to end the use of garbage bags for luggage for the over 400 children in the Luzerne County Foster Care system.... We have fed our community's families, and clothed our community's children. Children are welcomed to our home and given the opportunity to shop for anything they need including clothing, shoes, toiletries and personal hygiene products. The end



goal of this is to provide these children with the tools they need to boost their own self confidence and fit in to society with the hope of connecting with their permanent family!"

I recall the snowstorm back in 2005 when Ashley was dropped off at our home by Children and Youth workers who couldn't make it out to the foster home in Archibald where she was headed, her 12th foster home. They asked us to keep her overnight until the weather cleared up. She came into our house with a large black trash bag filled with all of her worldly possessions.

Gerri has had our own Hebrew School students pack new backpacks with essential items and stuffed animals to give to Children and Youth for children placed in foster care in an emergency, and our students have helped to make blankets for these kids as well. So it was very personal when we were asked to be the honorees for this first fundraising event for Brandon's home.

There's another coincidence with Brandon's Forever Home. Co-founder Rep. Tarah Toohil adopted Jacob, the younger brother of our own Brielle. Their sister Olivia was adopted by cousins of Gerri in New York. So sharing the blessing of this family, and providing forever homes for these kids ties us all together.

And while we'd love to see you all at the event, I don't expect you to come. The tickets are \$150 a piece! I'd go broke just bringing my own children! Luckily there is an ad journal, and I believe they will still be accepting ads which begin at \$25 until the beginning of November. I also know that any donation will be appreciated. So even if you're not going to become a gold sponsor (at \$10,000) or even a silver sponsor (at \$5,000) just being aware of this important local

foundation for kids in our community is a benefit for foster care.

The theme is "Homes for the Holidays". Gerri and I, although honored to be highlighted, are still not sure what to expect, but something tells me it's not going to be focused on the holiday of Chanukah! But what really matters is that there are an ever increasing number of children in our county that are going into the foster care system, and if decking the halls of the Westmoreland Club with holly (or is it "challe"?) can bring in funds to support these children then we're all for it. And if more homes can be found to provide a stable family life for these kids, God bless that effort.

For questions or more information, please contact **Kristin Nash** at kristin@ignite-strategies.com or 717.991.9336.

-Rabbi



Annual Pulpit Exchange

This year's Annual Pulpit Exchange between Temple Israel and First Presbyterian Church will take place this month as follows:

Saturday, November 9th
Rev. Dr. Robert Zanicky at
Temple Israel

Shabbat Services begin at 10:00 a.m.
Please join us in welcoming him and our neighbors from First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 17th
Rabbi Kaplan will speak at
First Presbyterian Church

97 South Franklin St. Wilkes-Barre
Services begin at 10:00 a.m.
Everyone is invited to attend.



from Cantor

As I write this article, we've just finished the beautiful holiday of Sukkot, concluding the holiday season. Many of you attended services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, appreciating the traditional and creative mix we're now bringing to our worship. Some of you celebrated Sukkot with us, enjoying the beauty of our Sukkah, processions with the lulav and etrog and the special prayers and melodies reserved for Festivals. Now there's a "dry" period, with no Jewish holidays until Chanukkah. Don't despair. There's a very "Jewish" holiday in the month of November – Thanksgiving!

Perhaps one of the most beautiful aspects of Thanksgiving is that it's a celebration for all Americans, regardless of their religious affiliation. But as Jews, we have the honor of being the inspiration for this holiday. Let's look at its origins. The Puritan Christians who landed on American shores dreamed of finding a place where they'd be free to worship as they pleased. They considered themselves "new Israelites" in a "new Promised Land". Fleeing religious persecution in England, the Pilgrims saw themselves as the Chosen People escaping a brutal King (James I) who they referred to as Pharaoh, casting off the yolk of bondage and oppression. They likened their voyage on the Mayflower to the Israelite's passage through the Red Sea into the wilderness. For inspiration, they looked to Exodus and even studied Hebrew in order to read it in the original (they actually considered adopting Hebrew as the language of the New World). As they learned to survive in their new home, the Wampanoag taught them to farm and build temporary huts (wigwams or sukkot depending on which tribe you're from). When they

celebrated their first successful harvest, the Pilgrims likely based that celebration on the ancient Jewish harvest festival of Sukkot, feasting and offering prayers of thanksgiving to God.

The American holiday of Thanksgiving celebrates more than just the Pilgrim's story. It has historically been a time of giving thanks for the success and preservation of this great country. Thanksgiving days were proclaimed during early American history by George Washington and John Adams to celebrate the establishment of the nation, but it wasn't until the conclusion of the Civil War that Lincoln made it a national holiday, celebrating the reunification of the country.

We Jews have thrived in America, and have contributed much to it. Even in the earliest days of the republic, our founding fathers exhibited a predominantly positive attitude towards Jews and Judaism, here reflected in the words of George Washington:

"May the children of the stock of Abraham who dwell in this land continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other inhabitants—while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid."

Throughout US history, Jews have enjoyed more freedom here than anywhere else in the world – not that it's been perfect, but ultimately right has prevailed, and we've succeeded in helping to build and improve this country. As you celebrate Thanksgiving this year, be proud of both your American and Jewish heritage. May America continue to be a beacon of freedom to all people.

A Happy Thanksgiving to all!

-Cantor

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.





Midrasha Happenings

Midrasha started classes this year with preparation for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. After Yom Kippur we moved right into learning about Sukkot and Simchat Torah and Shemini Atzeret.

On Thursday October 17 Hebrew school was held at Temple Israel. After learning songs and the meaning of the holiday all the children had a chance to make the appropriate blessings over the Lulav and Etrog in a small pop-up Succah with **Rabbi Perlman**. At the end of class the children were treated to a pizza supper in the beautiful Temple Israel Succah. The Succah was decorated by **Cantor and Carole Abraham** and assisted by our BBYO teens. Although the

weather was cold and windy the children and parents had a wonderful time.

On Sunday October 20th Hebrew school students had a chance to celebrate Simchat Torah and Shemini Atzeret at Temple B'nai B'rith. A very special treat was watching the Torah being unfolded around the sanctuary as all the adults helped to hold it out straight. The children learned how the Torah will be read again from the beginning. **Rabbi Mollo** explained that it takes a whole year for a Torah to be printed by hand.

Children received small Israeli flags in honor of Simchat Torah. The children and adults marched around the sanctuary with the Torah. It was a wonderful morning and ended with a special breakfast prepared by volunteers at B'nai B'rith. Midrasha students had two wonderful experiences during the festival week of Sukkot.

Class time is so important not only for studies but for the comradery of the students and the building of their Jewish identities. Please make sure students attend classes as much as possible. Any questions or concerns please feel free to contact **Rabbi Mollo** or **Gerri**.



Happy November Birthday to Our Students

Nov. 17: Maya Rosenthal | Nov. 19: Jacob Kaplan



Isabelle Clark Bat Mitzvah November 16th, 5:15 p.m.

Salutations, I'm Isabelle Clark. I am 12 years old and I live in Sweet Valley. I am the youngest child of Kenneth and Sharon Clark. I have three older brothers: Kenny, Callen and Justin. My hobbies include piano, writing, coding, drawing and reading ahead in textbooks. I enjoy visiting New York City, walking through Central Park, getting lost at The Met and seeing Broadway shows. I have been researching the Torah thoroughly, so it would be an honor if anyone chooses to attend. May this Bat Mitzvah be as beautiful as Havdalah itself.

-Isabelle Clark



Sukkot ~ Hoshana Rabbah ~ Simchat Torah Photo Gallery



Special Thanks

- ..to the Sarah & Louis Shaffer Family Sukkah Endowment for underwriting the Temple Sukkah.
- ..to the Mark Slomowitz Memorial Endowment, which provides the "Pizza in the Hut" for Sukkot, and funding for other childrens' parties throughout the year.
- ..to our Midrasha students and teens who helped with Operation Isaiah.
- ..to Cantor Ahron and Carole Abraham for once again giving their time and talents in supervising the Temple Sukkah decorating.
- ..to BBYO for decorating the Temple Sukkah.

Adult Education & B'nai Mitzvah Classes

Have you been to Temple for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, or heard someone chant a haftarah and thought, "I wish I could do that!" Well, you can, and the time is NOW! Rabbi and Cantor are beginning a new Adult B'nai Mitzvah class - both women and men are welcome. We will help you:

Learn more about our heritage, history and practices

Refresh or advance your Hebrew reading skills

Discover the ancient systems of biblical cantillation (trope) and nusach (prayer modes)

Learn to read a Torah or haftarah portion, lead a part of the service, or do all 3!

We will work with you in a combination of group and one-on-one personalized sessions to help you develop your skills.

You're welcome to take one or all of the courses we offer. We will culminate our studies with a group B'nai Mitzvah ceremony, but you're welcome to study with us to achieve your own individual goals.

If interested contact Rabbi or Cantor by calling the office 570-824-8927 or emailing them at:
rabbi@templewb.org or cantor@templewb.org

SERVICE SCHEDULE

NOACH

Friday, November 1

Candle lighting time.....5:40 p.m.

Saturday, November 2.....10:00 a.m.

Haftarah will be chanted by Saraea Kaplan

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

LECH LECHA

Friday, November 8

Candle lighting time.....4:32 p.m.

Saturday, November 9.....10:00 a.m.

Haftarah will be chanted by Sara Friedman

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

VAYERA

Friday, November 15

Candle lighting time.....4:25 p.m.

Saturday, November 16.....10:00 a.m.

Bat Mitzvah of Isabelle Clark

Haftarah will be chanted by Bob Greenwald

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

CHAYE SARAH

Friday, November 22

Candle lighting time.....4:20 p.m.

Saturday, November 23.....10:00 a.m.

Haftarah will be chanted by Mark Finkelstein

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

TOLDOT

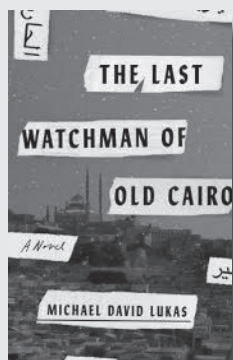
Friday, November 29

Candle lighting time.....4:17 p.m.

Saturday, November 30.....10:00 a.m.

Haftarah will be chanted by Cantor Abraham

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



NOVEMBER BOOK CLUB

Sunday, November 10th

6:00 p.m. (If dining)

6:15 p.m. (Discussion)

at Theo's Metro, Luzerne

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

This year's Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving service will be hosted by First Presbyterian Church, 97 South Franklin St. Wilkes-Barre on Tuesday, November 26th at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

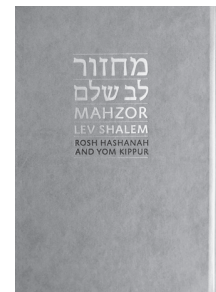
Condolences to:

Merel Libenson on the passing of her beloved partner, Aaron Bravman

Matt Kruger on passing of his sister Roberta Warshawsky

Mazel Tov to:

Paula Chaiken & Joe Kraus on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Teddy Kraus

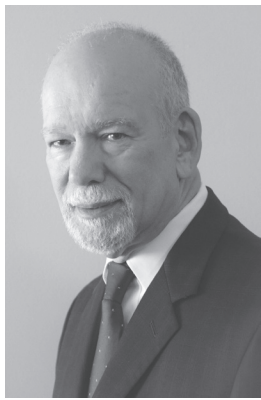


New Machzor Dedications

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!

Yahrzeits & Acknowledgments

We are making great progress completing our systems and data recovery since the ransomware attack in August. We expect to be able to include the lists of Acknowledgments and Yahrzeits in the next issue of the Chronicle. We appreciate your understanding.



From the President...

I am sorry to announce that at the end of this month we will be losing **Jane Messinger** as our Executive Director. As many of you are aware, **Jane** has had some health issues

during the time she has been in this position. At this time she is resigning to be able to focus fulltime on her health. **Jane** and I worked very closely over the last year and one half and I will miss her positive and creative attitude, keen perception of what is important, and her dedication to our Temple and our community. Please join me in wishing her well in the future.

During November we will once again be welcoming **Reverend Dr. Robert Zanicky** for our Annual Pulpit Exchange. This annual event serves to enhance the affiliation between Temple Israel and First Presbyterian Church as members of the Downtown Wilkes-Barre Ministerium. **Reverend Zanicky** is a strong supporter of Israel and has accompanied **Rabbi Kaplan**

to Israel several times. He will speak at our synagogue on November 9th and **Rabbi Kaplan** will participate in the service at First Presbyterian on November 17th. Everyone is welcome at both of these services.

As always, I strongly encourage all the members to support and participate in our religious, educational, social and cultural programs and activities that we have to offer. Our goal is to provide for your needs by expanding the choices available to you. Please don't hesitate to suggest new programs or to volunteer to help coordinate existing activities. Feel free to contact me with any suggestions for what you think may be missing. I look forward to your input.

-Joe Mitchneck

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!



ATTENTION TORAH ENTHUSIASTS: Bible & Bagels Dates Set 12/8, 1/5, 3/15, 4/19

We are pleased to announce that one of our Trustees, Dr. Jeff Lubin, is the new Chair of these stimulating morning discussions led by our clergy. Jeff returned to the area after living in Florida for several years where he regularly attended weekly study sessions at his synagogue in Destin. He hopes to create a weekly discussion group for Parsha and Torah study here at Temple Israel. Contact Jane Messinger at the office or email Jeff if you're interested in participating. He can be reached at thelub@epix.net.

Sundays at 8:00 a.m. in the vestry



Minyan & Yoga on Sundays! 11/24, 12/29

In a time in which we are constantly bombarded with information inviting us to pay attention to our body, being present is such an important and vital component of a spiritually fulfilling experience.

Connecting to our bodies connects us to the present and allows us to fully be present to pray, and to be grateful. It is with this intention that we invite you to join us for Sunday morning Minyan at 8:00 a.m. followed by yoga in the vestry.

All levels of Yoga experience are welcome. Please wear comfortable clothing. Some mats are available, but please bring a yoga mat and blocks or bring a towel.

Temple Israel
613 S.J. Strauss Ln. Suite #2
Kingston PA 18704
Change Service Requested

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November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	Shabbat Services 10:00 a.m. 2
Midrasha 8:45 a.m. 3	Interfaith Luncheon 4 honoring Rev. Dr. Robert Zanicky 12:00 p.m.	5	6	No Midrasha 7	Musical Kabbalat Service & Shabbat Dinner 6:00 p.m. 8	Shabbat Services 10:00 a.m. 9 Pulpit Exchange Shabbat with Rev. Bob Zanicky
Midrasha 8:45 a.m. 10 Book Club 6:00 p.m.	Veterans Day 11	12	13	Midrasha 3:30 p.m. 14	15	Shabbat Services 10:00 a.m. 16 Havdalah Bat Mitzvah of Isabelle Clark 5:15 p.m.
Midrasha 8:45 a.m. 17 Pulpit Exchange: Rabbi Kaplan at First Presbyterian 10:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting 7:15 p.m. 18	Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. 19	20	Midrasha 3:30 p.m. 21 Midrasha Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.	22	Shabbat Services 10:00 a.m. 23
Midrasha 8:45 a.m. 24 Minyan & Yoga 8 a.m.	25	Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at First Presbyterian 7:00 p.m. 26	27	Thanksgiving Day 28 No Midrasha	29	Shabbat Services 10:00 a.m. 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
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
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