

# Temple Israel of Natick Membership Information



# Temple Israel's Vision Statement

**Our vision of Conservative Judaism is evolving, actively welcoming, and inclusive and we welcome you to join us. We strive to build a sacred community (Kehillah Kedushah) that supports each member's unique Jewish journey, providing multiple gateways for both mind and spirit along the way.**

Our core values include:

**Torah:** We are committed to building a curriculum of Jewish living in which we can discover ourselves both in the text of Torah and in the Torah of our lived experience. Together, we celebrate the cycle of the year and the life-cycle of the individual, in the sanctuary, the classroom and the home.

**Gratitude and Joy (Hodayah V'Simchah):** We are committed to a culture of gratitude and joy, both in our worship and in the way we care for each other. We value Prayer (Tefillah) as a core Jewish expression of the spirit. Recognizing that no one size fits all, we utilize both traditional and innovative models of prayer, music, and spiritual practice in an effort to touch the soul.

**The People of Israel (Ahavat Klal Yisrael):** The Sage Hillel said, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me?" We hold our love for the Jewish people, to whom we are attached by covenant and history, above any differences which may seem to divide us. The unfolding story of the people of Israel in the Land of Israel in modern times is our story, and we understand our support for the State of Israel as a sacred obligation and a privilege.

**Generosity and Justice (Chesed and Tzedek):** Hillel also said, "If I am only for myself, who am I?" We are committed to improving the welfare of others, within our congregation, the greater community and the world. Hillel concluded: "And if not now, when?" We strive to be a welcoming and inclusive community. We are young and old, families and singles, interfaith, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ and straight.

**Service (Avodah):** We honor volunteerism and communal service as holy work, and as opportunities for personal growth. We cultivate leadership skills, and encourage individuals to aspire to positions of communal responsibility. We strive to establish a culture of transparency in which every member understands the process of communal governance and can contribute to it.



# Why Join A Synagogue...?

## Welcome and Shalom!

Many of us are already connected to multiple communities: our places of business, our local schools, our neighborhoods, and a host of social and professional organizations to which we belong. Our time and our resources are limited. Why, then, join a synagogue as well? Here are some answers from our members:

"I need a synagogue because it is a sacred community; a place where I can both celebrate the peak moments in the course of my life and feel supported in times of loss; where the unique rhythms of the Jewish calendar can come alive; where my family and I can learn together about Judaism; and where I can stretch my sense of spiritual connection, through a community of study, joyous worship, and shared vision."

On a typical weekday at Temple Israel, Nursery School children, daily minyan members, Religious School kids, community volunteers and adult learners all walk through our doors. We are a diverse community, drawing members from throughout Metrowest, who have found here a caring community that encourages and supports each of our members in exploring his/her unique Jewish journey.

"Temple Israel is where I learned how to be a Jewish parent...where I found a supportive daily minyan when I needed to say Kaddish...where I learned how to read Hebrew and lead a seder... where I feel connected to the Jewish people and express my commitment to Israel...where I made my closest friends after moving to Metrowest."

Joining a synagogue makes all of this possible, for you, for your family, and for all of our families. Thank you for expressing interest in Temple Israel of Natick. I hope you will visit us soon- I look forward to getting to know you!

Blessings,

Rabbi Daniel H. Liben



# Welcome to Temple Israel of Natick!

I am very happy that you are considering our congregation, our "kehillah," as a home for your spiritual, educational, and community needs.

If you have not already visited us, please do so, and discover how we can be both traditional and forward-thinking. Experience the warmth, camaraderie, and spiritual depth of our daily minyanim and Shabbat services. Enjoy our social events. Enrich yourself in our many and varied educational programs.

At Temple Israel of Natick, we offer exciting and innovative programming. What would you like to experience?

- Learn to read Hebrew, chant Torah, or lead a service.
- Discover Shabbat "Synaplex".
- Spend the afternoon noshing with old and new friends at a Shabbat kiddush.
- Enroll your child in our pre-school, our Religious School, and our award-winning USY (United Synagogue Youth) program.
- Attend our "Lunch and Learn" series.
- Join a Friday night summer service of song in our beautiful courtyard.
- Watch our Monday night Israel film series with popcorn and premium sound.
- Dance the night away at "Café Achshav."

Join us for any of these enriching events; have fun, learn, and make new friends. You can find what you are looking for here at Temple Israel of Natick, and if it's not here, we will help you create it.

Most importantly, our congregants make this such a unique and wonderful place. Along with our diverse and actively-involved membership, we are extremely fortunate to have a very professional and gifted clergy. Rabbi Daniel Liben and Cantor Ken Richmond are warm, energetic, inspiring leaders who lead our congregation in dynamic conversations, study, and beautiful prayers. We are also grateful for the continued presence of Rabbi Laureate Harold Kushner, the acclaimed author of many best-selling books, who continues to maintain a strong presence in our community. 2015 and 2016 mark Cantor Ken's 10th year at Temple Israel, Rabbi Liben's 25th year, and Rabbi Kushner's 50th year. This past year, our three beloved clergy and our entire congregation celebrated the 70th anniversary of Temple Israel of Natick. Join us and become part of this continuing legacy.

I look forward to meeting you and I hope to have the opportunity to get to know you as a member of our community. I would be happy to talk with you, or meet with you, if you have any questions.

B' Shalom,  
Stuart Alford  
president@tiofnatick.org

# Worship at Temple Israel

Temple Israel is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. We offer Shabbat and holiday services, as well as daily morning and evening services (minyans). Worship at Temple Israel can best be described as traditional/egalitarian: both men and women lead services, are counted in a minyan and read from the Torah. Our clergy and lay leadership work together to create a joyful and welcoming atmosphere, in which all members can feel at home.

**Friday Evening Services:** Weekly Friday night services are held at 5:45pm; they are short and sweet with a lot of singing. On some first Fridays of the month during the school year, we hold late services at 7:45 p.m. with a speaker. On most second Fridays, our Family Engagement Committee sponsors Friday Shabbat services and family dinners. All are welcome! During the summer, weather permitting, Friday night services are out back in our beautiful courtyard!

**Shabbat Morning Services:** Our Shabbat morning service is warm, participatory, and traditional, with most prayers being sung together in Hebrew, led by Cantor Ken. We begin at 9:15 a.m. with psalms and songs, recite the Shema around 9:45 a.m., and begin the Torah service at approximately 10:15 a.m. (Temple Israel prides itself on its strong corps of congregant Torah readers.) Rabbi Liben presents his d'var Torah (Torah commentary) around 11:15 a.m. and we try to finish by noon for kiddush. The service often includes the celebration of a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, baby-naming, anniversary or birthday. An opportunity to offer a prayer for loved ones who are in need of healing is part of the service. Children are always welcome!

**Youth and Family Shabbat Services:** Age-grouped youth services are held twice each month during the school year, generally on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays. Services are led by experienced parent/ educator volunteers, with help from our teenagers.

Tot Shabbat for pre-schoolers, with parents; Mini-Minyan for children in Grades K-2; Junior Congregation for children in Grades 3-6

**Synaplex:** Shabbat morning experiences offering something for everyone! Synaplex is held four times each year, always including traditional and family Shabbat services, but also featuring Torah study, discussions, yoga or Qi Gong, nature walks, chanting and more! Come at 8:45 a.m. for coffee and pastry, and review the exciting menu of Shabbat options, beginning at 9:15 a.m. A community lunch follows Synaplex.

**Babysitting** is generally offered during the school year, on Saturdays without youth services, from 10:00 a.m. – noon, for children ages 18 months through 5 years.

**Shabbat Afternoon Services:** Services are held in our chapel every Saturday afternoon at 5:30 p.m. Depending on the time of year, mincha with Torah reading, ma'ariv, or both are recited. During much of the year, our 5:30 p.m. service is preceded by a study session.

**High Holiday Services:** Welcome in the Jewish New Year with Temple Israel of Natick! Two teams of clergy, Rabbi Daniel Liben with Cantor Ken Richmond, and Rabbi Laureate Harold Kushner with Hazzan Joel Sussman, lead services. Clergy teams alternate between two locations, the sanctuary/ social hall, and a tent in the parking lot. In addition to these main services, youth services for toddlers age 2 through pre-K (with parents) and engaging drop-off youth services for Grades K-1, 2-3 and 4-7, are offered. Our very popular family service in the tent, on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, is led by Rabbi Liben and Cantor Ken.

Temple Israel now uses the new Lev Shalem Mahzor for the High Holidays, which provides multiple entries to the prayers through its poetic translations, transliteration of melodies, and interpretive readings and explanations.

**Holiday Services/Celebrations:** Holiday celebrations at Temple Israel have a special flair!

On **Sukkot**, for example, our sanctuary is filled to capacity with families celebrating with lulavim (palm branches) and etrogim (citrus fruits). During the Torah service, the children listen to stories and play games in the Sukkah.

On **Simchat Torah**, the entire Torah scroll is unwound to encircle our children, as Rabbi Liben gives a brief tour of the Five Books of Moses.

**Purim** always attracts a large crowd, as costumed clergy and staff share the story of Esther.

During **Shavuot**, children parade through the sanctuary with their baskets of "first fruits," and the Torah is passed from person to person, signifying the teaching of Torah "from generation to generation."

Our annual **Hanukkah** party is always a favorite with both young and old, and for years we have hosted a wonderful December 25th brunch which includes a community mitzvah project.

**Daily Minyan:** Temple Israel of Natick is proud to host the most reliable daily minyan in all of Metrowest Boston. We welcome old friends and new faces, and meet twice daily at the following times:

Sunday:	9:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Monday & Thursday:	6:45 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday & Wednesday:	7:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Friday:	7:00 a.m. & 5:45 p.m.
Saturday:	9:15 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Primarily lay-led, Temple Israel's daily minyan provides a community which comforts those who come to say kaddish, supports newcomers in daily prayer, and encourages those who want to improve their davening and Torah-reading skills. Weekday morning services end by 7:30 a.m., and weekday evening services finish by 8:00 p.m. Each minyan has its own "captain," regular attendees, and flavor. Find the minyan that fits you best!

# Jewish Learning at Temple Israel

Temple Israel of Natick inspires an enthusiasm and love for Judaism. Jewish learning at Temple Israel is limitless, ageless, and stretches beyond our classroom walls. We recognize and appreciate that each member is on a unique Jewish educational journey. Our clergy, educators, lay leaders, and members form a community of learners who accompany each other on paths of lifelong learning.

From our Nursery School to Adult Education offerings, Temple Israel members are engaged in learning on various levels throughout the year.



**Judy Gordon Nursery School (JGNS):** Our pre-school curriculum combines the teaching of strong academic skills with traditional Judaic values, promoting a positive self-image and enhancing social skills. Developmentally appropriate experiences stimulate intellectual curiosity and promote physical development. Jewish holidays, celebrations and weekly Shabbat activities instill pride in our Jewish heritage. Please contact Nursery School Director Cindy Sandler for more information at [nursery@tiofnatick.org](mailto:nursery@tiofnatick.org).



**Ida & Charles Gilvarg Religious School:** Temple Israel prides itself on providing a comprehensive, multi-faceted education program for students in Kindergarten through Grade 7. Our Director of Religious School and Teen Engagement, Robin Kahn, coordinates a dynamic Jewish curriculum which connects to many aspects of our congregation's broader activities. We are currently a CJP Pilot site for innovation in Jewish education and are working with CJP to bring the best 21st-century approaches to our students.

**Prozdor and Madrichim:** After completion of Grade 7, many of our teens attend the Prozdor of Hebrew College, a high school program based in Newton. On Sunday mornings, a bus picks up all MetroWest area Prozdor students here at Temple Israel at 9:00 a.m. Students return from Newton to Temple Israel at 2:00 p.m.

Beginning in 2015-16, Temple Israel is also offering a new teen leadership program called Madrichim (guides). Madrichim will have the opportunity to work with students in grades K-7 in our Religious School, supporting students and teachers within the framework of a leadership training curriculum. Madrichim will help implement lesson plans and games, work with children who need extra support, and help us create a Jewish community of learners filled with ruach (spirit)! For more information on K-12 education and teen leadership opportunities, please contact Robin Kahn at [school@tiofnatick.org](mailto:school@tiofnatick.org)

**Youth Programming:** Youth Programming at Temple Israel of Natick is designed to help teens make meaningful connections within our community. Through social programming, volunteerism, religious observance and educational opportunities, teens strengthen their relationships with community members and reinforce their Jewish identities. Youth Programming participants have the opportunity to attend regular Youth Lounges, volunteer at monthly family dinners, help to lead Youth Services for younger students and much, much more! Please contact [mnelson@tiofnatick.org](mailto:mnelson@tiofnatick.org) for more information.

**Adult Education:** Adult Education at Temple Israel encourages individual and group study of Jewish Life Skills, history, culture, ethics and tradition. This is an opportunity to deepen your personal connection to Judaism, and gain an appreciation of Judaism's concepts and insights. We offer an extensive series of programming including evening courses, Lunch & Learn sessions, Scholar-in-Residence weekends, and lectures and panel discussions by renowned speakers presenting diverse points of view. Jewish Adult Education becomes "your gift to you," a gift to be passed on to the next generation. We are also proud to serve as a host-site for many of Combined Jewish Philanthropies' most innovative community learning programs, such as "MEAH, One Hundred Hours of Jewish Learning," and "Parenting Through a Jewish Lens." Please contact [adulthood@tiofnatick.org](mailto:adulthood@tiofnatick.org) for more information.

# Getting Involved!

**Temple Israel of Natick fosters a vibrant and welcoming community for worship, learning, socializing and celebration. We hope you get involved! Please contact [membership@tiofnatick.org](mailto:membership@tiofnatick.org) with any questions.**

New members are always welcome at any of our many clubs, committees and activities:

## **Adopt-A-Family Committee**

Assists victims of terror attacks in Israel through personal support and financial contributions from donations and an annual Walk-a-Thon. Contact: [adopt-a-family@tiofnatick.org](mailto:adopt-a-family@tiofnatick.org)

## **Caring Committee**

Supports and assists congregants in need. Members visit the sick, shop, run errands, babysit, cook meals and provide transportation for medical appointments. Contact: [caring@tiofnatick.org](mailto:caring@tiofnatick.org)

## **Chaverim Club**

Join events and outings for singles, young couples and young families such as group dinners, movie trips, beach days and holiday parties. Contact: [chaverim@tiofnatick.org](mailto:chaverim@tiofnatick.org)

## **Family Engagement Committee**

Coordinates programming for families with children in preschool through grade 2, including Shabbat services and dinners, Havdalah services as well as High Holiday services. All are welcome to join! Contact: [family@tiofnatick.org](mailto:family@tiofnatick.org)

## **Family Table**

Temple Israel is responsible each month for donating 50 four-pack rolls of toilet paper to JF&CS Family Table. Family Table helps approximately 400 Jewish families around the Boston area, and any donation made will be helping another needy family. Contact: [familytable@tiofnatick.org](mailto:familytable@tiofnatick.org)

## **Hazak**

A fabulous group for members who are age 50 and over. Enjoy educational and entertaining activities for singles, couples and empty nesters that include musical performances, museum tours, picnics and more. Contact: [hazak@tiofnatick.org](mailto:hazak@tiofnatick.org)

## **Israel Action**

This is a vibrant, proactive group whose goal is to engage and educate Temple families around Israeli issues and concerns. The focus is on political, economic and social awareness, and on creating actions which address all three of these areas. Contact: [israelaction@tiofnatick.org](mailto:israelaction@tiofnatick.org)

## **Israeli Folk Dancing**

All levels are welcome to participate in this enjoyable and invigorating mode of Jewish expression, lead by Rabbi Dan Liben, who draws upon folk dance steps from around the world. Contact: [israelidancing@tiofnatick.org](mailto:israelidancing@tiofnatick.org)

## **Keruv**

Creates a welcoming environment for interfaith families, and represents the special concerns of these Temple members to the larger congregation. Contact: [keruv@tiofnatick.org](mailto:keruv@tiofnatick.org)

## **Membership Committee**

Develops programs to reach out to current and prospective members. The focus is to get all members involved and thus create an engaged community. Contact: [membership@tiofnatick.org](mailto:membership@tiofnatick.org)

# Getting Involved!

## **Mindful Meditation**

A regular practice of chanting/meditation, informed by the wisdom of our Jewish tradition, every Thursday morning at 8:00am. Led by Rabbi Liben and congregants. Contact: [meditation@tiofnatick.org](mailto:meditation@tiofnatick.org)

## **Men's Club**

The Men's Club enthusiastically welcomes men of all ages for social and educational events. Men's Club facilitates many social events during the year, including bike rides, card nights, dinners and family events. They also sponsor many key events for the Temple community and feature speakers on a variety of topics from men's health and finances to current events. Contact: [mensclub@tiofnatick.org](mailto:mensclub@tiofnatick.org)

## **Ritual Committee**

In conjunction with the Rabbi and the Cantor, this group takes responsibility for synagogue services and religious concerns of the congregation, including Bar/Bat Mitzvah policy, liturgical music and kashrut. Contact: [ritual@tiofnatick.org](mailto:ritual@tiofnatick.org)

## **Sisterhood**

Provides a place where women can strengthen their commitment to Judaism, to one another and to the synagogue. Sisterhood expands the spiritual, educational and social interests of the Temple through instructive, enriching and entertaining programming, as well as sponsorship of USY activities, Shabbat and holiday kiddushes, and many other Temple events. Contact: [sisterhood@tiofnatick.org](mailto:sisterhood@tiofnatick.org)

## **Social Action**

Engages in social action/justice projects to address inequities and improve human welfare. This encompasses the following groups at Temple Israel: Adopt-A-Family, the Caring Committee, Family Table and the TI Literacy Volunteers. Contact: [socialaction@tiofnatick.org](mailto:socialaction@tiofnatick.org)

## **Softball Teams**

Play April - June in the Greater Boston Men's Shul Softball League. Contact: [softball@tiofnatick.org](mailto:softball@tiofnatick.org)

## **TI Singers**

If you enjoy singing, this is the group for you! The Temple Singers perform periodically for the Temple Israel community with a variety of upbeat and celebratory Jewish music. Contact: [choir@tiofnatick.com](mailto:choir@tiofnatick.com)

## **TI Literacy Volunteers**

Since 1997, Temple Israel's literacy team has volunteered 1 - 3 hours/week. Volunteers are paired with students from a local school and help students practice important reading strategies. Contact: [literacytutors@tiofnatick.org](mailto:literacytutors@tiofnatick.org)

## **United Synagogue Youth (USY)**

Temple Israel of Natick is a chapter of the New England region of USY (NERUSY), which is part of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's youth program. There is programming for students beginning in third grade through high school. Kadima serves youth in grades three, four and five; Junior USY group works with sixth, seventh and eighth grade students; and Senior USY encourages high school students to become the young Jewish leaders of the next generation. Contact: [mnelson@tiofnatick.org](mailto:mnelson@tiofnatick.org)

If you have any questions, please contact:

**Michelle Weiner Taylor, Temple Administrator** ([director@tiofnatick.org](mailto:director@tiofnatick.org), 508-650-3521 x103)  
**Stuart Alford, Board President** ([president@tiofnatick.org](mailto:president@tiofnatick.org), 508-650-3521 x100)

# Meet Temple Israel of Natick's Clergy



Rabbi Daniel Liben was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1983, and became the spiritual leader of Temple Israel in 1991. His warm, friendly and caring approach make all who enter the Temple feel at home. The Rabbi is committed to a vision of Temple Israel that is inclusive, creative, and that supports people's needs at every stage of life. In addition to counseling and guiding individuals and families as they face life cycle events, he brings energy and enthusiasm to his role as teacher in a wide range of settings. The Rabbi leads Family Education programs in the Nursery School, discusses the weekly Torah portion with our Religious School students, teaches adults from the bima or in Adult Education classes, and leads Israeli Folk Dancing on Thursday evenings. Rabbi Liben's leadership has brought focus to Temple Israel's mission to provide individuals and families with opportunities to learn and grow Jewishly in a nurturing and supportive community.



Cantor Ken Richmond graduated from the H.L. Miller Cantorial School of the Jewish Theological Seminary in 2004 and joined the Temple Israel family in the summer of 2006. As Cantor (Hazzan) and Family Educator, he enjoys leading the congregation in participatory prayer, and teaching and learning with nursery school students, religious school and day school students and their families, and adults of all ages. He strives to share his love of yiddishkayt, Jewish learning, mitzvot, and shabbat and holidays with the community. Ken was a member of the Rabbinical Assembly Mahzor Committee and worked on the Lev Shalem Mazhor which TI now uses on the High Holidays. He invites you to download and share mp3s from Music of TI, including Torah and Haftarah trope, and songs and prayers for shabbat and holidays. He occasionally plays Klezmer music and sings Yiddish songs in "Fish Street Klezmer" with his wife, Rabbi Shira Shazeer. Ken and Shira are Yiddishists who are raising their children with Yiddish as their first language.



Rabbi Laureate Harold Kushner was the spiritual leader at Temple Israel for over 25 years. He is the well-known author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* and ten other nationally best-selling books on how religion helps us cope with life's problems. Rabbi Kushner continues to help officiate during High Holiday services as well as during periodic services throughout the year. Congregants always enjoy his insightful sermons and Divrei Torah. *Faith & Family: Favorite Sermons of Rabbi Harold S. Kushner* was released at the end of October 2007, celebrating 40 years of Rabbi Kushner's service to this community. This wonderful book is a compilation of 18 of Rabbi Kushner's favorite sermons. You may order a copy through the office or the Sisterhood Judaica Shop.

## Temple Israel of Natick is 70 years young

By Ann Green

Special to the Advocate

As Temple Israel of Natick prepares to celebrate its 70th anniversary, clergy and congregants are looking back to the synagogue's inception in 1944. Up until then, the town's Jews davened (prayed) wherever they could rent or borrow space -- a commercial building, a Knights of Columbus hall, a church or the home of tailor Israel Muskat. With war still raging in Europe and the Pacific, 22 families seeking a home for their community bought a house at 44 North Avenue in downtown Natick. The house was remodeled and fitted with pews donated by a local church. Dedicated in 1945, the temple was named in Muskat's memory.

Fast forward to the 1950s as the community outgrew its first home. The congregation formed a building committee, raised the necessary funds and bought a farmhouse on eight acres of land on Hartford Street. "In the wake of the Holocaust, the impetus of Jews in America and around the world was not to give up, but to build," said Rabbi Daniel Liben. The new building, dedicated in 1960, was designed with a large sanctuary, a social hall for communal and family celebrations and classrooms for a Hebrew school.

Fran Elovitz and her late husband David joined Temple



Temple Israel Natick -- then and now

Israel in 1957. David served on the building committee. "We didn't have two cents to put together," Fran Elovitz recalled. "My husband comes home from a meeting and says, 'I signed.' 'Signed what?' I asked, and found out that they had signed a guarantee for the new building for somewhere between \$10 and \$20,000 (in today's dollars approximately \$617,000)." "How could you do that?" Elovitz asked her husband. Looking back she says, "I guess G-d was watching over us." Elovitz also recalled they had to take out a loan to pay the temple's \$200 dues.

Victor Aresty, a veteran of D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge, was the Temple's first post-war president. His son Neil recalled, "My parents found a lot of friends and comfort in the temple community. It had the feeling of a chavurah. The house on North Street was the kind of shul my father grew up with."

When the new building was completed, the Torahs were transferred from North Avenue to Hartford Street in style. "There was a parade. Each Torah was transported in a convertible. It was a glorious day," recalled Aresty. "There was a big ceremony. I was about seven. It was a very tight community and they were excited to be involved in building the temple."

Today Temple Israel is a community of over 425 families and individuals.

"I find myself thinking about 1966, when I first came to Natick," said Rabbi Laureate Harold Kushner, reflecting on the anniversary. "The people who built Temple Israel were very dedicated, very hardworking. They really cared." Considering the current state of the synagogue, said Kushner, "The congregation is characterized by a sense that the temple belongs to everybody, everyone has input and all have a say. The

best thing is our ability to generate a sense of community, a feeling that we belong to each other." Kushner recalled that in the '60s men ran the temple and the board and led services. "All that's changed. Women are fully involved, and that's for the good. The temple has moved confidently into the 21st century."

This year on Rosh HaShanah congregants received a pledge card in honor of the anniversary. "Select seven mitzvot from the list...and pledge to fulfill each mitzvah ten times in the coming year!" the message read. Suggestions included: signing up for a Jewish learning experience, helping to make a weekday minyan, purchasing products from Israel and greeting someone new at Kiddush on Shabbat. "The card is linked to the anniversary with suggestions, as we focus with a sense of gratitude for these 70 years, on

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

actions and deeds for our community. What members of this congregation did in 1944 is tangible for us in 2014," explained Liben, "and we can pay it forward."

The anniversary will be celebrated with a series of special events, beginning with a brunch honoring Kushner with a Lifetime Achievement Award on Sunday, Oct. 26. Keynote

speaker will be Barry Shrage, president of Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP).

In May the temple's annual Geshelin Humanitarian Award event will introduce a new award, the Bernie C. Sigalove Community Award, named for a temple founder. The first recipient will be Arnold Zaltas, whose family was among the temple's founders. Zaltas was also the congregations' first bar mitzvah. The Geshelin award

will be presented to Susan Wornick, consumer advocate and former WCVB-TV anchor. The event will be emceed by WCVB's meteorologist -- and temple member -- Harvey Leonard.

The theme for the anniversary year is "70 faces of Temple Israel," inspired by the Talmudic phrase shiv'im panim laTorah (there are 70 faces to Torah). "This means that the Torah can be interpreted literally, exegeti-

cally, mystically, historically, through many opinions and through the lens of our experiences," explained Cantor Ken Richmond. "Each of us plays an important role in interpreting our traditions and shaping the life of our community."

For information on Temple Israel of Natick's 70th anniversary festivities call 508-650-3521 or go to [www.tiofnatick.org](http://www.tiofnatick.org).