TEMPLE ISRAEL
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS
דור לדור
ESTD 1922

Volume 24, Issue 4 | TEMPLE ISRAEL CHRONICLE | Summer 2023 - Sivan,Tamuz, Av 5783

5784 Shana Tova Sweets

Support Temple Israel's High Holiday Fundraiser and delight friends & family with sweetness this Rosh Hashana.

Send a Shana Tova Sweets tote filled with Challah, Honey, Apples & Sweets!

$18 donation per tote. Local Delivery included at no additonal charge.
Order online at templewb.org or by contacting the office.
Order Deadline: Tuesday, September 5th

Become a Sponsor:

Honey: $ 613 Challah: $360 Apple: $118

Volunteers needed to help with assembly and delivery.
Contact Gerri Kaplan at 570-357-5357, Jody Nogin at 570-332-6012 Jnogin1516@yahoo.com
Jane Messinger at 570-690-1452 jane@templewb.org

23-24 Board Installation Celebration

On Saturday, June 24th the 23-24 Temple Israel Slate of Officers & Trustees were installed at a special Shabbat service, celebration and kiddush.

Pictured in top photo, back row: President Dan Messinger, Roman Gurevich, Rachel Kislin, Atty. Johanna Gelb, V.P. Congregational Engagement Larry Newman, Atty. Myer Messinger, Past President Atty. Jeffrey Yelen. Front row: Sara Friedman, Richard Yelen, Past President Ann Smith, V.P. Administration Joel Zitofky, Sally Alinikoff, Scott Green, Midrasha Board President Ilona Bruns, V.P. Religious & Spiritual Affairs Debbie Troy. Missing: Bev Berley, Steve Davidowitz, Past President Bob Greenwald, Jack Savitz, Hal Levine, Kelsey Nataupsky and Newly installed Past President Joseph Mitchneck, Jody Nogin and Atty. Michael Yelen.

Pictured in bottom photos: Ilona Bruns, Debbie Troy & Kenny Johnson. Past Presidents Jane Feinstein & Dr. Burton Benovitz. Marsha Lebenson, Amy & Dr. Kenny Schwartz.

See more photos inside...

Rabbi Kaplan *Writes...*

Dear Friends,

The photo below is an Israeli street sign from Jerusalem prior to the 1980's. It has been nailed to a pole on the edge of what was Girl's Campus at **Camp Ramah** for close to fifty years, since I brought it back from Israel at the end of my junior year abroad. I brought back many other Hebrew signs for that summer when I was on staff at Ramah in the Poconos after having been a camper there since I was 13. How I got the street sign is a story I'll share in a moment.

As a counselor and division head at Ramah I got my original training for the rabbinate. Much more fun than Seminary was. But as a staff member from Northeast Philadelphia, I was always curious when we went on our days off to exotic places like the Wyoming Valley Mall, how people could actually live in this area ALL YEAR LONG as opposed to just during the summer months, and then return to civilization, "real" shopping malls, and **Barnes & Noble**, back when the **Tudor Book Shop** was the only bookstore available for miles. And that's no slight toward the Tudor- I enjoyed it immensely when I arrived here professionally twenty-five years ago.

I wanted to plaster Hebrew/Israeli signs all over camp, and I "lifted" signs from anywhere I could. Crowded buses were the best prospect. With so many people they did notice me jostling the signs from their holders and into my backpack. I brought back soda bottles with Hebrew "Coke" insignias, and I even have a very old box of Trix in Hebrew in my office. If you want to learn how to say carbohydrate in Hebrew, come in and read the side of the box!

The street sign with my (Hebrew) name on it- **Eliezer Kaplan**, was "procured" only somewhat illegally with the help of **Tamar Rosenbloom**, a daughter of **Rabbi Seymour Rosenbloom** who served as an interim rabbi at Temple Israel years ago. I had no idea at the time I would end up in the same congregation years later. Tamar was also on her junior year abroad. I had been exploring the streets of Jerusalem and came upon the backyard of a municipal building with dozens of old metal street signs piled in a corner. As I peered through the chain link fence, I saw it- the sign with my name on it, still attached to a metal pole.

The street signs in the major parts of the city were being replaced with lighted street signs and the old ones were tossed here. I cannot believe they would have been important to anyone else. When I mentioned to Tamar that I had seen it, she insisted that we retrieve it. Somehow, we got over the fence (I know what you're thinking- I can't remember being able to do that either!) with a flashlight and screwdriver, and we got the sign, and it went into my backpack until it found its way to the wooden pole at Ramah.

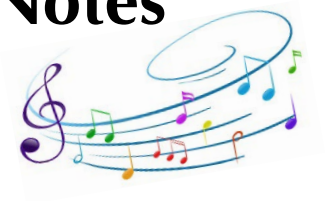
Now the big question you should be asking is, ***"So who the heck was Eliezer Kaplan and why does he have a street named for him in Jerusalem?"*** Well, my namesake, born in Belarus in 1891 and died in 1952, was a Zionist activist, Israeli politician, one of the signatories of the Israeli Declaration of Independence and the country's **first Minister of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister**. So not only does he have a street named for him in Jerusalem, and in other cities as well, but Eliezer Kaplan Street is the home of the three large Israeli government office buildings, including the treasury ministry, which leads to the Knesset, the Israeli parliament. His grave (along with his wife's) is a few spots down from **Golda Meir's** on Mt. Herzl, the Israeli national cemetery.

It's always a bit weird seeing your name on a tombstone, but such is life. As we drop off Sofia for her 8 weeks at Ramah this summer, I hope the sign is still there and the writing still legible. If it is, I'll see it on visiting day in four weeks. If not, then it will be one less thing to remind me of how old I've gotten.

A personal thanks to **Judy and Harvey Klein** whose generosity has helped many Temple Israel children like Sofia enjoy a summer at Camp Ramah through their special endowment. And if you'd like to search for your own street sign, please sign up for our **Trip to Israel March 10th-20th, 2024** email or call the office to reserve a spot!

- *Rabbi*

Cantor's Notes



Birthright Israel has become so well-known and common in Jewish communities that we take it for granted – that is until someone close to you experiences it. My nephew Noah and his girlfriend just returned from a Birthright trip. Noah has been to Israel a number of times, but this was his girlfriend's first trip there. 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 9000 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 over the last 24 years have sent more than 800,000 young Jews from all over the world to Israel.

Birthright is a 10 day, all-expense paid trip to Israel for young Jews ages 18-32. There are a variety of trip possibilities, from college groups to outdoor adventurers. All trips bring the participants to sites of major importance such as Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Massada 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 I've seen for the value of Birthright was the reaction of my two children when they went on their trips a few years ago. I expected Liz to have a very positive experience – she was in college and went with a Hillel group from school. She did in fact rate the trip a 10 out of 10. But it was my son Jonathan's reaction that really impressed me. He was 27 at the time, on his own and working in Philadelphia. Although he certainly identifies as Jewish, it was 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.

- Cantor

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Shana Tova Sweets

Challah & Honey Fundraiser

Assembly Dates

Tues.-Wed., Sept 12th & 13th: 9am-3pm
Thurs.-Fri., Sept. 14th -15th: 9am-3pm

Delivery Dates:

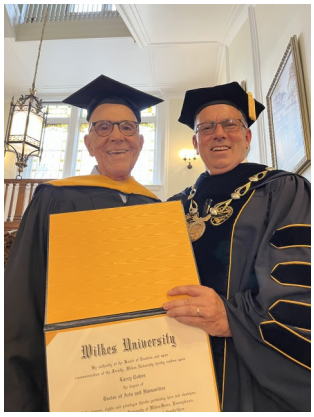
Thursday-Friday Sept 14-15
Temple Israel vestry

For more info or to sign up contact the office or:
Gerri Kaplan at 570-357-5357
Jody Nogin at 570-332-6012 Jnogin1516@yahoo.com
Jane Messinger at 570-690-1452 jane@templewb.org

Temple Israel Happenings

Mazel Tov to the Lefkowitz Family
On Dylan & Sarah's Wedding

Larry Cohen receives
Honorary Degree from
Wilkes University



Mazel Tov to the Finkelstein's
on Katie receiving a PhD in
Counseling Psychology at Seton Hall

Happy 50th Anniversary
to Marsha & Larry Lebenson

Richard Rosenthal Birthday Celebrations

Midrasha & Ovation Playhouse
performance of "Children of Eden"

Mazel Tov to Marilyn Friedman
on the birth of great –grandson
Nathan
Gabriel
Abramowitz

Mazel Tov to the Savitz's & Madwed's
On Alyssa & Joshua's Marriage

Yelen Family B'nai Mitzvah

Happy Birthday
Barbara Sugarman

***<u>Attention Members</u>: If you have a simcha or celebration to share in The Chronicle, please send pertinent info and photos to info@templewb.org or text to 570-690-1452.**

Temple Israel Happenings

23-24 Board Installation
Saturday June 24th

New Member Shabbat Dinner
Friday, April 21st

Special thanks to **Janet & Mark Finkelstein** and the volunteers who participated in the **Jewish War Veterans Memorial Flag Placement** in memory of **Sam & Barbara Greenberg**

VOLUNTEERS:

Kenny Johnson & Debbie Troy, Ilona Bruns, Teddy & Tammy Bozek, **Co-Chairs Mark & Janet Finkelstein**, Dan & Jane Messinger, Rosalie Feldman, The Freedman Family, Jan & Richard Abramowitz, Woody Haydt, Lindsay & Gary Nataupsky, Ed & Celia Connor, David Dunner, Renee, Scott, & Elli Buckler, Gary Greenberg, Joe & Bedonna Mitchneck, Hal Levine

CONDOLENCES

Please join us in offering condolences to family and friends on the recent passing of :

David Abraham	**Rebecca Binder**	**Matthew Brown**	**Rosalind Duncan**
Barry Iscovitz	**Alan Jackier**	**Charlotte Klavonski**	**Phyllis Landau**
Dr. Arthur Meyer	**Joan Meyer**	**Jesse Savitz**	**Josie Willner**

Selichot

Dinner & Concert

Saturday, September 9th at 6pm

Join us at **Temple B'nai B'rith** for a contemplative service, dinner catered by Bank & Vine, and music by **NEPA Philharmonic** musicians:

Sarah Margolis & Michael Leopold

Members-$36 General Public-$50 Seniors 65+ FREE

Reservations Required:

www.tbbwb.com/events/selichot2023

High Holidays

Please join us in our magnificent sanctuary for High Holiday Services. This is the second year that no fees for seats will be charged for member families. Please support our fundraising efforts by becoming a **Shana Tova Sweets Sponsor**, donating to the **High Holiday Floral Fund** or making a **High Holiday Pledge**. More detailed information will be mailed out and can be found online.

Schedule of Services

Rosh Hashana Day 1

Saturday, September 16th , 10:00 a.m.

Rosh Hashana Day 2

Sunday, September 17th , 10:00 a.m.

Tashlich

Hillside Farms with Temple B'nai B'rith
Sunday, September 17th , 4:00 p.m.

Kol Nidre

Sunday September 24th 6:15 p.m.

Yom Kippur

Monday September 25th 10:00 a.m.
Concluding Service 5:00 p.m.

High Holiday Floral Fund

Share announcements, acknowledgements, memorials and simchas in your listing to distributed on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, and published on our website. $25 minimum donation per listing. Email us, send in your check to with your listing or order via our website.

Book of Memory

Please provide any additional names you'd like to add to the 5784 Book of Memory by Wednesday, September. 6th. View last years book online or contact the office for a link. Donations are appreciated.

Israel Trip

March 10-20, 2024

SIGHTS:

Caesaria, Haifa, Mystical city of Safed, Sea of Galilee, Capernum, Palestinian-Israeli meet and greet, Golan Heights, Old City Jerusalem. Jaffa Gate, Western Wall Tunnel, Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Christian Quarter in Old City, Via Delarosa, Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial, Mr. Herzl Cemetery, Machaneh Yehudah open air market (Shuk), Visit with Palestinian and Israeli representatives of Roots/Shorashim/Judur, Tree Planting, Beit Guvrin archeological dig, Masada, dip in the Dead Sea, Machal Monument, Bullet Factory from War of Independence, Jaffa, Tel Aviv and more.

TRIP INCLUDES

• 8 Full days of activities
• Bountiful Israeli breakfast every day
• Dinner every night
• All touring described
• All hotel taxes
• The Best Tour Guide in Israel
• Deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
• Tips for the porters at all hotels
• Gratuities for all included meals
• All baggage handling
• All transfers
• Fully escorted service!
Rabbi Kaplan's jokes: FREE of charge!

COST:

$3995 plus airfare (approximately $1500)

More information is posted on our website. Contact Rabbi Kaplan for more information on the itinerary. You can sign up and make your $200 per person deposit through our secure merchant portal online or register by sending in your $200 deposit made payable to Temple Israel.

www.templewb.org/israel-tour-2024-2

From the President

As Summer comes to a close in NEPA, I hope all congregants are enjoying our seasonal changes. If " variety is the spice of life"' then Mother Nature truly treasures variety as evidenced by the high/lows of this smokey and wet season. Remember though, the temperature and air quality in Temple Israel's sanctuary is always comfortable....conducive to worship, reflection' and friendly interaction. To that point, two special Shabbat services recently held at Temple were overflowing with joyous worship, solemn reflection, and warm communal interaction.

A **New Member Shabbat** filled our sanctuary. The Temple family warmly welcomed many new members with most receiving honors and sharing our Bimah as **Rabbi Kaplan** and **Cantor Abraham** creatively conducted the service. The following Kiddush showcased the true soul of Temple Israel as many long-time Temple members effortlessly socialized with new members creating the warm, welcoming environment.

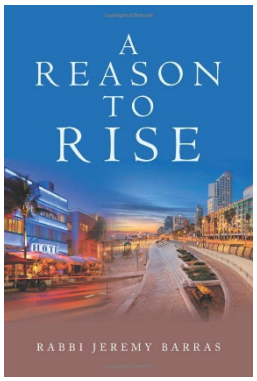
June saw Temple Israel's Annual Members Meeting was once again creatively integrated with a Shabbos morning service and kiddush. **Rabbi, Cantor, Sally Strayhall and Jane Messinger** ensured that this was a memorable occasion filling the sanctuary with soulful song and prayer and the vestry with lovely sights and delicious food. We owe a dept of gratitude to outgoing Board of Trustee member **Mark Finkelstein**, while welcoming **Jody Nogin**, **Michael Yelen**, and **Past President Joe Mitchneck**. The Temple family says Yasher Koach to the executive officers and all board members both past and present.

Both occasions are significant in that although the trying times of these past few years are hopefully in the rear view mirror, their effects still linger... the loss of that much-needed human connection an obvious symptom. Let these special events, coupled with Temple Israels regular programming and service serve as a continual antidote....come for the service; stay for the connection.

See you in Shul...

-Dan Messinger

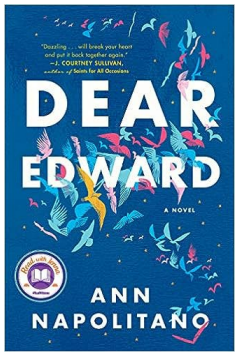
Rabbi Jeremy Barras Book Release



Please be sure to check out ***"A Reason to Rise"*** by **Rabbi Jeremy Barras**, son of **Dr. David & Shelley Barras** and grandson of our ever beloved **Rabbi Abraham Barras**, ***z"l***. Temple Israel Rabbi 1952-1983.

In ***A Reason to Rise*** Barras tells the story of the Groh rabbinic dynasty and takes the reader on an international journey of the Jewish experience in the 20th century. From the depths of the Holocaust to the establishment of the state of Israel, to the systemic rise of antisemitism across Europe, one family does their part to keep Judaism alive. In the spirit of **Leon Uris** and **Daniel Silva**, ***"A Reason to Rise"*** challenges readers to consider how and if Judaism outside of the State of Israel will continue to survive.

September Book Club



Monday, Sept. 18th
6pm at Theo's Metro

"*Dear Edward* is that rare book that breaks your heart and stitches it back together during a reading experience that leaves you profoundly altered for the better."
—Jodi Picoult,Author

Upcoming Special Shabbats

We're looking for Chairpersons and volunteers interested in helping select and plan special themed Shabbat celebrations in the upcoming year. Here are a few examples of what we'd like to host:

Healthcare Shabbat Women's Shabbat
Veterans Shabbat

Email info@templewb.org or contact the office to express your interest and get involved.

Temple Israel
613 S.J. Strauss Ln. Suite #2
Kingston, PA 18704

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 105

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

ph: 570-824-8927
email: office@templewb.org
web: templewb.org

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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 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 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
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 ROSENN 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
SUSAN YELEN MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT