



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

Temple Adas Israel Chronicles

SPRING 2011 —ADAR/NISSAN 5771

LOOKING AHEAD TO A GREAT SEASON

Welcome to those of you who have been with us year around...and welcome home to those who will be joining us for the warmer months. The Program Committee under the leadership of **Fran Gottfried**, has a varied season planned.

To start with, there is our Temple's Annual **SECOND SEDER** on **Tuesday April 19 at 6 PM**. To prepare, there have been classes in "kashering" the kitchen and searching for Chametz.

Sunday **May 1 @11AM ...REEL JUDAISM** will show the French film titled **Le Rafle** at the Temple, with a second showing **May 16th at 7PM**.

Richard Gambino returns on **Sundays May 29, June 12 and June 26** at 11 AM with a series titled *Integrating Judaism with other Western Thought*, with response by Rabbi Morris.

On **Sunday June 5 @ 11 AM**, member **Mindy Cantor** will discuss what spirituality means in the NY School of Abstract Expressionism, highlighting noted artist **Barnet Newman's** work: how his paintings relate to the Bible, and, talking about his life, his Jewish upbringing, his Jewish education and knowledge.

Rabbi Morris will hold a series of Sunday morning talks titled *A Critique on Reform Judaism*, @ 11AM on **July 10, 17 and 24**.

Barbara Freedman is working on a unique *Artist Residence Weekend* for **August 12-14** featuring acclaimed painter and sculptor **TOBI KAHN**, who will discuss **SACRED SPACE**. Since this is what we are trying to create at Adas Israel, it will be an opportunity to study with one of the leading American artists specializing in art that does just that. The focus will be on the visual as well as the historical aspects of Jewish life.

A Cantorial concert is planned for Sunday **August 7 at 6 PM**.

Allan Silver will be leading the Book Club discussion of David Grossman's *To The End of The Land* on Sunday **August 21 at 7 PM**. So you might want to get a head start and begin reading the book now!

SAVE THE DATE:
 ANNUAL MEMBERS & FRIENDS COCKTAIL PARTY...SUNDAY JULY 10, 5 PM
 HONORING HOWARD & ANN CHWATSKY
 AT DAVID & MARGARET DOYLE'S HOME

MESSAGE FROM RABBI LEON MORRIS...

One of the best known parts of the Haggadah is the "Four Children." The Rabbis noted that there were four different verses in the Torah that speak of the obligation to tell future generations about the exodus from Egypt. *And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say to you, What do you mean by this service? That you shall say, It is the sacrifice of the Lord's Passover, Who passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when He struck the Egyptians, and saved our house. (Exodus 12:25-27)*

And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, This is done because of that which Hashem did to me when I came forth out of Egypt. (Exodus 13:8)

And it shall be when your son asks you in time to come, saying, What is this? that you shall say to him, the Lord's hand brought us out from Egypt, from the house of slavery. (Exodus 13:14)

And when your son asks you in time to come, saying, What do the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, mean, which the Lord our God has commanded you? Then you shall say to your son, We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. (Deuteronomy 6:20)

Because the Torah generally speaks succinctly and tends not to repeat commandments, the Rabbis suggested new understandings to be derived from this apparent redundancy. Indeed, each of the four passages, phrased someone differently, points to a different type of personality, requiring a distinct pedagogical approach, thus giving rise to the notion of the "wise child," the "wicked child," "the simple child," and the one who doesn't know how to ask.

While this expansive interpretation is creative, and while it is insightful with regard to needing different approaches to teach different kinds of children, many of us are uncomfortable by the notion of "labeling" in general, and even more uncomfortable with the way in which these distinctions are so thorough and all-encompassing.

One later commentator responds by offering his own interpretation on the "four children." Each of us, he suggests, contains within ourselves each of the four children. We are at times wise, and at other times simple. At times we are "wicked" and at times we feel as though we cannot even ask the question.

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ROSH CHODESH NEWS...GAIL GAMBINO

Our Rosh Chodesh group braved an unusually difficult winter with characteristic heartiness and determination. However, for the first time in three years, I was forced to cancel our January meeting because another snow storm made getting to my front door almost impossible. As the song says, "the weather outside was frightful," but our meetings, with very good attendance, continued to be delightful!

This year, our long-term project was an exploration of the Nature of Spirituality. Initially Myra Peskowitz and I had wanted to present the spiritual program, Mussar, as an on-going monthly program. Myra decided to expand the concept to include a larger prism of spiritual thought; specifically how it is understood and experienced in Judaism. Myra, Ellen Ruby, Leah Oppenheimer, Dasee Berkowitz and I all contributed readings, experiential learning, research and observations. We explored the ways in which Judaism expresses and encourages spiritual growth and took a deeper look at the subtle differences between an emphasis on morality and spirituality. Finally, to widen our lense, Dasee and I presented some of the spiritual differences and similarities between the major Eastern Religions and Judaism.

Our discussions were thoughtful, substantive and lively. It has become an intellectually and emotionally rewarding tradition for our group to tackle a larger topic of inquiry and explore its many dimensions over a number of months. This winter, with Leah's guidance, we expanded our mode of learning to experience and intellectually grasp these ideas and concepts. While this sounds like "heady work," we work just as hard to make the curriculum understandable, clear and meaningful in our lives and we always do this in the context of friendship.

Margaret Bromberg has brought us a wonderful new book, *Rosh Chodesh Table: Foods at the New Moon*. We will now have the fun and pleasure of expanding our refreshment table to include foods appropriate to each month's gathering. Learning through eating—what could be better! Getting together and enjoying each other's company continues to be the center and foundation of our group. In three years, we have grown from 10 to 21 members. As always, we happily welcome new members. If you are interested in learning more about Rosh Chodesh please contact me at 631-725-2943, or email bdwybaby@optonline.net. I would love to chat with you.

WHAT'S NEW...

Since the arrival of Rabbi Leon and Dasee full time last spring there have been many innovations. If you haven't been to Temple recently you haven't noticed that our display table in the ante-room is awash with colorful flyers depicting our many Temple classes, and other activities.

You may also have noticed the very creative e-mail blasts that arrive in your in-boxes each Thursday evening describing not only Shabbat services, but everything else that is available during the week, as well as acknowledgments and other news.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...NEAL FAGIN...

A long needed major maintenance project has begun recently at the Temple. We are very fortunate to have *Richard Shapiro* as chairperson of our Building Committee and Amy Werfel, an interior designer, who has volunteered her services, to oversee this project.

The electrical wiring in the synagogue, which was a mess, has been repaired and is now in good working order. We discovered that there is a lot of patch work and wood which must be replaced before we can paint. The carpeting is worn and will soon be replaced. The most expensive part of the project will be pulling out many of the windows and replacing the rotted wood. If we have enough money, we will also re-surface the driveway.

We do have a capital fund for repairs but this will not be nearly enough to do a first class job.

I know I am always asking you for money...that seems to be the most "visible" part of my job as your president. So, at this time I'm asking if *you can and will* make an additional contribution and mark your check "For Building Maintenance." It is *YOU*, the members, and friends, of our congregation that will ultimately reap the benefits of these repairs and renovations. Let me be the first to say a heartfelt

THANK YOU! ...TODA RABAH!

RABBI'S MESSAGE cont from p. 1

I love this commentary. It rings true of my own sense of self, and also affirms how our knowledge is framed by our particular areas of interest and expertise. In one situation, I feel wise; in another, simple. We "contain multitudes," to paraphrase Walt Whitman.

The commentary and "super-commentary" on the Four Children reflects our approach at Temple Adas Israel as well. The idea that the very same experience—such as the Exodus from Egypt—needs to be framed differently for different sorts of people, means that we need a variety of modalities for people to express their Jewish identities. At the same time, there needs to be sufficient openness and desire for personal growth that we refrain from labeling ourselves or anyone else as being solely a "cultural Jew," or "one who likes to go to services," or "an intellectual" who likes to take classes, or a "spiritual seeker."

The Four Children suggest that we can be all of these, or parts of these in whatever ways we choose. A responsive synagogue sees and celebrates the differences between us, and also allows for experimentation that enables us to create a Jewish life that is uniquely ours.

Dasee and I send you our best wishes for a *chag kasher v'sameach* – a happy and meaningful Passover.

THE FOLLOWING IS A DOCUMENT THAT WAS DEVELOPED AFTER THE BOARD RETREAT LAST FALL

Programmatic Vision

Over the next three years, Temple Adas Israel will become a congregation in which Jewish life is an integral, important and relevant part of congregant's lives. The Temple will be a congregation that engages every age and demographic group of the congregation in Jewish life in ways that are meaningful for them and appropriate for their stage in life. It will also come to represent Jewish life to the general community of Sag Harbor.

At the core of "Jewish life" are:

- Mind — Limmud Torah
- Heart — Avodah Prayer, meditation, and community-building activities
- Hands — Gemilut Hasadim (interpersonal, local needs, global needs and outdoor activities)

Overall Strategic Goals

Volunteerism:

- To cultivate volunteerism at every level
- To form a committee structure that will take responsibility for implementing programs

Communications:

- To create an updated website that is attractive, user-friendly, up-to-date and which reinforces community and provides opportunity for involvement (financial and otherwise) to those using it.
- To spread our communication efforts beyond Sag Harbor.

Financial Sustainability

- To cultivate philanthropy (beyond Temple dues) throughout the year

Outreach to the Underserved

- To reach out, particularly to unaffiliated Jews, interfaith and interracial families, singles and members of the LGBT communities on the East End
- To offer more relevant and engaging programming for Jewish teenagers

Community Building

- To encourage community-building as an explicit goal in every program—not differentiating between "summer people" and "year round people" and in practice—encouraging opportunities for people to get to know each other after each program.

Core Values (that will incorporate all of our work)

Learning from our Tradition— We are a community that takes Jewish tradition seriously and is mindful of what we can learn as individuals, and as a community, from the wisdom of our ancestors.

Relevance —We are a community that understands that Jewish life today is lived most fully when it speaks to the big, universal questions of our lives and provides meaning to us as we live each day.

Community-Building—*The Temple* is committed to building community among our diverse populations. Our efforts are where Jewish values and ethical mindfulness are practiced and Jewish time is celebrated. We grow individually and collectively as we strengthen the bonds among ourselves and cultivate a sense of solidarity with the Jewish people in Israel and around the world. Our community-building efforts are toward the greater end of being a blessing to the world.

Empowerment—We are a community that seeks to empower congregants to take ownership over their Jewish lives and make Jewish decisions that are meaningful to them and their families.

Integration—We are a community that recognizes and celebrates our demographic and generational diversity and seeks to integrate our different communities through activities that span "head", "heart" and "mind" wherever possible.

WHAT'S DOING IN THE OFFICE...

By Margaret Bromberg, with Eileen J. Moskowitz

The “quiet” months haven’t been quiet for us! Despite having to cope with cold, snow and ice we have been able to get in and out of the building safely and to comply with Village code regarding clear sidewalks, thanks to Bob Gettling. Incidentally, Bob, and his wife Josey, have been important Temple workers for a *combined* 60 years!

While many of you have been away, we’ve made arrangements for At-Home Shabbat meals, a staple of our Winter Program for several years. This year, we alternated Shabbat meals with Havdalah meals and enjoyed gathering at the homes of the **Brombergs, Peskowitzs, Chwatskys, Zaretskys and Berkowitz-Morris’**. As usual, the food and the company were excellent and we extend a BIG THANK YOU to our hosts.

Since the introduction of our new Oneg Shabbat Sponsorship form, we have streamlined the process of providing a wonderful way to celebrate special occasions. Recent Oneg Shabbats have been sponsored by **Ellen Ruby, Phyllis Arakie, Dave & Joanna Lee**. In May, we will share the *simcha* of **Janet and Karl Grossman’s** 50th Anniversary at a Friday evening Oneg. We encourage you to consider honoring your loved ones this way. Forms are available on the display table in the Social Hall, or you can print one from the weekly emails.

During February, while Rabbi Morris and his family were in Israel, Student Cantor Julia Katz led services twice and also enhanced our Shabbat observance with a yoga lesson. In addition we thank Shabbat lay leaders **Ann & Perry Silver** and **Leah Oppenheimer**, who presented insightful Torah study sessions on Saturday mornings.

Our winter holidays and events were very well-attended—from our Chanukah Party and Havdalah Service, with music by Barry Glick, and the *Fiddler On A Roof* Sing-A-Long—to the fun-packed Purim Celebration...we embraced the richness of our traditions and enjoyed the company of our warm community.

Temple Adas Israel was well represented at the Girl Scouts’ annual Interfaith Service; it was the first time in history that we had a Rabbi to participate. **Margaret** and **Ellen Ruby** taught the girls *Shalom Chaverim* and all joined in singing some traditional Girl Scout songs.

With the objective of preparing a more comprehensive Temple History, **Eileen** conducted intensive research to unearth as much information about Temple Adas Israel’s existence as possible. The results, coupled with the writing and editorial expertise of Communications Director, **Leda C. Goldsmith**, and donated printing by **Smith, Edwards Dunlap, Debra Lobel’s** family firm, we

have produced a four-page account of the past 115, 118, or 128 years (depending on which year you start counting!). This document is available on the display table in the Social Hall.

Part of the research mission brought a pleasant surprise with the donation of a color illustration of the original Mishcan Israel, circa 1898, from Joe Markowski, a Sag Harbor native who used to work at the Temple. He now enjoys uncovering the history of Sag Harbor. The picture hangs outside Rabbi Morris’ office.

Continuing our efforts to be “green” (it’s not easy being green!) we have eliminated mailings to those who can access information online. We also bought *real* tablecloths to replace paper and installed bins for recycling. However, we need volunteers to wash the tablecloths and to assist in re-cycling bottles. We welcome your help!

In this vein, we’d like to acknowledge the invaluable volunteers who have lent their time and service in the past few months...**Diane Lewis** who keeps the outside Bulletin Board updated; **Janet Grossman, Judy Klinghoffer, Joyce Shulman, Eric Cohen Julia Chachere, Susan Parker and Faith Diskin**, who have helped with the Oneg Shabbats; Janet has also kept us supplied with delicious *challahs* and *Hamantaschen* from “up island;” **Jacqueline Berg, Margaret Bromberg, Joanna Lee, Hilda Mintz and Marlyse Silverberg**...our efficient Mailing Team; and the table cloth washers **Janet Grossman, Anne Dwoskin, Margaret, Eileen** and most particularly **Andrea Fagin** who did *all* the tablecloths after our fabulous Purim Party.

We look forward to a busy spring, starting with our Passover Second Seder on April 19 and Yom Ha-Atzmaut Community Celebration May 15. Please continue to check the weekly emails and monthly calendars for all upcoming programs. We hope to see you at one of them soon!

DAVE LEE LOOKS TOWARD THE FUTURE..

Many years ago I had a conversation about Wills with a fellow charter member of the Sag Harbor Community Band. He told me he didn’t have a Will because he didn’t have any money, and if he ever got some, he would leave a bequest to the Band. So, I suggested that he make a Will leaving a percentage of his Estate to the Band. I then forgot about the conversation until many years later. Soon after my friend died, I received a letter from his attorney.

Our conversation had had a magic effect on the gentleman and the Sag Harbor Community Band received a bequest of 30% of his Estate... over **\$300,000!** One never knows, do one?

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In light of this, I'd like to suggest that our congregants, friends and visitors re-examine their Wills and find an incentive to include our Temple. I think we could garner some long-term benefits. There are numerous websites where such information is available, and perhaps in future issues of *The Chronicles* we will be publishing a **Mitzvah List...It's a Mitzvah to be on this list!**

THE CARING PROGRAM...GAIL GAMBINO

The Temple Caring Program is up and running. If you are dealing with a death in the family, (*Nichum Aveilim*) or coping with someone who is ill at home or in the hospital (*Bikur Cholim*), we have a roster of volunteers ready to assist in a variety of ways. Many Temple members have used the program, and we're happy to be of help. Please call the Temple at 631-725-0904 and your call will be transferred to someone who can help you. If you get the recording please leave a message and someone will get back to you. In the event of a death, use the Rabbi's number on the recording.

If you are dealing with someone who is ill and are not sure if we can help, please do call us and let us assist you in assessing the situation. Right now we are experiencing a serious volunteer shortage in the area of *shiva minyan*. If you are willing to volunteer for a *shiva minyan*, please email me, bdwybaby@optonline.net or call the Temple office. We would be grateful for your help. Many thanks to all our volunteers and four terrific co-captains: **Ellen Ruby, Diane Schade, Emilie Kutash and Julie Tatkon.**

REEL JUDAISM...Rona Klopman

The Reel Judaism Film Festival will continue on Sundays this year; but since our survey showed a tie on which day was preferred, we will also show the films on Mondays. We'll begin on Sunday May 1 at 11 AM (with bagels and coffee) with a first run movie shot in France, called *La Rafle*. It hasn't been distributed yet and we are lucky to get it. It will also be shown Monday May 16 at 7PM (with snacks). The plot is about French participation with the Nazis in rounding up Jews during the Holocaust and sending them to concentration camps. You won't want to miss it. Thanks to a generous donation from Richard Hemley, we will have our own projection equipment (and a lesson in how to use it) at the Temple. Neal Fagin is donating the screen. So we can now show our films in our own "home," so to speak.

IN THE NEWS...

Dasee Berkowitz has had two articles published recently...*Tiger Ima: The Spiritual Life of Parents in the Jewish Week* and *Turning The World Upside Down for Purim* for the JTA.

HEBREW SCHOOL...Leah Oppenheimer

Given the full time presence of Rabbi Leon and Dasee, our School feels new again. With a healthy contingent of 20 students, we are learning our way through the year. Often my *Chronicles* articles only describe the holiday highlights. But in this column I will describe the nuts and bolts of the Hebrew School's usual operation. Our staff tries to infuse each component of our curriculum with some sort of learning opportunity.

We always start with a healthy, filling snack: pizza, bread and cheese, lentil soup... Children are always hungry after school, physically and emotionally, and we want to fortify them to be receptive to learning. During snack time we talk about upcoming holidays, the Torah portion for the week, current events, or we just talk about other things—and we laugh. We practice the blessings and grace after meals. It is definitely a "community-building" time.

Prayer is usually next. Leon and I have been teaching our way through the Shabbat service with the students. We did some very complex work around the *Amidah*, and the children have interpreted it in discussion and art *Midrash*. Look for the *Amidah* banner in the Social Hall downstairs. The B'nei Mitzvah students have extra prayer study; they are expected to learn enough to lead the *Shema* service, the Torah service and the *Kiddush* before their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. This year we have a separate B'nei Mitzvah class on Thursdays in addition to our regular Hebrew School classes on Mondays.

Then comes Hebrew instruction... Because the spring is filled with holidays, we are using holiday vocabulary to teach even the young ones Hebrew reading. Hebrew instruction is one of the most difficult parts of running a supplementary setting. There is not enough time to teach Hebrew as a second language, but simple phonic decoding as was taught in the fearsome 50s and 60s is inadequate for building meaning and understanding. Then too, each teacher has to make adjustments for different learning styles, age level and what children tolerate after a long day in secular school. This curriculum is due for revision and we are presently looking for new instructional techniques.

Finally, we have the "fun" part of the day—drama, art, *Midrash*, games. In February we made a video out of the Moses story. In March we prepared our Purim Spiel. Currently we are preparing for the Passover Seder, and beginning the age-old process of teaching the Journey story and its questions. In past years, the art for this project has included personal *Haggadot*, a quilt, flags, *Afikoman* bags and we have danced to Miriam's song and surfed

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our way across the Red Sea. Stay tuned for this year's project—my staff is always creative. But this description is still inadequate to describe everything we do. The real teaching is ABOUT Judaism at home, where people love you. I hope that shines through. Happy Passover and a Joyous spring to all!

SOCIAL ACTION... THE REALITY...

We now have a working Social Action Committee headed by Board member *James Dwoskin*. The following are two of their most visible projects and demonstrate how the Temple is now thinking globally.

WINGS OVER HAITI...ONE YEAR LATER

This group, started by Board member *Jonathan Glynn*, has just completed the purchase of two acres of land in order to expand, via its learning partners in the U.S. Staff development continues while Children's Health programs are bolstered by "well visits" from doctors and more substantial food supplies are provided by U.S. sponsors. Jonathan says, "obviously there is a lot more work to be done and more funds are needed." On March 18 the *Washington Post* carried a wonderful article by Kathleen Parker. Please visit www.wingsoverhaiti.Org for more information.

SHINE...Sag Harbor in Nicaragua, founded by Board member *James Dwoskin*, has suffered some unfortunate setbacks. The hydrogeologist has determined that the community cannot support the well as planned. Instead, El Provenir, the NGO SHINE has been working with, initiated plans to build a pumping station to pipe water to Monteverde. The most recent problem, however, is that the owner whose land was the source of the water has died, and his heirs won't fulfill his wishes to donate the land. So, money is badly needed. Please e-mail james@icarealty.com if you or your friends can help.

LIFE CYCLE EVENTS...

MAZEL TOV to *Russ & Adrienne Fierman* on the birth of their first grandchild, **Samuel Kenneth Gordon**, 12/1/10; and to *Dr. Glen & Diane Mogan* on the birth of their granddaughter **Avery Pearce Mogan**, 1/26/11.

IN MEMORIAM...We have recently lost two beloved members, each of whom contributed significantly to our Temple life.

DONALD DOCTOROW, a long time Board member, succumbed after a long illness. He will be missed by those who remember his resonant voice and love of music. Since his funeral was held in Westchester, a Memorial service is planned for Friday May 6th during Shabbat Services.

SUE CHARNEY FISCHER passed away Shabbat afternoon March 26, 2011. She will be sorely missed by all whose lives she touched, particularly by those with whom she worked at Temple Adas Israel. The congregation's deep sympathy goes out to her twin sister, Alice Opell and her family.

Sincerest condolences from the whole congregation on the deaths of: Jules Danto 11/4/10, stepfather of *Sue Fischer*; *Lenny Fichtelberg*, 11/4/10, husband of *Jill Danis*; *Florence Brasz*, 11/18/10, mother of *Deborah Fogarty*; *Joshua M. Levine*, 11/30/10 -son of *Myron & Susan Levine*; *Julie Sloane*, 12/4/10 daughter of *Norma Sloane*; *Frieda Rubin*, 11/26/10, mother of *Beth Peller*; *Richard Schein*, husband of *Carol Schein*, 2/27/11; and *Beatrice Aron*, great aunt of *Julie Takton*.

May they all rest in peace.

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