

Celebrating Israel @ 70

At the risk of dating myself, I was born on April 28, 1981. Believe it or not, by June (barely 6 weeks later), I was on my first flight to Israel! In those years, my dad was the director of the Camp Ramah summer program in Israel. As a result, we would spend every summer, from June to August there.

Although we lived primarily in Jerusalem, we would travel all over the country in our free time. In truth, there is probably not a single area of the country I have not visited, nor a single landmark left unseen. Those experiences had a profound effect on me as a child, and as I have grown, my love and connection to the land of Israel have only deepened. It is even the place where Lu and I first fell in love. To call it magical would not do it justice. Israel is, in so many ways, my home away from home.

As I sit writing this article at the beginning of April, I am preparing to return to my other “home,” once again. This time, as the leader of our congregational trip. I am consumed by equal parts excitement, anticipation, anxiousness and, to be honest, some sadness - knowing I will have to be apart from Lu and Eva for almost two weeks. But most of all, I feel gratitude. Gratitude for the opportunity to share this country, which I love so much, with the 16 members and friends of our community, who will be joining me on this great adventure.

This year, Israel turns 70 years old—a remarkable milestone indeed. Knowing this, we purposefully arranged for our trip to coincide with the celebration of Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israel Independence Day). This is always an important and exciting time to be in Israel, but this year it feels especially profound. I have no doubt that this will be a highlight of the trip, for all involved!

Just as it is with human beings, when a country reaches a milestone birthday it is only appropriate to take stock, and to consider not just the past, but the present and future, as well. While Israel has—against all odds—found great success over the years, it has also faced significant challenges.

Peace with the Palestinians and Israel's Arab neighbors has remained elusive, to say the least. Issues of religious pluralism, the rights of asylum seekers and even the integrity of the Prime Minister's office, have become daily concerns, not just for Israelis, but for Jews all over

the world as well. And while I am ready and eager to toast the country for all of its wonderful achievements, it would be disingenuous to suggest that all of these matters are not weighing heavily on my heart too.

Clearly, there are no simple answers to many of these issues. Suggesting there are, is dangerously naive. There are very real threats to Israel's continued existence, however, not all of them come from external sources. I truly believe that some of the greatest threats to the future of the Jewish State come not from without, but from within. Unless these issues are addressed, then the future of the State of Israel will, sadly, remain clouded.

However, just because a situation is complicated, does not mean that it is intractable. It simply means we need to think harder, connect more deeply, and dream bigger. Israel is a country that was founded on the pillars of hope, faith, and determination. Hope and faith that we would one day return to our ancestral home and determination to remain there. But beyond these qualities, we also need vision. We need leadership. We need to instill in ourselves, and in our communities, a more meaningful connection to the land of Israel, so that we can be true partners in building a homeland we can all be proud of.

But we cannot do this if we don't go and see the country ourselves. We need to go and visit and interact with this beautiful country and to see it with our own eyes. And that is why this trip is so important to me and why I plan on arranging trips just like it in the future as well.

Truly the challenges facing Israel today are great. However, in moments like this I return to the simple, yet profound, words of Theodore Herzl: *Im Tirtzu, Ain Zo Agadah, Ve'im Lo Tirtzu, Agada hi Ve'agada Tisha'er* — which I have always taken to mean: if we are willing to truly put in the work, then nothing is beyond our grasp. However, if we remain distant, disaffected and apathetic, then our dreams for the land of Israel will remain unrealized.

So this year let us all dream together and commit, in our own ways, to working towards building a Jewish Homeland that exists in peace and is committed to the prosperity of all those who call this sacred land home.

(continued on page 2)



RABBI DAN GEFFEN

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

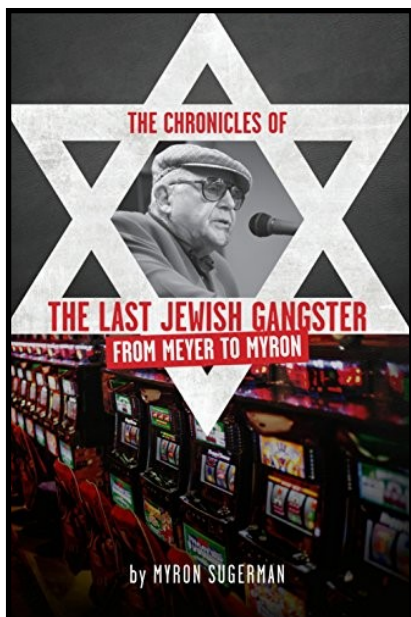
Neal Fagin

Our building renovation plans are making headway. In the next few months we will send a detailed report to the congregation. We will also be reaching out to you to help support our Capital Campaign.

As you probably know, our member and acclaimed architect, Lee Pomeroy, recently passed away. Lee has left our project in excellent hands and we have met with his associate partner several times as we move forward. It is really a tribute to Lee, while we dearly miss him, his work will continue.

We have many events planned for the summer—but I wanted to take the liberty of encouraging you to attend one that is of personal significance to me. On July 12, a fraternity brother of mine, Myron Sugarman, will be speaking about his book, *The Chronicles of the Last Jew Gangster*. I read it and felt compelled to ask him to speak at our Temple. I hope you will join us for what promises to be a riveting talk about the Kosher Nostra and his 60 years in the mob.

Be on the lookout for a detailed summer schedule coming soon!



*(continued from first page)*

I look forward to sharing my reflections and experiences with the community over the summer, upon my return. And on behalf of our community, let me take this opportunity to wish Israel a very happy 70th Anniversary!

L'Shalom  
Rabbi Dan

## TEMPLE TEEN TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

This past January 19-22, Rabbi Dan and Shelley were privileged to travel to Washington, D.C. with four of our teens to a program, *L'Taken*, run by RAC (Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism). This program is designed to both expose Jewish teens to a variety of public policy issues, as well as, to explore the Jewish values that inform the Reform Movement's advocacy around these issues.



**Rabbi Dan, Shelley Lichtenstein and our Teen participants in D.C.**

Throughout the weekend, hundreds of teens from around the country were given the knowledge and tools to write effective, persuasive and passionate speeches on a topic of their choice to present to their Senators and Representatives when we visited their offices on the last day of the program.

On the train ride home, some of our teens shared their reflections of the weekend:

**Erin Kennedy:** This weekend with the RAC is one of the most amazing trips I have been on. Not only was it fun to meet new people, but those people all shared the same core values and were fighting for and interested in the same topics. It was truly inspiring to be around so many like-minded people.

**Marley Slotkin:** This weekend was one I will never forget. It was an amazing experience that I'm so happy I was able to take part in. The RAC is such a great organization because they have a chance to really improve social justice issues and get to incorporate Jewish values while doing so. It feels awesome to have gotten a chance to lobby on issues we feel strongly about.

**Madeline Grabb:** It was incredible to meet other teenagers from all over the country who were equally as passionate about social justice issues. The RAC made the weekend an amazing learning experience. We learned an extraordinary amount in four days, and I feel so grateful to have gone on this trip.

**Goldie Sullivan:** I absolutely loved this trip, it was amazing! I loved meeting all the new people and exploring with the girls I was with. The seminars were incredible and so empowering. Being with people that have the same views as you and want to make a difference and then doing that with other kids is so great. The whole experience was awesome—100% I would do it again.

## WOMEN'S ROSH CHODESH GROUP

*Gail Gambino, Leader*

In writing this article over the years, my hope has been to thank the members who have provided such enriching presentations for our meetings—and to give the reader a larger picture of the look and feel of Rosh Chodesh. Sometimes I've struggled to paint that picture. This year it emerged easily. Our meetings represented "A Journey:" to experience our Jewish selves more fully; to think more deeply about creating a Jewish Legacy for the future; to experience the spiritual elements of our Jewish lives; and to understand our Jewish roots and backgrounds and how they have shaped us on many levels.

October brought us to our annual Celebration of the East End Harvest and a beautiful presentation by Ruth Joseph, "L'Dor Vador— from Generation to Generation: Sowing the Seeds of Judaism for the Future." While feasting on the foods of the harvest, Ruth led us in a many-faceted look at how and why we create a Jewish legacy for friends and family. She helped us to think more clearly and deeply about the joys and challenges of this process and its significance in the continuity of our journey.

In November, Ellen Ruby and Shelley Lichtenstein had us up and dancing; a physical departure from most meetings! After helping us to understand the history of Jewish dance, they offered us the exhilarating experience of learning some Israeli dances—a different and gratefully received—direction on our journey.



In December, I led the annual Chanukah celebration honoring our tradition of candle lighting for the special women in our lives. We then focused on the spiritual dimensions of the story by exploring the possibility of miracles in our own lives and the miracle of being honored by each other in an interpersonal exercise. It was an experiential journey with some surprising encounters on the road. It happily ended with welcomed food and Ann Silver's homemade latkes.

During February, Eileen and I helped the group to explore our own Jewish journeys, and how they shaped our notion of a persona of "Jewishness." It was personal and illuminating, with many twists and turns in the road. It deepened our understanding of each other and ourselves. A brief nod of deep thanks to Shelley Lichtenstein and Committee for a most successful Temple Women's Passover Seder, once again sponsored by Rosh Chodesh.

In April, Lu Geffen and I led our group on a journey through the spiritual riches of the month of Iyar. Linking modernity with the mystics, we explored the Kabbalistic practice of reflecting upon one's personal, ethical and spiritual qualities as preparation for receiving the Torah. We used this as a guide to examining dilemmas in our own life. Greater understanding emerged as we moved between ancient practices and modern rituals and habits of thought. It was an interesting, intimate and satisfying experience.

Moving toward summer, we look forward to presentations by Myra, Marilyn, Ruth, Margaret and others. A summer highlight is always our annual Picnic. Whether learning, laughing, sharing painful moments, eating together and enjoying fellowship—we savor the process, the journey together. If you'd like to join us, please email me at [bdwybaby@optonline.net](mailto:bdwybaby@optonline.net).

## CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

*Toby Spitz, Chair*

The Program Committee wants to thank Mindy Cantor for all of her efforts for a very successful fundraiser on November 5 for the people of Mexico and Puerto Rico, who had been impacted by abnormal weather conditions in the late summer and early fall. The fundraiser was a lot of fun from food to entertainment to a delightful movie, *My Jewish Shiva*. Mindy got a donation of wine from the Sag Harbor Liquor Store and homemade guacamole and salsa from Schiavoni Market as well as purchased empanadas.

We were entertained by Mauricio Lopez who came from Hampton Bays in his Mexican outfit and sombrero and sang Mexican songs with the audience joining in with him. Howard Cantor, who spends a lot of time in Puerto Rico—even playing hockey there—came in his Puerto Rico hockey jersey, played guitar and sang songs he had written about Puerto Rico. Mindy then gave a talk on the history of Jews in Mexico and Puerto Rico before introducing the film. We raised about \$1,200, which the Temple matched out of a discretionary fund.

We look forward to several interesting cultural offerings this summer, including: a talk by Nina Bernstein Simmons in honor of her father, Leonard Bernstein's 100th birthday, which includes an analysis of the Jewish themes in his music; six wonderful films with Jewish/Israeli themes; several authors, a concert by our homegrown singer, Rabbi Minna Bromberg and a few surprises! Check our website for the latest information: [TempleAdasIsrael.org](http://TempleAdasIsrael.org)

## HEBREW SCHOOL

*Shelley Lichtenstein, Director*

Our Hebrew School is a growing and vibrant community with families from Riverhead, Hampton Bays, Southampton, Bridgehampton, Sag Harbor and East Hampton. We gather on Monday afternoons and our older students also meet on Wednesday afternoons to reinforce their Hebrew skills and focus on their Bar/Bat Mitzvah lessons with Rabbi Dan and our faculty.

This year we are extremely fortunate to have Elena Krotman and Marie Weller as founders of our Hebrew School PTA. Together, they have involved parents and faculty in many projects, creating a real community for our Hebrew School families.

We are blessed to have an excellent faculty including a number of volunteer teachers from our congregation. This allows us to offer additional support to our students. Our post B'nei Mitzvah are encouraged to continue as teacher assistants in our classrooms and are excellent role models for our younger students.



On any given day, our students are learning in their classroom, cooking or baking with students from another class, working on an all school project, speaking English, speaking Hebrew, singing in both English and Hebrew, or reading in our library.

Our Monday afternoons end with an engaging Family Torah Service led by Rabbi Dan. Parents, faculty, teens and our upcoming B'nei

Mitzvah students all take turns chanting the Torah Blessings. Our younger students have the opportunity to open the ark and join Rabbi Dan on the *bimah*. Rabbi Dan brings Torah to life in his weekly teaching, making Torah relevant to our Hebrew School community.

Indeed, we are a growing *Kehillah*/Community where new friendships are forming, where all ages learn together, where Hebrew is a living language, where Torah comes to life, where Israel is a place we connect with, where learning happens through books, songs, plays, art, stories, laptops, games, hands-on experiences, and more.

We welcome you to join us on a Monday afternoon and experience the magic of our Hebrew School community!

## FED Program: Family Experiential Day (FED)

These are special Hebrew School Sundays throughout the year. This unique program was created and implemented by Rabbi Dan, Shelley Lichtenstein and Lu Geffen.

Jewish communities have flourished all over the world and today, Jews represent those unique places in their observance style, family traditions, language, and more. World Jewry is vibrant, and it tells about who we are as a people. With that enduring understanding in mind, the guiding theme of this year's FED was **Jewish Communities of the World**. We dedicated five Sundays to these Family Days where our parents and children studied together.



"Our family looked forward to the Family Experiential Days. We always learned something new and enjoyed spending time with our Hebrew school community." *The Andrews Family*

"We thought FED was an excellent and creative learning experience for the whole family! It is a hands-on, interactive learning experience that our family enjoyed very much." *The Butler Family*

Our Hebrew School families explored different types of Jews and their unique environments. We grounded our learning with personal family immigration stories of how we got to the United States. This was quite fascinating! Learning about each family's past brought everyone closer. From those personal narratives we investigated the backgrounds of Ashkenazi, Sephardic, and Mizrahi Jews.

Our learning culminated with a session about Israel, a land that, like the United States, Jews of all backgrounds call home. Special guest, Zoe Vatash helped organize this day and spoke. Zoe, a Pierson High School graduate who recently completed a two-year service in the Israel Defense Forces, shared her experience, captivating each parent and child.

Next was a "cook off" where family teams each received the ingredients and recipe for a different ethnic Passover food. With Passover days away, it was a wonderful (and tasty!) way to wrap up our Family Experiential Days.

## Reflections from Rabbi Dan

One of the great joys of my job, is being able to help prepare our students to become *Bnei Mitzvah* (sons and daughters of The Commandments). What is most gratifying is having the opportunity to work with each of them individually. Not only does this help them in preparing to read and teach Torah, but it also affords us a chance to get to know each other better. I am constantly amazed with how talented and committed our students are. Each of them brings something special to our school and our community and I could not be more proud of each of them!



## Hebrew School PTA “Building a Community” Elena Krotman and Marie Weller, PTA Coordinators

Over the course of the last year, our little Temple has been buzzing with numerous Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and increased attendance on a regular basis. It’s always a nice feeling to walk into the Temple and be so welcomed and feel so connected.

This has been accomplished by a collective effort. First, by the leadership of Rabbi Dan, and our Hebrew School director—who is a magnate in disguise—Shelley Lichtenstein, and also by the families that make up the growing Hebrew School.

When Marie and I were approached last summer to head the PTA, neither one of us knew what to expect, but we did know we wanted to help build a community. This was our goal.

We met many times since last summer and brainstormed on what we could do to attract more attendance during the Jewish holidays and create new fun events. “Great food! Some wine! Peer pressure!” It worked...

Delicious vegetarian catered meals from places like Mercado and Saaz Restaurants—when families didn’t have to cook on a Friday night, and followed by Shabbat Service—not only filled the belly but also the soul.

Our adult Night Out on a very cold winter night at Muse in town was so much fun and a great way to get to know each other outside of Temple. Having our Hebrew School teachers attend was a plus. They are grown ups too...

The Hannukah Bazaar had the best attendance to date with something for everyone. We sent out sign-up emails and our little Temple community all pitched in.

That same month, a number of families decided to help out with the Maureen’s Haven Project. A heartwarming, feel good *Tikkun Olam* that reminded all of us of the wonderful blessings we have. The younger kids and teens set up beds, while the adults cooked and set up entertainment for the homeless men who would be spending Christmas Eve in a shelter safe from the harsh winter on the East End.

Interestingly enough, volunteering for Maureen’s Haven was not a PTA initiative. Something was happening. We were encouraging each other to do more together in our community. We still smile thinking about that night...

And it keeps getting better! The First Annual Purim Basket Fundraiser was a HUGE success! We set out to sell 36 (double *chai*) beautiful Purim-themed baskets filled with *hamantaschen*—baked by our Hebrew School kids and volunteers—shiny blue and white glass sun catchers handmade by our students and artistically led by local artist Lorraine Pepper (thank you Lorraine!), white Temple baseball caps generously donated by Bert Waife, a beautifully presented and delicious lentil soup in a jar, Israeli tea and a mug, and much more.



We sold out with many requests to make more next year and every year.

The coordination involved to get this done was successful because our little community all helped out. It was a month-long project that helped raise the funds to fulfill our Hebrew School wish list that includes iPads for teaching, kids birthday gifts and an upcoming Teacher Appreciation tea.

The year isn’t over and we have plans for a “Bring Your Parents to Hebrew School Day” and what is sure to be an extra fun night, “Jewish Trivia Night.” We welcome everyone to join, participate and make Temple Adas Israel one of your go-to places! It really is a nice community to be a part of!



Tashlich at Havens Beach



Apple-picking for Food Pantry donation



Family Hanukkiyah-making



A mezuzah for Gail Gambino's new home



Teens building Sukkah



Volunteering at Maureen's Haven Homeless Shelter



HarborFest



Tikkun Olam



Ilana Lerner's donation to our Hebrew School



Community Passover Seder



Latke demo at John Jermain



Hanukkah Party



Hanukkah Bazaar



Purim "magic"



"Thor" and "The Hulk" read the Megillah



Making hamantaschen



Purim Party & Carnival



Purim Party "Reveler" and "Carrot Top"

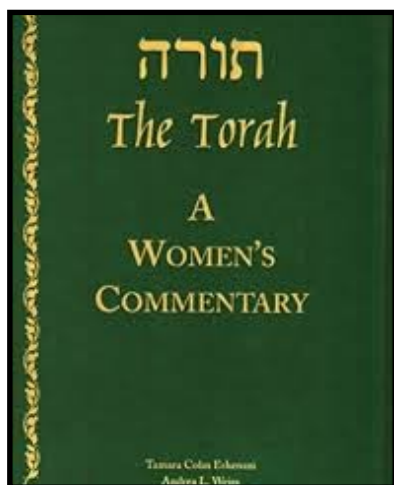


Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebration



## TORAH STUDY USING A WOMEN'S COMMENTARY

Ruth Joseph



If you were to attend morning services and stay for *Torah* Study on the first *Shabbat* of the month, you might be surprised to find someone unexpected leading the discussion. It is true that Rabbi Dan Geffen will be sitting at the head of the table, but he will not be saying much. Instead, sitting next to him, a female member of the congregation will be leading the

discussion.

She will not be referencing the familiar brown-covered Jewish Publication Society's *Tanach*, but a newer green-covered book called *The Torah: A Women's Commentary*. And while the discussion will probably focus on the *parashah* of the week, it will be approached from a female perspective.

What is this book, and how did this approach to *Torah* Study happen?

*The Torah: A Women's Commentary* was published in 2008 by CCAR Press and the Women of Reform Judaism. It is written entirely by women. Its mission, according to editors Tamara Cohn Eskenazi and Andrea L. Weiss, is to bring "women out of the shadows—the women in the text as well as the women in the Jewish world" (xxxii).

The *Women's Commentary* piqued the interest of past Temple president Margaret Bromberg, who saw a copy on the desk of Administrator Eileen Moskowitz and asked to borrow it. Taken with the book, Margaret and Ellen Ruby brought the *Commentary* to the attention of the Temple's *Rosh Chodesh* group in 2017.

That was my introduction to this groundbreaking work. I brought a copy home, was deeply moved, and offered my support in bringing the *Women's Commentary* to the Temple community.

To spark wider familiarity with the *Commentary*, and in celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its publication, Margaret wanted to invite Rabbi Hara E. Person, the Managing Editor of the *Commentary*, and Rabbi Valerie Lieber, a contributor, to be the Scholars-in-Residence at our Temple this summer. That event will, in fact, take place on July 27 and 28.

After the holidays in Fall, 2017, Margaret and I met to discuss how we might introduce *A Women's Commentary* to the congregation. We decided on a plan to pilot the *Women's Commentary* once a month at the *Shabbat* morning *Torah* Study with a female congregant co-leading the discussion. We then met with Rabbi Geffen who embraced the plan.

With the rabbi's enthusiastic support, the pilot was launched on November 4, with Margaret Bromberg co-leading a discussion of *parashah Vayera* with Rabbi Geffen. After a second session on December 9, led by Leah Oppenheimer, we assessed the pilot and found it well received. Subsequently, a decision was made by the rabbi and Board to continue the program.

And so we have. Women continue to co-lead *Torah* Study using *A Women's Commentary* on the first *Shabbat* of each month. To date, discussion leaders have included Leah Oppenheimer, Jill Erlitz, Margaret and me.

I have learned that *A Women's Commentary* came to our Temple when member Jackie Metzger and friends donated multiple copies in memory of her late husband, Barry, who passed away in 2012. Jackie told me it was Rabbi Leon Morris who suggested the *Commentary*.

Thanks to the generosity of Margaret and Mike Bromberg, we now have a full set of *The Torah: A Women's Commentary*. The books are housed in a bookcase next to the entrance to the sanctuary. Some congregants, I among them, like to use the *Commentary* during the *Shabbat* morning *Torah* service.

With thanks to Rabbi Dan Geffen, Cantor Jordan Shaner and the Temple Board for their strong support, to our discussion leaders for their resourcefulness and courage, and to the *Shabbat* morning scholars for their wholehearted participation in our *Torah* Study Using *A Women's Commentary*. We invite all who are interested to join us!

## SUMMER READING WITH THE BOOK GROUP

Ruth Joseph, Discussion Facilitator

The Temple Adas Israel Book Group will continue this summer with the theme "The Best Place on Earth." On the reading list are short stories by Ayelet Tsabari—from whom I've borrowed our theme—Grace Paley, Gish Jen, Bernard Malamud, and, in a return visit, Isaac Babel.

We will be meeting in the Temple's Social Hall from 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM on the following Sundays:

JUNE 24, JULY 15, AUGUST 19

You may want to note these dates in your calendar. Looking forward to good reading and lively discussions with the Book Group this summer!



## ARTS COMMITTEE

*Ann Chwatsky, Chair*

We had a wonderful art season in the Temple's Gallery space—including the beautiful and much admired quilts by May Kelman (our Temple's oldest member, who at 93, passed away the day the exhibition ended).

We then rehung David Weichman's lyrical paintings. These paintings were loaned by the deceased artist's daughter, Anne Millman, of New York City

From early June through late August, we will be exhibiting works of the well-known fiber artist, Laurie Wohl. There will be an Artist's Opening Reception and Talk on Sunday, June 10, from, 5—7 PM with Ms. Wohl about the exhibit, titled *The Shabbat Project*.



**Hashkiveinu: Evening**



**Exalt!**

An excerpt from the Artist's Statement:

*My Unweavings® fiber art pieces convey spiritual narratives through form, color, texture and calligraphy. My work alludes to the oldest traditions of narrative textiles, but in a completely contemporary idiom...*

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

*Breanne Matloff*

The East End was quiet during the winter months... but rest assured, the Capital Campaign was busy at work! Since last fall, Alan Leavitt and Richard Hemley have taken the rein on meeting with the architects and engineers to finalize the construction plans. They've done a fantastic job and we're now embarking on the next phase of approaching the town for necessary approvals. Below are newly-released renderings of the renovated exterior and community hall, which are two components of the building revitalization.



We are grateful to announce that almost the entire Board has not only made a commitment to the campaign but, in many cases, have stepped up and increased their generosity to show strong leadership. Additionally, select congregants have become passionate about this project and are in contact with organizations and individuals who do not belong to the congregation, but care deeply about Jewish life on Long Island, to discuss their participation in this project. To date, we have raised 54% of the funds and a number of donors have committed to renovating and naming specific areas of the Temple, such as the Rabbi's Study.

However, despite our impressive progress, we will not be successful without the full support of the congregation. If we don't raise 100% of the funds, we cannot undergo this project, which is vital for the future of Temple Adas Israel. You'll be receiving a brochure shortly which will outline the full scope of the project. Please review the details of the campaign and consider your involvement. Also, if you're 70 ½ or older, an excellent way to make an impact is by giving through your IRA, which will not only decrease your taxable income, but will also help us reach our goals.

To learn more about this mode of giving, or if you would like more information on how you can be involved with this fundraising effort through giving or volunteering, please email Breanne Matloff at: [TempleAdasIsraelCampaign@gmail.com](mailto:TempleAdasIsraelCampaign@gmail.com)

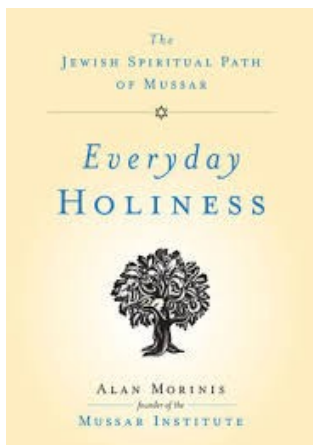
*Thank You!*

## WHAT IS MUSSAR?

Myra Peskowitz

Little did I realize when I started to browse through an article on Mussar in the now-defunct magazine *Reform Judaism* six years ago, that my life would be set on a new path. The article was written by Alan Morinis, the founder and director of the Mussar Institute.

Alan's journey, as described in the article, hit close to home. In it, I recognized my own journey toward greater spirituality, which had been largely unfulfilled. The article described Mussar as a Jewish study of intrinsic *middot*, or character traits, with a goal of improving one's relationship with self and others through the strengthening of these traits. My interest was sufficiently piqued to read Alan's seminal work, *Everyday Holiness*.



I slowly began to incorporate the practices outlined in the book into my everyday life and, little by little, I began to see the changes I was looking for. Mussar was indeed what I had been searching for. Unlike the other spiritual paths I had sort of investigated over the years, Mussar is a Jewish path. It is built on thousands of years of Jewish writing on ethics and culture. Contemporary Mussar, as practiced by the Mussar Institute,

makes this ancient thought available to everybody. It has moved Mussar from a practice only found among Orthodox Jews, to one readily accessible by Jews across the spectrum. It does not require a high degree of prior Jewish literacy. It is a practice that combines individual, partner and communal study with mindfulness. It is a practice that has the power to move us to holiness and wholeness.

The Talmud teaches that each of us is gifted with a holy soul. The light from that soul is often clouded by our counterproductive habits and misinformed actions, *Mussar* guides us along the path of character development through an examination of soul traits such as generosity, patience, humility, order, gratitude and more. *Mussar* provides experiential practices to help bring each of these traits into balance. Mussar cultivates personal growth and unveils the light that shines within each of us. It is an "exercise for the soul" with a goal of becoming the best version of ourselves.

The more I studied the less I could keep it to myself. Although I enjoyed my individual exploration of Mussar, I was ready to enhance my experience by studying with others. Happily, my talking about my experience brought me to Ellen Ruby, who shared my enthusiasm and became a willing *chavruta*—forming a study partnership, that continues to this day. In addition,

Ellen and I regularly participate in online courses from the Mussar Institute and attend the Institutes Annual Kallah.

Several years ago, Ellen and I moved from partnership study to group study by introducing Mussar to the Temple community in the form of a *va'ad*, or study group. That effort continues, also with an intrepid group of followers.

In the last year, I completed the Mussar Institute's Facilitator Training Course and now we are ready to take Mussar study at Temple Adas Israel to another level.

Starting this summer, we will be offering courses sanctioned by the Institute at the Temple. If you are interested in learning more about Mussar or more about upcoming Mussar offerings at Temple Adas Israel please contact:

myrapeskowitz@optonlinet.net or ellenpruby@aol.com

## WOMEN'S PASSOVER SEDER

*Then Miriam the prophet...picked up a hand-drum and all the women went after her in dance...* (Exodus 15:20)

As the women of Temple Adas Israel gathered for their annual Women's Seder on Sunday March 18, they did just that. This intergenerational experience, hosted by the *Rosh Chodesh* group, was spiritually uplifting. With Miriam the Prophet as the guide, the key elements of the *seder* were there, as was an intention to honor both our collective Jewish journey from the Desert to the Promised Land, as well as each individual's life experiences. The theme, "Exits and Entrances" was woven throughout the *seder* with moments for collective and more introspective reflection. It was a beautiful way to tell the Passover story and come together in community.

Every *seder* needs a *Haggadah* that structures the *seder* in a proscribed manner. This year the task of creating the *Haggadah* fell to a small committee with limited time but lots of spiritual energy! The goal of the committee was to wrap the themes of this year's Women's Seder, Miriam and our personal "Exits and Entrances," around the traditional order of the *seder* as a means of looking back so we could move forward.

We wanted participants to see the specific and unique role of Miriam in the Passover story and also to see the relationship between her challenges and successes and the challenges and successes in our own lives. Achieving these goals proved to be quite a challenge for the committee. Each step of the writing process provoked serious debate and invited us to look inside our own beliefs. What became apparent was the push-pull between the comfort of the traditional "ways" and the desire to see traditional concepts in a new light. Looking back, I see that we experienced our own "Exits and Entrances" as we went through the process. We also gained a newer understanding of Miriam's role. Creating this *Haggadah* was an intense but immensely satisfying experience.

**WOMEN'S SEDER COMMITTEE:**

*Shelley Lichtenstein, Chair  
Ruth Joseph, Editor*

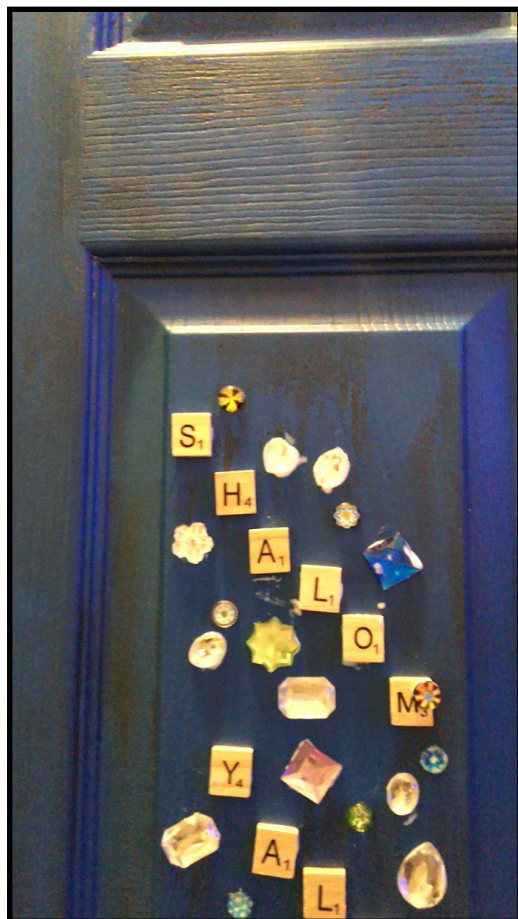
**Haggadah:** Lu Geffen, Ruth Joseph, Shelley Lichtenstein, Leah Openheimer, Myra Peskowitz

**Art & Architecture:** Laura Auerbach, Lila Beudert-Gluckman, Linda Guessferd

**Personal Journey; Reflection:** Gail Gambino, Marilyn Zaretsky

**Food:** Gail Gambino, Shelley Lichtenstein

**Decorating:** Lila Beudert-Gluckman, Linda Guessferd



*“Exits and Entrances”*



**KNIT-A-MITZVAH**

*Andrea Fagin, Chair*

Knit-A-Mitzvah has been hard at work all winter!

We've been knitting hats and scarves for the men that Maureen's Haven provides for. We've made dozens of hats for the kids at St. Jude's, and have been enjoying the camaraderie of each other as we click our needles together.

While we were looking for a new project, the Westhampton Care Center suggested that we make caddy bags to hook over the arm of wheelchairs. As I write this, we have already knitted or crocheted our way to completing dozens of bags.

If anyone knitted years ago, and hasn't for ages, you can't imagine how enjoyable, relaxing, and satisfying it is! We'd love to have you join us Mondays at 10:00 AM at the Temple. If you're not here on Mondays, call and we can give you an assignment to knit at home. Hope to hear from some prospective new members: AndreaFagin41@gmail.com or 631-725-4338.

P.S. We're always looking for donations of yarn that you may have stashed away!



*The bags are caddys to put on the arm of a wheelchair, and the recipients are residents of the Westhampton Care Center*



Daniel & Lynn Beller  
Nancy Bergman  
Martin & Michele Cohen  
Robert Beller & Julie Copeland  
Judith Faer  
Michael & Anne Gomberg  
Toni & Carol Haber-Burns  
Madelaine Haberman & Michael Sprung  
Melissa Hammel & Michael Burton  
Marc & Helen Jerome

Bruce Michael Kalnitsky  
Hilary Kern  
Alex & Beth Crosby  
Kriegsman  
Ilyse & Paul LaBue  
Daniella Lipper & Greg Coules  
Eva Margolies  
Soozy Miller  
Sally Morse  
Marc Siegel & Luda Bronfin Siegel  
Sharon Stein



## Oneg & Kiddush Sponsors

8/25/17: **Ronald and Andrea Klausner** in honor of the American Jewish Committee speakers, 9/8/17: **Paul and Barbara Kushner** in honor of Paul's birthday, 9/22/17: **Marcia**

**Tumpowsky** and family in memory of brother Ira Tumpowsky, 10/6/17: **Howard & Elena Krotman** in honor of their son Marcus' Bar Mitzvah, 10/13/17: **Bonnie and John Mahoney** in honor of their son Mark Mahoney, 11/3/17: **Linda Guessferd** in memory of her parents Woodrow and Florence Emmanuel, 11/18/17: **Sally Morse** in honor of her son Julian Link's Bar Mitzvah, 12/8/17: **Ilyse, Paul and Aiden LaBue** in memory of her father Irwin Maxwell Gedinsky, 12/9/17: **Mike & Margaret Bromberg and Myra Peskowitz**, in honor of our winter snowbirds, 12/16/17: **Annie Washburn and Emily Giske** in honor of their son, Charlie Giske's baby naming, 1/26/18: **Karl & Janet Grossman** in honor of their birthdays, 2/9/18: **Bonnie Mahoney** in honor of her birthday, 3/2/18: **Ellen Frank and Stephen Dickman** in honor of his 75th birthday, 3/3/18: **Dr. Marc Siegel and Dr. Luda Bronfin Siegel** in honor of their son Sam's Bar Mitzvah, 4/14/18: **Barbara Goldfarb** in honor of granddaughter Jessica Miller's Bat Mitzvah

### SPONSOR AN ONEG OR KIDDUSH...

Looking for a special way to share your good news or memorialize your loved ones? Why not sponsor a Friday night Oneg or Saturday morning Kiddush and celebrate your *simchas* or commemorate a *yahrzeit* with your friends at Temple Adas Israel? Birthdays, Anniversaries, Weddings, Births, B'nai Mitzvot—or in memory of a loved one—all occasions to honor and remember with our community.

For more information, please contact the Temple office: 631-725-0904 or [info@TempleAdasIsrael.org](mailto:info@TempleAdasIsrael.org).



*We are saddened by the loss of the following beloved members of Temple Adas Israel or members of their families:*

9/2/17: **Rose Deckel Blutt**, mother of Mitchell Blutt  
11/8/17: **Robert Auerbach**, husband of Arleen Auerbach  
12/18/17, **Michael London**, husband of Jane London

1/25/18, **May Kelman**  
2/5/18, **Barbara Senft**, mother of Jennifer Senft  
2/18/18, **Lee Harris Pomeroy**, husband of Sarah Pomeroy  
04/26/18, **Elizabeth Schwab**, daughter of Irving & Karen Schwab

**TEMPLE ADAS ISRAEL**  
Elizabeth Street & Atlantic Avenue  
PO Box 1378, Sag Harbor, NY 11963  
631-725-0904—[TempleAdasIsrael.org](http://TempleAdasIsrael.org)

8/30/17: **Larry & Sue Wartur** on their 58<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

9/3/17: **Cantor Jordan and Kate Shaner** on their marriage

9/16/17: **Joni & Harvey Selman** on the marriage of their son Jason to Tracy Friedman

9/20/17: **Jesus & Dawn Teyuca** on the birth of their son Isaac Karmel Teyuca

4/28/18: **Neal & Andrea Fagin** on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Ike

*Please send notices of births, graduations, weddings, honors...any simcha you'd like to share with our Temple community—to the Temple office—so we can kvell a little too! (New baby photos are especially welcomed!)*



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**EDITOR EMERITUS: LEDA GOLDSMITH**

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Margaret Bromberg, Mindy Cantor, Jerry Cohen, John Goldman, Leda Goldsmith, Myra Peskowitz, Phyllis Silver, David Weseley.