



Sag Harbor, New York  
Long Island's Oldest Synagogue—Founded 1883

# Temple Adas Israel Chronicles

JULY 2011 .....TAMMUZ 5771

## LOOKING FORWARD...

Summer has barely gotten started and we have already had some wonderful programs including Dr. Ralph Buultjens; a marvelous art lecture by Mindy Cantor and a meaningful workshop on voice and spirituality by Rabbi Minna Bromberg who was recently installed as Rabbi at Keshet Zion Synagogue in PA.

July got off to a bang-up start with **SHABBAT SHABOOM for families with children at the Windmill Beach in Sag Harbor on July 1<sup>st</sup>**. The annual Members and Friends Cocktail party is on **Sunday July 10 at 5 PM** at the Shelter Island home of Margaret and David Doyle. This year's event honors *Ann and Howard Chwatsky* for their years of service and all donations will benefit the Hebrew School. Call the Temple office for travel assistance if you don't want to drive (or boat) there alone. **Earlier on July 10, at 11 AM**, Birthright Israel makes a presentation on a free first trip to Israel for ages 18-25...Sponsored by the East End Jewish Community Council.

On July 15<sup>th</sup> you'll have a chance to socialize and shmooze at a "Dairy" Potluck Dinner following an early **7PM** service. Myra Peskowitz (myrapeskowitz@optonline.net) is organizing it.

On **July 22, at 6 PM** the Temple kicks off its Membership Drive "Come Back to Shul" with a dinner for NON MEMBERS. RSVP to Myra.

Rabbi Leon Morris will initiate his Sunday Afternoon Talks on **July 24<sup>th</sup> at 5PM** at the Temple. Theme for the two is "Rethinking Reform Judaism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." Part I is *A Loving Critique* and Part II, on **July 31<sup>st</sup>** is *A Vision for the Future*." You won't want to miss these insightful sessions.

On **July 29<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM, A Shabbat Shaboom Puppet Show** will be held at Windmill Beach.

Student Cantors Julia Katz and Nancy Bach (from Brooklyn Heights Synagogue) will give a Cantorial Concert on Sunday **August 7<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM**. David Deschamps will accompany them on piano. This year our Scholar-in-Residence will be our *Artist-in-Residence*...featuring a visual artist instead of an academic scholar. Tobi Kahn, the acclaimed painter and sculptor, will be with us for the weekend of **August 12-14**. More on this weekend in another part of this issue.

The Temple Book Club will meet at the home of Allan Silver on **Sunday August 21 at 7 PM** to discuss David Grossman's novel *The End of the Land*.

Welcome to new members *Morton Lynn* and *Dr. Harold Koplewicz*.

## MESSAGE FROM RABBI LEON MORRIS...

The past year has been significant for our congregation, as well as for my family. Since moving to Sag Harbor as year-round residents, and establishing a full-time rabbinical presence in our congregation, we've used the past twelve months as a period of listening, experimentation, growth, and expansion.

Being a full-time rabbi has allowed me to create a pastoral role that had not previously been possible. I have been able to help our members and their families deal with illness and hospitalization, and have been available to discuss personal or family issues. I have also been able to assist and support our members following the death of loved ones. Together with our Caring Program, we have helped them through their mourning process guided by Jewish tradition.

Rabbi means teacher, and much of my work has allowed me to exercise my greatest passion—teaching—both formally and informally. Our mid-week adult education classes (with Dasee teaching as well) have supplemented our Shabbat morning Torah study. I have been able to take a more active role in our Hebrew School, so ably led by Leah Oppenheimer. And the pulpit has afforded endless teaching opportunities.

Working closely with student cantor, Julia Katz, we have musically enhanced our services. And my discovery of Keelan Watlington, a local musician I met while giving a guest sermon, has allowed us to add another musical dimension.

I've enjoyed many opportunities to represent the Jewish community at various events around the area and have forged strong relationships with local Christian clergy. Together we are finding ways to bring our communities together to support local needs.

As I look ahead to my second full time year (my 12th year altogether) I see several priorities within my rabbinical role. The first, with our membership chair, Myra Peskowitz, is to embark on a membership campaign from now until the High Holy Days. I meet local unaffiliated Jews almost daily. Now we are ready to actively encourage them to become part of our community. But, we need your help for this. We have a variety of activities planned and our members are our best "ambassadors."

A second priority is developing a program for teenagers following Bar/Bat Mitzvah. I have met with many of them and we are creating a dynamic program to begin in the fall.

Under the leadership of James Dwoskin, we have launched our Tikkun Olam Committee, devoted to

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## **CARING PROGRAM...Gail Gambino, Coordinator**

I am happy to report that we were able to serve members of our Temple Community in the areas of Bikur Cholim (visiting the sick) and Nichum Aveilim (comforting mourners) this past year. We were grateful that members of the congregation reached out to us during these difficult times and that, often, we were able to provide assistance, support and relief to them. We appreciate the congregants who responded to our appeal for Shiva Minyan volunteers; it has made our work easier and more certain. ONCE AGAIN, I'M ASKING THE CONGREGATION FOR HELP: We urgently need to expand our list of meal-making volunteers. If you can make a simple meal for a family in mourning, or for someone ill at home, please email me at [bdwybaby@optonline.net](mailto:bdwybaby@optonline.net) or call me at 631-725-2943. I will furnish instructions, details and answer any questions. Our four wonderful Co-Captains, Ellen Ruby, Emilie Kutash, Julie Takton and Diane Schade and I have been meeting with Rabbi Morris regularly to analyze and modify the Program so that we can better meet your needs. If you are caring for someone who is ill at home or in the hospital, acute or chronic phase, and are not sure if you need us, PLEASE call the Temple at 631 -725-0904 and let us help you assess the ways in which we can be of assistance. Sometimes, those who need help become immobilized, overwhelmed and fatigued. That's where we come in—when you call, we are here for you!

## **DAVE LEE HONORED...**

Our (very) long time member, Board Secretary and President (more than once), the inimitable Dave Lee was feted recently by the East Hampton Republicans (yes—that is NOT a typo). During the “Roast” they recalled his coming to America in 1948 straight out of the British Army and not being allowed to join the American Legion unit in Sag Harbor. They discussed his working for Rowe Industries, opening a men's shop, and later a jewelry shop (to showcase his talents as a watchmaker) and renting his first apartment in town. In 1952 he built a house on High Street where he lived with his first wife Vera and raised their children. After she died, and he married the lovely Joanna Paitchell, he moved into her home in East Hampton.

During the 63 years Dave has lived in the area he has been a founder or member of more organizations than we can count. He helped start the Sag Harbor Community Band and the Sag Harbor Chamber of Commerce, of which he is Director Emeritus. He was also past chairman of the Long Island Convention & Visitors Bureau and was a delegate to the White House Conference on Travel & Tourism, going to London as its representative. He is also past president of the Sag Harbor Board of Education and former Board member of the Sag Harbor Alternative Counseling Center and Sag Harbor Zoning Board, and Chairman of the East Hampton Housing Authority for many years. He is now on the Board of the Sag Harbor Youth Center and Eastern Long Island Business Roundtable. He was commended for his radio reports on WLNG, encouraging listeners to “take a walk around Sag Harbor.” Because of his luxurious beard, he is often mistaken for a rabbi and has, in fact, officiated at funerals and such when the Temple had no rabbi in residence. Dave is 83 now—and his “Mum” lived to over 104—so, no, this is NOT Dave's obituary.

## **THE OFFICE REPORTS...**

### **Margaret Bromberg & Eileen J. Moskowitz**

The long winter finally over—we had all looked forward to summer. Now it is here and the pace of things is literally breath-taking... So it seems in the life of Temple Adas Israel, and so it is reflected in the activity and “to do” list generated for the office by several very active committees, board members, educators and rabbi! But we are keeping up. Hundreds of invitations to the cocktail party were sent out early in June and the announcement of our Annual Meeting, and the report of the Nominating Committee, has been mailed.

We have had several Tribute Oneg Shabbats in honor of those who have given so much to Temple Adas Israel: for Josey & Bob Gettling for their combined 60 years of service; Amy Werfel who has provided us with her professional expertise as an Interior Decorator in renovating the sanctuary and social hall; Debra Lobel for making her family's company available for our many printing needs; and one in the works for our Volunteers.

Our Temple could not function without the help of our volunteers. We depend upon each other to make things happen, but we do not take it for granted and for that reason, we have planned an Oneg Shabbat to honor them. Because there are many and because all efforts are appreciated, there has been some concern that we may inadvertently leave someone out. Although we want to acknowledge every one of them, some volunteer efforts are very much behind the scenes and so if we missed someone – *please* accept our apologies! We are very grateful to everyone who has contributed in any way.

We have a very busy summer calendar, and before you know it, we'll be planning for the High Holy Days.

## **HIGH HOLY DAY CHOIR...**

Rehearsals began July 2...but it is not too late to join. You don't have to have vocal training or a professionally trained voice—just a genuine love of music and singing. If you'd like to participate, please contact student Cantor Julia Katz to let her know your interest and obtain a rehearsal schedule: [Juliarckatz@gmail.com](mailto:Juliarckatz@gmail.com)

## **LIFE CYCLE EVENTS...**

The congregation sends double **Mazel Tovs** to *Mark Abrams and Beverly Deak* on the birth of twins (4/9/11) Piper Ede and Owen Ruby Abrams, their first grandchildren. Proud parents are Carie and Aaron Abrams.

**Mazel Tov** to Stephanie Deppe and James Udell who were married by Rabbi Morris in our sanctuary May 22, 2011. The groom's family were early members of the Temple.

**CONDOLENCES TO:** *Constance Freeman*, whose husband Robert Salzman died May 8, 2011; to *Jill Danis*, whose father, Mel Danis, passed away May 21, 2011, and to the family of *Dallas Ernst*, who died on June 1, 2011. The sympathy of the congregation goes out to all who suffered loss.

## HEBREW SCHOOL...Leah Oppenheimer

Hebrew School had a beautiful ending this year, finishing on the beach with blessings and books for all families. We arrived there together after a spring of meaningful and fun-filled holidays. For Passover, our children crossed the Red Sea together. On Shavuot, we "heard" the Torah as it was given on Mt. Sinai, and in "real time," held the Torah on our laps and saw its words up close. And then, of course, there was ice cream and a showing of the children's *ketubot* with God on beautiful parchment, illustrating their ideas of the marriage of God and the People of Israel.

The first weekend in May, George Mann, son of Susan and Jerrold Mann, became Bar Mitzvah. George worked very hard on his preparation, and did very well. Many congratulations to him and his family.

Our B'nei Mitzvah class is gearing up for their events, learning trope with their team of teachers: the Rabbi, Julia and myself. Our first Bat Mitzvah in the fall will be Amanda Mintz, daughter of William and Linda Mintz. Our twins, Natalie and Jared Wolf, son and daughter of William Wolf, come up to the Bima in late October. In December, Ella Parker, daughter of Jonathan and Susan Parker, will be called to the Bima. Ben Klinghoffer, son of Mike and Judy Klinghoffer, will follow one week later. These children are very dedicated to their work, and we are very proud of them!

The Hebrew School and the congregation have been awarded an Express Innovation Grant for the winter of the next academic year. This \$2500 grant, underwritten by UJA and renewable for three years, is to jumpstart new models of learning in the Supplemental School setting. Our grant team—Dasee Berkowitz, Rabbi Morris and I—will be putting this new model in place sometime in January and February.

Finally, a fond goodbye to our Assistant Teachers, Mariah Moskowitz and Sophie Parker. Both were honored by Pierson High School for academic and artistic achievements, and are off to college in the fall. Our school family will miss them both. Another recent grad is Hank Oppenheimer—from The Ross School. We wish them all **GOOD LUCK!**

## ABOUT MARC KATZ...

On June 13, 5th year Hebrew Union College Rabbinic student Marc Katz (husband of the Temple student cantor, Julia Katz), began his summer internship. Among his duties will be outreach to singles; teaching; some sermons, and organizing the adult B'nei Mitzvah class. He will also oversee the portion of the Temple's soon-to-be introduced new website that will be devoted to helping people in mourning. It will outline every step of the way so that the immediacy of a death in the family is not so daunting; and let families know that help and support is available through the Temple.

Marc's internship is funded by the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation, which encourages vibrant family life by empowering young Jews to embrace the joys of Judaism. Marc, who had previously interned at a larger, urban synagogue in Brooklyn, is eager to gain experience in how a small-town congregation works. So far response from both Marc and congregation are quite favorable.

## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT...Neal Fagin

As they might have said in the Talmud, "IF YOU WEREN'T THERE, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MISSED."

On Friday evening June 17, everyone was dancing in the aisles. This was our liveliest service by far (you'd have thought maybe Simchat Torah came *really early* this year!). We had an exuberant group on the bima: Rabbi Morris was singing with gusto, Student Cantor Julia Katz played her guitar, Rabbinical student Marc Katz sang along with his guitar and bongo drum, Rabbi Minna Bromberg chimed in with her beautiful voice, Keelan Watlington was lively on the keyboard and in the distance, Margaret Bromberg jangled her tambourine. Everyone was singing and all of a sudden the Hellers got the crowd to their feet. Our sense of community was felt by all.

Afterwards, we had a panel discussion about a recent article in *The Jewish Week*: "Are Young Rabbis Turning on Israel." Unfortunately, we ran out of time without the congregation having the chance to participate. I could go on—but the point I am making is: come and see for yourself what a great experience our Temple provides... you will take additional pride in your membership or you'll want to join us right away!

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE...

A concerted Membership Drive has begun as a result of conversations Rabbi Leon and Dasee have had with unaffiliated Jews who, for some reason, have not pursued Temple membership. The time frame is July, August and September and is targeted toward full and part time residents of East Hampton, Southampton and Shelter Island, who have indicated an interest in our Temple. Five programs are planned, addressing five areas of synagogues life. They include Shabbat Observance, Adult Education, Hebrew School, the High Holy Days and Social Activism. A "Come Back to Shul" dinner will be held in July at the Temple to meet Rabbi Morris and learn the basic elements of Shabbat observance. In August, Rabbi Morris will speak on Adult Education to prospective members on Shelter Island. August will also include Sunday morning bagels and coffee for prospective Hebrew School students and their parents, and where a sample class will be given. And, in September, there will be a morning of Challah baking, with a light lunch, that includes discussions with Dasee Berkowitz on other home-based holiday experiences. If any of you have friends or neighbors you think might be interested, please e-mail Membership Chairperson Myra Peskowitz: [myrapeskowitz@optonline.net](mailto:myrapeskowitz@optonline.net).

## SOCIAL ACTION...

Jonathan Glynn, a founder of Wings Over Haiti, tells us there are "very few Jews in Haiti...but 1,300,000 starving and dying children." If you'd like to do something about that, please make a donation at [www.wingsoverhaiti.org](http://www.wingsoverhaiti.org).

## THE TEMPLE GOES TO ISRAEL...

The Temple's first trip to Israel will be from **Feb. 15-27, 2012**. It is being led by Rabbi Leon and Dasee. To confirm your interest, please email [DaseeB@gmail.com](mailto:DaseeB@gmail.com) by **AUGUST 15**.

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social action projects within the congregation. Our goal is to integrate aspects of social justice into every facet of our religious and cultural life.

Finally, our greatly expanded agenda requires ongoing support from our members and friends. Working with Jeffrey Britz and others, we are forming a Development Committee, to provide greater opportunities to contribute and to help shape a culture of generous giving throughout the year.

At the conclusion of my first full-time year, I am grateful to have such devoted leadership in our president, Neal Fagin and our treasurer, Howard Chwatsky; such a superb administrative staff as Margaret Bromberg and Eileen Moskowitz, and particularly to have such a significant partner in education and future visioning as my wife, Dasee Berkowitz. She has played a major (often behind-the-scenes) role in the many positive transformations taking place at Temple Adas Israel.

I look forward to another year building upon our successes and what we have learned. To accomplish that requires your increased involvement.

### **ROSH CHODESH...Gail Gambino**

After the hazards of this past winter, Rosh Chodesh is enjoying the softer season of Summer! We happily welcome back all of our members and offer a very special welcome to new member, Julie Takton. This year we devoted many months to a multi-faceted look at spirituality in Judaism. There are myriad advantages to a leisurely, in-depth exploration of a subject. More members get a chance to participate in research and presenting, and the group has the opportunity to learn and respond to various points of view and on a deeper level. Dasee and I concluded this segment with a look at spirituality in the Eastern religions and their differences and similarities to Judaism.

Group discussions continue to be lively and thoughtful as our emotional connection to one another deepens each year. We lost long-time Rosh Chodesh member Sue Fischer to a shockingly brief battle with pancreatic cancer. We supported one another through difficult weeks of unexpected loss and grief. In May our group held a memorial outside the Temple where we commemorated a plaque and Lilac bush planted in Sue's honor. Bob Gettling generously did the planting for us, as he told us, to pay tribute to Sue as well.

Our thematic curriculum is designed through member-suggested subjects and concepts. These are then threaded through a Jewish context and the Jewish significance of each month. Looking ahead to the summer months, we will be learning about Jewish sources on dying and death. We will, as well, explore the Nature of Sin and Redemption in Jewish law and its differences and similarities to Christian doctrine. We will follow that topic with a discussion on and experiential learning in Forgiveness: ourselves and others. These will coincide with the High Holy Days. As is evident, our learning is often serious, disciplined and self-reflective.

Our gatherings, however, are always infused with more light-hearted interactions and the warmth of caring and friendship. There is no better reflection of that than our third Annual Picnic on July 17th; lots of delicious food, schmoozing and some wonderful sharing of ideas. We happily welcome new members. If you are a woman and interested in Rosh Chodesh, please call me at 631-725-2943 or email me [bdwybaby@optonline.net](mailto:bdwybaby@optonline.net). A joyful summer from all of us to all of you!

### **AN ELEGANT WEDDING.....**

Some things are just fun to write about, like the joyous marriage of our former student Cantor, **Dan Singer** -now Senior Cantor at Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in Manhattan. The whole congregation was invited—as well as family and friends—over 300 attended the amazing ceremony that included a cantorial choir (over a dozen prominent cantors) and a very senior rabbi and very senior cantor who were among Dan's Hebrew Union College teachers. SWFS senior Rabbi, Ammiel Hirsch officiated at the beautiful ceremony. When it came time for the "circling," Lauren (Rabinowitz) walked around Dan 3 ½ times, then he walked round her, 3 ½ times! It was simply elegant. Dan, with a great twinkle in his eye, was "singing" along with everyone and his joy really shone through as he greeted guests at the "Ceremonial Champagne Toast" afterwards.

### **TEMPLE PERSONNEL**

**RABBI LEON MORRIS...631-899-3718**

[Leonalanmorris@gmail.com](mailto:Leonalanmorris@gmail.com)

**EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT: DASEE BERKOWITZ**

[daseeb@gmail.com](mailto:daseeb@gmail.com)

**HEBREW SCHOOL DIRECTOR: LEAH OPPENHEIMER**

[Loppenhe@optonline.net](mailto:Loppenhe@optonline.net)

**STUDENT CANTOR JULIA KATZ**

[Juliarckatz@gmail.com](mailto:Juliarckatz@gmail.com)

**ADMINISTRATOR: MARGARET BROMBERG**

631-725-0904, [Adasisrael11963@optonline.net](mailto:Adasisrael11963@optonline.net)

**OFFICE MANAGER: EILEEN J. MOSKOWITZ**

631-725-0904, [Adasisrael11963@optonline.net](mailto:Adasisrael11963@optonline.net)

**PRESIDENT: NEAL FAGIN -631-835-2902**

[Captainfagin@aol.com](mailto:Captainfagin@aol.com)

**VICE PRESIDENT: ALAN LEAVITT**

[Leavittny@aol.com](mailto:Leavittny@aol.com)

**SECRETARY: DAVID J. LEE**

[Davelee11963@gmail.com](mailto:Davelee11963@gmail.com)

**TREASURER: HOWARD CHWATSKY**

[Howardchwatsky@aol.com](mailto:Howardchwatsky@aol.com)

**EDITOR, THE CHRONICLES: LEDA C. GOLDSMITH**

[Leda.gpg@verizon.net](mailto:Leda.gpg@verizon.net)

**BOARD MEMBERS:** Jerry Cohen, James Dwoskin, Barbara Freedman, Jonathan Nash Glynn, Leda C Goldsmith, Janet Grossman, Richard Hemley, Donald Katz, Howard Maisel, Richard Shapiro and Ann Silver.

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### **TEMPLE ADAS ISRAEL**

**Elizabeth Street & Atlantic Avenue**

**PO Box 1378 Sag Harbor, NY 11963**

**631-725-0904**

**[adasisrael11963@optonline.net](mailto:adasisrael11963@optonline.net)**

**[templeadasisrael.org](http://templeadasisrael.org)**