



Temple Israel of Great Neck

Clara Goldberger

Clara Goldberger is a proud and active member of the Conservative/Masorti Jewish community, through her extensive involvement with the Ramah Camping Movement, and with her home synagogue, Temple Israel of Great Neck.

From Tot Shabbats, to Israel Day Parades, to the Tefillah Enrichment Program, to the Youth House Israel Trip, to the Rosh Chodesh women's group, to Midnight Runs, to bringing aid to those affected by Superstorm Sandy, to interacting with elders at local assisted living facilities, to her current positions as a member of the Temple Israel Leadership Teens and TIGN's Junior Israel Affairs Committee, Clara has found Temple Israel, and its clergy and teachers, to be critical to her ability to learn and grow as a Jew in the modern world.

Ramah also has special significance for Clara. She has been a camper at Ramah Berkshires since fourth grade, where she has been deeply immersed in Jewish and Israeli culture, values, and education, serving as a CIT, as a basketball team captain, and as an outdoor orientation leader through Al Hagova (On the Heights), focusing particularly on skills leading hiking, backpacking, and canoeing trips. Last Summer, Clara participated in the transformative Ramah Israel Seminar, living and travelling for 10 days in Poland and 40 days in Israel, learning leadership techniques, davening (egalitarian-style) in diverse locations, engaging in study of the Shoah and Israeli history, geography, and politics, and earning certification in Desert Survival Training in the Negev. Through Ramah, Clara has developed meaningful and long-lasting friendships, and a network of contacts, with Conservative Jews from all over North America. She was one of over 100 Ramahniks to serve as a student delegate to this year's AIPAC Policy Conference. This coming Summer, Clara will be a waterfront counselor at Ramah Berkshires.

Clara is a senior at Great Neck South High School where she is an AP Scholar with Distinction, is co-President of South's Robotics Team (with which she has won a number of awards), is Vice President of the Girls' Varsity Club, is a three-season Varsity Scholar-Athlete on the Softball, Cross-Country, and Winter Track teams, and is a Board Officer of DECA, where she has managed the school store and qualified for nationals twice. She has interned and taught at The National Museum of Mathematics in Manhattan, and is also an avid skier and cyclist.

Clara will be attending Dartmouth College in the Fall, where she intends to study engineering physics and mechanical engineering for a dual-degree Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Engineering (ABET) program.

Brian Volk

Brian Volk has been a valued member and leader of the Temple Israel of Great Neck Youth House since seventh grade. He is an active participant in the Temple Israel Leadership Teens ("TILT") where he helps lead Youth House group activities and organizes and participates in various fundraisers and charitable events, including multiple Midnight Runs and dinners for special-needs adults. Brian is also involved with the Shevet Achim ("Brotherhood") group, where they meet monthly to discuss current issues related to Judaism and society and what it means to be a Jewish teen in today's world.

Brian is also a respected member of the Temple Israel community at large, serving as a student teacher at the Religious School for 3 years, reading Torah at Yom Kippur and reading from the Megillah at Purim.

Brian is a senior at Great Neck South High School where he is an AP Scholar with Honor and is involved in many activities and clubs. He has played on the soccer, basketball and baseball teams throughout high school, and is currently the Co-Captain of the Hot Lunch Improv Troupe, the Co-President of the school's Model Congress club and a Vice President of the DECA club, where he has qualified for the national competition 3 times. Brian has also been involved in various Theatre South productions, including acting in The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later and the annual student-directed One Act Plays. This year Brian will direct one of the One Act Plays entitled The Future Is In Your Tiny Hands. Brian also plays the baritone saxophone in the Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band.

Brian's outside interests include playing Fantasy Football and watching The Bachelor (with his mom), Grey's Anatomy and Jeopardy!

Brian would like to thank the Temple Israel of Great Neck Men's Club for this honor and his Youth House leaders and Religious School teachers for their guidance over the years. He would also like to congratulate his fellow Temple Israel of Great Neck honorees: Jack Guberman and Clara Goldberger.