A Potpourri of Jewish Interest

FOURTH ANNUAL LECTURE SERIES
MODERATED BY ALLAN SUGARMAN

Please join us on a fascinating educational journey to discuss the complexities that shape our Jewish life. All programs will be held at the Marlboro Jewish Center.

THE DEFIANT ONES
TUESDAY, MARCH 6 - 7:00- 8:15 PM
The Civil Rights Movement and the Jewish Community
As we approach the 50th Anniversary of Dr. King’s death, we explore the active participation and leadership of the liberal Jewish community, including Dr. Abraham Joshua Heschel. Special Guest: Peter Geffen—Social Activist and Renowned Jewish Educator who served as a civil right's worker with Dr. King.

THAT’S ENTERTAINMENT!
TUESDAY, MARCH 13 - 7:00- 8:15 PM

CROSSING DELANCEY
TUESDAY, MARCH 20 - 7:00 8:15 PM
Immigration – current crisis and Jewish immigration in the early 20th century – from Emma Lazarus to DACA. What would have happened if the current immigration policy existed in 1900? Special Guest: Brian Thompson, the New Jersey Correspondent Reporter for WNBC News.

ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT
TUESDAY, MARCH 27 - 7:00 8:15 PM
One State / Two State solution ... Jerusalem as Capital of Israel. What are the implications of the current American policy to the current Middle East position between Israel and Arab countries?
# MJC OFFICERS

**President**  
Rhonda Eiger .......... 732-616-5186

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**Second Generation**  
Marvin Glickstein ...... 732-972-0259

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732-536-2300

Rabbi Pont................. x107  
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Cantor Krieger .......... x118  
Bonnie Komito............. x101  
Reba Schneiderman ....... x106  
Dale Mesmer............... x110  
Patty Dorfschneider ...... x109  
Sylvia Ohrwashel......... x321

**CHAIR BUILDING**  
732-536-2303

Rita Rashotsky............ x116  
Bonnie Silverman .......... x100  
Rabbi Ron Koas........... x113  
Lissette Allen............ x114  
Youth....................... x124

# March 2018/5778 Adar/Nisan

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**Daylight Saving Time**

- March 3: Springtime starts
- March 24: Daylight Saving Time ends

**Date:** March 2018

**Synagogue Office Numbers:**
- Rabbi Pont: x107
- Sandi Shafran: x103
- Cantor Krieger: x118
- Bonnie Komito: x101
- Reba Schneiderman: x106
- Dale Mesmer: x110
- Patty Dorfschneider: x109
- Sylvia Ohrwashel: x321

**Chai Building Numbers:**
- Rabbi Ron Koas: x113
- Lissette Allen: x114
- Youth: x124

**Candle Lighting and Mincha Times**

- March 2: 5:32 pm
- March 3: 5:15 pm
- March 9: 5:30 pm
- March 16: 6:47 pm
- March 23: 6:54 pm
- March 30: 7:01 pm
- March 3: 6:31 pm
- March 10: 6:30 pm
- March 17: 7:46 pm
- March 24: 7:34 pm
- March 31: 8:01 pm

**End of Shabbat**

- March 2: 6:31 pm
- March 3: 6:30 pm
- March 9: 6:30 pm
- March 16: 7:46 pm
- March 23: 7:34 pm
- March 30: 8:01 pm

**Bar Mitzvah: Emma Zaslavsky daughter of Janine & Eric Zaslavsky son of Lisa & Keith Goodman Justin Capell son of Karen & David Capell**
Passover Schedule of Services 5778/2018

Friday, March 30 - Erev Passover/First Seder
7:00 am Siyyum B’Chorim/Service for the First Born
5:00 pm Afternoon Service
7:01 pm Candle Lighting

Saturday, March 31 - First Day Passover/Second Seder
9:15 am Morning Service
5:00 pm Afternoon Service
After 8:02 pm Candle Lighting

Sunday, April 1 - Second Day Passover
9:15 am Torah Study
10:00 am Morning Service
8:15 pm Ma’ariv Service

Thursday, April 5 - Erev Seventh Day Passover
7:08 pm Candle Lighting
8:15 pm Ma’ariv Service

Friday, April 6 - Seventh Day Passover
9:15 am Torah Study
10:00 am Morning Service
7:09 pm Candle Lighting
8:15 pm Shabbat/Passover Service

Sale of Hameitz for Pesach
Agency Appointment

I hereby appoint Rabbi Michael Pont of the Marlboro Jewish Center, 103 School Road West, Marlboro, New Jersey 07746, to be my agent for the purpose of selling my Hameitz. I understand that Rabbi Pont will select a purchaser of his choice for this sale. I understand that the sale will be conditionally consummated at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, March 30, 2018. I accept the definition of Hameitz as set by Jewish law and tradition (i.e., leavening, leavened products, and leavening processes). I understand that under no circumstances may I use, or benefit from, Hameitz from 10:30 a.m. on Friday, March 30, 2018 until 8:10 p.m. on Saturday, April 7, 2018.

Name _______________________________________________________________
Address _____________________________________________________________

This form must be signed and returned no later than Friday, March 30 at 10:00am. Fax: 732 536-0707

It is customary to make a special solicitation of funds before Passover, known as “Maot Hittin,” to be used to help those in need. This year you are encouraged to include a contribution to the Marlboro Jewish Center’s Tikkun Olam Fund which will be used to support families in need, social action and other acts of kindness.

I enclose $ ______ for the Marlboro Jewish Center’s Tikkun Olam Fund
(Please make your check payable to Marlboro Jewish Center)
THE FIFTH CHILD

The seders are the final two evenings of this month. We will gather with family and friends to tell our story of freedom, ask the Four Questions, eat matzah, sing “Dayenu!”, search for the Afikoman, and more. We will also revisit the Four Children: wise, wicked, simple, and one who doesn’t know how to ask a question. They represent a spectrum of engagement in Jewish life. But what of the Fifth Child – the one who is not at the seder at all?

In response, we strive to address issues on your mind from a Jewish perspective. Our own Allan Sugarman’s lecture series will touch upon civil rights and racism, Jews in Hollywood, immigration, and the prospects for peace in the Middle East. The talks are on each Tuesday this month. On March 7, the Hebrew High School is hosting a program on “Drug and Vaping Awareness,” both for students and parents. Both our Sisterhood and Men’s Club will host their own Shabbat dinners and will lead services, on March 2 and 16 respectively. Finally, our Social Action committee has initiated a series of projects to engage all ages in acts of chesed (kindness). Until March 12 they are collecting breakfast bars, water bottles, juice boxes and more for Elijah’s Promise in East Brunswick. Our Hebrew High School students are helping with this project. The committee will also oversee a food drive and deliveries for Passover. If you have suggestions for programs, please let me know.

Spreading the Torah’s message of compassion, learning, and faith is integral to my mission in life. I firmly believe that most Jews want to connect to Judaism in meaningful ways. But in today’s world, most of us are distracted by a flood of stimuli from social media, TV and more, and dozens of activities compete for our time and energy. Therefore, I try every day to improve how I and how all of us at the synagogue reach you and inspire you.

I am excited about our improved website – go to www.mjcnj.com for the latest information and great photos. The site is one feature of ShulCloud, our new comprehensive synagogue management system. Kudos to Executive Director Bonnie Komito for overseeing the transition, and to the entire office staff for their dedication to ongoing training to use it effectively. And check out our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/MarlboroJewishCenter/. I thank VP of House Paul Nebb for helping me with the Hanukkah and Purim videos starring Cantor Krieger and me – check them out! And follow us on Twitter: @marlborojewishc! Thanks to Allen Basis who regularly posts MJC announcements on these platforms.

Staying up to date in these ways is critical, but these are merely the vehicles that carry our message, and not the message itself. It is like the packaging versus the gift: if I give you something in a pretty box you might be drawn to it, but if you don’t want what’s inside then the gift has no value.

Shalom,
Rabbi Pont
Dear friends,

I am very excited about the upcoming lecture series which will be held at MJC on 4 consecutive Tuesdays in March. I believe all four subjects are provocative and will engender serious discussion among everyone who will be present. I am especially excited about the first lecture on The Civil Rights Movement and the Progressive Jewish Community on Tuesday, March 6 with the involvement of Peter Geffen, one of the leading Social Activists and Jewish Educators of our generation. Also, the lecture on Immigration on Tuesday, March 20 with the participation of Brian Thompson, NJ Correspondent of WNBC-TV. I hope that you will be able to join us for these 4 lectures, all beginning at 7:00 PM, concluding at 8:15 PM.

All the best,

Allan Sugarman

THE DEFIANT ONES
TUESDAY, MARCH 6 - 7:00- 8:15 PM

The Civil Rights Movement and the Jewish Community

As we approach the 50th Anniversary of Dr. King's death, we explore the active participation and leadership of the liberal Jewish community, including Dr. Abraham Joshua Heschel.

Special Guest: Peter Geffen — Social Activist and Renowned Jewish Educator who served as a civil rights worker with Dr. King.

In the summers of 1965 and 1966 Peter Geffen served as a civil rights worker for Dr. Martin Luther King’s Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in Orangeburg, SC. He played several historic roles at MLK’s funeral including accompanying Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel throughout the funeral procession. Professionally a Jewish educator, Peter founded The Abraham Joshua Heschel School in New York City in 1983, considered unique in its integrated approach to curriculum and its social justice programming. Today, the Heschel School is the largest pluralistic Jewish school in North America with over 1000 students on its campus on the west side of Manhattan. In the 1990’s he began working with Jewish day schools across the continent that sought to model all or portions of their programs on the Heschel educational model. In 2005 Peter Founded KIVUNIM - The Institute for World Jewish Studies - a year-long post high school/pre-college gap-year program based in Israel and studying about and traveling to 12 countries (from Morocco to India) studying the origins and integration of Jewish life and culture throughout the world. The program seeks to build “world-consciousness” as a context for strengthening Jewish identity, formed as it is from the magnificent history of the Jewish people amongst the nations of the world. KIVUNIM is the only Jewish educational program teaching Arabic and traveling into the Arab and Islamic worlds. In 2012 he was selected to receive the Covenant Award, the highest recognition in the field of Jewish education. Peter holds a BA from Queens College (where he studied and developed a close personal relationship with the noted Jewish historian Professor Cecil Roth during the final years of Roth's life), an MA in Religious Education from New York University and a Certificate in Psychotherapy and Counseling from the Alfred Adler Institute in New York City.

He is married to Susie Kessler, Director of the Makom Mindfulness Center at the JCC in Manhattan. They have three children, sons Rabbi Jonah Geffen, Rabbi Daniel Geffen, and daughter Nessa Geffen, Assistant Director of the JCC Camp Settoga. They have 3 grandchildren, Bina, Shula and Eva Malka.

Peter was born, raised in and has lived in New York City throughout his lifetime.
I love Israel! My first connection was when I travelled there in 1984 with United Synagogue Youth Israel Pilgrimage. A few years later, while running the CPJ/UAJA campaign at Brandeis University, I returned on a UJA mission in 1987. Each experience was so amazing and eye-opening, but life got in the way and I was unable to return for a while. Fast forward a few decades, and I returned in 2012 with my entire family when my inlaws planned a trip for their 50th wedding anniversary. Following that, we returned last summer for my 50th birthday. I always carried my love and passion for the State of Israel from my earlier experiences to now and witnessing how Israel has developed and the surrounding area, I understand the importance of getting involved and making a difference on an issue I care so deeply about.

In my earlier years, I had worked in Congress for Congressman William J. Hughes as an LBJ intern and for Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy as an intern. Whenever I had the chance I would often advocate for Israel in the political sphere. Knowing that AIPAC provided a vehicle in which I could use my experience and lobby for a strong US-Israel partnership. It meant so much more to me that my voice would be counted on this issue. I also believe in supporting Israel Bonds and the continual growth and development of Israel as a thriving democracy in the Middle East.

All of that said, I firmly believe that one of the best ways to support Israel is to instill a love for Israel in my children and their friends. They are our future. I emphasized to my kids how important Israel is and how important it is to visit, support and to stand up for Israel. All three of my kids went on USY Israel Pilgrimage. That instilled their love for Israel as well. I am pleased to report that my oldest daughter, Danielle, has accepted a position as a Fellow for AIPAC for the next two years upon her graduation from Cornell.

I joined AIPAC this past year during my daughter’s summer internship. She was able to convince me that AIPAC warranted support and I just needed the push. I also was looking for a great Jewish cause to assist with once I am finished with my synagogue presidency in June. I am thrilled that I get to have this experience with my whole family as we work to ensure Israel’s existence for my children’s children and beyond.

Mark and I have always known that we must do more to help strengthen America’s understanding of and support of Israel. This is an eerily unique time in history. On the one hand, there has never been a better time or place to be a Jew than in the United States in 2018. Think of it – 3 Supreme Court justices are Jewish, so was a presidential candidate, dozens of members of congress and leaders in so many fields are Jewish. Our community has unprecedented religious and cultural freedom and unparalleled access to the halls of power. But we know that we have to work hard to maintain American support for Israel - we must do what we can to ensure the world’s only super power stands with the only Jewish state.

So why is all of this important to people like us? Quite simply, if we want to retain our freedom as Jews here in America, we must do everything we can to ensure that Israel survives and prospers. Because a strong and secure Jewish state, underlined by a strong and secure alliance between America and Israel, allow us to hold our heads up high as Jewish Americans, here in NJ.

AIPAC is the only organization whose sole mission is to strengthen the relationship between the US and Israel – to educate the people who make policy in this country about the strategic value of Israel to America. To educate them so that they are committed to Israel’s safety and security and provide her with the resources and means to enable her to defend herself by herself.

I truly believe that a strong alliance between the two countries is good for America, for Israel and for the Jewish people worldwide, and that is why I urge you to join AIPAC. I will report on the AIPAC Conference in Washington in next month’s Temple Topics. At this point in time, I look forward to joining many fellow MJC members at the AIPAC Policy Conference to hear and to gain context and insight into what is going on and what is at stake at this moment. This is a great place to learn more about how to be involved politically and make meaningful contributions to helping others understand the significance of a strong and supported Israel in the Middle East.

B’shalom,
Rhonda Eiger
Nancy, my entire family and I want to wish the entire community a happy and meaningful Passover.

I have included an excerpt from the Shabbat morning study session that I led on December 30th.

Vayechi completes the circle of the story of Yosef. It ends in a very different place than where it began. When the story starts, Yosef and his brothers are fierce rivals. Yosef dreams of bundles of wheat and stars bowing down to him. The bundles of wheat represent the promise of land, while the stars symbolize the promise of children. In dreaming about these symbols, Yosef is saying that the covenant, which revolves around the promise of land and children, will be his and only his. As you can imagine, this creates great conflict among the brothers.

In our Torah portion, at the very end of the story of Yosef and the book of Bereshit, Yaakov gathers all of his sons and offers them blessings: “Assemble and hearken, O sons of Yaakov; hearken to Yisrael your father” (Bereshit 49:2). This is a very big deal, because for the first time in the book of Bereshit, no one is excluded. Everyone receives a blessing. Everyone seems to be on the same page. What started out as sibling rivalry has turned into sibling unity. Not only this: even though we are already at the end of Bereshit, for the first time in the Bible, we meet a grandfather, Yaakov. While there were certainly grandparents and grandchildren in Bereshit before this, we have no record of grandparents and grandchildren actually relating to each other or having a conversation. That’s why when Yaakov meets his grandchildren, Ephraim and Menashe, he blesses them by saying that they are as important to him as his own children: “Ephraim and Menashe shall be mine no less than Reuven and Shimon.” (Bereshit 48:5) Yaakov on his deathbed adopts Ephraim and Menashe and gives them a blessing elevating them to equal status with his own sons. The statement that precedes this act of adoption now takes on a new meaning: “Kachem na elai va-avarachem.” “Bring them to me that I may bless them.” (Bereshit 48:9) Or literally, “Bring them to me that I may adopt them.”

Could this passage serve as the basis for developing an authentically Jewish adoption ceremony? Those who choose adoption should be honored and supported by the Jewish community. The Talmud says that one who adopts is considered as if he or she has given birth. Along with Batyah bat Pharaoh, adoptive parents can now find a new role model in our tradition. Several commentaries suggest that Yaakov adopted them because Rachel, who died an untimely death, could possibly have lived to bear more children. Before blessing his own sons, the bed-ridden Yaakov singles out and blesses Ephraim and Menashe, sons of Yosef, an honor that catches the attention of all Torah scholars, especially since so little is known about them.

And more by placing a hand on each child’s head, Yaakov’s interaction has trickled down the centuries to become the traditional Erev Shabbat parental model for Birkat Habanim, the poignant blessing that all Jewish sons “be like Ephraim and Menashe.” The obvious question is: Why? Why not strive for a son to be like Avraham or Moshe. The answer is twofold: the unique quality of these two brothers was the fact that they never fought. They were the epitome of such sibling compatibility as to inspire Hamelech David’s lyrics, “Hine Ma Tov Uma Naim, Shevet Achim Gam Yachad.” “How good and pleasant it is for brothers to sit peacefully together.” Neither Avraham nor Yitzchak had such naches or mazel. The lives of their children are summarized by conflict and the next generation of Yosef and his brothers was even worse.

I was going through all of my father’s Divrei Torah this week and found the following about the blessing for the daughters: “Y’simech Elohim k’Sarah, Rivka, Rachel v’Leah.” “May God make you as beautiful as Sarah, as kind and generous as Rivka, as wise and pious as Rachel, as modest and as fulfilled as Leah.”

The following text is based on Midrash: when Yaakov’s sons returned from Egypt to tell their father that Yosef was alive, they were afraid that the fragile old man would die from shock. Rather than tell him directly, they found Serach, the adopted daughter of Asher, Yaakov’s eighth son. She was wise and skilled at playing the harp and played a song for Yaakov over and over again with these words: “Yosef b’Mitzrayim, yuldu lo al birkayim Menashe v’Ephraim. Yosef is in
The topics of Allan Sugarman’s lecture series, which will be held on four consecutive Tuesdays this month at MJC are: Civil Rights, Jews in Entertainment, Immigration, and Jerusalem and Middle East Peace. All of these subjects are timely and have carried great weight for the Jewish community throughout the generations. While each discussion carries a catchy movie title on the flyer found on the cover page of Temple Topics, keep in mind that these topics contain the “complexities that shape our Jewish lives.”

A long-time friend of Allan’s will be our special guest at the first session on Civil Rights. Peter Geffen’s bio can also be found within this issue and it’s well worth reading. There’s a video on line in which he reminisces about his days as a volunteer with Dr. Martin Luther King which I watched in awe, as he described his memory from that powerful time in history. To loosely quote his words about Dr. King, “The power of his voice, the power of his personality, the power of his word resides in anyone who has ever heard him…That’s the legacy we bare. We just have a big responsibility to fulfill.” I couldn’t help feeling that Peter’s life and career in education and activism must have been incredibly influenced by that moment in time.

What are the moments that each of us have in our lives that call us to action? Was it the word of a Rabbi or teacher, a family tradition, a tragedy, or a moment in current history that grabbed us in unthinkable ways. Look no further than the horrific shooting in Parkland Florida. Amid unimaginable grieving and loss, a new generation stepped forward to assume the mantle of leadership and change. I cannot help but think that the young people whose lives have been touched by this tragedy will forever be changed, but remarkably they have transformed their grief into activism and their voices have reached decision makers, leaders and elected officials.

Belonging to a synagogue helps us to frame issues and current events within the context of Jewish life. MJC is a place to come together, observe meaningful traditions, grieve as a community, and continue to engage in lifelong learning by participating in programs and religious services that nurture the mind and the spirit.

Passover is about freedom, responsibility, social action, justice, observance and tradition. The Passover story carries a responsibility for each of us to remember and retell. We each hold memories from our own family Seders filled with treasured customs and delicious recipes that are handed down from loved ones. As the month of March ends with the beginning of Passover, it’s a continuing reminder of our collective responsibility to keep these memories and traditions alive for future generations.

Make the most of March. Come to synagogue, participate in some or all of the discussion series, or volunteer for a committee. Have a ‘Zeisen Pesach!’
On March 3rd Shabbat Ki Tisa, the congregation celebrated along with the Zaslavsky family. Emma Zaslavsky, daughter of Janine and Eric Zaslavsky and was called to the Torah to become a Bat Mitzvah.

On March 17th Shabbat Mincha, the congregation will celebrate along with the Goodman family. Jared Goodman, son of Lisa and Keith Goodman will be called to the Torah to become Bar Mitzvah.

On March 24th Shabbat Mincha, the congregation will celebrate along with the Capell family. Justin Capell, son of Karen and David Capell will be called to the Torah to become Bar Mitzvah.

We announce the Birth of:
Layla Sloane, granddaughter of Pamela and Stuart Eisenberg.
Hallie Ilyse and Avi Benjamin Brant, grandchildren of Melinda and Tom Salzer and great grandchildren of Phoebe Dichner.
Cody Mason Staloff, grandson of Debbie and Lennie Staloff.

We announce the Engagement of:
Diana Kohlberg, daughter of Dr. William and Francine Kohlberg.

We announce the Wedding of:
Eric Novison, son of Jayne and Robert Novison.

Mazel Tov to:
Bonnie and Stanley Komito on the celebration of the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Hunter on January 27th.
Bonnie and Stanley Wolf on the celebration of the Bar Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Paige Soskel on February 17th.
The Nahum Family on the celebration of the Bat Mitzvah of Ann Nahum on February 17th.
Maxine and Joe Macnow on the celebration of the Bar Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Amanda Vignapiano on February 24th.
Barbara Friedeman on the celebration of the Bar Mitzvah of her grandson, Seth.
I hope you all had a wonderful Presidents Weekend, full of quality time with family and friends.

We’ve had some incredible programs recently. The 5th and 6th graders, followed by the 3rd and 4th graders, had lovely Shabbatonim in the synagogue building with Havdalah, activities, and dinner. Both Shabbatot were great! I’d like to give a big “Thank you!” to Cantor Teplitz, Morah Regina, Morah Lynette, Morah Lori, and Lissette for supporting the students during their Shabbatonim.

We had a class service on January 12 for Grades 5-6, and again on February 9 for Grades 3-4; both services were lovely as usual.

On Wednesday, January 31 we had the “Build a Pair” workshop with our Men’s Club, where Kitah Vav and their parents learned about and created their own tefillin. Then, Sunday, February 4 our sixth grade students participated in the synagogue’s World Wide Wrap, wearing tefillin and davening Shacharit at the same time as other Conservative synagogues around the world. Thank you to the Men’s Club and Cantor Krieger for leading our students in such an educational and spiritual experience.

We are looking forward to more wide-school programming throughout the remainder of the year.

Below are some important dates to remember:

**Family Programs**

March 7th, 7:15-8:15pm, Drug and vaping Awareness – This program is open to all congregants.

**Class Service**

March 2nd, K, 1&2, Friday Night Program and Dinner / Program 6:30pm, Dinner 7:00pm

**Education Committee Meeting**

March 15th, 7:30pm – All are welcome

**Junior Congregation**

Saturdays, March 3 & March 17, 10:30-11:55am

**NO SCHOOL**

April 1, 4, and 8 – Passover/Spring Break

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**MEN’S CLUB SHABBAT DINNER**

**Friday, March 16th**

RSVP by Mar. 13th

Come and enjoy a traditional Shabbat Dinner with good food, good friends, and of course, singing!

**Dinner at 7:00 pm**

Early Service 6:15

Late Service 8:15

$15 per adult / $6 per child (under 13) / $18 non-members

732-536-2300
In January and February all the youth groups celebrated Tu B’Shevat and Purim, participated in the Olympics and had fun.

Kindergarten-2nd graders celebrated with their friends in Katan making terrariums and graggers and holiday related snacks. 3rd - 5th graders in Pre-Kadima enjoyed their pizza dinner, made bird houses and costumes, played games and baked Hamantashen. Kadima members painted birdhouses, made dirt cups, baked Hamantashen and enjoyed a Purim scavunt. The Kadimaniks also participated in the MJC winter Olympics including countries, competition and torch cupcakes.

The USYers have had a busy winter with Membership Wars as they worked in teams to increase chapter membership. They participated in food olympics, human board games, a superhero night and Judge MUSY encouraged discussion and debate. The USYers invited the 8th graders to try USY and join them for a Thursday night of sports and fun.

Once again, the USYers added raising money for tzedakah, Tikkun Olam, to their programs as they planned a successful Purim carnival for the community. A special thank you to all the parents who helped set up, cut bagels, make cotton candy, and pretzels, sell food and support the USYers. We could not do the things we do without your help!

The fun continues in March.
Katan will meet on March 11th.
Pre-Kadima will meet on March 20th.
Kadima will meet on March 13th and 27th.
USY will meet on March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th.
February has been a fabulous and busy month at the Preschool. We had a lovely and meaningful Family Shabbat Experience made possible by a very generous anonymous donation by a Temple member and the MJC Connection Committee led by Daniella Tuerack and Jessica Fensterstock. All the preschool children, along with their special grown-up joined in our traditional Shabbat celebration followed by decorating a challah cover for their families. At the conclusion, each child received a Shabbat Kit that contained all the essentials necessary to bring the light and warmth of Shabbat into their homes. Our Jewish traditions and customs binds us all and it was a true joy experiencing this event with our preschool family.

February was National Children’s Dental Health Month. Our students learned the importance of brushing their teeth at least two times a day and eating healthy food. Dr. Adler and Dr. Kozlovsky visited with our children and brought to life the importance of dental health with fun demonstrations and activities – thank you both so much for volunteering your time and brightening our children’s days.

The sounds and smells of Purim have permeated our hallways as we prepared to learn and celebrate. The children were quite busy creating Shalach Manot baskets that they filled with hamantaschen they baked in class. They learned the story of Purim and booed at Haman’s name and shook groggers that they made. The children also participated in our annual Preschool Purim Carnival where they followed a yellow brick road to the carnival and enjoyed games and obstacle courses. A special thank you to our wonderful preschool teachers and staff who set up our carnival so that all the children could enjoy themselves. A big thank you to Marlboro Jewish Center for providing hamantaschen to our youngest students; the Mommy & Me group enjoyed noshing on the delicious jelly-filled treats – some of them for the first time! And one more thank you to Cantor Teplitz, Mrs. Mason and our Pre-K teachers who led our Pre-K students and Hebrew school’s Kindergarten, First and Second grade students in singing songs to help kick off the MJC USY Purim Carnival – they did an amazing job!

As we bid farewell to one joyous holiday celebration, we begin preparing for another. Passover is around the corner and we are looking forward to discovering the journey our ancestors experienced. Each class will learn the story and participate in a class show and Seder. Projects, crafts and songs will bring the story to life for our children. As they bang, bang, bang their hammers they will learn about the Jewish people working day and night for King Pharaoh. As they hop around like frogs they will learn about the plaques that G-d brought down on the Egyptians and as they eat matzah they will learn about the journey of the Jewish people to freedom. As the weather slowly warms up, and we transition from winter to spring, the children will learn about the wonderful changes that occur in our world. We will explore the saying, “In like a lion, out like a lamb” and take nature walks throughout the month to track the changes in weather. Birds, nests and flowers are just a few of the fun themes we will explore.

Chag Sameach!

Rita Rashotsky
Preschool Director

March 2018 - Page 12
SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA!

Again, MJC will participate in this nationwide phenomenon on Friday night, March 9. Please join us for a user-friendly service followed by a festive oneg.

B’NAI MITZVAH INNOVATIONS

B’nai Mitzvah are among the most common and public events we have at MJC. Yet there isn’t a group of lay leaders designated to help improve how we do them. Therefore, I’ve initiated a new committee to review policies help with improvements. The group will meet 2-4 times per year with me, possibly the new cantor, and Reba. We will make recommendations to the Executive Board and to the Board of Trustees. The group is a mix of those who joined MJC recently and others who have been members for more than five or even ten years. Committee members are: Kathleen Amster, Jackie Bernstein, Stacy Bodner, Stacey Garsson, Danielle Halem, Tiffany Friedman, Jessica Miller, Allyson Tanenbaum, and Elyssa Thaler. I thank them in advance for their advice!

Starting this month, MJC will plant a tree in Israel in honor of each B’nai Mitzvah student, through our partnership with the Jewish National Fund (JNF). These certificates will be presented during the service. Thanks to Jules and Beth Cohn for the suggestion, and to Jules for helping with the mechanics of our JNF account.

Shalom,
Rabbi Pont
Israel Night at the Movies – Next Movie Night is 3/11/18

Our next feature is *The Golden Pomegranate*, tracing approximately one hundred years in the life of a Yemenite-Israeli family. It centers on a free-spirited woman who successfully makes her own place, by changing the paternalistic social order of her times. The American funding this Israeli movie, required that it be in **ENGLISH**. This will be the “first” and “probably” the last time we show an Israeli made movie in **ENGLISH** with **ENGLISH** sub-titles for the occasional Hebrew phrase. (Running Time 1:44).

The schedule through May 2018 is: 4/15/18 Valley, 5/6/18 TBD. As always, **FREE** to MJC members with refreshments served and **$7 at the door to Non-Members**. Dates might change based upon MJC activities so watch the weekly newsletter and Temple Topics.

Beth And I Are Back From Israel With An Experience To Share

Besides vising familiar places where archaeological work is ongoing, we also try to find new ones to visit and other things to do. We spent half a day in the Halutza area, comprised of three communities that JNF is helping to build. They are located literally less than 500’ from the borders with Gaza and Egypt. The Gan or pre-school building is built as a bomb shelter so the yeledim (children) don’t have to leave it when there is a rocket attack. New homes are being built, similar in style to those you would find in Arizona. One village grew potatoes among its crops and had machines to peel them, keep them whole or cut them into fries. Ten-pound bags were stacked on pallets for shipment to hotels, hospitals, military bases and restaurants. Another has acres of Israeli green houses, fabric over frames with drip irrigation, containing tomato plants fifteen feet high. The last has a mini-hospital that just received their first sonogram machines. Please ask either of us about our experiences on this trip.

Israel’s 70th Birthday is Approaching – Special Guest Speaker – Save The Date 4/20/18

Our annual Yom Ha’atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) Shabbat dinner is scheduled for Friday night April 20th. More details on this in the April Temple Topics. These have been quite successful over the past four years. We will enjoy our usual Israeli themed dinner, do some singing and share the community Shabbat experience. This will be Israel’s 70th Birthday.

Our guest speaker will be Yaron Bob, an Israeli who for the past twenty years has lived on a Moshav near the Gaza border. Over 18,000 (not a typo) rockets have been fired at Israel by Hamas since 2005. Yaron, a computer teacher in a school, had an idea on how to use the scrap metal from the Hamas Kassam, Iranian made Grad and even the casings from Israel’s Iron Dome protection system. He makes hand sculpted roses, candlesticks, menorahs and other items from these articles of war. Through welding and sculpture work he has fulfilled Isaiah 2:4 “**They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.**” by creating works of art. In his own words “**I take the Kassam Rocket, the instrument of death and I change it, I transfer it into something of beauty.**” He will share how he came to do this on Friday night and display some of his sculptures, that can be ordered from the website **www.rocketstoroses.com**. I invite you to visit the site and also see him at work **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gaYx7eZJaYg** and **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-od9qcOEq4**.

Jules

mailto: juliescohn@aol.com
Calling all Pre School Families

Come join us for Tot Shabbat

To Be Held on Saturday Morning, March 24th

10:15—11:00am in the Cocktail Room, Main Building

This special service will be led by preschool music teacher, Sara Mason. We will sing Shabbat songs, say prayers, hear stories and have challah and juice.

All are welcome, grandparents too!
It's okay to dress casual.

Congregation Ohev Shalom 103 School Road West Marlboro, NJ 07746
732-536-2300 www.mjcnj.com
The documentary “Oro Macht Frei” tells the story of the Roman Jewish experience during the Nazi occupation of Rome (Sept 1943 - June 1944). Weaving testimony from Roman Jews together with historical research by renowned scholars, “Oro Macht Frei” seeks to bring the viewer into a personal and relatable reflection of the Holocaust in Italy through the eyes of this unique and historic community.

“Oro Macht Frei” began as an idea to tell the story of Herbert Kappler’s gold extortion of the Roman Jews. During a tour of the former Jewish ghetto of Rome in 2004, the film’s executive producer, Joel Markel, a Marlboro Jewish Center member, heard of the Roman Jewish community’s remarkable efforts to come up with 50 kilos of gold within 36 hours against the threat that, if they did not come up with the gold, 200 heads of family would be deported.

The fact of the community coming together to save each other’s lives and give what little in the way of gold they had, their ability to come up with the gold in such short time and the subsequent betrayal on behalf of the Germans who rounded-up the Roman Jews 3 weeks later, regardless of their having met the extortion price, struck Mr. Markel as an emblematic account that could help teach people both about the calculated deceitfulness of the Nazis as well provide a human dimension to the tremendous darkness of the Holocaust against the abstract number “6 million.” The story of the gold extortion touched Joel intimately as his family had always been jewelers and so he felt strangely close to the story. Furthermore, as the son of a Hungarian Auschwitz survivor, Joel had always wanted to offer something to the field of Holocaust Memory to honor his mother and the family she lost.

“Oro Macht Frei” won the Best International Documentary award at the Garden State Film Festival in 2015.

If you are interested in joining or obtaining more information about Second Generation, please call the synagogue office at 732-536-2300 or contact me at 732-972-0259.

Marvin Glickstein
President – Second Generation

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**Thank You**

to the following congregants who sponsored a Kiddush

**Gloria Gelband** for co-sponsoring the Kiddush lunch on December 16th in honor of the birth of her great grandson, Jesse Gelband, who was named after her late husband. Mazel Tov!

**Andrea and Scott Barnett** for co-sponsoring the Kiddush lunch on February 10th in memory of Andrea’s father, Joel Thaler.

**The Nahum family** for sponsoring the Kiddush lunch on February 17th in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Ann Nahum.

**Janine and Eric Zuslavy** for inviting our congregation to join them for Kiddush lunch on March 3rd in honor of their daughter, Emma’s Bat Mitzvah.

**Melinda and Tom Salzer and Phoebe Dichner** for co-sponsoring the Kiddush lunch on March 10th in honor of the birth of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Hallie Ilyse and Avi Benjamin Brant.
Since we last connected in Temple Topics, much has happened with MJC Men’s Club: lots of Volleyball matches in the Chai Gym, watched the NFL Championship and Sports Bar, Build a Pair - our annual tefellin building for our 6th graders and World Wide Wrap on Super Bowl Sunday. We played pinball and video games at the Silver Ball Museum and brought in Purim at our Pour-im Megillah reading.

Upcoming for March and beyond …

Volleyball continues in the Chai on Sunday, March 4th and 18th at 4:30. We usually play for about an hour or so. It’s fun to do and get out of the house on a Sunday, plus football is over so make some time to play. We hope you can make it and bring a friend and your teens with you. No cost and refreshments are served.

Men’s Club Shabbat is scheduled for Friday, March 16th. It will be a musical Shabbat with Shlomo Shai, loaded with lots of singing and ruach. Please come and join in as we welcome Shabbat together with lots of energy. This special additional Shabbat dinner has been planned so call the office now to RSVP and stay for our service. Bring your whole family with you and we welcome all Men’s Club members to participate with your families.

Yellow candle packing for Yom Hashoah will be March 18th. We always need help packing up candles for every MJC member as well as drivers to get the candles out prior to Yom Hashoah. Contact Steve Landau at Sland27@aol.com for more info and to help.

Hearing Men’s Voices returns on Sunday April 8th. More details on the programming to come but plan to come for a breakfast and some important conversation to all Men. Watch the weekly email for more details.

Men’s Club Region Raffle is here - $20 for 10 tickets to win one of five prizes, $1,800 Visa Gift Card, a $750 Visa Gift Card or three $100 Visa Gift Cards. Tickets are available through Men’s Club members or contact us to get your winning tickets.

Haimisha Helper is here to help you if you have a need for some small projects in your home. Reach out to us if we can be of any help. If you need any help or additional information for this or anything else Men’s Club, please contact us at MCJNJMC@gmail.com or GreenbergAlan@yahoo.com or call Alan at 732-861-8433.

Alan GreenbergMen’s Club President
MCJNJMC@gmail.com

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Egypt. He is alive, he has survived! He has become the ruler over all of Egypt! He is a father of two sons, Menashe and Ephraim.” Gradually the words began to penetrate and Yaakov’s heart was filled with joy. Yaakov said: “My daughter, Serach bat Asher, may Death never have power over you, for you revived my spirit. As a result of Yaakov’s wish, Serach lived a long life. Instead of dying, she became one of the few people taken up to heaven while still alive. Because she never really died, Serach returned to help her people at critical moments over the ages.

This ends the Book of Bereshit, when everyone rises and says, “Chazak, chazak v’nitchazek,” “Be strong, be strong, and let us be strengthened!” It’s a roar of encouragement to continue on to Shemot, the next book of the Torah. Why repeat the word chazak three times? To symbolize the past, present, and future.

Once Yaakov is buried in Canaan, the brothers return to Egypt and send a message to Yosef. It reads, “Before his death, your father left this instruction: So, shall you say to Yosef, ‘Forgive, I urge you, the offense of the servants of the God of your father’ (Bereshit 50:15-17).

Rabbi Shimon ben Gamliel taught: Great is peace, for even the tribal ancestors resorted to a fabrication in order to make peace between Yosef and themselves” (Genesis Rabbah 100:8). Rabbi Yishmael notes that even God occasionally changes the facts for the sake of peace. He explains that when God told Sarah that she would bear a child, she replied that it would be impossible because Avraham “is an old man.” (Bereshit 18:9-15).

But for the sake of peace, Rabbi Ishmael says that God lied to Avraham about Sarah’s reaction. Instead of reporting that she had responded with the insult “Avraham is an old man,” God reported that she had said, “I am old.”

Grandparents have much to gain from grandchildren, and grandchildren have much to learn from grandparents. Nowadays, there is a lot of serious tension in Israel. But, despite that, the way people talk tells a different story.

Young people use an interesting word to greet each other: Achi, “my brother, my sister.” And young people open and close phone conversations with the word Sababa, a slang term that means “great, cool, awesome, no worries.” What is Sababa? It is the combination of the words Saba and Aba, “grandfather” and “father,” words that link the generations together. This is the real message of the Yosef story. It begins with real, painful family breakdown, but it ends with repair, a repair of relationships between siblings, and a repair of relationships between the generations. Sababa!

For the last word of the portion is Mitzrayim, Egypt literally, the constricted place, the straits, the womb as it were, not of an individual, but of the Jewish people. Bring out shofar. The Midrash tells us that our name Yisrael, when vocalized differently can become “Yashir El-God will sing.” We are God’s song in this world: full of potential for harmony, tension, joy, sorrow, anger, comfort, pain and majesty. God sings through each of us. It is time to focus and question: what Godsong will be heard through my life in the coming year? Chassidic wisdom likens each of us to a shofar. Were it not for the breath of God blowing through me, I would make no sound at all. It’s the time to tune up, sharpen our skills, and be a song that is worthy of being heard. The shofar is narrow at the beginning and wide at the end. In the Hallel service from Psalm 118, we sing, “Min hametzar karati Yah, anani vamerchav Yah.” “From the narrow place, I called to God who answered me from God’s broad place.” We remember to begin with ourselves, and then open our hearts, our ears and our eyes to understand that we too can be bigger. We can be wider and our smallest actions can make a huge difference in the world. “Yashir El.” Be the song; make it good. Awaken others with your voice, your gifts and your actions to sing out, and give honor to the Composer of it all.

Once I was asked to officiate at the wedding of two friends. I sang the blessings under the Chuppah and at the end of the ceremony, they asked me to bless them. And this was my story from the Talmud. Once, a man made a journey across a desert. As you can imagine, he soon became hot, thirsty, hungry and tired. He looked around to see if there were any place where he could stop and rest. He was in luck. There in front of him was a tree with wide branches and leaves and beautiful fruit. Beneath the tree was a flowing stream. The man ate some fruit and drank of the water. Then he rested in the shade until he was strong and refreshed. When he was ready to continue his journey, the man said to the tree. “Ilan, ilan, bameh avarech’cha? O tree, how shall I bless you? Shall I say, may your fruit be sweet? But your fruit is already sweet. May your shade be pleasant? Your shade is already pleasant. May you have a stream of water flowing beneath you? You already have a stream of water flowing beneath you. Ilan, ilan, O tree, how shall I bless you? May it be God’s will that all your new branches be just like you.

And so my good friends, how shall I bless you? You already have the fruit of a wonderful friendship and your beautiful branches reach out to each other with love and care. You are such a wonderful couple. Then how shall I bless you? May it be God’s will that the children you have be just like you.”
It is always easier and kinder to our loved ones if we plan for the inevitable far in advance. In an effort to serve our congregational family, MJC is fortunate to have several sections with plots available for purchase at Beth Israel Cemetery in Woodbridge, New Jersey.

The Cemetery is beautifully landscaped and well maintained. Plots can be secured by a deposit and may be paid for through a pre-arranged installment plan. Single, multiple, or large family plots are available. We have priced the plots well below the current market retail value, so we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.

Please contact Bonnie Komito, our Executive Director, for further information at 732-536-2300 or e-mail bkomito@mjcnj.com.

Condolences To:

Dr. Marten and Robin Ladman  
on the passing of Marten’s father, Leon Ladman.

David and Karen Capell  
on the passing of David’s father, Howard Capell.

Jay and Lori Solomon  
on the passing of Lori’s mother, Marilyn Bleiweis.

Sheila Slade  
on the passing of her beloved husband, Howard.

Lisa and David Jay  
on the passing of Lisa’s father, George Wendler.

Ken and Andrea Wendler  
on the passing of Ken’s father, George Wendler.

Daniella and Adam Tuerack  
on the passing of Daniella’s mother, Marta Florin.

Lawrence and Denise Levine  
on the passing of Lawrence’s mother, Lillian Levine.

Lela and Nathan Barbanel  
on the passing of Lela’s mother, Ann Lederman.

Isaac and Joy Lederman  
on the passing of Isaac’s mother, Ann Lederman.

Jay and Bonnie Handwerker  
on the passing of Jay’s step-mother, Mildred Handwerker.

Robin and Joseph Windman  
on the passing of their son, Andrew Windman.

Mark and Rhonda Eiger  
on the passing of Mark’s mother, Melanie Eiger.

In Perpetual Remembrance  
Memorial Plaques have been installed in the Sanctuary in loving memory of:

Anita Bogus  
Steven Frenkel  
Sandra Godnick  
Judy Goldstein  

Ruth Nullman  
Carl Rader  
Alfred Yatkowitz  
Sylvia Yatkowitz  

Cemetery
YAHRZEITS - MARCH

Feb. 24 – March 2
Hannah Alter
Joseph Cohen
Sophie Felsen
Morris Heiko
Esther Kleinkopf
Dr. Robert Kronstein
Louis Nachitowitz
Anna Orange
Sylvia Robin
Morris Schwartz
Harvey Abbott
Sam Abramowitz
Martin Dichner
Florence Freling
Morton Gersham
Rose Goldfarb
Laurence Hausman
Fanny Stein
Wynette Delson
Alfred Cohen
Pauline Dunkel
Benjamin Finkel
Samuel Futerman
David Gladstone
Betty Handwerker
Martin Horowitz
Alvin Levine
Ruth Moss
Louis Shuman
Alfred Bergstein
Stella Finz
Doris Heller
Leah Kalmanowitz
Louis Lefkowitz
Morton Moslowitz
Sadie Goldfarb
Melvin Cohn
Dorothy Freundel
Lee Kirschner
Lillian Salmon
Jack Solomon
Sylvia Friedman
Gladys Grantz
Simon Kaplowitz
Ruth Stein
Gail Jaeger
Garrett Hoffer
David Kaplan
Reda Lindenbaum
Lester Burger
Milton Danzig
Rhonda Davila
Max Farb
Lewis Glickstein
Moe Shapiro
Dorothy Simbal
Esther Sincock
Helene Spiewak
Jacob Weingarten
Rebecca Zabrowsky
William Braunstein
Morris Fine
Sidney Gurtman
Endre Klein
George Meller
Abraham Sales
Lillian Stein
Stanley Stein
Julian Wolf
Audri Diamond
Joan Hoffman
Stanley Kornhauser
Gladys Krupnick
Martin Metz
Sam Rosenblatt
Rose Tuchman
Harry Udasin
Gabriel Radoskowitz
Milton Schwartz
Rachel Donowitz
Benjamin Baumbrook
Morris Brownstein
Sylvia Lipnick
Steven Raskob
Andrew Schauman
Minnie Berman
Samuel Chervin
Edward Debowsky
Dora Gindoff
Ed Holzman
Jennie Kahn
Martin Kronstein
Leo Sochaczewsky
Linda Krenick
Mildred Markowitz
Trudy Mayer
Sylvia Rosoff
Sol Silverberg
Jeanette Arenofsky
Milton Becker
Murray Feldstein
Jeane Fox
Arthur A. Harris
Marvin Helfant
Frances Horowitz
Evelyn Rothenberg
Jason Sherman
Michael Sommerman
Roslyn Weiss
Sylvia Yatkowitz
Gabriel Radoskowitz
Dorothy Steinberg
Anschel Schauman
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Ramona Rutenberg
Renee Tolchin
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March 31-April 6

Upon Kindling The Yahrzeit Candle

O God, Source of life and love, we turn to You at this time of remembering,
As we light this candle in memory of our departed.
In Your Keeping, the soul of our beloved still glows, As brightly as the
“heavenly firmament.”
Truly, “the human soul is the light of the Lord.”

By Your light, may we who lovingly remember see light:
And may the memory of our departed abide with us, as a lasting benediction.
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Jordana Pont’s Bat Mitzvah by Leigh & Seth Crystall

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