

## **CELEBRATING HANUKAH...**

We are looking forward to our annual celebration of Hanukah and hope you will all join us to commemorate the Festival of Lights, beginning with the lighting of the first candle on Tuesday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM. In addition to the usual Hanukah fare, latkes, soufganiyot (jelly doughnuts) and dreidle games, the festivities will include traditional Hanukah songs with music by accordionist Barry Glick. Also, Temple Board member Jonathan Nash Glynn, founder of Wings Over Haiti, will be reading from his new children's book *Lily in the Sky With Kindness* as told through the eyes of his pet dachshund, Lily.

## **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE...Jeffrey Britz & Margaret Doyle, Co-Chairs**

The recently formed Development Committee will address the fund-raising needs of the Temple. It has gotten off to a great start with two meetings held at the home of Neal Fagin (thank you Andrea!). As pleased as we are with the High Holy Days donations, there is still a need to bring in more dollars. The committee, who includes Neal Fagin, Michael Rothbart, Michael Nash, Myron Levine, Alan Leavitt and Morris Kramer, among others, is planning its next project, which will have opportunities at many levels of participation. We hope to make an announcement soon about this exciting campaign. As always, we appreciate any kind of help our members might provide and look forward to reporting on the committee's progress in the next issue of this publication. Our best wishes to all for a joyous Hanukah!

## **SOCIAL ACTION...James Dwoskin**

Our current project is all about helping children. As you are aware from our weekly eblasts, we are currently involved in providing bilingual books for Bridgehampton's HEAD START program. Their funding has been severely cut and they are unable to provide the necessary materials for their students. Through Amazon.com, we have arranged for many popular children's books to be made available so that our congregants and friends can order them directly. Everyone is invited to participate by writing a check to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund and sending it the Social Action Committee at the Temple. So far, we have collected about \$1100.00 in addition to the purchases made through Amazon. Thanks to all who have supported this vital cause.

Also in the realm of Social Action and helping children: during Thanksgiving weekend Jonathan Nash Glynn and his faithful dachshund Lily made several appearances in Sag Harbor to introduce their book, *Lily in the Sky With Kindness* all about their adventures in helping Haiti's people cope with severe earthquake damage. It was written and illustrated by Jonathan's friend, Jayne Le Conte who has donated all of the proceeds to Wings Over Haiti. These funds will help build a school and general use building for the children of Croix-des-Bouquets, Haiti. For further information about the book and Jonathan's efforts on behalf of the Haitian earthquake victims, go to [www.wingsoverhaiti.org](http://www.wingsoverhaiti.org).

## **MESSAGE FROM RABBI LEON A. MORRIS**

While our Jewish "holiday season" has been over for some time now, we are in many ways leveraging that energy and enthusiasm toward a full and engaging fall and winter season of classes, services and activities at Temple Adas Israel.

The opportunities for learning continue throughout the year. On Shabbat mornings, our fall classes have followed our progression through the book of Genesis. We are using Avivah Zornberg's creative and insightful commentary, *The Beginning of Desire*, to spark a lively and engaging conversation for all who attend.

Our *Erev Limud*—Jewish Learning Night—each Wednesday is a series of stand-alone classes on a variety of topics. During the month of November, we explored Jewish perspectives on capital punishment. This served as an introduction to the Talmud, as we explored the ways in which the Talmudic rabbis made it virtually impossible to sentence someone to death despite the fact that the Torah allows for the death penalty in many cases. The class was an opportunity to appreciate the expansive and interpretive nature of Jewish life and law.

Our Artists' Beit Midrash meets monthly, affording artists the opportunity to study texts that inspire their creativity and invite them to create visual commentaries based on them. Our Adult B'nei Mitzvah class meets each week, mastering Hebrew skills and paving the way toward the ability to read from the Torah itself.

A new class for our teenagers who have already become bar or bat mitzvah began recently as well, and will be meeting several times throughout the year.

Finally, our Program Committee, under the extraordinary leadership of Fran Gottfried, brought us several wonderful programs, including a reading by best-selling author Lucette Lagnado.

Shabbat evening services, now at 6 PM, are well attended. Twice a month, we feature the piano accompaniment of Keelan Watlington, and once each month we are joined by our student cantor, Julia Katz. On Shabbat mornings, we will (for the months of December, January, February and March) be joining our friends at the Conservative Synagogue of the Hamptons for services to alternate between the two congregations. When at the temple, our regular services and Torah study will take place, with members of the Conservative Synagogue joining with us. When at their location, we will be joining them for their regular services.

## **EDUCATION...Dasee Berkowitz**

This fall certainly has been a busy one! The Hebrew School delved into a unit on Shabbat learning, covering many rituals, from candle lighting on Friday night to Havdalah on Saturday evening. We discussed what it means to really “rest” and how that might be different from simply watching a movie. We also made some delicious challah, spice bags, challah covers and decorated candle sticks.

We linked the Hebrew School study to our community-wide Shabbat celebration, “Shabbat Across Sag Harbor.” Many families picked up “Shabbat in a Box” replete with challah, wine and grape juice and fun “table teasers” to inspire interesting conversation over Friday night dinner. We kicked off this special Shabbat with a “fall friendly” version of Shabbat Shaboom at the Temple. Many of our Hebrew School families participated, then enjoyed a relaxing Friday night dinner at home with their children and friends. For some it was a first! Others said that it will inspire them to have a family dinner on Friday nights more often. We received some wonderful publicity in the Sag Harbor Express, and hope to launch “Shabbat Across Sag Harbor Returns” in the Spring.

Adult education classes are well underway. Our Mother’s Circle has grown this year, reaching out to more women in interfaith marriages. Our discussions range from “Jewish Parenting” to “Creative ways to celebrate holidays.” We enjoy meeting two Friday mornings a month and supporting each other in the challenges and opportunities of raising Jewish children, and recognizing how simple it can be to put our parenting practices into a Jewish framework.

One new group we started this year is a “Women’s Spirituality Group” which meets once a month. We began by looking at *Mussar*, a Jewish spiritual practice of improving one’s character. Our first session focused on gratitude, and we were all very grateful to take part in it! All are welcome to join us.

Our community celebration of Hanukkah begins with lighting the first candle on December 20<sup>th</sup> at 5PM. We’ll have everything you expect on Hanukkah with two added treats—Jonathan Glynn with his dog Lily will read from their new book, *Lily in the Sky with Kindness* and we’ll have some creative “Hanukkah thoughts” from our Hebrew School students.

*Chag Urim Sameach (Happy Festival of Lights!)*

## **ARTISTS’ BEIT MIDRASH...Barbara Freedman**

The artists’ Beit Midrash was conceptualized during the summer of 2010 and got underway this past season. The idea is to have a group of Jewish artists study Jewish texts and create art based on this study. Several Temple artists met during the summer and fall to study texts prepared by Rabbi Morris. We hope the group will attract more interested members, and that they will create art and show their work in our new art gallery. So far the participants have all been visual artists but others who work in the genres of music, dance and performance would be most welcome. Please contact me for more information: Bfreedman1@nyc.rr.com

## **MENORAH LIGHTING...**

Will take place at the Windmill on Main Street at **5:30PM** every night of Hanukkah beginning on Tuesday December 20<sup>th</sup>. Drop by one night, or every night, and participate!

## **MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT...Neal Fagin**

Looking back at the recent High Holidays, I think I most appreciated the concluding service on Yom Kippur. Rabbi Morris asked all of the children to dress in white and they made a beautiful sight as they approached the bima with glow sticks. The final shofar blast, *gadol*, was followed by a short Havdalah service with the lights dimmed and the glow sticks “ablaze.” Then the children began to dance. Having our young people participate and truly feel part of the holiday goes a long way towards insuring our Temple’s future and that of the Jewish people.

It is time also to thank Margaret Bromberg for her long and faithful service to the Temple. She is retiring at the end of the year. The greatest tribute you can pay her is knowing that her work as Temple Administrator will continue in the capable hands of Eileen Moskowitz, whom she hired and trained.

We are also saying farewell to Richard Shapiro, who has resigned from our Board of Trustees. He will, however, continue to help us with facility issues. David Diskin has been appointed to fill out his term until the next election.

A big Thank You, also, to Fran Gottfried who did a superb job as our Program Chairperson. She has tendered her resignation from that post due to time constrictions. But, we are very fortunate that Rona Klopman has agreed to take her place. Rona is a hard worker and puts her whole heart into every project she undertakes.

Much appreciation to David and Jessica Gruenstein for filling in as “Rabbi” and “Cantor” on Thanksgiving weekend. They are a great team.

### **TODAH RABBAH...Thanks to all!**

I wish you all a good, safe winter, wherever you spend it and hope those of you who remain on the East End will remember we are now open year round—whatever the weather.

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:**

The following new members have joined since September 1, 2011: Murray & Helen Charash, Morris Dickstein, Jeffrey & Roberta Soffer, Jack & Jane Weiselberg, Michael & Ruth Slade, Barbara Mensch, Deborah Oppenheimer, Michael & Jessica Schessel, Janice & Jeff Zimmerman, Martin & Toby Ligorner, Kevin & Jessica Brine, Jennifer Keller, Jay Schneiderman, Stephanie Lederman, Ali Pratt, Michael Graff & Carol Ostrow, Sheryl & Richard Kamen,

## **ARTS COMMITTEE...Ann Chwatsky**

This group provides input into design decisions for the Temple on every aspect, including the website and logo, as well as producing exhibits for the Social Hall which is now equipped with proper hanging and lighting equipment. Some exhibits will feature distinguished outside artists and others will show works from our own Temple community. The Committee is excited about its new beginnings and welcomes members who wish to join.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTES...Eileen Moskowitz**

The Temple office experienced an upsurge of activity in the weeks leading up to the High Holy Days, as preparations included the formation of a new High Holy Days Choir, a successful New Membership Campaign, and the launch of the Artists' *Beit Midrash*.

We received so many letters of praise after the High Holidays...here are a few examples:

"Thank you for a wonderfully spiritual Yom Kippur."

"The services were beautiful...thank you!"

"Thank you so much for wonderful services and helping me bring in the New Year...I will use my place in Southampton more now that I know the wonderful Temple in Sag Harbor."

"Temple Adas Israel is a great temple and has excellent services. Thank you for your open policy of allowing everyone to attend services."

"I enjoyed the experience tremendously."

"Thank you so much for letting us join your beautiful community for the most amazing family service."

"It's been 24 years since I first set foot inside Temple Adas Israel and began the process of making it my spiritual home...I'm so very proud to see how far the congregation has come over the years. And I'm thrilled that whenever I choose to enter the sanctuary I'm greeted with smiles, handshakes, and even hugs. You are all so very important to me."

On a personal note, I want to thank Margaret Bromberg—my supervisor, mentor and most importantly, my friend—as she retires from her role as Temple Administrator this month. Not only will I be forever grateful to her for choosing me as her successor, but for teaching me how—through her amazing wisdom, kindness, patience and grace—by embracing the Talmudic adage: "Only the lesson which is enjoyed can be learned well." Thank you, Margaret, for the joy—here's hoping I learned well!

## **IN MEMORIAM..**

Sincere condolences to *Gayle Kelmenson* and daughter *Philippa* on the death of husband and father, *Leo -Arthur Kelmenson* on August 30, 2011

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

During the months of Elul and Tishri and in honor of the High Holy Days, our Rosh Chodesh gatherings coalesced around the serious theme of Forgiveness. We examined its various facets, exploring the ability to forgive in different contexts, with and without an apology. I presented some new programs in which forgiveness is achieved through required steps within a guided structure, as are present in 12-step programs and marriage encounter groups. The premise is that forgiveness is a process engaged in deliberately, not just when "one feels like it." Our discussions were thoughtful and candid as we enriched each other with personal and philosophic reflections.

Margaret Bromberg, using written data and her extensive work in the field, facilitated a two-month look at Jewish perspectives on Dying and Death. Included was an encore look at the concept of a genuine *APOLOGY*. We explored how painful, awkward and difficult that is... and its role in making amends as part of the process of completion and inner peace at the end of life. I presented some provocative and controversial essays by Elizabeth Kubler Ross on life after death. We placed Dr. Ross's assertions and patient anecdotes within the parameters of Jewish thought and belief on an afterlife. As my husband said while reading this over my shoulder, "sounds like a million laughs, Gail." Indeed, the discussions were challenging and not always easy. But we've become more seasoned at tackling difficult material and trusting one another.

We also had time to enjoy our companionship, laugh together and even squeeze in a favorite annual Rosh Chodesh event before Hanukah. Once again we celebrated the East End Harvest with prayers of gratitude. I shared some interesting personal information on some of the farming families of both Forks which helped to make more immediate the privilege we share in this blessed experience of eating fresh produce of many varieties. We munched on delicious samples of local vegetables, wine, cheeses and other goodies. During the year, all our Rosh Chodesh members volunteer to bring lovely refreshments which add a good measure of cheer to our meetings.

Several members of the congregation have expressed an interest in joining Rosh Chodesh, which is always very good news. At the same time, we bid farewell to some of our members who migrate to Manhattan and points south until spring. We look forward to our winter gatherings—smaller, more informal—which brighten our spirits and connect us in the colder months.

If you are interested in joining Rosh Chodesh, please call or email me at 631-725-2943 or [bdwybaby@optonline.net](mailto:bdwybaby@optonline.net). We offer a holiday wish to our Temple family: May the lights of Hanukah warm your hearts, lift your spirits and illuminate your sense of hope for good health and peace in the New Year.

## **MAZEL TOV TO:**

**Alma and Irwin Hyman** on the birth of their granddaughter, Millicent Honey H. Winters, Sept 26, 2011; **Dr. Robert and Carol Nadel** on the birth of their granddaughter, Avery Charlotte Nadel, Sept 27, 2011; **Dr. Michael and Jessica Schessel** on the birth of Julian's baby brother, October 5, 2011; **Rona Klopman** on the Bat Mitzvah of her granddaughter, Julia Eve Johnson, Nov. 19, 2011; **Susan and Jonathan Parker** on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Ella Jane Parker on December 10, 2011; **Adrienne and Jerry Cohen** on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Olivia Fuld, daughter of Caralyn and Steven Fuld on December 3, 2011.

### ***Rabbi's message cont. from p. 1***

This enables both congregations to ensure that there will be a Shabbat morning *minyan* during the winter months. In the coming weeks, you will be receiving a very important publication that I wrote and edited with Marc Katz, our rabbinic student intern this past summer. Entitled, *A Time to Mourn*, this booklet will be a helpful resource in assisting families navigate their way through the process of death, burial and mourning. The publication of this booklet was made possible through generous contributions by families who recently experienced loss themselves. In many ways, it complements the work of our Caring Program, under the leadership of Gail Gambino, that aids bereaved families and arranges visits and other needs for those who are ill. It is just one more way in which we are evolving and enhancing the sense of community at Temple Adas Israel.

Finally, Hanukah, as Hillel reminds us, is a time for increasing our sense of the sacred. As we add one candle each night, we are reminded that we are capable of doing more, being more, and bringing more to others. May this be true of us individually, and may it also be fulfilled in the life of our synagogue.

*Chag Urim Sameach -- A Happy Festival of Lights.*

### ***PROGRAM COMMITTEE...Fran Gottfried***

This past year has been exciting for me and for the Temple as we contemplated year-round programming opportunities. I am now turning over my Program Chairmanship to the very capable Rona Klopman. If you have any thoughts or suggestions regarding speakers, events or other activities please feel free to contact her: kloppy@optonline.net. On November 13<sup>th</sup>, we were fortunate to welcome back author Lucette Lagnado, who spoke and read from her new book *THE ARROGANT YEARS: One Girl's Search for Her Lost Youth, from Cairo to Brooklyn*. The reviews are excellent, and our participants posed provocative questions leading to a wonderful morning.

My thanks to those in our congregational community who made this year's program committee activities possible: Rabbi Leon Morris, Julia Katz, Barbara Freedman, Margaret and David Doyle, Richard Gambino, Mindy Cantor, Allan and Phyllis Silver, Myra Peskowitz, Andrea Fagin, Dasee Berkowitz, Howard Maisel, Rona Klopman and others I may have missed!

**TEMPLE ADAS ISRAEL**  
**Elizabeth Street & Atlantic Avenue**  
**PO Box 1378**  
**Sag Harbor, NY 11963**  
**631-725-0904**  
**info@TempleAdasIsrael.org**  
**TempleAdasIsrael.org**

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

The Caring Program is in full-swing with a roster of over 30 volunteers ready to assist and meet the needs of our congregation. Rabbi Morris, our Program Advisor, and I meet monthly with our four terrific Captains: Ellen Ruby, Emilie Kutash, Julie Tatkon and Diane Schade. We review the program's efficiency, relevance and sensitivity in responding to requests for help. And we explore ways in which we might meet your needs more effectively.

Gratitude and thanks to Administrator Eileen Moskowitz for her computer skills and artistry in helping Emilie Kutash design our new Caring Cards of get well wishes and sympathy. We could not have done this without you Eileen! Many thanks, as well, to new volunteer Laurel Berger who will join our growing list of meal-making volunteers. It's a fitting time of year to gratefully acknowledge all of our volunteers—Myra, Andrea, Julia, Lorraine, Dasee, Toby, Ann, Eve, Meg, Sue, Jonathan, Gert, Laurel, Nancy, Jackie, Margaret, Mike, Howard, Rise, Faith, David D., Allen, Barbara, David L., Jackie, Myron, Dan, Michael, Rhonda, Judy, Mindy, Francine, Annette, Nancy K, Rona, Neal and Don—without whom this endeavor would not be possible. THANK YOU!

If you have any questions or concerns, please call or email me: 631-725-2943, bdwybaby@optonline.net. The Captains and I wish the congregation very good health in the New Year. If you need us, CALL the Temple at 631-725 0904. We are here for you.

### ***TEMPLE PERSONNEL***

#### **RABBI LEON MORRIS...**

**631-899-3718**

leonalanmorris@gmail.com

#### **DASEE BERKOWITZ:** Educational Consultant

daseeb@gmail.com

#### **STUDENT CANTOR JULIA KATZ**

Juliarckatz@gmail.com

#### **ADMINISTRATION: MARGARET BROMBERG &**

#### **EILEEN MOSKOWITZ...631-725-0904**

info@TempleAdasIsrael.org

#### **PRESIDENT: NEAL FAGIN**

631-835-2902, captainfagin@aol.com

#### **VICE PRESIDENT: ALAN LEAVITT**

leavittny@aol.com

#### **SECRETARY: DAVID J. LEE**

davelee11963@gmail.com

#### **TREASURER: HOWARD CHWATSKY**

howardchwatsky@aol.com

#### **HEBREW SCHOOL DIRECTOR: LEAH OPPENHEIMER**

loppenhe@optonline.net

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

leda.gpg@verizon.net

**BOARD MEMBERS:** David Diskin, James Dwoskin, Barbara Freedman, Gail Gambino, Leda Goldsmith, Jonathan Nash Glynn, Richard Hemley, Donald Katz, Rona Klopman, Howard Maisel, Ann Silver

#### **Honorary Board Member:**

Sylvia Lieberman, z'l

**ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS:** Jeffrey Britz, Margaret Bromberg, Mindy Cantor, Jerry Cohen, Janet Grossman, Myra Peskowitz, Phyllis Silver, Sandy Slipp