

# SERVICES IN-PERSON, ONLINE

Reservations are not required to attend in-person Shabbat services at 7 p.m. Fridays. Attendees must sign in, however. Services continue to be broadcast on Zoom and Facebook Live.



## Temple Adath Israel Bulletin

March 2022

Adar I/Adar II 5782

## Facing the foolish king

### FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY



David  
Wirtschafter

Whispering into the ears of the foolish king, our calculating villain puts his fiendish plan into action. This is the moment he has been waiting for. Nothing less than perfect acceptance can launch his heinous plot.

*"There is a certain people, scattered and dispersed among the other peoples in all the provinces of your realm, whose laws are different from those of any other people and who do not obey the king's laws; and it is not in Your Majesty's interest to tolerate them. If it please Your Majesty, let an edict be drawn for their destruction, and I will*

See RABBI, Page 4

Presented by LexTY,  
TAI's high school youth group

# Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 13  
After Religious School

Tickets: \$5 each/\$10 family  
Hamantaschen: \$3/box  
of 4 assorted flavor

Inflatables  
Games, prizes  
Cakewalk  
Pizza  
Hamantaschen

A blue background with colorful triangular bunting at the top. The word 'Purim' is in large, colorful letters, and 'Carnival' is in white. Below the text is a yellow and blue Hamantaschen mask on a stick.A circular logo with a menorah and other symbols, surrounded by text.

## TAI Congregational Passover Seder

6:30 P.M. SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Seating will be limited; reservations required.  
More details to come via email

# Getting it together to get back together

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Rich Ornstein

My optimism is finally paying off! Lexington's COVID-19 numbers are dropping to more manageable numbers.

What does that mean for TAI? It means we are ready to see you! Specifically, we want to see you

smiling, laughing and having fun with your fellow congregants in as safe an environment as we can create for much-needed fellowship.

In the coming weeks, we will start releasing dates for activities. I have put together a small group of fun-loving congregants of various ages — some with children, some with grandchildren, some with no children — to plan ways our TAI community can spend time together.

Our current list has more activities than we could put on in a year. It probably will change after our next meeting as we whittle it down and then seek your help putting our plans into action.

One thing we know for sure: Our first Purim Carnival in two years will be Sunday, March 13. That seems fitting since the Purim Carnival in 2020 was the last big event at the temple before the shutdown a few days later. LexTY, TAI's constituted high school youth group, is taking the lead, as it has in years past. You can help by providing goodies for the cakewalk. And not just cakes; cookies, brownies, doughnuts and other sweets are welcome. Our

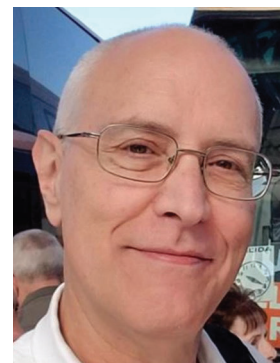
only request, at least for this year, is that the sweets be store-bought rather than homemade.

I'm excited for what the future holds! While I've enjoyed being a pandemic president, I can't wait to find out what it's like to be president with our members visiting one another in person at TAI while sharing laughs and stories.

Garry Hoover is this month's featured TAI volunteer. My first impression upon meeting Garry was that of a quiet, distinguished gentleman. After hearing him speak just a few sentences, I knew he was intelligent, sincere and caring. He loves TAI, and it's evident in the work he has done on the Board of Directors and the Endowment Committee. While I have the greatest respect for Garry and his volunteer work, I didn't expect that he and I would have a lot in common. I was wrong.

Last summer, my wife, Angie, and I were attending the Master Musicians Festival in Pulaski County, one of our favorite music festivals and one of Kentucky's best. Out of the blue, I received a text from Garry mentioning the festival. I couldn't figure out how he knew I was there until I realized he and his wife, Evalyn Block, were there, too. I couldn't have been more surprised. Quiet, distinguished gentlemen don't attend music festivals, except they do if they're Garry Hoover.

I'm proud to call Garry a friend. Get to know him! You will be glad that you did.



Garry Hoover

*Mazel Tov*  
מזל טוב



### B'NAI MITZVAH

Mark and Kristen Hoffman invite you to share in their great happiness as their children

**SOPHIE ROSE HOFFMAN AND ELI TUCKER HOFFMAN** are called to the Torah as B'nai Mitzvah

10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 19, 2022  
at Temple Adath Israel,  
124 North Ashland Avenue

There will be a kiddush luncheon immediately after the morning service.

Sophie and Eli also will participate in the Shabbat evening service at 7 p.m. Friday, March 18.



### Nothin' but net: The TAI bracket challenge

March Madness is upon us, and who doesn't love to take part in a college basketball tournament bracket challenge? There is no entry fee, and prizes will be awarded to the top finishers (along with bragging rights)! Check your email in the coming days for information about how to enter.





## FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

**Elissa Weinstein,  
Director**

Shalom! Religious School is moving along and hopeful that spring is on its way soon. We haven't let the cold and snowy/icy conditions keep us from gathering on Sunday mornings. Before we know it, Purim will be here, and I know our students will be out in the garden planting soon.

In February, Religious School students participated in a variety of activities along with their regular Hebrew and

Judaica studies. Our students made hummus and veggies in Cooking, created groggers in Art, began planting seedlings for the temple garden, sorted caps/lids for our upcycled bench, and began working on songs for Purim (coming up in March). Our tzedakah project also has continued as we inch closer to our goal of collecting "a ton of food" for those in need.

In February, our third/fourth-grade class led us in prayer for our monthly Family Shabbat. *Kol hakavod* to teacher Abby Miller and her class; they did a wonderful job! This month, our second-graders and their teachers, Faith McBride Byrne and Laine Fine, will host our Family Shabbat on the 11th. It will be the final class-led Family Shabbat this school year. "Proud" doesn't begin to describe how we feel about the job our students have done in leading services.

The Jewish Federation OF THE BLUEGRASS PJ Library

# PURIM IN THE PARK

JOIN PJ LIBRARY & CHABAD OF THE BLUEGRASS FOR HAMANTASCHEN IN THE UK ARBORETUM SUNDAY MARCH 20TH 4PM

Chabad of the Bluegrass

PJ Library

JOIN PJ LIBRARY, TAI, & OZS

# FAMILY Havdalah

March 5th 7:30 pm

124 N. Ashland Ave. (behind TAI in the garden)

Ohavay Zion Synagogue

TEMPLE ADATH HASHEM

**SAFETY TIP**

**From TAI Security Committee**

Did you know that March is Severe Storm Preparedness Month in Lexington? Tornadoes can be extremely dangerous. Safe places include storm shelters and basements – but if not available, an interior room without windows also be protective. In the event of a tornado warning, take shelter immediately. At TAI, our designated severe weather/tornado shelter area is the bathrooms, above, in the Religious School wing and the hallway right outside the bathrooms.





Amanda Mbuvi, vice president for academic affairs at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, will give this year's Moosnick Lecture.

Moosnick Lectureship in Judaic Studies presents:

## Amanda Beckenstein Mbuvi

### “Who ‘Sees Themselves’ in Jewish Children’s Books? A Transracial Adoption Story and the Common Sense of Jewish Identity in the USA”

March 30 at 7 p.m.

*The event will be in person at Transylvania and available virtually.*

### “Avadim Hayinu: An Intersectional Jewish Perspective on Diversity and Solidarity”

March 31 at 7 p.m.

*The event will be in person at Ohavay Synagogue and available virtually.*

Information on both events can be found at:

[transy.edu/moosnick](https://transy.edu/moosnick).

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## RABBI

Continued from Page 1

*pay 10,000 talents of silver to the stewards for deposit in the royal treasury.” Thereupon the king removed his signet ring from his hand, gave it to Haman and said, “The money and the people are yours to do as you see fit.”*

It takes only a single verse for the meanie of the megillah to state his case against an entire people. No dates, no names, no witnesses, no documents, no evidence. Haman does not bring King Ahasuerus an indictment but an accusation. A practitioner of propaganda before the word existed, Haman is thoroughly wicked rather than utterly stupid. Stupidity is the king’s department. The evil advisor intuitively understands what Nazi Joseph Goebbels would articulate centuries later: “A big lie is easier to believe than a small one.” Don’t bother inviting this king to your seder. He doesn’t ask any questions. “Which Jews, which laws, what defiance, when, where, why and how? The mere assertion of mutiny is more than enough. Proof? Proof is for

law school professors, not partiers like the king and his pals! The genius of Haman’s case is he never makes one. The problem with the king’s approach to inquiry is he does not have one.

Herein lies the genius of Esther. We tend to emphasize her courage to the point of under-acknowledging her intellect. Haman did not win over the king with facts, logic or reason. Neither does the queen. Esther does not make an argument. She *is* the argument. She does not appeal to the king’s mind. She speaks to his heart, the same heart that led him astray to begin with. When she says, “I and my people are writ down for destruction,” she forces the ruler to see that he cannot engage in mass slaughter without killing the people he loves.

For better or for worse, people like Ahasuerus arrive at conclusions from an emotional point of view. If we want them to think differently and act differently, we have to make them feel differently. Although she must have wanted to, at no point does Esther tell the foolish king that he’s stupid. She was too smart for that. If we want people to abandon foolish thinking, we have to wise up. We cannot rely on

## Community Purim Celebration

Wednesday, March 16

Hosted by TAI and OZS at TAI

7 p.m.: Schmooze

7:15: Debate: “Purim and St. Patrick’s Day: A Valid or Vapid Comparison”

7:45: Megillah reading

intellect alone to unmask the Hamans of the world. The problem they pose is not an intellectual one. We expose their treachery best by reminding the Ahashueruses around us that we care for them and need them to care for us. They have made foolish choices. They are not foolish people. Haman is correct that we can be misled easily, but he completely underestimates our capacity to change direction. Caught between the wickedness of Haman and the foolishness of the King, Esther wisely selects a strategy of defeating the former by confronting the latter. Be it the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the vaccination debate or baseless hatred against anyone, may we defeat misinformation with a megillah grounded in the ability of the mind to listen to the heart.

Happy Purim!





### Signs of change

Donor recognition signs are going up as TAI's renovation project nears its completion. The Educational Suite, formerly known as the library, has new furniture, carpet, lighting, ceiling tiles and paint. The same is true of the social hall and conference room (new names to be announced), and the Sisterhood Lounge. Additionally, the hallways outside all those spaces have been refurbished. More than \$200,000 was donated by congregants to cover the renovation and related costs. Plans are being made to officially unveil those changes — and the office renovation that was completed in 2020 just as the COVID epidemic began — as temple life hopefully returns to normal in 2022.

## Meet a new TAI member



### Pamela Kaufman Ross

Pamela Kaufman Ross, originally from Harrisburg, Pa., lives in Richmond, where she is a dispatcher for AAA's roadside assistance service, handling calls from around the country. Her favorite pastime is reading books her sister in New York sends Pam's way. John Ross, Pam's husband of 17 years, passed away last year. A native of Lexington, John loved the UK Wildcats, and they enjoyed going to games. Pam is looking forward to meeting new friends in person at TAI. Her email address is [pamkross@gmail.com](mailto:pamkross@gmail.com).

## Lexington Hadassah Shabbat ends with regional havdalah

Lexington Hadassah will join with sister chapters in the Great Plains Region for havdalah, ending Shabbat Zachor celebrations across the region, at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 12, on Zoom. Rabbi Shani Abramowitz of Ohavay Zion Synagogue will be the service leader.

For the Zoom link to this free event, register by March 10 at [Hadassahmidwest.org/GPHavdalah](http://Hadassahmidwest.org/GPHavdalah).

## **News** **From**



### **Purim Party**

5-7 p.m. Sunday, March 13, at Goodfella's Pizzeria in the Distillery District, 1228 Manchester St. Hosted by Young Bluegrass Jews. Free. All adults are welcome to join in for pizza, drinks and fun. Attendees will be entered to win a fun gift basket, and everyone will get a *mishloach manot* bag to take home. Registration is required to attend; go to [Rb.gy/rvefqy](http://Rb.gy/rvefqy).

### **Torah Talk**

1:30 p.m. Thursdays. For more information, email Aylene Kovensky-Gard at [aylenekg@gmail.com](mailto:aylenekg@gmail.com).

### **Emails and e-news**

If you're not receiving our weekly Shabbat or "Beyond the Bluegrass" emails, get on the list by contacting Daniel Baker [atdaniel@jewishlexington.org](mailto:atdaniel@jewishlexington.org).

### **Assistance requests**

If you or someone you know needs help with housing, utilities, grocery shopping, picking up a prescription or transportation to a medical appointment, Jewish Family Services can help. Contact Paula Mertens, JFS director, at (859) 269-8244 or [jfs@jewishlexington.org](mailto:jfs@jewishlexington.org).

## Capilouto to take about growing up in Alabama during Civil Rights Movement

Dr. Eli Capilouto, right, president of the University of Kentucky since 2011, will share his experiences as a Jewish boy growing up in Montgomery, Ala., during the Civil Rights Movement and as an adult working in Birmingham as part of an informal discussion at 7 p.m. Monday, March 14, at Ohavay Zion Synagogue. Masks will be required.



The conversation, presented by Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass, serves as a precursor to the JFB-sponsored "Hope, History & Healing" trip to Montgomery and Birmingham, set for June 27-July 1. Chester Grundy, a civil rights activist and former director of the Office of African American Student Affairs and the Martin Luther King Jr. Cultural Center at UK, will serve as tour guide. Stops will include the Rosa Parks Museum, Southern Poverty Law Center, 16th Street Baptist Church and more.

To learn more information about the Capilouto event or the trip to Alabama, email Mindy Haas, JFB executive director, at [mindy@jewishlexington.org](mailto:mindy@jewishlexington.org).

## CONTRIBUTIONS

### **CARING CONNECTIONS**

**Jan Cerel** in memory of Max Cerel and Tom Creamer  
**Toby Troffkin** in appreciation for holiday goodie bags

### **FLOWER FUND**

**Patricia Lawrence** in memory of Stephen J. "Skip" Ross  
**Rosemary and James Levenson Jr.** in memory of Ann and James Levenson Sr.  
**Dan Liebman** in memory of Susan Kelly Knoll  
**Marian and Abe Rabiner** in memory of Estelle Sacks  
**Marc Plavin and Toni Reiss** in memory of Richard Reiss  
**Scott and Beth Schumacher** in memory of Neoma Mellman  
**Lou and Bobbi Shain** in memory of Jennie Meyer  
**Toby Troffkin** in memory of Walter Troffkin  
**Elissa and Alan Weinstein** in memory of Bertha Pessin, Don Forman, Allan Forman, Harry Paskowitz, David Forman and Marci Mainus

### **END OF YEAR**

**Lou Hersh** in memory of Judy Hersh  
**Ed and Sue Hirsh** in memory of our families and in honor of Rabbi Wirtschafter

### **GENERAL FUND**

**Dianne Bazell and Larry Kant** in memory of Tom Creamer and Harold Dueker Swanson  
**Louan Christenson** in appreciation of Leslie Blacksberg  
**Mixon Ware** in memory of Jack Joffe's birthday

### **ROBERT MILLER FUND**

**Penny Miller**

### **SHERMAN AND FANNIE MILLER FUND**

**Samye and Darryl Stith** in memory of Bev Bitter, Hattie Gordon, Bernice Herman, Nathan Herman, Sam Herman, I.A. (Jack) Miller, Dorothy Stith, Irvin Young and Morris Waisblum

### **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**Diana and Rick Clewett** in appreciation for all Rabbi David does  
**Estelle Hamburg** in appreciation of Caring Connections

### **UNIONGRAM/SISTERHOOD YES FUND**

**John and Connie Loventhal** in gratitude for birthday wishes  
**Rebecca and Joe Young** in thanks for anniversary wishes





# YAHREZEIT ... *These we remember...*



## **March 4**

Louis Abrams  
 Sarah Fox Ades  
 Maurice M. Ballin  
 Sadye M. Breck  
 Isaac Capilouto  
 I. Davis  
 Steve Fleckman  
 Irving Fleet  
 Carol Flomenhoft  
 Ora Slaughter Frankel  
 Barbara "Bobbi" Fried  
 Phillip Gall  
 Emma B. Goldman  
 Lori Rebecca Hufana  
 Maude S. Jacobson  
 Robert Adam Katz  
 Stanley Katz  
 Dora (Doris) Krekun  
 Jack Landesberg  
 Melvin Machesney  
 Ethel Medsker  
 Beatrice Milner  
 Morris Rattner  
 Henry Ravvin  
 Donna Saleeby  
 Phyllis Scher  
 Corinne Strauss Stern  
 Larry Steur  
 Nathan Waldman  
 Belle Weill Weil  
 James D. Weil  
 Henrietta "Henny"  
 Witzer

## **March 11**

Geraldine H. Balmer  
 Julia Bloom  
 D. Kay Clawson  
 Sylvia Skuller Cohen  
 Lewis Epstein

Sidney Gall  
 Frieda Y. Goldman  
 Martin Goldschmidt  
 Reginald Ernest  
 Haskell  
 Regina Hustedde  
 Hyman S. Hymson  
 Harry Kessler  
 Joseph Lester Levens  
 Jack Lincoln  
 Ruth Magen  
 Emanuel Meyers  
 Anita Morris  
 Ralph Petrone  
 Roland Rabe  
 Max Saretsky  
 Herbert P. Sarett  
 Stanton Schuman  
 Pauline Scott  
 Sidney Shain  
 Edward Shuster  
 Robert Silverman  
 James M. Strauss  
 Janice M. Weil  
 Abraham Wikler

## **March 18**

May Abraham  
 Burnis Akers  
 Morris J. Baker  
 Ed Beeman  
 Sophie Bloomfield  
 Zelma Fleischman  
 John Frank  
 Michael Ralph Gross  
 Dora Heller  
 Kate Hymson  
 Lea Kaplan  
 Nathan Kaplan  
 Mark Kaufman  
 Freda Kornreich

Mark Magilow  
 Henrietta (Jettchen)  
 Marx  
 Betsy Matek  
 Moses Moses  
 Jack Neufeld  
 Isadore H. Pollack  
 Stanley Scher  
 Dorothy D. Stith  
 Robert Arnold Strauss  
 Audry Sustin  
 Douglas Weinberg

## **March 25**

Norman Bernard  
 Banks  
 Rose Newhoff  
 Bloomfield  
 Darwin James Braun  
 Arlene Cobin  
 Charles Cool  
 Dr. Maurice S. Davis  
 Dorothy Doran  
 Dr. Charles F. Elton Jr.  
 Lillian Frumberg  
 May Golde  
 Lawrence Hymes  
 Adolf Kerber  
 Harry Klein  
 Cindy Jennings Kline  
 Harry Mertens  
 William Moses  
 Morton Norris  
 Ephim Nudel

Gerald Schumer  
 Pavel Sheftel  
 Nell S. Straus  
 Corinne Wachtel  
 Sidney Wachtel  
 Matilda Weil  
 Betsy Wides  
 Ben Abraham  
 Zuckerman

## **April 1**

Hennie Abel  
 Jacob Abraham  
 Millie M. Abramson  
 Michael Adelstein  
 Lillie Bederman  
 Mildred Cool  
 Gitel Grobstein  
 Delbert F. Haynes  
 Leon J. Henry  
 Henry Jacobsen  
 Robert Katz  
 Edward Kessler  
 Virginia Lloyd  
 Pearl Ann Lowenthal  
 Walter Magid  
 Jacob Mandel  
 Joseph E. Marks  
 Leonore S. Mayer  
 Gertrude Meyers  
 Bernard H. Miller  
 Jay David Weil  
 Maree M. Winters  
 Sol Wurmser

*In Memoriam ...*

**Marie Elkouby**, sister of Dodie (William) Clemmons

*May her memory be for a blessing*



## WORSHIP, STUDY SCHEDULE



**Study groups meet in person with a Zoom option.**

### **March 4**

Shabbat 7 p.m.

### **March 5**

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

PeKudei — Exodus 38:1-40:38

### **March 11**

Family Shabbat 7 p.m.

### **March 12**

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

Vayikra— Leviticus 1:1-5:26

### **March 18**

Shabbat 7 p.m.

### **March 19**

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

No Parsha study

Sophie and Eli Hoffman b'nai mitzvah

10:30 a.m.

### **March 25**

Shabbat 7 p.m.

### **March 26**

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

Shemini — Leviticus 9:1-11:47

### **April 1**

Shabbat 7 p.m.

### **April 2**

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

Tazria — Leviticus 12:1-13:59

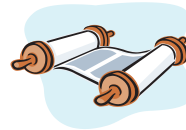
### **KOLLEL STUDY GROUP**

Kollel meets at 9 a.m. Saturdays, alternating with Jewish Texts. The group explores cultural, ethical and historical aspects of our 4,000-year tradition. The emphasis is on dialogue and exploration. You may join the group any time.



### **JEWISH TEXTS STUDY**

We will discuss selected readings in rabbinic literature at 9 a.m. Saturdays, alternating with Kollel Study Group. The discussion is always lively and informative, and you may join any time.



### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

#### **Executive Committee**

Thursday, March 10, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 14 6:30 p.m.

#### **Board of Directors**

Tuesday, March 15, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 19, 6:30 p.m.

### **Directory updates**

#### **New address**

Brayden & Brent Friedman  
384 Tangleway Way, 40517

#### **New email address**

Jo Stone  
ljstone2473@gmail.com

### **TAI MISSION STATEMENT**

Temple Adath Israel is a Reform Jewish congregation linked to a tradition of welcoming those searching for a community committed to honoring the dignity we all share as children of the one God by embracing these enduring Jewish values: *AVODAH* (Worship); *TALMUD TORAH* (Torah Study); *TZEDEK* (Social Justice); and *KEHILAH* (Community). Our mission is to inspire our congregants' Jewish engagement and to ensure a vibrant Jewish present and future by nurturing the many generations of our community. We share a commitment to the Reform Jewish foundational beliefs of furthering individual and communal spiritual growth, while recognizing a range of personal philosophies, practices and needs. We are the community center through which our families can celebrate faith, justice, and the blessings of family lives present and future.



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Rich Ornstein President	Elissa Weinstein Youth Education Director
Debbie Masters Vice President	Lorne Dechtenberg Musician in Residence
Mary Engel Treasurer	Nick Fain Brotherhood President
Mark Schachman Secretary	Elissa Weinstein Sisterhood President
Pat Shraberg Immediate Past President	

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ELECTED/APPOINTED

Anne Banks  
 Bob Belin  
 Debra Booker  
 Jan Cerel  
 Carly Conatser  
 Aaron Ann Cole Funfsinn  
 Randi Gaiser  
 Rhonda Miller  
 Smith Schwartz

EX OFFICIO

Nick Fain (Brotherhood)  
 Garry Hoover (Endowment)  
 Judi Gewirtzman (Sisterhood)

**TEMPLE FUNDS**

Contributions may be made to any of the following funds. Acknowledgment will be made to the individual or family honored and will be listed in the Bulletin. Please check the fund of your choice. **All donations not specifically directed to one of the funds listed below will be placed in the Temple Hineni: Here I Am Reserve Fund.**

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Anita & Harold Baker Music Trust Fund             | <input type="checkbox"/> Music & Worship Program Fund  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bloomfield Family Fund                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Janice Newman Fund  |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Hineni: Here I Am Reserve Fund                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Ricky Rozen Memorial Fund   |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Marilyn & Arthur Lieber Board Leadership Fund     | <input type="checkbox"/> Uniongram/Sisterhood YES Fund   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anita W. Mersack Woman of Valor Award Fund        | <input type="checkbox"/> Wurmser Family Fund   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mersack Scholarship Fund                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Education Fund  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robert S. Miller Fund                             |  |

Please accept my enclosed donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the fund checked above.

- For the recovery of \_\_\_\_\_
- In honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify family of/or \_\_\_\_\_

Address if not a Temple member \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Address  
 If not a Temple member \_\_\_\_\_