

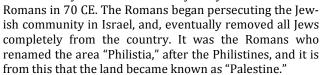
# What do you give for a 65th birthday?

Rabbi Jonathan L. Hecht, Ph.D.



On April 16, we celebrate *Yom Ha'atzmaut*, 65 years of Israel's independence as a modern State! Of course, Israel didn't "start" 65 years ago. Jews have lived in the land of Israel throughout the ages, sometimes under very trying circumstances. Jewish life has its origins in Israel. It is called the Promised Land because God gave it to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and their descendants. Moses led the

Israelites from slavery in Egypt to freedom in Israel. King David and Solomon, his son, made Jerusalem its capital and established the first of 2 Temples there. That First Temple existed for hundreds of years and was destroyed by the Babylonians in the year 586 BCE. When the exiles returned from Babylonia about 80 years later, they built the Second Temple in Jerusalem which continued functioning for almost 600 years! It was destroyed by the



Over the centuries that followed, Jews never forgot their connections to this land. Throughout the ages, Jews moved to Palestine and established communities. Jewish communities throughout the world collected money to support the growing Jewish presence in Palestine, and built the infrastructure for Jewish settlement when the Ottomans controlled the land, and after WWI, when political control was given to the British by the League of Nations.



Here we are 65 years later, and Israel is an advanced, Western leaning country that has absorbed millions of Jewish immigrants from diverse backgrounds. Jewish culture is thriving.

There are challenges that Israel continues to face: How does a Jewish army fight? Should Yeshiva students be exempt from army service? Orthodox Jews make up 30% of the population of Israel, so what place should non-Orthodox Jewish practice

> have in a Jewish state? How do we make peace with the Palestinian Arabs and the Moslem nations that surround Israel? We can't minimize these problems, but, like every thriving democracy, it is exciting to visit and see how Israel is working hard to live by Jewish and democratic values.

What should we give Israel on her 65th birthday? Let's send best wishes in the form of the prayer we have in our prayer book:

"O Heavenly One, Protector and Redeemer of Israel, bless the State of Israel which marks the dawning of hope for all who seek peace. Shield it beneath the wings of Your love; spread over it the canopy of Your peace; send Your light and truth to all who lead and advise, guiding them with your good counsel. Establish peace in the land and fullness of joy for all who dwell there. Amen."



# GAMBLE FOR A GOOD CAUSE! SATURDAY, APRIL 20 7:30-11:30 PM

You don't need to have a "reservation" to gamble with us! Temple Chaverim, our tribe's "home sweet home," is hosting **Casino Night 2013**, a gaming night for grownups. With all the time and money you will save on travel, hotel, gas and tolls -- by not going to Atlantic City or Foxwoods -you can come have an absolute blast for less, right here in Plainview. *(Continued on back page.)* 



#### CONNECTIONS

## President's Message Looking Back...Looking Forward

As I look back over the last six months of 2012, I see many changes and challenges that we faced:

\*Rabbi Lobel leaving for a position on the West Coast

- \*The hiring of Rabbi Debra Bennet, our new part-time rabbi
- \*Sue Gold, our Executive Director, leaving for a job in Brooklyn
- \*The hiring of Eileen Schneyman, our new Executive Director
- \*The December Board meeting where over 100 congregants attended to share their views
- \*Months of discussions about a possible merger with another temple, which resolved itself in January

Yes, the last six months of 2012 has kept the Board very active handling these various occurrences. And now I am looking forward to all the wonderful events and programs that Temple Chaverim has planned for our fellow congregants, which range from Youth through our Sociable Seniors and everyone in between. Here are some highlights:

#### The Book Club

*The Lost Wife,* 10:00 am, Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> *Binocular Vision,* 7:30 pm, Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>

- **Sociable Seniors** 12 Noon, Thursdays
- March 7<sup>th</sup> & April 4<sup>th</sup>
- Sisterhood's Women's Seder 6:30 pm, Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>

Matzoh Ball Soup Shabbat Dinner

- 6:30 pm, Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>
- **Tuesday Night Live** Interactive Youth Engagement, grades 8 -10 Every Tuesday Night @ 6:15 pm
- Rosh Chodesh classes with Rabbi Bennet 8 pm, Wednesdays March 13, April 10, May 8

#### **Jewish Meditation**

The Power of Imagination, Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7:30 pm **Stay, Play & Pray** Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-10:15 am

Creative workshops for our 4 & 5 year olds & their parents Lower East Side Walking & Food Tour

Meet in NYC, Sunday, March 17th @ 12 Noon

## Writers' Workshop

7:30 pm, Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

#### Men's Club Card Nights

Wednesdays, March 20, April 24, May 29, June 26 @ 7 pm Casino Night

7:30-11:30 pm, Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

#### **CHATY & JCHATY Youth Programs**

refer to emails for specific programs and dates

As you can see, we have planned programs and events for all. Come join us in our busy 'bee-hive' of activity.

One last Word: *Connect* with your synagogue on another level by joining one of the many 'Steering Committees' of your choice and become part of the governance process of sculpting the future of Temple Chaverim -- "*Your Voice, Your Choice.*"

We welcome you on this journey.

**Bruce Steifman** President

# Cantor's Corner A Parent's Take on B'nei Mitzvah

For nearly nine years, I have served Temple Chaverim as your cantor, and I have officiated at hundreds of B'nei Mitzvah ceremonies for your children. I have shared in your pride as your sons and daughters begin their lives as Jewish adults, as they attempt to stand on the shoulders of their relatives and assume their rightful place as members of a community. To insure that all of these events occur with the best possible success, I have overseen our program and have met with and tutored each child. I have done all of this from a perspective of sympathy, as only someone who has merely studied the experience from an outside place, looking in.

I can fondly remember my own bar mitzvah ceremony, how I felt standing on the bima with my parents and grandparents beside me, but I am not able to understand how they felt, how they 'shep naches'-- until now.

Doctors who teach in the finest medical schools can tell you all about the physics of setting a broken bone and they can describe with great detail what the body might experience as it heals. But unless they have ever broken that bone themselves, they will never know how it feels.

Today, I am both 'doctor and patient.' In October, my own daughter, Liora, will become a Bat Mitzvah, and I want to talk to you about my observations as a parent in a series of articles that try to encapsulate how we feel. I know now a bit of what you are going through from a firsthand perspective, and I want to articulate that.



I begin with a deep breath. I am easily overcome with emotion, thinking about the fact that I have watched this little person grow from a blip on an ultrasound to an expressive, aware, compassionate and loving person. She speaks two languages, and now she is mastering a third. She is better in math than I am, and because she is so wise, I cannot even speak in code, like many adults do when they don't want their children to understand the subject of conversation.

I recently sat in the Bar and Bat Mitzvah Orientation, the very beginning of the process, and I was so excited to look around the sanctuary and see all of the families we will be sharing this journey with. I was also jokingly wondering how I was going to be serving as cantor and standing in the back of the sanctuary when it is my turn to serve as usher!

## **Cantor Bradley Hyman**

[Part 2 of article will appear in Summer Connections.]



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# Meet the Committee Chairs

## Leigh Benowitz—Co-chair, Bar/Bat Mitzvah

Given that Bar/Bat Mitzvah is such a critical milestone in the life of a Jewish boy or girl, I am happy to co-chair this committee and play a small part in this event which brings so much joy to the families in our congregation. My husband, Jay and I have been members of our congregation since 2007. We live in



Plainview with our two daughters, Hailey and Abby.

#### Rhonda Green—Chair, Social Action

Being an active member of temple life was always a major part of my childhood and it is important for me to continue with this tradition. As well as being in-



volved in temple life, I have always tried to involve myself in the community. Serving as one of the Social Action Committee chairs allows me the opportunity to tie these two together. Temple Chaverim is my community of friends since 2001, and working towards alleviating various issues that affect our community as

well as the Jewish community is incredibly satisfying to me.

## Jill Schwartz—Vice-chair, Fundraising

As Vice-chair of Fundraising, I feel that this is a very important committee that helps to support our Temple. I especially enjoy planning our spring fundraiser Casino Night. I joined this committee because I wanted to become more involved in supporting Temple Chaverim.



### Larry Wald—Chair, Long Range Planning



I have been a member of Temple Chaverim for over 10 years. Since the beginning, I have wanted to be a part of our Temple community. I have served on various committees, and have been Treasurer, Vice President and a Trustee. I am now Chair of Long Range Planning. This

year we are continuing to act on the results of the Spring 2012 Temple-Wide Survey.

#### Russell Willens—Chair, Religious Practices

Ι am in my second year I enjoy being able to make a difference, not only in our worship services, but in shaping the present and future of the Temple. Our committee works closely with the clergy to come up with new ideas and recommendations about how to make our services as meaningful and



spiritual as possible. We also work with other committees in an ongoing effort to combine our resources for the betterment of Temple Chaverim.

# **Family BINGO Event**





## Cost: \$8 in advance/\$10 at the door (Under 2—free) RSVP to Temple Office—516-367-6100 For more info: call Meredith Radisch @ 516-931-2418

# Winter Raffle Winners

# **IT'S A WIN, WIN!**

Temple Chaverim raised over \$4,000 in the Winter Raffle. Two Temple members won the big prizes.

Mazel Tov to Jan Kreckel, proud owner of an Ipad Mini. Jan took a few books



of tickets which she sold to her friends, and she was the first person to hand in ticket stubs and money. So in this case the early bird caught the worm!



Meryl Wittenberg, who said "I never win anything," won the necklace and earrings set donated by Talisman Jewelers. A friend of a friend, Joseph Leno won the 32" TV Set donated by The Beechwood Organization.

Rabbi Hecht picked the winning names out of a basket!

Interested in joining a committee? *Leave a message in the temple office for the chairperson.* (516) 367-6100



#### CONNECTIONS

# A New Grandmother Asks for Advice

#### Debbye Brandell, Principal Religious School

On November 11, 2012, I became a grandmother! My daughter-in-law Lisa gave birth to a beautiful baby girl named Minna Evelyn.



To tell you the truth, I'm not sure I

was totally prepared for the incredible bond I felt the first time I held Minna in my arms, nor was I ready for the sense of awe that I felt as I began to think about the continuation of generations. I also began to wonder if Minna would have my son Matt's big feet or blue eyes like Lisa.

But I also worried about all of the things a grandmother needs to know. Who could share their expertise with me? Aha! I knew who would help me with this dilemma. I asked some of my wonderful 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade Chaverim students for their advice on all of the things that a new grandmother needs to do (and some very important things not to do). I'd like to share their ideas with you.

#### Things to do

- Have sleepovers
- Read stories
- Sing songs
- Give lots of toys (but not too many to overwhelm her)
- Hug and kiss her
- Pick her up when she's crying
- Teach the Jewish traditions
- Play peek-a-boo (unless she starts to cry)
- ♥ Take her to the park
- Take lots of pictures
- ♥ Go on trips
- Make sure to feed her
- Do arts and crafts projects

#### Things not to do

- $\varnothing$  Shout or yell (just ask nicely to do something)
- $\emptyset$  Make her cry
- Ø Hit her
- $\varnothing$  Let her play with expensive items
- $\varnothing$  Drop her
- $\varnothing$  Leave the crib when she is still awake so she won't cry
- Ø Scare her
- $\varnothing$  Feed her small sucking candies
- $\varnothing$  Feed her anything she could be allergic to

Hal and I are thrilled with our new status as grandparents and wish to thank so many of our Chaverim Family for your good wishes and generous donations.

# Shalom, Chaverim!

Welcome to New Members Robert, Debra, Mia & Remi Silverman Neil, Susan, Alexa & Brooke Miller

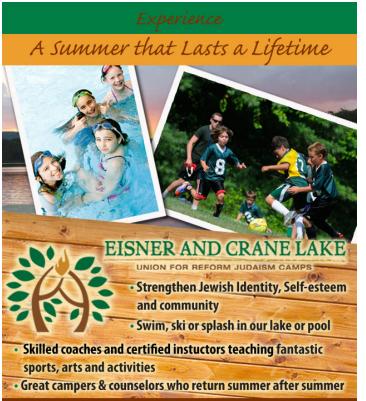
## How to Choose a Jewish Summer Camp

When our kids are in the third grade, often we start sorting through the numerous summer camp options. There are many ways of choosing a camp. Some send their children to the camp they went to as a child. Others choose a camp where their children's friends are going. Trying to understand what a Jewish summer camp is, poses another issue. Is it just a place that has a lot of Jewish kids, or rather a place dedicated to really help your child develop Jewish identity in a fun way and which will provide a lifetime of Jewish memories?

On Friday night, March 8<sup>th</sup>, during the Third & Fourth Grade Shabbat Experience, we will have the opportunity to learn about two incredible Jewish Summer Camps: Eisner and Crane Lake. They are both sponsored by the Reform Movement and they are both located in the Berkshires. (A great place for you to spend time after you drop off your kids off at camp!)

This is going to be a great opportunity to meet James Gelsey, one of the camp directors. He will tell you about these camps and answer your questions. Temple Chaverim has many children and parents who can tell you about their experiences, including sending a special needs child to camp.

Interestingly, Jewish summer camping began in this country more than 100 years ago in large part as a way to "Americanize" immigrant Jewish children to the ways of their new country. Today, according to research, Jewish camping is the most significant Jewish life experience that builds lifelong Jewish identity. *Choosing a Reform sponsored Jewish summer camp is a great partner to your child's Jewish learning experiences at Temple Chaverim*.



EisnerCraneLake.urjcamps.org

201-722-0400



# Sisterhood's Women's Seder—March 7th Passover: Not Just About the Wine

#### Rabbi Debra Bennet

Wine, of course, is a focus of our Passover celebrations. The four cups we drink are four symbols of our redemption. Moreover, our celebration and our joy are expressed through that wine. But, Passover is not just about the wine. I believe it is equally about the water.



Water serves as one of the bookmarks of the story of Passover. Our story begins with Pharaoh's decree to kill all firstborn Hebrews. In response, when Moses is born, his mother tucks him into a basket and sets him afloat on the Nile River. Instead of facing the same fate as other Jewish babies, Moses is found by Pharaoh's daughter, raised as her own, and able to grow into a man, and ultimately a leader.

Our story ends as the Hebrews escape from the land of Egypt, seeing the Sea of Reeds before them and the Egyptian army behind them. Moses takes staff in hand, spreads his arms and, with the help of God, splits the Sea of Reeds. The Hebrews pass through the body of water on dry land and then celebrate on the shore. Water begins and ends our story. And this symbol represents not only our tale of deliverance, but the role of women in the Passover story. The women are instrumental in saving Moses, both putting him in and taking him out of the Nile. (Moses' name means "to draw out.") And, it is Miriam who rouses the women after their journey out of Egypt, showing them how to rejoice at the shore of the Seed of Reeds. Women also serve as bookmarks of the story of Passover.

To honor the role that women have played in the story of Passover and in passing that story from one generation to another, we invite you to attend **Sisterhood's 10th Annual Women's Seder** on **Thursday, March 7** at **6:30 pm**.

Join us on our journey, as we celebrate unsung heroes, re-examine the Passover story, and reclaim the place of water alongside the wine on our Passover tables. For additional information and to RSVP, please contact Sherri Winick Pagliaro at (516) 822-4605 or winicksherri@gmail.com. Cost is \$36 for Sisterhood members, \$40 for non-members, \$25 for age 12 and under.

# **Rosh Chodesh Class with Rabbi Bennet**

Explore various themes in Judaism through the history and traditions of Rosh Chodesh. Every month we celebrate the new moon and the beginning of the new Jewish month.

Please RSVP to Caryn at (516) 367-6100 x112 or caryn@templechaverim.org

Wednesdays, 8:00 pm

March 13th April 10th May 8th



# Temple Chaverim Hosts Hadassah Shabbat

Temple Chaverim will be hosting the annual **Tobay Hadassah Shabbat** on **Friday**, **April 19th**. We are inviting all Hadassah Chapters and women to join us for this wonderful event. The Tikvah, Greens, and Hamlet Chapters have accepted this invitation.

Our service, led by Rabbi Hecht, Rabbi Bennet, and Cantor Hyman will help us sanctify the Sabbath, as well as celebrate 100 years of Hadassah as a vibrant and strong Jewish American Women's Zionist organization. Don't miss this wonderful chance to participate and to learn more about this lovely service that welcomes the Sabbath each week. Bring family and friends to help make this evening a special one.

Complimentary Israeli wine tasting precedes the service, as well as an optional Shabbat dinner at 6:30 pm. A luscious Oneg follows the service, with kosher home baked goods, made by Hadassah Women.

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, is the largest Jewish women's organization in the United States. Through its many projects as well as political advocacy for human rights, and international medical philanthropy in Africa, Bosnia and numerous other countries, Hadassah exemplifies, in many re-



spects, the best of the liberal and social reforming traditions of Zionism, combined with practical work in building the land of Israel and rescuing Jews from persecution.

Contact Phyllis Spisto at PhyllisSpisto@aol.com or (516) 547-0497 for more information.

# Times & dates may change



Check the calendar at www.templechaverim.org

# Men's Club Events

**College Planning:** Get a head start on planning for your child's college applications — **Sunday, March 10** 

Card Night — Wednesdays at 7:00 pm March 20, April 24, May 29, June 26



For more info, please leave a message for David Bluth, Men's Club President in the Temple Office (516) 367-6100.



#### CONNECTIONS

## LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMS — ADULT EDUCATION

## **Book Club**

Come join our open discussion. Become aware of enjoyable, interesting and thought provoking books that you might never have thought to read. You are welcome to attend even if you have not read the book. Refreshments are served, and



there is no charge for this challenging, enjoyable evening of learning, discussion and camaraderie.

## Sunday, March 3 at 10:00 am

*The Lost Wife* by Alyson Richman The story takes place in pre-war Prague where two lovers are separated by the Nazi invasion.

#### Wednesday, April 17 at 7:30 pm Binocular Vision by Edith Pearlman

This is made up of twenty-one vintage stories and thirteen scintillating new ones that take us around the world from Jerusalem to different locales and varied characters.



# RSVP to learning@templechaverim.org

or to the temple office at 516 367-6100 by the Friday prior to the meeting.

## Learn to Read Hebrew with Debbye Brandell

#### Tuesdays, 8:30-9:30 pm

What a great way to learn how to follow



the worship service, be more involved in your child's Jewish education, and enhance your ties to Judaism!

Contact Louise at (516) 367-6100 x 128 to register.

## Lower East Side Walking & Food Tour

#### Sunday, March 17th at 12 noon

Join our very own Joel Newberger for a special tour of the Lower East Side. Meet in front of **The Pickle Guys**, 49 Essex Street, where you will be amazed by what they can pickle!

We will continue to the best donut store in all of NYC, **The Donut Plant**. Then visit Rivington Street's **Economy Candy**, "pure over-the-top New York...that would leave Willy

Wonka weeping in his cocoa."

We will also sample the warm matzoh at **Streit's Matzoh Factory** and stop at the world famous **Katz's Deli** and **Yonah Shimmel's Knishes.** Joel will provide maps with locations of all his recommended places.



Rabbi Hecht purchases pints of pickles for Passover.

Please RSVP by Friday, March 8th to learning@templechaverim.org

# Jewish Meditation & Spirituality—Strategies for Relaxation & Inner Peace



Classes incorporate breathing techniques, guided imagery, meditation and Jewish spiritual discussions.

Join us for strategies to relax, and for simple tools to find inner peace.

You will learn to quiet your mind and listen to your heart.

Donna Bloom,<br/>Instructor &<br/>Temple memberContact Donna for more information<br/>at 516-933-3669.

## Creating Your Own Authentic Life

Your Focus—March 7 The Power of Imagination—March 21

#### Alternate Thursday evenings 7:30 — 9:00

# Peaceful Intentions

Shema Meditation—April 4 SHALOM Healing Technique—April 18 Finding Your Quiet, Peaceful Place—May 2

#### **Honoring Your Personal Feelings**

Being Present with Your Feelings—May 16 Allowing Yourself to Experience Your Feelings—May 30 The Hidden Gifts of Emotions—June 13

# Writers' Workshop—Monday, March 18 at 7:30 PM

Join us as *Marsha Bank* and *Debbye Brandell* present "Writers' Workshop with a Jewish Twist."

The focus will be on transformational moments in our Jewish lives. We will find ways to remember important times in our lives and record them for posterity.



Through conversation and reflection, this one-hour session will be relaxed and rewarding for all participants. Bring a notebook and pen.

 For more information, contact learning@templechaverim.org.



# Sociable Seniors—Spring Programs

Sociable Seniors once again broke attendance records in December with 150 people mesmerized by "The *Songs and Stories of Edith Piaf.*" It was as if she had come back to life right here in Plainview!

Spring 2013 is filled with equally amazing programs. On March 7<sup>th</sup>, our minds will be challenged when



Professor Christopher Williams, Associate Vice President for Public Policy, Government and Foundation Relations at Long Island University, returns to Temple Chaverim to discuss the *"Eight Jewish Justices of the United States Supreme Court."* Come find out who they are and how they shaped our government and law.

Don't think all Jews came from Poland. On April 4<sup>th</sup>, Rahel Musleah, born in Calcutta, India, the seventh generation of a Calcutta Jewish family that traces its roots to 17th century Baghdad, will share a rare and intimate knowledge of this ancient community's history, customs, and melodies in *"The Jews of India."* Ms. Musleah, an awardwinning journalist, author, singer, speaker and educator, a graduate of Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, is sure to delight you.

A timely Mother's Day presentation for this inaugural year is on May 2nd when Martha Kolodkin, continues her lecture about "*The Presidents' Mothers*," discussing the women who shaped US presidents from President Ford to President Obama. She is an American history educator of thirty-two years' experience. One can only imagine the lives and personalities of the mothers who raised these extraordinary sons.

The season grand finale will be on June 6th, when Professor of Music Marc Courtade charms us with tales of the life and career of *"The Iconic Barbra Streisand."* 

All are welcome at these programs. They all are on the first Thursday of the month and begin at 11:45 am starting with a delicious light lunch amongst stimulating company and followed by an engaging lecture.

**RSVP is a MUST to ensure we have enough food for all.** Cost for each program is \$11 for Temple members, \$14 for non-members.

To make a reservation or for additional information, please contact one of the co-chairs: Florence Halperin, dfhalperin@aol.com or 516-781-9438, or Phyllis Spisto, phyllisspisto@aol.com or 516-547-0497.

## Heritage & Heirlooms What symbolically connects us to our past?

#### We Invite You to Exhibit Your Family Treasures

Temple Chaverim values your presence as members of our synagogue. We know each one of us comes with some cherished memories that are important to us, too. We are hosting a museum-like exhibit of our family treasures. Through their stories we will bring a part of our family's history to a new audience.

You say you don't have anything? Think again! Maybe you inherited a piece of jewelry, perhaps noth-

ing fancy but to you it is irreplaceable because it belonged to someone you loved long ago. Maybe you inherited a family recipe, perhaps handwritten, now splattered with little stains. How about old pictures—you know, the ones that came with negatives? Or perhaps the older ones, taken in a photographer's studio? Have any letters written during the war?



Joan Schein still has her grandmother's clock from the 1890's.

If you had to evacuate your *clock from the 1890's*. home, and you knew your

family, pets and computer were safe, what else would you grab because it could never be replaced? If you cherish something tell us about why it is special on the submission form available in the Temple Office.

Leave the form, with a snapshot of the item, for Debbie Wells by April  $1^{st}$ .

Honor your family heritage by sharing your legacy in this unique way. Think how proud you will feel walking through the exhibit with your children and seeing your family treasure!

Debbie Wells Jody Steifman Amy-Jo Willig *Co-Curators* 



Amy-Jo Willig loves her grandparents' music box from the early 1900's.





Join more than 100 Jewish young people from our North Atlantic Region (NAR) including kids from NYC, Westchester, Long Island and Connecticut!

The weekend includes amazing camp style Shabbat, discussions on current events and hot teen issues, plenty of fun social programs and free time to hang out with old friends and the new friends you will make during the Kallah.





CHAverim Temple Youth, CHATY, provides our children with opportunities to engage in interesting and meaningful activities with their Jewish peers. CHATY dues include membership in NFTY. The CHATY and NFTY calendars consist of an array of fun-filled events, social action projects, leadership development opportunities and holiday celebrations that will strengthen Jewish connections. The bonds formed in youth group often last a lifetime! Make sure your children have this opportunity.

Rabbi Debra Bennet, the Congregation's Assistant Rabbi, directs these youth programs. Robyn Smith, our enthusiastic Youth Engagement Coordinator focuses on JCHATY and the 8th Grade Leadership Council. Rabbi Bennet and Robyn work closely with the Youth Committee volunteers. Together, Temple Chaverim provides fun, innovative programming for our young members.

In addition to the programs listed, in April we will celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel Independence Day, tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 16th. There will also be a combined CHATY/JCHATY End Of The Year Celebration. We will be sending out additional information about all this and more.

We thank all the parent volunteers who help make our programs successful! Volunteering is a mitzvah! Join our committee or volunteer for a specific event. We hope to see you and your child(ren) soon!

Please contact us for more information: Beth Tabak: Bethjon@optonline.net or Michelle Chalfen: Michntodd@verizon.net.

# CHATY CHOCOLATE SEDER

A joint JCHATY & CHATY Passover Celebration



Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm No gefilte fish! No brisket! No parsley! ONLY CHOCOLATE!

A Seder so silly and delicious you will think you're dreaming! Come do the ten plagues with chocolate milk!

## Youth Programming

Some of the upcoming events include:

- A Taste of CHATY (3rd and 4th grades) Friday, March 8th—Grade 3 & 4 Shabbat Late Night Following the 3rd & 4th Grade Shabbat Experience
- **JCHATY (5th-7th Grades)** Thursday, March 21st The famous CHATY CHOCOLATE SEDER @6pm

Eighth Grade Leadership Council at TNL during dinner Tuesday, March 5th @ 6:15pm Tuesday, April 9th @ 6:15pm Tuesday, May 7th @ 6:15pm

CHATY (9—12th Grades)

Thursday, March 21st The famous CHATY CHOCOLATE SEDER @ 6pm

Tuesday, April 23rd Tuesday Night Live Special Program @ 6:15pm

Tuesday, May 14th 10th Grade Class leads Shavout Services & become Confirmed Sunday, May 19th Trip to NYC - Details to follow!

## NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth)

NFTY is a Reform Jewish community for high school students bringing together youth from synagogues throughout the New York Region and from more than 900 synagogues across the country.

> Sunday, March 17th NFTY—NAR Elections for 9-12th graders Location: Manhattan

Friday, April 19th - Sunday, April 21st NFTY-NAR Spring Kallah @ Camp Eisner

Friday, May 5th - Sunday, May 7th **NFTY-NAR Junior Youth Group Retreat** A great opportunity to experience what NFTY is about!



All 4 and 5 year olds are welcome with their parents.

> The cost is \$5.00 per session.

Sunday, March 17th @ 9:00 - 10:15 am Passover Art, Stories, Songs, Snacks and Fun!



## **Social Action**



## Snowflake Gift Giving Campaign—Thank You!

We truly thank those who participated. We were able to provide gifts to 20 teens in foster care through The Jewish Child Care Association. We appreciate all that everyone has done.

## Pack it up for Purim—Sunday, March 3rd

In conjunction with TANS (Tikkun Alliance of the North Shore), there will be a community effort to create 2500 food packages for needy New Yorkers and become part of the Purim tradition of mishloach manot, offering a food package to a neighbor. Temple Chaverim will be responsible for collecting kosher canned vegetables. The collection will take place from January 30<sup>th</sup> through March 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be a "**pack it up" day on March 3<sup>rd</sup>** when food packages will be assembled at the Hatzilu Kosher Food Pantry in Baldwin.

## **April Prom Drive**

Donate your gently-used "prom wear". Collections will include dresses, suits, make up, jewelry and handbags.

For more information, email Rhonda Green kov64@hotmail.com



## Food Donations—From Our Tables to Others

Do you have extra food from a celebration or untouched food from a house of mourning? Join TANS in donating food to people in need. This is a **perishable food recovery** program.

Donations are made to local shelters and group homes. There is nothing in Jewish law that prohibits food from being taken out of a shiva home. Rabbis will agree that it is a mitzvah to donate food to others in need.

The following is a sampling of locations that accept perishable food donations: **Glen Cove Emergency Pantry** 516-676-4041, **Island Harvest** 516-294-8528 and **The Ronald McDonald House** 516-775-5683.

#### Eyeglasses: www.neweyesfortheneedy.org



The focus is on improving the vision of poor children and adults by purchasing new eyeglasses in the US. They also recycle donated glasses for distribution in developing nations worldwide.

## Computer Donations: www.comp4kidsorg

Comp4kids collects, refurbishes and distributes XP computers - FOR FREE - to low income families across Long Island, NYC and lower Westchester. Last year, Comp4kids was able to distribute over 1500 computers.



# Hesed for Heroes—Adopt A Lone Soldier in Israel

"Our new initiative supports the Lone Soldiers in Israel!" In conjunction with ten other Long Island synagogues, the Social Action Committee of Temple Chaverim is a member of Hesed for Heroes. Our new initiative supports the Lone Soldiers in Israel!

On January 29th, two Lone Soldiers gave us a window into the life of the non-Israeli born young men and

woman who volunteer to serve in the Israeli Defense Force (IDF). These volunteers face the challenges of living in a new country, learning Hebrew, and navigating the Israeli bureaucracy. One big challenge is on holidays and Shabbat, when Israeli soldiers go home to their families, these volunteers are often alone.



Debby Kovensky distributed information about the Lone Soldier Program.

How can we support these soldiers as they are defending Israel? We can adopt a Lone Soldier. This does not mean you pay for college, but rather are being supportive and

caring by sending monthly letters or small care packages. They love little items such as energy bars, hand sanitizer or lotion, things you would need if you went camping -- however, no chocolate, because it melts.

We can also send funds to the Long Soldier Project. Check their website for more information: **http://lonesoldiercenter.com**.

While the Israeli government provides the basics, the Lone Soldiers Program offers guidance, social and emotional support, as well as information and support to parents of Lone Soldiers.

This is a great B'nei Mitzvah project. For more information please contact **Rhonda Green** at **kov64@hotmail.com** or **Michelle Shnitkin** at **mfs1040@optonline.net**.



Rhonda Green speaks with two Lone Soldiers.



## Temple Chaverim Mitzvah Makers: Look Who Is Making a Difference!

There are many members of our congregation who devote their time to efforts for important causes in addition to their volunteer work at the Temple. In every issue of Connections we will focus on these people and their commitment to improving the world.

We hope you will celebrate their hard work and achievement. Mostly, we hope you will find ways to support their efforts: join their walks, ride in their bike rides, play in their golf outings, and contribute to the causes they are assisting.

There are moments in our lives that have a profound effect on our souls; how we choose to respond may change the world for the better.

Hannah Stewart, an 11<sup>th</sup> grader, began interning at a veterinarian's office three years ago. One day last June, when she got to work, she watched the previous night's security video that was heart wrenching. A man could be seen leaving his pet dog on the stoop in hopes that the vet would find him a new home. Repeatedly, the man would start to leave his pet and then return to hug him again. Wiley, that orphaned dog, was adopted by a loving family and Hannah was changed forever.

What Hannah witnessed was the impact financial hardship can have on people's ability to afford their beloved pets. This past fall, during her Rosh Hashanah family dinner, she shared this experience with her younger brother Jordan and their two cousins from Jericho, Justin, a 9th grader, and Dylan Steinberg, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader. Together they all agreed that no one should ever have to give up a pet because they could not afford to feed it. That is the simple beginning of their organization called No Pet Goes Unfed, Inc.



Hannah is the President and Founder, and Jordan, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, is the Vice President of Finance. They and their parents David and Susan Stewart are members of Temple Chaverim. Their grandparents, Barbara Yacker-Burstein and Jerry

Burstein are also our congregants.



Dakotah is very proud of Jordan and Hannah Stewart's efforts.

Their new organization was ready for action when Hurricane Sandy hit in October. They collected and distributed more than twelve hundred pounds of pet food to Long Islanders already overwhelmed with the devastation of their homes and communities. One of the collection boxes was at Temple Chaverim, so many of our congregants helped Hannah and Jordan make a difference for Long Islanders.

As of December 2012, No Pet Goes Unfed, Inc. created a partnership with Long Island Cares, Inc. All of their pet food donations will be directed to the "Pet Pantry" at The Harry Chapin Food Bank.

You can donate pet food to No Pet Goes Unfed, by sending an email to their web site **http://nopetgoesunfed.org/HomePage.html**, or send a message through their No Pet Goes Unfed, Inc. Facebook page, which if you "Like," you will know when there are special events happening. Food pickups can be arranged.

Hey, any B'nei Mitzvah students looking for a great project? Connect your own mitzvah project to No Pet Goes Unfed, especially if you have a love for animals.





#### CONNECTIONS

# Ask Dear Yenta



#### Dear Yenta,

Recently I have been attending funerals far too frequently and am never really sure about the customs and etiquette of Shiva. Can you help me?

Sincerely, Shiva Shy

Dear Shiva Shy,

I am so sorry to hear you have been going through such a difficult time.

Remember you are always welcome to meet with our clergy and discuss your questions and concerns with them.

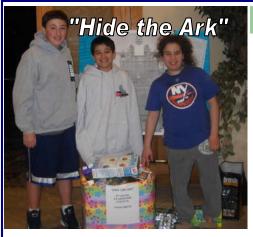
The period of mourning begins with the burial of the deceased. People come to the funeral home for the service and some people also go to the cemetery. Shiva begins immediately following the funeral. Visitors are encouraged to pay their respects at the home of the mourners especially because they will need a minyan of ten adults for the service that will include reciting Kaddish for their loved one. The Shiva period and location are decided by the family. It is announced at the funeral and for Temple members through an email message as well.

Many people bring or send food to the home where people are sitting Shiva. Another way to comfort the bereaved is to honor the deceased by making donations to a favorite charity.

Temple Chaverim has several options you might choose from. The Rabbis and Cantor each have a Discretionary Fund. There are a variety of other funds that you can choose from such as the Religious School, Senior Programming or Prayer Book Funds. You can purchase a Leaf on the Tree of Life. There are additional dedication items at the Temple that would greatly honor the memory of someone you loved.

To discuss your donation, please call Eileen Schneyman, Executive Director, at 516-367-6100 ext 108.

If you have a question for Dear Yenta, write to connections@templechaverim.org with "Dear Yenta" in the subject line



# FOOD DRIVE

The Eighth Grade Leadership Council is running a food drive to celebrate Temple Chaverim's Building's Bar Mitzvah.

The goal is to collect 1,300 pounds of non-perishable food by March 31st, for FEGS' food pantry. Collection bins are located in temple lobby and school wing. Help them reach their goal and make a difference in the community!

## **Memorial List**

*October 23, 2012 through January 22, 2013* 

**Rabbi Alan Kay** - October 24 husband of Jo Kay father of Lisa Tzah

*Diane Richter* - November 14 mother of Mickey Richter

Florence Berman - November 19 mother of Paula Lefkowitz grandmother of Brett Kushner

*Eve Eisenberg* - November 22 grandmother of Marni Pankin and Shari Rosenblatt

*Loretta Reinhold* - November 22 aunt of Linda Greenbaum

*Lennie Flomberg* - November 24 mother of Jill Handschu

*Muriel Solick* - November 27 aunt of Stephanie Stern

*Morris Greenspan* - December 11 father of Stacy Guttenberg

*Charlotte Nelson* - December 25 mother of Laura Tamber

*Stuart Botwinick* - December 26 stepfather of Richard Klein

*Murray Krinick* - December 29 father of Evan Krinick

**Barbara Prager** - December 31 grandmother of Meredith Stern

*Marvin Hershkowitz* - January 1 father of Shari Kurnit

*Aaron Zutler* - January 5 father of Michael Zutler

*Lillian Landsberger* - January 16 mother of Joan Jetter

## **Memorial Plaque List**

In loving tribute, the following names have been inscribed on our Memorial Wall.

*Florence Berman* November 19, 2012

> *Marilyn Lewis* April 25, 2012

Herbert Cooper May 21, 1987

If you would like to make a donation, purchase a brick or plaque in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please contact the Temple Office at 516-367-6100.

# Temple Chaverim

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#### IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION .....

#### Thank you to our members for their generous donations November 20th, 2012 through January 21, 2013. Every effort was made to ensure accuracy. We apologize in advance for any errors or misspellings.

**EISNER/CRANE LAKE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS** 

#### ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In Memory of Samuel Lubliner & Agnes D'Amico Jo Kay

#### RABBI HECHT'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Donna Slotnick William Tucker Glenn Liebman Richard & Randi Gertler Larry & Marlene Wald Edwin & Ethel Lokshin Dorian Rehfield

#### In Honor of

Rabbi Hecht-Thank you for being there for us Mel & Rochelle Potash The Bat Mitzvah of Rona Moriah Elan & Alona Moriah Lise and Allen Maver Bruce, Jody and Jordyn Steifman Rabbi Hecht – A Big Thank You Julia Tucker Rabbi Hecht and Gladys Rosenblum thanking you for two wonderful trips to Israel Burton & Carol Minov and Alex & Erica Kam Dorian Rehfield thanking you for befriending Erica in Israel Burton & Carol Minov and Erica Kam Bill Tucker Warren D. Cole The Bar Mitzvah of Ori Milchan Michael & Deirdre Milchan

#### In Memory of

Gladys Epstein Richard & Rhoda Gould Muriel Solick Jeffrey & Stephanie Stern Estelle Neufeld Alvin & Faith Zubasky Dorothy Gould Richard & Rhoda Gould Paula Crane Tom Crane Donna K. Lazer and Robert E. Kislik Edward V. Kislik Lillian Bernstein Gail Goodwin Celia Zubasky Al & Faith Zubasky Diane Ladden Clifford & Lorelei Fisher Oscar Chodorow Amy Levine Lester Rothstein David & Amy Rothstein Rose Chodorow Amy Levine

#### RABBI BENNET'S DISCRETIONARY FUND In Memory of

Jean Moss Steven & Paula Lefkowitz

#### CANTOR HYMAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In support of Cantor Hyman for all the joy he brings week after week *The Gladstone Family* 

#### In Honor of

The Bat Mitzvah of Rona Moriah Elan & Alona Moriah The Marriage of Cantor and Vicki Bruce, Jody and Jordyn Steifman The Bar Mitzvah of Ori Milchan Michael & Deirdre Milchan

#### In Memory of

Florence Berman Jeffrey & Stephanie Stern Bertha Berman Steven & Paula Lefkowitz Harriet Sumner and Mollie & Alex Fried Barbara Yacker-Burstein In Honor of The marriage of Cantor Brad and Vicki Dan, Elisa, Emily & Nathan Blank In Memory of

Mollie Amira and Morris Amira Brian & Anissa Wilensky David and Regina Bernstein Barbara Wandner

#### GENERAL FUND In Honor of

The Bat Mitzvah of Rona Moriah Ron, Sherri, Jacob and Jesse Weber

## In Memory of

Stella Engel Mayra Engel Murray Krinick Burton & Carol Minov Marvin Hershkowitz Burton & Carol Minov Charlotte Nelson Burton & Carol Minov

## HEALING FUND

In Memory of Robert Engel Mayra Engel Burton Abrams Joyce Abrams

#### LIBRARY FUND

In Memory of

In Memory of Florence Berman Mel & Rochelle Potash Florence Berman Jerome & Pearl Weinberg Florence Berman Susan Alpern & Cathy Schwartz

#### MEMORY/YAHRZEIT FUND

Herman Sumner Barbara Yacker Philip Dinitz Arnie & Sara Price Florence Berman Larry & Marlene Wald Gilbert Riess Steve & Barbara Riess Florence Berman Brian & Darlene Friedman Sheila Frankle Brian & Sheila Frankle Marvin Goldrich Arline Rothenberg Florence Berman Artie & Phyllis Angstreich Ida Abramowitz David & Florence Halperin Leo Klarman Ken & Dianne Klarman Iean Feldman Gerry & Susan Hirschstein Florence Berman Mark & Ileen Weinstein Fay Langer Sigmund & Irene Fuhrman Suzanne Natiss Marvin Natiss & Stacey Gordon Sheldon Ruthen Kevin & MaryBeth Ruthen Ralph Goldrich Arline Rothenberg Suzanne Strom Stevan Srom Jack Miller and Sonia Pinsker Barry & Vicky Gladowsky William Walker Steven & Ilene Walker Maurice Schrier Roberta Schrier & Michelle Cowit Stanley Feingold and Simon Kremer David & Florence Halperin

Leon Kovensky Debby Kovensky Joel Wigler Harry & Elysa Wigler Estelle Brenner Joseph Brenner Charles Becker Marvin & Joyce De Siver Miriam Kremer and Theodore Rosoff Florence Halperin Hyman Schneider Jerome & Eileen Schneider

#### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Honor Of The birth of Minna Brandell Larry & Marlene Wald Hal and Debbye Brandell on the birth of their granddaughter Minna Evelyn Brandell Dan, Elisa, Emily & Nathan Blank The Birth of Minna Evelyn Brandell Bruce, Jody and Jordyn Steifman Debbye Brandell for all her hard work and devotion to all children of Temple Chaverim, especially those with special needs The Gladstone Family

#### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND In Memory of

Robert Marcus David & Leslie Nathanson

#### SENIOR PROGRAMMING FUND

Wishing the Sociable Seniors Program continued success *Mel & Rochelle Potash* 

#### SUNSHINE FUND

In Memory of Diane Richter Temple Chaverim Sisterhood Florence Berman Sue Gold Florence Berman David & Lisa Heymann Florence Berman Temple Chaverim Sisterhood Lennie Flomberg Temple Chaverim Sisterhood Morris Greenspan Temple Chaverim Sisterhood Murray Krinick David & Lisa Heymann Murray Krinick Temple Chaverim Sisterhood Marvin Hershkowitz Temple Chaverim Sisterhood Spencer Steele The Maiorana Family

#### TIKKUN OLAM FUND

In Memory of Florence Berman Howard & Elise Rubin The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Phyllis & Artie Angstreich Alan and Any Levine

#### TREE OF LIFE

In Honor of The Bat Mitzvah of Nicole Schwartzberg Jay & Barbi Schwartzberg

#### YOUTH PROGRAMMING FUND In Honor of

The Bat Mitzvah of Nicole Schwartzberg Larry & Wendy Strumwasser The 50th Anniversary of Artie & Phyllis Angstreich Allen & Linda Greenbaum

#### In Memory of

Marvin Hershkowitz Jay & Barbi Schwartzberg and Family Ozzie Siegel Rick & Ariann Lewis



#### CONNECTIONS



Join or renew your

participation in Circles today!

**Circles of Giving** is a vital pledge program whereby congregants voluntarily enhance their annual support to Temple Chaverim by a fixed amount. While our dues are in line with other local Reform synagogues, they do not completely cover the cost of running our Temple. In fact, Temple dues, tuitions and fees cover only 80% of our expense budget. The gap of \$500 per household must be made up through voluntary donations and fundraising efforts.

Temple Chaverim is committed to excellence in religious, educational and social programming, and to outstanding professional leadership. Your gift ensures that all children and adults in our congregation will continue to enjoy all the benefits of membership and provides scholarship to those in need. To help strengthen our synagogue and secure our future of upholding Jewish values, please make your pledge to the **Circles of Giving Program**. Contact Karen Bressner at 917-836-2207.

## **CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE**

Basic dues—\$1,500 or above Circle of Distinction recognition PLUS A special plaque for your home or office AND two non-transferable tickets to Casino Night

## **CIRCLE OF DISTINCTION**

Basic dues—\$1,000 to \$1,499 Circle of Honor recognition PLUS A Shabbat Dinner in your honor Special honor at a Friday night service

## **CIRCLE OF HONOR**

Basic dues—\$500 to \$999 Listing on "Circles" plaque displayed in the Temple Lobby Listing in "Connections" (temple newsletter) throughout the program year Certificate of Appreciation presented at a special "Circles" Wine & Cheese reception

Thank You to Our Circles' Donors 5773!

As of December 2012

**CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE** 

Llovd& Pamela Abramowitz Arthur& Phyllis Angstreich Michael & Susan Ashner Alan& Susan Borko **Jon& Karen Bressner** Allen & Linda Greenbaum Rabbi Jonathan Hecht & Gladys Rosenblum **Robert& Leslie Herenstein** David & Lisa Heymann Michael & Janice Kerr Daniel & Jill Leav Scott & Lori Levine Hank & Marilyn Levy Edwin & Ethel Lokshin Allen & Elizabeth Maver Men's Club of Temple Chaverim Sisterhood of Temple Chaverim David & Susan Stewart William & Carolyn Tucker Laurence & Marlene Wald Eric Weiss Mark & Sarane Wolf

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Jules Levy Mark & Marlene Senders

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# Temple haverim

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Jake	Gould	3/9/13	Mitchell & Julie
Hailey	Benowitz	3/16/13	Jay & Leigh
Joley	Ditchek	3/23/13	Stephen & Michele
Jordan	Schechter	3/23/13	Marc & Kimberly
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Alec	Lupo	5/4/13	Rob
Adam	Bettan	5/11/13	Richard & Sandi
Lance	Lustig	5/11/13	Todd & Meredith
Julia	Cohen	5/11/13	Noah & Elodie
Allison	Zimmerman	5/18/13	Randee Bonagura &
			Michael Zimmerman
Benjamin	Levine	5/18/13	Scott & Lori
Jared	Mogul	5/25/13	Scott & Jill
Amanda	Albertelli	5/25/13	Robert & Randi
Jenna	Meyers	5/27/13	Keith & Ivy
Abigail	Holisher	6/1/13	Ken & Kara
Jack	Brown	6/1/13	Paul & Mindy
Zach	Meyer	6/1/13	Howard & Sharon
Jacob	Teich	6/8/13	Bradley & Susan
Dylan	Khazzam	6/8/13	David & Hope
Joshua	Rubin	6/9/13	Debra & Brett
Eric	Klein	6/15/13	Jonathan & Barbara
Dean	Preston	6/15/13	Robert & Dana

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# GAMBLE FOR A GOOD CAUSE!

# Saturday, April 20th, 2013



(Continued from page 1)

First, your very presence will be supporting Temple Chaverim. The truth is that our dues do not cover all our needs, and the money raised from Casino Night helps support a variety of Temple efforts, including our religious school, special needs and youth programming, lifelong learning and senior programming, plus support for families going through difficult financial times.

If you don't gamble, there will still be plenty of reason to attend and enjoy. There will be nonstop entertainment. Steve Pinsky, who, we are sure should be a contender as a national late night talk show host, will once again, emcee the Casino Night Lucky Chai Lounge. It will be hard to choose between gaming and the music and comedy which are sure to make this night so awesome.

For our gamers, the evening is totally professional with gaming tables run by Event Kings. Spend your time at Blackjack, Craps, Roulette, Slots, Money Wheel or Texas Hold 'em.

For everyone, there will be numerous opportunities to win thousands of dollars worth of prizes with over 50 raffle baskets filled with a variety of goodies, including tickets for the Yankees and Mets, electronics, restaurant and retail store gift certificates, and more than we have room here to list.

All attendees must be 18 years or older, and at least 21 to enjoy the open bar.

Bring your friends and family. This event is open to the public. The fee for entry is \$80 per person, which includes complimentary casino money, gaming tables, gourmet cocktailstyle food, fabulous desserts and an open bar. Remember: Hasson Caterers never lets you leave hungry!

Tickets can be purchased at the door but it is better to puchase your tickets in advance. To do that just visit the Temple web site at **www.templechaverim.org** and click on the red Casino Night link OR call Rosemary Nucci in the Temple Office at 516-367-6100, ext. 101. See you at this fun evening!

We also need your help! Please donate prizes, volunteer for the evening, or sponsor one of the events or tables. Contact Karen Bressner at **casinonight@templechaverim.org**.



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