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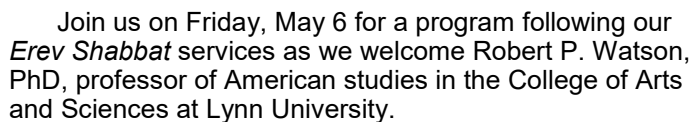
by Iris Koller, Religious School Director

Our tradition teaches that when learners complete a section of study there should be a recognition of their accomplishments. We do not wait until all that there is to learn is acquired, for we believe that learning is a lifelong endeavor. Instead we seek moments to recognize all that has been accomplished and mark them with a *siyum* – a celebration of learning – before we dive back in to learn some more.

Over the past ten months our children and teachers have immersed themselves in Jewish learning and living. From helping to build the congregation's *sukkah* to exploring Jewish values of leadership, friendship, and social responsibility displayed by our ancestors in the Purim and Passover stories, Jewish baseball players, and in their own daily encounters, our teachers have helped our youngest members see Judaism as part of the rhythm of their lives.

On Friday, May 20, our students and teachers will share a bit about what they most value about the school year that we will have just completed. Please join us to honor their accomplishments and to thank our amazing faculty, classroom teachers Lily Tysinger, Maggie Kaufman, and Rhonda Gordon; *madrichim* Ashley Devore, Isaiah Torres, and Stephanie Meehan; and music teacher Rabbi Cookie Lea Olshein.

This celebration will not be the same without YOU. I hope you'll join us.



Author of *The Nazi Titanic: The Incredible Untold Story of a Doomed Ship in World War II*, Dr. Watson will share an amazing true story of one of the most tragic maritime disasters in history and the final chapter of the Holocaust.

Books are available for purchase through the Temple office. Call 561-833-8421 for more information.

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From the President

Michael Jonas

The Holy Synagogue

Before I write this column, I read the monthly Torah portions. Leviticus, Chapter 19 is one of this month's parashot and it contains numerous rules and regulations including commandments to "be holy," the Ten Commandments, rules for the proper treatment of the less fortunate and specific prohibitions against profane behavior. Some of these rules and regulations are applicable today, but some are related to a different time and society. Initially, from the commentaries on this Chapter, I learned that: a) this parasha is known as the "Holiness Code" and b) I really did not understand what it means to "be holy." Searching for more guidance led to reading more commentaries. Here is some of what I found. According to Rabbi W. Gunter Plaut [Z"L, Of Blessed Memory] "The culmination of this climactic chapter is verse 18: Love your neighbor as yourself."¹ The Talmud teaches us that the meaning of this verse is that we must welcome strangers because we were once strangers in the land Egypt and that this holy commandment takes precedence over the study of Torah and even over the observance of Shabbat.² Accordingly, holiness seems to be focused more on how we treat each other than on ritual observance. For a variety of reasons (some of which are educational deficiencies and others of which are deficiencies not worthy of being mentioned), I still did not know what it means to "be holy." My next source was our rabbi.

Rabbi Olshein and I meet for an hour on Thursdays to discuss temple matters, programs and events. During one of our meetings last month, I departed from our usual discussion and asked Rabbi Olshein for the definition of "holy." She explained that holiness concerns the separation of the extraordinary from the ordinary and the sacred from the profane or mundane. For a moment, I thought we were discussing Havdalah services. When we think of Havdalah, we think of Shabbat as the sacred experience and the rest of the week as the mundane experience. But, it is not only when we come to temple for Shabbat that we may have a sacred experience. Anytime we enter our synagogue, we are separating ourselves from the ordinary experiences of our day and are opening ourselves up to the possibility of having an extraordinary experience at Temple Israel. I felt this separation from the ordinary when our congregation had the extraordinary experience of "welcoming the stranger," Wajahat Ali, in February. I feel it when I hear an Executive Committee member, Trustee or congregant express excitement for a service, program or event at our temple. My experience is that we are making our temple a place to enjoy a friendly community, ethical behavior and extraordinary experiences. Perhaps, this is what it means to "be holy."

I am not referring to "being holy" as a spiritual experience, which you can certainly have at our synagogue. According to Dr. Steven Kepnes, spirituality is more of an individual religious experience and holiness is more of a communal experience. As support for this position, Dr. Kepnes references Leviticus Ch. 19:v.2 wherein Moses was instructed by God to "Speak to the entire congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them, You shall be holy for I, the Lord, your God, am holy."³ So, if being holy is not a spiritual/individual experience, then what is it and how do we get there? Apparently, "there is nothing inherently holy about us" and consequently we must "raise ourselves up through our deeds"⁴ to try to "be holy." If we can become holy through our actions and holiness is a communal attribute, then what actions must we, as a community, undertake? Stuart Binder, the Cantor at Congregation Beth Chaim in Princeton Junction, NJ, stated in an article for My Jewish Learning that: "Being holy is not defined by synagogue attendance or by outward signs of piety. Nor is it a matter of ritual practice or personal attitude. Holiness can be found only in our relationships with other people. It is revealed when we are just and compassionate. It is manifest when we are respectful to others and ethical in our behavior."⁵

I still cannot claim a deep understanding of what is holy and I do not want to take a "holier than thou" attitude about being holy, but, I can state an observation: we, at Temple Israel are welcoming and treat each other with respect, compassion and kindness. In other words, whether we are in our sanctuary, classrooms, offices or social facilities, we are adapting the essence of the Holiness Code within our temple community. While others with more knowledge and understanding can determine whether we are becoming a "holy community," I can say that 1) our congregation has enjoyed extraordinary experiences through our adaptation of the Holiness Code; 2) our Temple Israel community will be a better place the more that we adapt the Holiness Code into our congregational relationships; and 3) if trying to be a holy community results in respectful, ethical and compassionate relationships and behavior, then let's try to be holy.

See bottom of page 3 for footnote references.



From the Rabbi

Rabbi Cookie Lea Olshein

Connecting with Our Spiritual Homeland... and Defending It...

Each spring, a week after Holocaust Remembrance Day (*Yom HaShoah*), we observe two holidays here that connect us to our people's spiritual home, the country of Israel, Israeli Memorial Day (*Yom HaZikaron*) and Israeli Independence Day (*Yom HaAtzma'ut*).

Occasionally, I am asked, "Rabbi, why do we celebrate these days when we don't live in Israel?" I have often responded by saying: "Observing Israeli Memorial Day helps us connect with all those who made the ultimate sacrifice so we could have a place to go should (God forbid) we ever need." But I think my answer should really go deeper.

Celebrating these two days helps us connect both with our people, and the traditions of our people. I recently came across this quote attribute to Gustav Mahler, which said: "Tradition is not to preserve the ashes but to preserve the flame." I believe that, each time we sing Israel's national anthem, *HaTikvah* (which means "The Hope"), we connect ourselves to the generations yearning for the Promised Land – from those who yearned upon hearing God's promise, to those who wandered the desert for 40 years, and then to every generation which was either sent into the diaspora and not allowed to return, or those who choose to live outside of Israel (as most of us do). By honoring the creation of Israel, and truly celebrating its existence, we preserve the flame of the Jewish people and our people's mission, to be a light unto the nations.

This year, at services on Friday, May 13, when we remember those who died for the creation of, and defending, the state of Israel, as well as celebrating Israel's Independence Day, we will discuss an issue causing harm to Israel's very survival, the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) movement. We will examine some of the tactics currently being used against Jewish students on college campuses, as well our governmental responses to this campaign. I hope you will join us for a thoughtful evening learning about who is behind this campaign, how it hurts Israel, and what we can do in response.

On a lighter note, at the end of the month, please mark your calendars for our (at least annual) "Shabbat on the Beach" on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend, May 27 (please note that there will no service at Temple Israel that evening). This is always a fun (and very "Florida") way to welcome in Shabbat!

As we focus our energy toward celebrating our people's Promised Land, perhaps this is a good time to ask ourselves what our own personal, spiritual "Promised Land" looks like. This month, may we give ourselves time to ponder the deeper questions about our own spiritual journey and where it is each of us is heading.

As always, my door is always open to those wishing help along the path ...

Footnotes from Michael Jonas' article on page 2:

- ¹ Rabbi W. Gunter Plaut: Leviticus 19, My Jewish Learning, October 2, 2003
- ² Talmud, Shabbat 127a
- ³ Dr. Steven Kepnes, Holiness, The Unique From of Jewish Spirituality, Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals, February 7, 2011 and Ibid Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut, Z"L
- ⁴ Rabbi Dalia Marx, What Does It Mean To Be Holy, ReformJudaism.Org
- ⁵ Cantor Stuart Binder, The Nature of Holiness, My Jewish Learning, December 25, 2002

May Celebrations

Birthdays

May 1

Wendy Miller

May 2

Fred Weissman

May 3

Victor Brizel

Barbara Horowitz

May 6

Jill Botnick

May 8

Helen Mudrick

Sara Mullens

May 9

Harriet Miller

May 10

Jacquelyn Browne

Adrian Sandoval

May 14

Melissa Matthews

May 15

Lori Ackerman

Nancy Baer

Herman Robinson

May 16

Manual Matias

Tracy Simkowitz

May 17

Teresa Aaron

May 18

Milton Fine

Erika Handler

Eric Lieberman

Samara Vilca



May 19

Dena Chislak

Logan Jonas

May 21

Lewis Kapner

May 23

Ann Kritzer

May 24

Stephanie Alexander

Howard Green

Stephanie Quinto

May 25

Suzette Gingold

May 26

Andrew Freidnash

Arielle Gingold

Kathryn Keslar

Richard Schwartz

May 29

Marcy Allen

Benjamin Eisenberg

May 30

Iris Koller

May 31

Bernard Kandel

Wedding Anniversaries

May 8

Jim & GeeGee Eisenberg

May 14

Fred & Adrienne Weissman

May 15

Marvin & Alisa Maltz

May 16

Jeffrey & Suzette Gingold

May 20

Mike & Nancy Berey

Evan & Kate List

May 22

Ted & Roslyn Leopold

May 24

Alan & Judy Shuster

May 28

David & Bonnie Sax

May 29

Mike & Jenny Strauss

Martin & Diane Trust



Bits and Pieces



On March 30, Temple Israel partnered with the Jewish Women's Foundation of the Palm Beaches to bring Rabba Sara Hurwitz, the first ordained Orthodox woman here in the U.S.

Join the Marketing Committee!

Are you creative? Do you have marketing or public relations skills? Do you play well with others? We need you!

Temple Israel is forming a Marketing Committee. Members will assist in formulating and implementing marketing plans for various programs throughout the year.

We realize that your time is a precious commodity. It doesn't matter if you have a little bit of time or a lot of time. Please consider being involved with this group.

Contact Jennifer at the Temple Israel Office - (561) 833-8421 - and let her know that you are willing to help out.

Thank you!

Highlights of April Temple Israel Board Meeting

Ad Journal honorees were announced. Congratulations to Cynn timer S. List and Lora Baum!

The Presidents' Circle gained seven new members so far in 2016. Don Carter inaugurated the new Titanium Level. Many thanks to Don and to chairs Barry and Nancy Horowitz for all of their hard work.

Iris Koller was very proud of the youngest students in the religious school, who have collected 85 pairs of shoes for the Shoe Drive for students at Roosevelt Elementary School.

Michael Small joins Board of Directors of the Palm Beach Fellowship of Christians & Jews

Temple Israel member Michael Small was elected to the Board of the Palm Beach Fellowship of Christians & Jews at the organization's Annual Meeting in April. The Fellowship was founded in 1993 to bring people of all religions together through education and interaction to increase understanding and mutual respect.



Honor a Loved One with a Leaf on TI's "Tree of Life"

Leaves are available for only \$180. Call the Temple office at (561) 833-8421 to learn more about this wonderful way to mark a special occasion in your family's life and leave a lasting memorial for future generations!

Member Spotlight: Rikki & Stu Bagatell

Q. How did the two of you meet?

A. We were introduced through mutual friends during our senior year at Cornell.

Q. What would be a great day for you? What would you do?

A. Stu would wake up early, Rikki would sleep in. We would make breakfast for the kids and then take a bike ride to the Green Market. We would spend the afternoon playing outside in the neighborhood and catching up with friends. We would end with a date night dinner and kiss the kids goodnight.

Q. What are your hobbies?

A. We enjoy sailing, tennis, bike riding, traveling, being with family and friends.

Q. What do you like about Temple Israel? What drew you to us?

A. TI is an incredible community that is made up of distinct individuals who share common values and goals. It is that community that attracted us and our family initially and that has become such an important part of our lives.

Q. What is your favorite thing about being a parent?

A. Seeing the world through the kids' eyes is fulfilling, educational, and hilarious. We love how they center us and remind us what are priorities are (and to not take ourselves too seriously!).



Contributions

(Received March 2 - April 12, 2016)

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support Temple Israel by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions.
Thank you!

General Operating Fund

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Contribution from Kent Fescenmeyer

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In memory of Seymour Pollock from Richard & Suzy Cohen
In memory of Sidney Rubin from Baylie Rosenberg
In memory of Florence Althof from Stanley Althof
In memory of Rose Jacobs from Judith Goldblatt
In memory of Phyllis Alexander from Michael Alexander

Beautification Fund

In memory of Ruth Shapiro from Lora Baum

Music Fund

In memory of Seena Taylor, my dear and special friend,
from Joy FeBland
Contribution from Morton & Zelda Reeber
In honor of Bette Gilbert, for her lifetime commitment to Temple Israel, Israel, and the Jewish community of South Florida,
from Rodney & Ivania Max

Rabbi Howard Shapiro's Speaker Series Fund

In honor of Rabbi Shapiro, thank you for bringing wonderful, very special people to Temple Israel. Of course, you are the most special!
from Judy Goldblatt

Social Action Fund

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In memory of Joann Leopold from Zelda & Mason Allen
In memory of Joann Leopold
from Deborah Hirsch & Hugo Ottolenghi
In memory of Joann Leopold from Jim & Gee Gee Eisenberg
In memory of Joann Leopold from Barbara Thrasher
In memory of Joann Leopold from The Weissman Family
In memory of Joann Leopold from Gene & Judy Devore
In memory of Joann Leopold from Hope & Gary Dunkel

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Marsha Eger from Irma Morris
In memory of Fred Ruttenberg from The Gold Family
In memory of H.M. Blicher from Doris Ellenbogen
In memory of Joann Leopold from Susan & Evan Goldstein
In honor of Rabbi Cookie Lea Olshein from Dr. Gina Harris
In honor of Rabbi Cookie Lea Olshein, our wonderful Rabbi, with deep gratitude for her support and love during my recent loss from Joy FeBland
In honor of Rabbi Cookie Lea Olshein, we enjoyed dinner, *havdallah* and program with Dr. Jefferson at your synagogue, from Monica & Martin Lemelman
In honor of Rabbi Cookie Lea Olshein, you were kind and generous and skilled leading us through our ceremony and we all benefitted from it. You have my special thanks for the work you did listening, from Richard H. Roth
Contribution from Irma Morris

Yarzheit Fund

In memory of...

Rose Kanter from Judith Kanter
Rachel Chase from Joy FeBland
Seymour Pollock from Richard & Suzy Cohen
Herman Blum from Carol Kosberg
Jules Kaplan from Ann & Julius Lasnick
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List of Temple Israel's Special Funds

Call the Temple office at (561) 833-8421 for more information.

- ☐ Beautification Fund
- ☐ Continuing Jewish Education for Adults Fund
- ☐ Jewish Education for Youth Fund
- ☐ Judaica Fund
- ☐ Leadership Development Fund
- ☐ Library/Media Center Fund
- ☐ Mitzvah Fund
- ☐ Prayer Book/Torah Commentary Fund
- ☐ Programming Fund
- ☐ Rabbi Emeritus Continuing Education Fund
- ☐ Rabbi Howard Shapiro Youth Fund
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Fred and Adrienne Weissman
Morris Zabarkus and Rita Holz

Photo Album: Second Night Seder

April 23, 2016

Rabbi Cookie Lea Olshein and Cantor Michael Kruk led 130 congregants, members of the community, and out-of-town visitors at Temple Israel's second night Seder. More than ten children searched for the afikoman in the David and Pauline Carter Ballroom, beautifully decorated by the Seder chairs, Judy Goldblatt and Lora Baum.





President's Circle Update

Nancy and Barry Horowitz | Chairs



The President's circle continues to fulfill its mission to contribute to the operating expenses of the synagogue so that everyone who wishes to can worship at Temple Israel. We are proud to report that in 2016 we have seven new members. These include Rikki and Stuart Bagatell, Alisa and Marvin Maltz, Georgia and Scott Newman, MJ and Neal Rothschild and one anonymous donor at the Silver level. New members at the Diamond level are Harriet Miller and Donna Fishman. In addition, Adrienne and Fred Weissman and Cynnie S. List have increased their contribution from the Silver to the Gold level. Finally, we have created a new Titanium Level for Don Carter who is contributing \$25,000 in 2016. We now have 59 President Circle members and we wish to thank each and every one of them for their continued generosity!

In the budget for 2016, the President's Circle's line item was set at \$200,000. We are pleased to report that we are now at \$220,000. The plaque outside of the Social Hall will be updated this month to reflect the 2016 membership. There is still plenty of time to join or increase your level to fill in the blank spaces that are remaining. Please contact us or Jennifer at the Temple office.

2016 President's Circle

Titanium

Don Carter

Pearl

Barbara and Mort Mandel
Bernard Weinstein
Anonymous

Diamond

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Roslyn and Ted Leopold
Sarajane and Bob Marell
Zelda and Allen Mason
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Jill and Sanford Sirulnick
Harriet Miller
Donna Fishman

Platinum

Mary Arpe and Michael J. Gelfand

Gold

Lora Baum
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Amy and Michael Jonas
Cynnie S. List
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Adrienne and Fred Weissman

Silver

Patti and Larry Abramson
Ruth Abramson
Jack Ackerman
Marci Gorman-Althof and Stan Althof
Anonymous
Rikki and Stuart Bagatell
Suzy and Richard Cohen
Amy and Jeffrey Devore
Georgene and Jim Eisenberg
Suzanne and Edward Elson
Joy FeBland
Elaine and Mark Feldmesser

Silver (continued)

Sheila and Milton Fine
Marsha Fishbane
Judith Goldblatt
Joanie and Murray Goodman
Elizabeth and Robert Green
Lionel Greenbaum
Aileen and Mitchell Josephs
Carole and Paul Klein
Freuma and Elliot Klorfein
Ann and Julius Lasnick
Marilyn and Sidney Lassen
Karen and Marty List
Alisa and Marvin Maltz

Silver (continued)

Robert Needle
Georgia and Scott Newman
MJ and Neal Rothschild
Susan and Peter Sachs
Rhona and Richard Shugarman
Judy and Alan Shuster
Irv Silver
Ann and Michael Small
Ruth Smith
Barbara and Burton Stern
Anne Tanen
Babette Wolff

We Can Help With Cemetery Arrangements...



Temple Israel owns cemetery plots in the Temple Israel section of Star of David Cemetery in Palm Beach Gardens. To purchase one of our plots, you need to first contact a Family Counselor at Star of David to discuss locations and other details (call 561-627-2277 to speak with a counselor).

We offer our plots within Temple Israel's section at a special rate of only \$3,000 per plot (this is an \$800 discount per plot when you purchase through Temple Israel).

After speaking with the professional and choosing your plot location within the Temple Israel section, please contact our Temple Administrator, Jennifer Green Baer, to make payment arrangements. Jennifer is available to assist you in any way she can. Please call her at the Temple office at 561-833-8421 so she can help you take care of one the best gifts you can gift your family, the gift of pre-planning so they don't have to make the arrangements later.



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Note to Our Congregants

To help with the rising costs of finance charges on credit card payments, we are now requiring a 3% convenience fee on all credit card transactions. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we continue to carefully monitor the financial health of Temple Israel.



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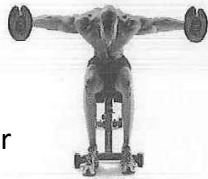
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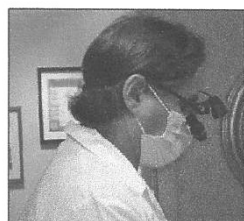


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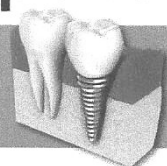
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Author of: "Ask the Dentist" column next to Dr. Oz in Sunday's
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

May 2016

Visit www.Temple-Israel.com for more information about these events and programs and the latest calendar updates.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 Yom HaShoah Holocaust Memorial Day	6 First Friday Late Shabbat 7:00 pm - Proneg 7:30 pm - Service <i>followed by program with Dr. Robert Watson</i>	7 "Out-of-the-Box" Shabbat 11:00 am
8 <i>Mother's Day</i> 	9	10	11 Yom Hazikaron Israel Memorial Day "Chai Life" Program 12:00n-1:30 pm	12 Yom HaAtzma'ut Israel Independence Day 	13 Shabbat 6:00 pm - Proneg 6:30 pm - Service	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Education Shabbat 6:00 pm - Proneg 6:30 pm - Service	21
22	23	24	25	26 Lag B'Omer 33rd Day of the Counting of the Omer	27 Shabbat at the Beach 6:30 pm - Service 	28
29	30 <i>Memorial Day</i>  <i>TI Office Closed</i>	31				<i>Every Saturday</i> Torah Study 9:30-10:30 am 