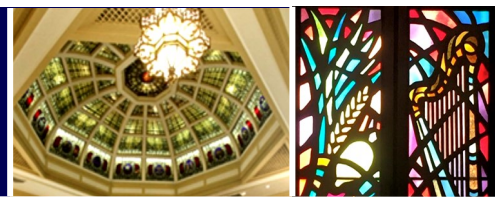


# TEMPLE ISRAEL *of Scranton*



May/June 2019 – Iyar-Sivan 5779

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

## *Sisterhood Shabbat*

*Saturday, May 4th at 9:30 a.m.*

PROUDLY HONORING OUR 2019

*Phyllis Mardo Woman of Distinction*

*Victoria Geyfman*

Annually bestowed in memory of Phyllis Mardo,  
who served as a role model for women in the  
Jewish community. Presented to a woman of  
Temple Israel who exemplifies  
Phyllis' devotion to the Synagogue.

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## FROM THE RABBI

We are now in the period of "Sefirat Ha-Omer", the counting of the Omer, a time of seven weeks between Passover and Shavuot - a total of 49 days. Traditionally, this time was used in ancient

agriculture by the Israelites, as they prepared for the late spring harvest, and the summer planting. The Rabbis associated this period with an event in history - the persecution of our early Sages by the Romans, who forbade the study of Torah (we read the account of these events in the Martyrology Service on Yom Kippur). Because of this association, traditionally, one does not get married during the Omer, since we are observing a sad time in Jewish history.

One of the more philosophically compelling reasons for the Omer is explained by a number of Commentators in Rabbinic Literature. They cite the natural Humantendency to rush through life, without appreciating its beauty and meaning. Counting helps one to slow down and take notice of the world around us. We often tell people who talk too fast to count slowly to themselves in order to slow down - this counting of the Omer, the Rabbis tell us, should have the same effect on our lives.

This is so true. We are all busy people - with appointments to keep and jobs to accomplish. So too, we would do well by slowing down to give thanks for our lives - our families, our community, our heritage. Shabbat and the other holidays of the Jewish calendar attempt to do just that and we would be very wise to take its message seriously.

Let us, then use this message of the Omer as a reminder of the preciousness of life - the need to count, to slow down, and appreciate all that is around us. Rabbi Moshe Saks

# Shavuot

**Celebrates**  
the receiving  
of the Torah by  
the Israelites  
on Mt. Sinai...



means "weeks". It marks the completion of 7 weeks or 49 days between Passover and Shavuot.



...is also connected to the season of the grain harvest in Israel. In ancient times, the grain harvest lasted seven weeks, it began with the harvesting of the barley during Passover and ended with the harvesting of the wheat at Shavuot ...



barley

wheat

...and the ripening of the 1st fruits of the season.



grapes



pomegranates



dates



fig tree



olives

Omer, literally means "sheaf". The counting of the Omer begins on the second day of Passover and continues for 49 days. In the days of the Temple, an omer of barley was cut down and brought to the Temple as an offering. This grain offering was referred to as the Omer.



## Counting the Omer

## Celebrating

Shavuot is celebrated with eating dairy products.

There are several reasons for this association, one of which is that when the Jewish people received the Torah at Mount Sinai, included was special instructions for how to slaughter and prepare meat for eating. Until then, the Jews had not followed these laws, thus all their meat - plus the cooking pots - were now considered "not kosher." So the only alternative was to eat dairy, which requires no advance preparation.



## Community Shabbat Dinner

Celebrate Yom Haatzma'ut with  
an Israeli inspired dinner!

**Friday, May 10th**

**Kindly RSVP by May 5th**

sponsored by a generous grant from the  
**The Robert H. Spitz Foundation**



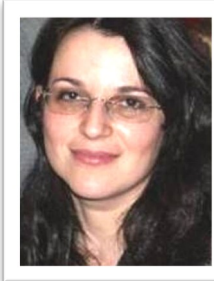
**Saturday, June 8th @ 9:00 pm**

Please join us for the *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*  
The learning for the first night of Shavuot.

While enjoying some delicious dairy desserts, we will study together with Rabbi Moshe Saks, Rabbi Daniel Swartz & Rabbi Marjorie Berman,



## Meet our 2019 Phyllis Mardo Woman of Distinction



**Victoria Geyfman** was born in Kharkov, Ukraine, to Sheva and Yury Kruglikov. She was attending high school when the family (along with her older brother Andre) decided to move to the United States in 1989. The family settled in the heart of the Russian community in Northeast Philadelphia, where they reunited with the rest of their extended family that had moved there a decade earlier. Victoria attended Temple University where she received her Bachelor of Business Administration, Master of Arts in Economics, and later Ph.D. in Economics. She met Vitaly in 1993 while taking an undergraduate course in Russian Literature at Temple University (for which she got a better grade than he did). Upon completing her master's degree, Victoria worked in the research department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. That is where she decided to go back to school to complete her Ph.D. By then, Vitaly and Victoria were married and expecting their first child, Sasha (Alexandra). While Vitaly was working in his internship rotations, residency, and fellowship programs, and with Sasha in tow, the young family moved from Philadelphia to Quakertown and back, from Philadelphia to Bloomsburg, and finally, joined by their son David, from Bloomsburg to Scranton in 2007. Vitaly joined Great Valley Cardiology and Victoria continued to teach Finance at Bloomsburg University. Her research focuses on financial services institutions, bank regulation, and the status of women in business. She advises several student groups in Finance and serves as Director of the Center for Financial Analysis in the Zeigler College of Business.

When the family first moved to Scranton, friends from Philly suggested they seek out another Russian-speaking family in Scranton: the family of Cantor and Mila Aronzon. Vitaly and Victoria are grateful for this friendship, which over the years grew into a good family relationship, with shared holidays, vacations, weddings, graduations, and other simchas. It's the Aronzons who introduced them to Temple Israel. With its proud history and religious traditions, Temple became a big part of the Geyfman's family life. Whether taking kids to Hebrew school and Junior Congregation, or helping set up for holidays, or attending movie events, or singing in a Temple choir, or participating in the book club, Victoria enjoys the friendships and camaraderie of the Temple Israel family. Victoria served on the Board of Directors of Temple between 2016 and 2018, and she currently serves as a Board Secretary. She hopes to continue to be a part of the Temple family for many years to come. *Mazel Tov Victoria!*



### FROM THE CANTOR

I would like to inform you about upcoming Temple events that definitely warrant your attention & attendance. First we are having our annual Sisterhood Shabbat May 4. This year the Phyllis Mardo Woman of Distinction will be Victoria Geyfman. She is well deserving of this honor. Congratulations & Mazal Tov. Every year this service is one of our most anticipated events. Many of our female congregants participate in this service, including Torah reading & reciting aliyot & Haftorah. I am immensely proud of them all.

The next special Shabbat will be **"Young Adult & Youth Shabbat" service June 1**. Service participants include some of my post Bar/Bat Mitzvah & current students of our Temple Israel school. I am very grateful to all of our young congregants who always make this event so worthwhile.

The next weekend under evening of June 8 we shall celebrate the arrival of the holiday of "Shavuot" with the evening service followed by "L'eil Tikkun" a series of study sessions regarding Torah topics & current religious issues.

In addition, I would like to announce that in early July I will begin conducting practice sessions with our Temple Israel choir. If anyone would like to join our choir, he or she can contact me at (570) 878-4348 or call the Temple Israel office (570) 342 0350. My family & I hope all of you have a great summer. Cantor V. Aronzon

# May 2019

| Sunday       | Monday                            | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday       | Friday     | Saturday  |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--|------------|----------------|------------|---|
| 28           | 29                                | 30   | 1 26 Nisan | 2 27 Nisan     | 3 28 Nisan | 4 29 Nisan  |
|              |                                   |  |            | Yom Hashoah    | CL 7:44 pm | Sisterhood<br>Shabbat<br><i>Achrei Mot</i><br>Shabbat ends 8:48 |
| 5 30 Nisan   | 6 1 Iyar                          | 7 2 Iyar   | 8 3 Iyar   | 9 4 Iyar       | 10 5 Iyar  | 11 6 Iyar   |
| Rosh Chodesh | Rosh Chodesh<br>Shacharit 7:00 am |  |            | Yom Haatzma'ut | CL 7:51 pm | <i>Kedoshim</i><br>Shabbat ends 8:55                            |
| 12 7 Iyar    | 13 8 Iyar                         | 14 9 Iyar  | 15 10 Iyar | 16 11 Iyar     | 17 12 Iyar | 18 13 Iyar  |
|              |                                   |  |            |                | CL 7:58 pm | <i>Emor</i><br>Shabbat ends 9:02                                |
| 19 14 Iyar   | 20 15 Iyar                        | 21 16 Iyar   | 22 17 Iyar | 23 18 Iyar     | 24 19 Iyar | 25 20 Iyar  |
|              |                                   |  |            | Lag Ba'Omer    | CL 8:05 pm | <i>Behar</i><br>Shabbat ends 9:09                               |
| 26 21 Iyar   | 27 22 Iyar                        | 28 23 Iyar   | 29 24 Iyar | 30 25 Iyar     | 31 26 Iyar | 1   |
|              | Memorial Day                      |  |            |                | CL 8:11 pm |   |
| 2            | 3                                 | Notes<br>Service Times<br>Unless otherwise indicated: Shacharit - Monday, Wednesday & Friday - 7:15 am<br>Tuesday & Thursday - 7:00 am |            |                |            |   |





# June 2019

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday    | Friday                    | Saturday   |
|---|--|---|--|-------------|---------------------------|--|
| 26  | 27   | 28  | 29   | 30          | 31                        | 1 27 Iyar<br>Youth Shabbat<br><i>Bechukotai</i><br>Shabbat ends 9:15           |
| 2 28 Iyar   | 3 29 Iyar  | 4 1 Sivan<br>Rosh Chodesh<br>Shacharit 7:00 am  | 5 2 Sivan  | 6 3 Sivan   | 7 4 Sivan<br>CL 8:16 pm   | 8 5 Sivan<br>Erev Shavuot<br><i>Bamidbar</i><br>CL 9:19<br>Tikkun Leil 9:00 pm |
| 9 6 Sivan<br>Shavuot<br>9:30 AM<br>7:00 pm/Yizkor<br>CL 9:20 pm | 10 7 Sivan<br>Shavuot<br>9:30 AM/Yizkor<br>Holiday ends 9:20pm | 11 8 Sivan  | 12 9 Sivan<br>BOD Meeting<br>7:00 PM               | 13 10 Sivan | 14 11 Sivan<br>CL 8:19 pm | 15 12 Sivan<br><i>Nasso</i><br>Shabbat ends 9:23                               |
| 16 13 Sivan   | 17 14 Sivan  | 18 15 Sivan   | 19 16 Sivan<br>Annual<br>Meeting<br>7:00 pm Chapel | 20 17 Sivan | 21 18 Sivan<br>CL 8:21 pm | 22 19 Sivan<br><i>Beha'alotcha</i><br>Shabbat ends 9:24                        |
| 23 20 Sivan   | 24 21 Sivan  | 25 22 Sivan   | 26 23 Sivan  | 27 24 Sivan | 28 25 Sivan<br>CL 8:22 pm | 29 26 Sivan<br><i>Sh'lach</i><br>Shabbat ends 9:25                             |
| 30 27 Sivan   | 1  | <p>Transportation is available for our congregants who would like to attend services, meetings and all Temple sponsored events &amp; educational programs. Please call the office for more information 570-342-0350.</p> <p>Funded by the AI &amp; Yvette Brauner Fund.</p> |  |             |                           |  |



# CONTRIBUTIONS

## Prayer Book Fund

### In memory of:

*Alan Sare*

Renee Schectman & family

## Reba & Art Douglass Religious School Fund

### In Memory of:

*Alan Sare*

Joyce & Don Douglass

### Get Well wishes to:

*Michael Aronzon*

Cantor & Mila Aronzon

### In Honor of:

*Birth of granddaughter to Joyce & Don Douglass*

Phyllis & Ed Brandes

## Irving & Fraydel Eisentat Leadership Development Fund

### In Memory of:

*Alan Sare, Dr. Martin Wimmer, James Meil*

Faye & Richard Bishop

### Get Well wishes to:

*Sidney Newman*

Faye & Richard Bishop

### In Honor of:

*Birth of granddaughter to Joyce & Don Douglass*

*Birth of granddaughter to Ronnie Kornfeld*

*Birthday of Don Bernstein*

*Son of Mr. & Mrs. Larry Kluger becoming a Bar Mitzvah*

*Bar mitzvah of grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Alan Kluger*

Faye & Richard Bishop

## Michael L. & Sara R. Goodman Fund

### In Memory of:

*Alan Sare*

Barbara Ehrenpreis

*Irene, mother of Mrs. Arthur Jurkowitz*

Barbara Ehrenpreis

Eileen & David Feibus

### Get Well wishes to:

*Sidney Newman, Jane Briskman*

Barbara Ehrenpreis

### In Honor of:

*Birth of great-granddaughter to Barbara Ehrenpreis*

Phyllis & Ed Brandes, Renee Schectman  
Paula Wasser

## M. L. Hodin Scholar-in-Residence Fund

### In Memory of:

*Gloria Jurkowitz, Dr. Martin Wimmer*

Rhonda & David Fallk

### In Honor of:

*Special award from JFS to Barb & Lou Nivert*

Susan & Scott Herlands

## Levy Hall Fund

### In Memory of:

*Jennie Levy*

Jill & James Linder

Barb & Howard Goldberg

*Irene, mother of Mrs. Arthur Jurkowitz*

*Husband of Flo Frestan*

Lillian Levy

*Sandi Lebowitz Steinberg*

*Sister of Jeff Parmet*

Barb & Howard Goldberg

### Get Well wishes to:

*Sue Feldman, Jerry Miller*

*Evyann Koenig, Debby Bortnick*

Barb & Howard Goldberg

### In Honor of:

*Marriage of Max Spitulnik*

*Retirement of Susan Karr*

Barb & Howard Goldberg

## Sara Morris Mitzvah Fund

### In Memory of:

*Gloria Jurkowitz*

Sheryl & Seth Gross

Rosalind Marks

*Martin Wimmer, Sandy Steinberg, Alan Sare*

Sheryl & Seth Gross

*Marian, sister of Sylvia Eisenberg*

Phyllis & Ed Brandes

Sheryl & Seth Gross

### Get Well wishes to:

*Ed Brandes, Barbara Nivert*

Seth & Sheryl Gross

*Meira Saks*

Iris & Mike Mardo

*Sidney Newman*

Phyllis & Ed Brandes

### In Honor of:

*Birth of granddaughter to Joyce & Don Douglass*

Sheryl & Seth Gross

*Birthday of Ruth Gelb*

Iris Liebman & Mike Mardo

*Spec. Birthday of Dave Feibus*

Phyllis & Ed Brandes

## Minyan Fund

### In Memory of:

*Alan Sare*

Margery & Paul Rosenberg

*Gloria Jurkowitz*

Mim & Joel Joseph

## Alvin Nathan Youth Fund

### In Memory of:

*Gloria Jurkowitz, Debbie Brotter*

Shelly Smulowitz

*Gloria Jurkowitz*

Ann Nathan

## Harry & Marion Nivert Programming Fund

### In Memory of:

*Alan Sare, Martin Wimmer, Patty Sarlin Klewans, Marian, sister of Sylvia Eisenberg*

Barbara & Louis Nivert

### In Honor of:

*Special award from JFS to Barb & Lou Nivert*

Mim & Joel Joseph

## Temple Fund

### In Memory of:

*Alan Sare, Jennie Levy - Lois Dubin*

*Shirley Cohen - Charlotte & Marvin Pollack*

### Get Well wishes to:

*Barbara Nivert*

Margaret & Doug Sheldon

*Joseph Davis*

Emily & David Adler

*Ed Brandes*

Margaret & Doug Sheldon

### In Honor of:

*Temple Israel - Jeremy & Rachel Sohn*

*Prayers for my wife Liz - John Granahan*

## Temple Israel Preservation Fund

### In Memory of:

*Alan Sare*

Adele Pollack, Robby & Karen Pollack, Molly Grossinger, Bev Meil & Family, Marvin & Harriet Brotter, Ellen Goodman, Gail Edelson, Iris & Mike Mardo, Marvin & Charlotte Pollack, Jill & James Linder, Jane Propper, Barry Propper, Rosalie Engelmyer, Carol Jacobs, Eric Engelmyer, Eileen & David Feibus

*Jennie Levy*

Adele Pollack

*Marian, sister of Sylvia Eisenberg*

Rosalie Engelmyer

Margery & Paul Rosenberg





## Temple Israel

918 East Gibson Street  
Scranton, PA 18510

### Rabbi

Moshe Saks

### Cantor

Vladimir Aronson

### Rabbi Emeritus

David Geffen

### Cantor Emeritus

Marshall Wolkenstein

### Officers:

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Ann Lebowitz Monsky

#### Vice Presidents

Steven Vale

Jay Schectman

#### Treasurer

Alan Smertz

#### Finance Chair

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Margaret Sheldon

David Falk

Seth Gross

Richard Bishop

Phyllis Brandes

Michael Mardo

Louis Nivert

Karen Pollack

James Linder

Barbara Nivert

Joseph Hollander

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[Cantor@templeisraelscranton.org](mailto:Cantor@templeisraelscranton.org)

## A message from Annie Monsky:

Spring! Finally! Ed and I hope you all had a wonderful Passover and had the chance with family or friends to share special holiday memories and perhaps begin new traditions as well.

I, personally, hope the same for Temple Israel as we move into the renewal that spring brings to mind. I hope we can make new memories while holding on to sacred traditions.

The physical changes at Temple bring a smile to all who are involved in helping it happen. Faye Bishop, Iris Liebman, Nina Magnani, Karen and Robby Pollack, Suzy Jacobson, Lonnie Childers and a myriad of workman have been providing the input and labor to brighten, lighten and refresh our gorgeous synagogue as a renewal for all of us.

Marian Beckhorn, Fern Pollack and Kathy..... Along with dedicated volunteers who have assured that our appetites are fed for kiddush, for dinners, for lunches, and special events. Thank you, too, to Alma Shaffer and Ruthie Gelb who are diligent in their help. Toda Raba Cantor and Rabbi are assuring that our spiritual souls are fed as well.. To Seth and Sheryl Gross and their committee who remind our members and students who cannot always be with us, that we are thinking about them and wish them well for the High Holidays, Chanukah, Purim and Passover.

Many thanks to the men, women and students who participate regularly in our Shabbat Friday night or Morning services. It means so much to be well being of the congregation. To the members who are dedicated to morning minyan and those who come when needed for the evening to all of you, we say thank you. Gratitude to Bev Meil who oversees the gift shop assuring that beautiful Judaica can enhance anyone's home.

Kudos to David and Jane Kessler and Jennifer Novak, who throughout the school year are always at the ready to assure that Religious School programming was happening and communication was in place for our school families. Thank you to the parents and grandparents who truly care about their children's involvement in Temple life.

Unless you often find yourself at the Gibson St. part of the building, you cannot begin to imagine the dedication and love and time that Karen, Sam, Barbara devote to Temple on our behalf. It really is beyond comprehension. To the congregants who are on top of all the ins and outs of the needs of keeping us financially healthy, I offer a great depth of gratitude.

We are thrilled to welcome new members to the community and to Temple Israel. We rejoice in their participation and their involvement. We are saddened on the loss of dear members who have meant so much. We take pride in the support and comfort that, as a congregation, we can and do, offer to our friends and each other during those times of need.

I rarely refer to Temple Israel as a house of worship. I think of the congregation; the people, and honestly, even the physical building as a home of stability, of caring, of comfort, of friendship, of commonality, of diversity, of distinction and yes, of renewal.

Come join us this Spring and see and feel for yourself.



## SAVE the DATE

# Youth Shabbat

## Saturday, June 1st

