



Volume 23- Issue 8

TEMPLE ISRAEL CHRONICLE

Aug.-Sept. 2022 ☆ Av-Elul 5782

PLEASE JOIN US



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2022

2022~HIGH HOLIDAYS~5782

ROSH HASHANA

Monday & Tuesday, September 26th & 27th

YOM KIPPUR

Wednesday, October 5th



Rabbi Kaplan *Writes...*

We had a tough transition from the end of spring into summer. We lost a number of amazing people

in our congregation. **Essy Davidowitz, z"l** (Zichrona Livracha, May her memory be a blessing) was a constant support and inspiration to everyone she touched. Her legacy will live on at Temple Israel. **Shirley Sullum, z"l**, was the essence of kindness and her ever-present smile revealed the pride she had in her wonderful family. **Mike Pensak, z"l**, carried on the family's Kosher deli and the memory of his goodness in this community will last for all time. Atty. **Liz Bartolai, z"l** left us much too soon, but was a proud parent to her children who became Bar and Bat Mitzvah on our Bima and was always available to help with our school programs. **Harold Rosenn, z"l**. How to sum up in a few words Harold's life, his influence on Temple Israel and our community, his tireless work for his clients, his generosity, his stories? Let's just say he's keeping the angels very busy up there. And **Dick Burnat, z"l**, devoted to his beloved Adria whose long-term illness became his only concern, was a regular in shul on Shabbat mornings.

As we anticipate our **Centennial** Anniversary of our congregation on **Saturday, September 17th**, we know that these and so many other names will be in our hearts as we recall their service and dedication to our congregational family. Temple Israel has been a proud part of the Wyoming Valley, and we have been part of the growth and stability of both the Jewish and general community.

Looking back on one hundred years of Jewish history at Temple Israel we may marvel at the fact that in the 1920's no one had bad knees. Outside, a dozen and a half steps up to the Sanctuary doors, and once inside the restrooms are halfway down the stairs toward the Vestry. Stairs to the balcony and choir loft, stairs up to the Bima, and even more steps to get to the Ark! With all of the medical advances we've made since then, I wonder why so few of us can handle all those steps these days!

I wonder what it was like at a Shabbat morning service back then. There were undoubtedly lots of people attending, and probably wearing their Shabbat best. Women were not on the Bima and probably were

not for many years. But families did sit together since there was never a Mechitza (divider) at Temple Israel. The choir sang in the choir loft above the Bima. I wish we had recordings of those services. Cantor Abraham has found some music from the early years, and we hope to share some on the morning of our Centennial celebration at services on September 17.

I do not know what Siddur (prayer book) was used then. The black Silverman Sabbath and Festival prayer book dates from the late 1940's, although there was a United Synagogue Machzor developed by 1927. Our Silverman prayer books were replaced by the Sim Shalom which was available by 1985. Within the last twenty some years we adopted the Siddur Chadash (The New Siddur) which was produced by Conservative rabbis but was published by Media Judaica and not through the official Conservative Movement. It has extensive transliteration, and its English translation adopted an egalitarian approach to God. It is as if the publisher anticipated today's concern about the pronouns people would like used. So, God is never referred to as "He" in our current siddur.

But Media Judaica has closed its doors, so these prayer books are no longer available. As we move forward into our next 100 years, we may consider adopting the newest United Synagogue siddur, **Lev Shalem**, which some of us are already familiar with when we purchased them as our Machzor for the High Holidays before Covid. We look forward to using this new Machzor in our sanctuary this Rosh Hashanah.

So, congratulations to our extended Temple Israel family for our first 100 years, and we're hoping for a wonderful future that will continue to follow the byword of our Conservative Movement: "Tradition and Change." **Mazal Tov!**

-Rabbi

Bible & Bagels

Sponsored by Cindy Levinson



Sunday, August 28th

9:30 a.m. – Service in Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. - Study Session in vestry

RSVP via email info@templewb.org
or call the office.



Cantor's Notes



The Sinai Desert – a little over a year after the Exodus from Egypt. The Israelites are preparing for the conquest of the Promised Land. These former slaves have no self-confidence or courage, and despite all of the Divine miracles they've witnessed, still lack faith in God. In an attempt to get the people behind the imminent military confrontation with the inhabitants of Canaan, **Moses** sends 12 spies, prominent men from each tribe, to scout the land. Moses apparently hoped the beautiful, fertile land would inspire them. Unfortunately, all but 2 of the spies gave a negative report and swayed the people against **Moses**. God's response – the slave generation that came out of Egypt is condemned to die in the wilderness. The date of this Divine decree – the 9th of Av.

Thus began the history of **Tisha B'Av**, the saddest day of the entire Jewish year. Both the First and Second Temple were destroyed on that day. In 132CE the **Bar Kochba** revolt was crushed, ending the last Jewish State until modern times. On the 9th of Av in 1095 **Pope Urban II** declared the 1st Crusade, which resulted in the death of over 10,000 Jews in Europe. The Jewish community of England was expelled in 1290 by King Edward I, and 2 centuries later in 1492 Ferdinand and Isabella expelled the Jews of Spain. **Tisha B'Av** also marked the start of WWI, beginning a long period of suffering for the Jews of Europe, including pogroms and massacres, culminating in the Holocaust and the destruction of 6 million of our people during WWII.

Since the reestablishment of the State of Israel in 1948 there has been much discussion about whether **Tisha B'Av** should still be observed. This sentiment increased with the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967. Should we still be mourning past tragedies when Jerusalem is once again our capitol? Although the new State of Israel brought a renewed sense of pride to our people, there is still a place for **Tisha B'Av** in Jewish observance. It serves to remind us of the need for moral and ethical living. It focuses attention on the universal aspects of the Messianic hope. Most importantly, it gives us a sense of our most impressive and often

tragic history, the sacrifices and sufferings of past generations, and affords us an opportunity to learn from our past in order to preserve our future.

August 13 is **Shabbat Nachamu**, the Shabbat of Comfort. This is the first of seven Haftarot of Consolation, uplifting us after **Tisha B'Av**. August 27-28 is the start of the month of Elul, during which we prepare ourselves for the High Holidays. How wonderful it is to start that spiritual rise to the **Yamim Nora'im** after the devastating low of **Tisha B'Av**. Our great sages were practical as well as pious. Aware of human nature and tolerances, they developed our practices and rituals in ways that people would be able to and want to observe. Realizing that we cannot jump right into the High Holidays without preparation, especially following the **Tisha B'Av** period, they ordered the sequence of the haftarot and designated the month of Elul as a time for spiritual introspection, a time to begin the process of granting and asking for forgiveness. We sound the shofar each day (except Shabbat) to awaken our souls.

Although we've been following this sequence for thousands of years, this year feels all the more special as we celebrate our 100th High Holidays together. When my family and I arrived here just a week before High Holidays in 1988, we couldn't have imagined that we'd be celebrating this milestone 35 years later. I'm honored and humbled to be the cantor of Temple Israel as we turn 100. May our congregation continue to be a vital part of the Wilkes Barre community for years to come.

-Cantor



Liam Kenewell Bar Mitzvah Saturday, August 13th

Liam Kenewell will be called to the Torah, Saturday, August 13th surrounded by parents, Bonnie & Jeffrey (J.D.) Kenewell, siblings Talia and Paige, grandmother Leona Mendelssohn and as well extended family and friends. Join us in wishing Liam and his entire family Mazel Tov!

Simchas & Celebrations



Another Bris! Rebecca Wilner & Jon Petrotchko give birth to second son, Noah. Less than a week and Big Brother Landon is already watching over his new brother!



Baby naming of Sophie Aria Messinger
Four generations of Messingers & Weinstocks gathered to celebrate Sophie's special day.



Bat Mitzvah of Leila & Anna Bender : Mazel Tov and welcome to new members, Bryan Bender & Family.

Tischler Baby Naming : Mazel Tov to new members Michael, Ashley & Tischler on the naming of their daughter



Zachary Kaplan's First Birthday: Mazel Tov to the Green's & Kaplan's!



Midrasha Students & Teachers



Brielle Kaplan Graduates from Wyoming Valley West High School
Top Photo: Brielle Kaplan, Lower Photo: Kaplan Family and friends celebrating Brie's accomplishment.

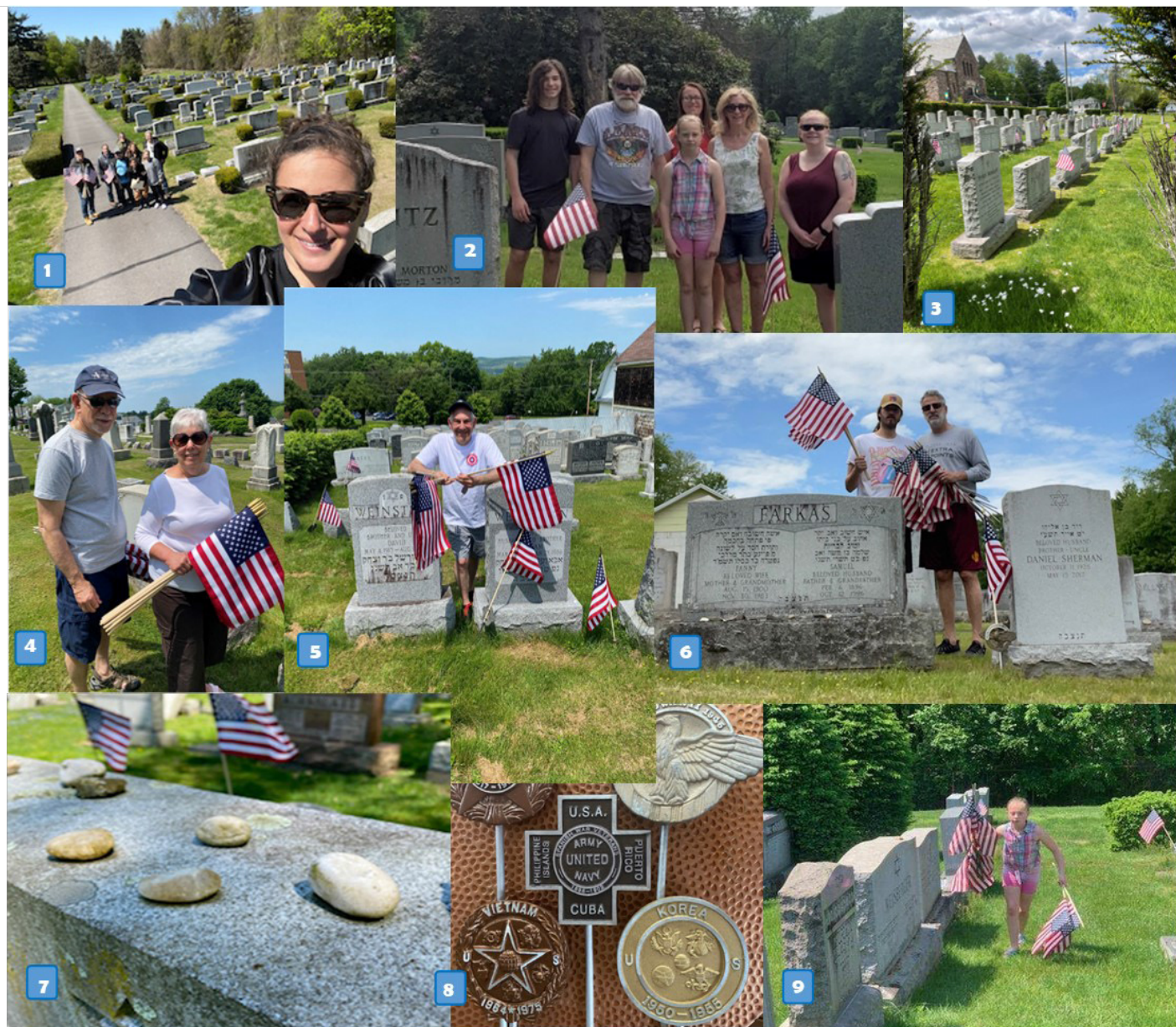


Leah Goldberg receives MD in Emergency Medicine from Temple University
Richard Goldberg & Rosemary Chromey, proud parents celebrating their daughter's academic achievement.

Off to College! Top Row: Sarah Newman- PSU, Jesse Miller- Temple U Honors Program, **Bottom Row:** Bekah Kornfeld- College of Charleston, Haley Friedman-PSU

***Attention Members:** If you have a simcha or celebration to share, please forward photos and pertinent information to info@templewb.org

2022 Jewish War Veterans Memorial Day Flag Replacement In Memory of Sam and Barbara Greenberg



Special thanks to **Janet & Mark Finkelstein** for once again coordinating this year's **Jewish War Veterans Memorial Flag Placement in memory of Sam & Barbara Greenberg**. In commemoration of Memorial Day, volunteers removed old flags and placed fresh new flags on the gravesites of our beloved Jewish War Veterans.

Pictured above: **#1 Temple Israel:** (right side) Family of Sam & Barbara Greenberg's family: Renee, Scott, & Elli Buckler, Sheri, Eric, Jake & Evy Gelver, Gary Greenberg, Mark Greenberg **#2 & #9 Ohav Zedek:** Kenny Johnson & Debbie Troy, Ted & Tammy Bozek, Caitlyn Taylor, Michael Taylor, Ilona Bruns **#3 Workman's Circle:** Rosalie Feldman, **#4 Temple B'nai B'rith:** Joe & Bedonna Mitchneck **#5 Holcher Yosher:** Hal Levine **#6 Anshe Sfard:** Dan & Henry Messinger **#7 Anshe Emes:** Mark & Janet Finkelstein **#8** Sampling of various flag holders in our local cemeteries

Not pictured: **B'nai Jacob:** The Freedmans **Temple Israel:** (left side and B'nai Israel) Anonymous Volunteer **West Pittston/Exeter:** Ed & Celia Connor

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to the following new members to the Temple Israel family:

Hope & Rachel Barsky, Bryan Bender & Family, Avery Bloom, Deborah Costanza, Howard & June Farber, Shell Farber, Linda Jacobson, Michael, Ashley and Hailey Tischler

1922



2022

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

TEMPLE ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

239 South River Street ♦ Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

10:00 AM SPECIAL SHABBAT SERVICE & KIDDUSH
70th ANNIVERSARY TIME CAPSULE REVEAL

6:30 - 9:30 PM

6:30 PM REMARKS & VIDEO PRESENTATION
Highlighting Our 100-Year History

7:30 PM FEATURED PERFORMANCE BY NORM LEWIS
Followed by Dessert Reception in the Vestry

Photo credit: Peter Hurley



Emmy, Grammy, Tony, and SAG Award nominee, **Norm Lewis**, will bring his magical voice and unmistakable charisma as he performs featured selections from his vast repertoire. He recently performed on PBS' 2022 National Memorial Day Concert, and with The New York Pops at Carnegie Hall in "One Night Only: An Evening with Norm Lewis." He recently starred in Spike Lee's critically acclaimed, "Da 5 Bloods," and in the groundbreaking FX series, *Pose*.

Lewis starred in *Chicken and Biscuits*, the Broadway revival of *Once on This Island*, and as Sweeney Todd in the Off-Broadway production of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. In May of 2014, he made history as the first African

American Phantom on Broadway's *The Phantom of the Opera*. Lewis' additional screen credits include Hulu's *Mrs. America*, NBC's *Law & Order* and *Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert!*, ABC's *Scandal* and *Women of the Movement*, Lifetime's *Christmas in Tune*, and six PBS specials.

He received Tony, Drama Desk, Drama League, and Outer Critics Circle award nominations for his performance as Porgy in the Broadway production of *The Gershwins' Porgy & Bess*. Other Broadway credits include *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Les Misérables*, *Chicago*, *Amour*, *The Wild Party*, *Side Show*, *Miss Saigon*, and *The Who's Tommy*. In London's West End he has appeared as Javert in *Les Misérables* and *Les Misérables: The 25th Anniversary Concert*, which aired on PBS.

For a complete BIO visit normlewis.com

USHERS NEEDED

We are looking for a few more people to help greet members and their guests for services and special occasions, and for the upcoming High Holidays.

Please contact the office or Ann Smith, Usher Chair at annsmith26pa@gmail.com if interested.

MEMBER OUTREACH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please contact the office if you'd be willing to take a few names to call or email to help us better inform our members about what's going on at Temple Israel.

Please contact the office at 570-824-8927 or info@templewb.org

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION RSVP

INFORMATION

RSVP's DUE SEPT 5th

It's hard to believe we're only weeks away from our Centennial Celebration! We put an early RSVP date on the invitations so members are guaranteed seats to this rare and momentous occasion.

We hope everyone will join us for a musically enhanced service along with the 70th Anniversary Time-Capsule Reveal. The service is open to anyone and will be followed by kiddush in the vestry catered by Friedman Hospitality Group's **Bank & Vine**.

For the evening event featuring **Norm Lewis, Emmy, Grammy, Tony, and Sag Award nominee**, RSVP's must be received no later than **Monday, September 5th**.

Please note: *To ensure seat availability for our members, up until August 27th seats for the Evening Event will be available and limited to Temple Israel members only. After Aug 27th, seating will open up to extended family and friends of Temple Israel.*

We encourage you to inform the office of the names of anyone you know you would like to invite to the Evening Event and we will inform you of ticket availability for additional guests as soon as we are confident member RSVP's are complete.

For more information please contact the office.

Phone: 570-824- 8927

Email: office@templewb.org



From the President

Friends,

It is with great humility that I move into the role of President of the Board of Trustees. As we approach our Centennial, all of our Trustees, the clergy, and our staff optimistically look forward to once again, connecting with our members in our sanctuary.

I must first acknowledge my predecessor, **Jeffrey Yelen**. The past two years have been filled with apprehension and uncertainty concerning both operations and worship at Temple Israel. Jeff has guided our congregation through these stormy seas and placed us on solid ground- never losing focus on the best interests and well-being of our synagogue and its members.

In addition, a sincere Yasher Koach to our entire Board of Trustees, those whose terms have ended, and those who will be taking seats for the new term. I am pleased to have **Larry Newman** as our newly elected V.P of Congregational Engagement, and the following as new Trustees: **Ilona Bruns, Beverly Berley, Atty. Johanna Gelb, Scott Green, Roman Gurevich, Kelsey Nataupsky and Richard Yelen**. Our slate of Officers and Trustees are both competent, and most importantly, engaged in synagogue life. A complete list of '22-'23 Officers and Trustees can be found on our website by visiting templewb.org/leadership.

The upcoming months will see a flurry of activity in our sanctuary. Bar and Bat Mitzvah's, Bible and Bagels, High Holiday services, and of course our Centennial celebrations. It is with great enthusiasm that we return to our synagogue for these events.

We are thrilled to welcome the following new members to the Temple Israel family: **Hope & Rachel Barsky, Bryan Bender & Family, Avery Bloom, Deborah Costanza, Howard & June Farber, Shell Farber, Linda Jacobson, Michael, Ashley & Hailey Tischler**.

After careful consideration and for various reasons, it has been decided that this year we will not be charging any of our members for High Holiday tickets. We feel that after a 2-year hiatus

from gathering and worshipping in our home, nothing should be an impediment towards attending. We welcome all members and sincerely hope to see all present.

As a congregation, we still have before us many challenges, but I take up this task with great hope. Hope, that we will continue to worship in our magnificent sanctuary. Hope, that the trauma of the pandemic we have lived through, this collective trauma, will heal. Hope, that once again, through the combined efforts of our clergy, our dedicated officers and trustees, our wonderful staff and volunteers, we will usher in the next century and once again fully, wholly, be the community that is Temple Israel.

Dan Messinger

Midrasha School Board President Announced

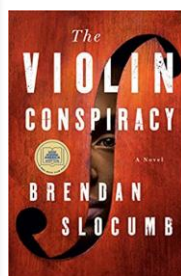


Please welcome **Ilona Bruns**, as President of our Midrasha School Board. Bruns emigrated to Newark, NJ from Kyiv, Ukraine when she was four years old. She has been a real estate agent for 15 years, currently for ERA One Source Realty. She's been in our area since 1994. Her children,

Michael and Caitlin Taylor have attended our Hebrew School for many years. She brings keen insight and a parent's perspective to her new role as President.

We thank **Bedonna Mitchneck**, Immediate Past President, for her years of service as President of the Midrasha School Board.

September Book Club



**Monday, Sept. 12th
6pm at Theo's Metro**

Book Selection:

The Violin Conspiracy by Brendan Slocumb

Our book club is open to anyone, members and non-members alike! If you're interested in joining us please contact Ann Smith, Chair, annsmith126pa@gmail.com or contact the Temple Office.



Temple Israel
613 S.J. Strauss Ln. Suite #2
Kingston, PA 18704
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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
Sally Strayhall, Administrator
Jane Messinger
Linda Israel
Jimmy Stiles

Dan Messinger, President

Schedule of Services

Daily Minyan:

5:15 PM



Shabbat Services:

Saturday, 10:00 AM

Layout Design courtesy of
Bedwick & Jones Printing.

PLEASE READ UPDATED CENTENNIAL EVENT RSVP INFO INSIDE

RSVP Deadlines: Members: AUG 27th. Family & Friends of Members: Sept 5th. Please Note: To ensure seat availability for our members, up until August 27th seats for the Evening Event will be available and limited to Temple Israel members only. After Aug 27th, seating will open up to extended family and friends of Temple Israel. We encourage you to inform the office of the names of anyone you know you would like to invite to the Evening Event and we will inform you of seat availability for guests of members as soon as we are confident member RSVP's are complete. More info inside....

YOUR DONATIONS TO TEMPLE ISRAEL ENDOWMENTS AND FUNDS ARE APPRECIATED!

Whether earmarked for "area of greatest need" or any of the endowments and funds listed below, contributions can be made for any occasion, such as memorials, simchas, recoveries, etc. and acknowledgement notices will be sent out to recipients.

For decades our minimum contribution has been and remains \$5 (unless otherwise noted with the listing), however, with rising costs we hope you will consider making minimum contributions of \$10. Donations can be made through our secure online merchant portal on our website: templewb.org or by mailing your payment and donation details to the office. Thank you!

DR. AND MRS. HAROLD BERSON FUND
THE MURIEL BRAYMAN 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 AND RUTH HOLLANDER B'NAI MITZVAH
PRAYER BOOK ENDOWMENT
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
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FUND
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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
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AND STANLEY PEARLMAN ENDOWMENT
CHARLES & ROSE POPKY EDUCATIONAL FUND
PRAYER BOOK FUND
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RABINOWITZ TALLIT FUND

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(\$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
SUSAN YELEN MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT