

FROM YOUR RABBI: ISRAEL AT 70: GROWING OLDER... OR STAYING YOUNG?

The State of Israel celebrated her Independence Day on April 19th and turned the ripe young age of 70. As a country, she has been plagued by war, celebrated as the only democracy in the Middle East, been visited by tens of thousands of Christian and Islamic pilgrims, and is the unquestionable homeland for the Jewish people. A lot to ask of a country the size of New Jersey, that is run with a parliamentary government that rests uneasily on coalitions among the electorate.



Israel is the world leader in electronic development, has the best trained armed forces in the world, is well on her way to curing major diseases through research and development, and is one of the most beautiful places on earth.

An article entitled THE CHALLENGES OF TEACHING "ISRAEL" written by Dr. David Mendelsson, tells us that young Jewish leaders are shifting away from a Jewish identity focused on Israel, peoplehood and community towards being Jewish as a personal spiritual journey, disconnected from the collective, unaware of the centrality of the land of Israel to Jewish history. His views are especially important to us, as he is a first-year rabbinical student at HUC-JIR, finishing his year-in-Israel study.

He explained that while the vast majority of our students are attached to Israel, they often encounter a range of challenges that often generate alienation. Particularly disconcerting is the discovery that a stream of Judaism – Reform - that is normative 'back home' is barely recognized, reviled by many, and deprived of the status and official support granted to Orthodoxy. The front door of one student's apartment was daubed with the words "Reform out."

There is also the dissonance between the students' prior conceptions of Israel – often heavily symbolic, even mythic - and the realities, the rough and-tumble, of daily life here. This ranges from the seemingly superficial: the lack of civility, the inflexibility of bureaucracy, the vehemence with which people express their personal opinions while ridiculing any and all opposing views. These experiences have a corrosive effect, especially when contrasted to the admittedly cushioned and even pampered comfort students live in their lives back in the US. More significant are the challenges posed by living in Israel relating to politics. Many of our students struggle with the legitimization of behavior that is starkly at odds with their own values. This debunking of the romanticized Hebrew school/summer tour picture of Israel is particularly painful. Israel's politicians are no longer the visionaries of the pre-state and early state period. Instead, we hear of criminal charges being pressed against cabinet ministers, prime ministers, a past president.

HUC-JIR Year-In-Israel students are often thoughtful and, at times, critical of Israeli politics. Cheerleading for Israel does not resonate with them. Advocacy, or 'telling', rather than 'showing', does not work for them, and they come back to the States and try to keep their vision for Israel alive, while knowing full well that the congregations they will ultimately serve are often the types that support Israel, "warts and all". Can this work for the young rabbinic student with his or her ideology that may be in conflict with the synagogues they will serve? It is a great question.

I, for one, am not worried. So many, Jew and non-Jew alike, find ways to criticize Israel, even though we are not on the front lines...sending our 18-year-old children into the army, fighting skyrocketing inflation, and dealing with the undeniable stress of being an Israeli citizen. Until we live there, we can only listen and be supportive, rather than vocal about the politics with which we may find disagreement. We need to present Israel as a work in progress, legitimize competing visions, and remember that debate, and disagreement, has always been an integral—indeed, a defining—element of the Jewish experience.

Israel is at the age when the United States was in 1846, a difficult time for American culture and government, and only 15 years from the Civil war that almost destroyed our nation. Maybe it's time to give Israel some credit for its major accomplishments in the last 70 years, and not be too critical of her shortcomings.

In conclusion, one of the best ways American Jews can support Israel is by going there to experience our homeland with our own eyes. Keep your calendars open for the next Ohev Sholom trip to Israel...June 8-18, 2019, to support the land that means so much to us.

Your rabbi.

Peter Kessler

MAY SERVICES SCHEDULE

W	ed	lne	sd	ay,	2	M	ay

Religious School 4:30pm

Friday, 4 May

7:30pm

Seventh Grade Family Shabbat Services Sanctuary

Saturday, 5 May

Bar Mitzvah Sanctuary

10:30am

Sunday, 6 May

9:30am

Religious School

Wednesday, 9 May

Religious School 4:30pm

Friday, 11 May

Leadership Shabbat Services Lehrman Chapel 6:00pm Friday, 18 May

Confirmation Shabbat Services 7:30pm

Thursday, 24 May

7:00pm Hershey Study

Friday, 25 May

Shabbat Services Lehrman Chapel 6:00pm

SAVE THE DATE

LEADERSHIP SHABBAT

May 11th

Our annual Leadership Shabbat will take place on Friday evening,

May 11th at 6 PM in the Lehrman Chapel

Please join with us as we honor the leadership of

Temple Ohev Sholom and present the annual



Temple Ohev Sholom Cordially invites you to attend our Confirmation Service during Shabbat Worship on Friday, May 18th at 7:30 PM in our Sanctuary

Mildred Hand Tikkun Olam award to Andrew Brown

The Class of 2018-5778:

Max Astrachan son of Andrea Martin & Bruce Astrachan

Madeline Cohen daughter of Michelle & Bruce Cohen

Hannah Roth daughter of Rosette and Steven Roth

Sophia Shienvold daughter of Lori & Adam Shienvold

Jacob Zucker son of Sonya & Steven Zucker

Adult Ed on Summer Break

Our Adult Education Classes end with the end of the Religious School year.

Thanks to everyone who made PEP, Lunch-N-Learn, Hershey Study, and

Book Review fun and informative.

You'll be receiving your summer packet listing next year's classes and dates in the next several weeks. We look forward to "bringing out the blackboard" again in September.

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As I write this article, it is a beautiful afternoon in late April. Although it's hard to believe, we have only two more weeks of Religious School before the end of this academic year. All years fly by but especially this one because of the way the Jewish holidays fell this year. It seems that the year just started and now it's over. As always, there are so many thanks to give.....first and foremost, to my extraordinary faculty, our front line people who share with us their talents and who love our children. Deepest, heartfelt thanks to our supportive parents; to our beautiful students; to Barbara Plesco, our long-time Religious School chair who assists in countless ways---and finally to Rabbi Peter Kessler, who is my supportive, caring partner in all things having to do with the children of this congregation----and whose support, for all these years, has been unwavering. Elef todot---a thousand thanks---to everyone who has a hand in making our school so special.

As many of you know, I was a classroom teacher for many years before becoming educational director at the Temple. Once a teacher, always a teacher---and, as an administrator, I have missed the hands-on experience of teaching in the classroom. For the past several years, I have been fortunate to teach our 7th grade class on Wednesdays and it has been the most rewarding, joyful, and enriching experience for me. Firstly, the kids are just wonderful. They are bright, inquisitive, funny, sweet, interested and interesting. They even behave well! The Wednesday portion of the 7th grade curriculum involves preparing the students for their Sunday experiences outside of the Temple. We have learned about kashrut and our responsibilities towards the aged; we have explored Jewish death rituals and what Judaism teaches about feeding the hungry and clothing the poor; we have delved into the depths of the Holocaust in preparation for a visit to the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C; we soared as we learned about the creation of the Jewish State of Israel and learned about its Memorial Day and Independence Day. Our 7th graders recently led the opening ceremony of the Reading of Names program (Holocaust Memorial Day) and will close their Religious School experience in early May by leading Education Shabbat services and honoring their teachers. I have loved every moment of teaching the 7th grade and look forward to next year's class!

L'hitraot to our 7th graders---I look forward to seeing all of you at Sababa in the fall. And to all the other students---I can't wait to greet you in the fall.

On behalf of all of us at the Religious School, I wish you a lovely, relaxing summer. Fondly,

Lillian Rappaport

A LETTER FROM THE SISTERHOOD

Looks like spring has finally sprung! It took a little time, but we think the warmer weather is here to stay for a while.

May not only brings flowers but also the end of our time as co-presidents of our sisterhood. We have enjoyed leading such a wonderful group our compassionate and generous women. We want to thank all our board members for their leadership and organizing the various activities and programs we have throughout each year. And most of all, we are extremely grateful for the time you give to our sisterhoodand our congregation. Words truly cannot express our appreciation!!

May also brings a new leadership to our sisterhood. May 3rd we will install several new and renewing executive board members. Please join us at 7:00 that evening in the social hall for the Installation and to congratulate them all.

Our Donor campaign has been very successful. Thank you to everyone who has contributed thus far. If you haven't yet, we are still accepting your donations to TOSS! We had a fun time at the donor event at Spring Gate Vineyards. Those who attending expressed their delight in the venue and the time to spend with friends, eat some treats and taste some wine.

Thank you to everyone who participated and joined us for our Sisterhood Shabbat. It is always a pleasure to lead the congregation in prayer and reflection.

This is the last month of religious school class. So that means our gift shop will be closed during its regular hours during the summer. You can always call to schedule an appointment to find Judaica for special occasions, house warmings and more. We keep the gift shop operating for you convenience and to help sisterhood provide services for our congregation. So please support us!

Please call us with any questions you may have. We look forward to welcoming all of you into our Sisterhood!!

Thank you all so much,

Sarah Brown Patti Hivner

Co-President Co-President

717-540-9709 717-533-6269

SISTERHOOD TRIBUTE CARDS

Sisterhood Tribute cards, at a minimum amount of \$5.00 each, are an easy and inexpensive way to send greetings, well wishes and any other family milestones you wish to acknowledge.

The three Sisterhood funds are:

The Margaret Friedman Emergency Aid Fund

Donations are used to sustain the committee that prepares and serves meals following funerals for a bereaved family.

The Doris Zaritzky Fund

Donations are used to benefit Temple youth and religious school activities.

The Tribute Fund

Donations are used for Sisterhood Temple expenses.

Tribute goes to:
Address (if not a Temple member):
Message:

Your name:	
Please check one:	
 Margaret Friedman Emergency Aid Fund	Doris Zaritzky
Educational Fund Tribute Fun	ıd

Please mail a check made out to "TOSS" to: Irith Harpster, 1184 Heron Court Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

TRIBUTES

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In thanks for my help with Seth's Bar Mitzvah

Lisa & Brad Winnick

Happy Birthday wishes from Shirley Disend

In celebration of Sam Shienvold's Bar Mitzvah

Sue & Arnie Shienvold

In celebration of Sam Shienvold's Bar Mitzvah

Lori & Adam Shienvold

In memory of my father, Simon Abraham

Judy Weber

MEMORIAL TRIBUTES TO THE TEMPLE ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Dr. Leo Talkov Nancy & David Rose

In memory of Peggy Rose Nancy & David Rose

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FUND

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Ben Teplitz

Jackie Huttemann

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Maddie Cohen

Jackie Huttemann

TEMPLE FUND

In honor of Bruce Feldman and his committee on the fantastic 2nd night Seder, a wonderful event, as always!

Patti & Gary Lightman

ROBERT WOLDORF MEMORIAL YOUTH FUND

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Lee Goldberg, grandson of Diane & Michael Goldberg.

Fran & Richard Casher

Rabbi Kessler is available for home and hospital visits for our congregants in need. Won't you please do a mitzvah and let him know of those who would like a visit? Thank you.



KADDISH

May 4

Louis Adler Laura Altaker Fanny Ascher Samuel Baturin Grace Brown Samuel D. Chirsan Sophie Rae Cibull Edith F. Cole Louis Fingerman Howard D. Fink Svlvia Frahm Graber Regina Galowitz Frances Gerber Joseph Goldsmith Isadore A. Greene Reuben R. Grosky Agnes Keifer Paul Keifer **Emily Lasker** Bernard Levine Frederick Lipton Jacob Miller William M. Poolman Leah P. Rosen Kathryn Schwartz **Tobe Schwartz** Rose Pyke Strouse Samuel Weinberg Marvin Zisman

Beverly Zerwitz Zlotoff

May 11

Florine Alpern
Harry Benskofsky
Samuel Elfenbein
Mildred Hand
Morris Jacobson
Sophia Lowengard
Bernice Melnicove
Albert Posner
Evelyn Rosenstrauch
Jean Jeanette Rothman
Bertha Breder Senn
Morris M. Serata
Ella V. Spector
Carl Vazquez
Marvin A. Zisman

May 18

Mildred Alexander
Rabbi Phillip David
Bookstaber
Herman Brody
Leo Disend
Ann Friedman
Donald Goodman
Peisah Gordin
Irene Rachel Gottfeld
Sidney Greenspan
Jeanne Hammer
Irving Hand
Fannie Jacobs

Benjamin Koplovitz Molly R. Koppelman Donald Joseph Levy Cheryl Faith Plawsky Helen Repshas Libby Rosen Sophia Rothschild Sidney B. Rubin Kenneth Stewart Sr.

May 25

David Alexander Martin Arch Edward Blandy Helen E. Cherksey Rabbi Hillel Fine Sophie Goldberg **Esther Jacobs** Marilynn Kanenson Kathryn Abel Koffs Minnie Kramer Nathan Lehmayer II Rachel F. Light Florence Litvack David Milligan Dorothy Milligan Amalia Moss **Beatrice Orman Irving Picker** Libby Picker David Rosen Amelia B. Strauss



COMMUNITY NEWS



My Dear Children

And Then She Arrived

Bye Bye Germany

Monsieur Mayonnaise

Ha'Har

Keep the Change

Origin of Violence

The Testament

1945

The Wedding Plan

Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story

May 10-17, 2018

Join us at the Jewish Community Center and the Midtown Cinema For more information: www.hbgjff.com



Gift Shop News



May 6th - last day of Hebrew School

The gift shop will have select items at 50% off

Please stop in at 9:30 a.m. student drop off to check out

some great deals!

COMMUNITY NEWS



Thank you to
Sisterhood
Co-Presidents
Patti Hivner &
Sarah Brown for
your 2 great years
leading our
Sisterhood!



New books at the Mildred & Irving Hand library. Stop in during temple hours to find something great to read!

And...if you have any overdue library books (check under the kids' beds), please be sure to bring them in before Religious School ends for the year.

TEMPLE OHEV SHOLOM 2345 N. FRONT ST HARRISBURG PA 17110

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED