IN CELEBRATION OF “ISRAEL AT 60”

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2008
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO
THE TENTH ANNUAL
COMMUNITY SERVICE
AWARD DINNER

IN HONOR OF
RON AND TAMAR UNGER

IN CELEBRATION OF “ISRAEL AT 60”
AND FOR THEIR WORK ON BEHALF OF EZRAS ISRAEL

GUEST SPEAKER
DR. IRWIN ARIAS
EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE
AND SENIOR SCIENTIST AT NIH

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2008
AT 6 O’CLOCK IN THE EVENING

MAGEN DAVID SEPHARDIC CONGREGATION
11215 WOODGLEN DRIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20852
The Orthodox congregation Ezras Israel was founded in Washington, DC in 1907, by shopkeepers (mainly grocers and tailors) who lived along H Street N.E. The congregants initially met in a residence above a store at 9th & H Streets. In 1913, when the congregation took out incorporation papers, it was led by Morris Fetterman, who had a grocery store at 707 H Street N.E., as president, and Harry Gann, a tailor living at 900 H Street N.E. (likely the original meeting place), as vice president.

In June 1914, after meeting in several locations, the congregation purchased a large building at 8th & I Streets N.E. – 800 I Street – for $5,000 from Centennial Baptist Church. The main building served as the sanctuary, with an upstairs balcony for the women, and the smaller building behind it as the Talmud Torah. They remained in this location for 44 years, until 1958.

For its first 30 years, the congregation operated largely without a rabbi (except for 1926 through 1929, when the rabbi was Raphael Mordechai Barishansky רפאל מורדchai, who was in his mid-60s and retired after three years). It did have other hired staff such as Myer Burka מרי, who served as Shammes and collected dues (Jacob Alexander יacob אלכסנדר later had that role as well), and the teachers in the Cheder, Mr. Schafer and Mrs. Edelstein.

In the mid-1930s, a DC-area Jewish philanthropist, Minnie Landsburgh, who was seeking to help Jews escape from Europe, contacted Benjamin Futrovsky בנה, then president of Ezras Israel. As Ezras Israel was without a rabbi at the time, Ms. Landsburgh asked Mr. Futrovsky to sign papers guaranteeing a rabbi from Vienna, Austria a job as a congregational rabbi so that he could come to the United States. Mr. Futrovsky did so, enabling Rabbi Dr. Arthur Bogner אריה בוגנר, a professor who had studied with Sigmund Freud, to come to the United States in May 1938 with his family and assume the position of rabbi of Ezras Israel.
He remained as Ezras Israel’s rabbi for the next 40 years.

After World War II, the Jewish population of Northeast Washington began to migrate away. In 1959, the congregation sold its building at 8th & I and purchased the building used by another Orthodox congregation, Mishkan Torah, at 7th & Dahlia Streets, N.W.

After Rabbi Bogner retired in 1978, the congregation met at other locations in Northwest DC and Silver Spring – first at Yager’s, a catering establishment on 13th Street, later at the old Beth Sholom location at 13th & Eastern, and later still at a rented location on East-West Highway. The remaining members of the DC Ezras Israel stopped holding services by 1992, although they continue to maintain the Ezras Israel Cemetery, part of the National Capital Hebrew Cemetery in Capitol Heights, Maryland, where several of the founding and early members are buried.

**Ezras Israel of Rockville**

As the congregation’s membership further dwindled in the 1970s, Rabbi Bogner, like many others, looked to the Montgomery County suburbs for the shul’s future. In 1978, before he retired from forty years of service to Ezras Israel of Washington, Rabbi Bogner placed an ad to determine whether there was interest in having an Orthodox congregation in Rockville. A number of people living in the area answered that ad, and several are still shul members today. Rabbi Bogner bought the house at 320 Lorraine Drive to house himself and the new shul, and Ezras Israel Congregation of Rockville was born.

**RABBI BOGNER BOUGHT THE HOUSE AT 320 LORRAINE DRIVE TO HOUSE HIMSELF AND THE NEW SHUL, AND EZRAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION OF ROCKVILLE WAS BORN.**

Services were held in his basement, and at that time the Rabbi provided almost all of the financial support. Every other Shabbat he and his son, Nathan, arrived to lead services, read the Torah, and give us learning and guidance. Because the congregation was on its own on the alternate weeks, everyone pitched in to keep the congregation going. There was a minyan almost every Friday night, on Shabbat morning and evening, and on Yomim Tovim, largely due to the population of Iranian Jews who lived near the shul. Since then these attendees, as well as many others from the early years, have left the area.

In 1983 the Rabbi arranged to rent
a room at 200 Rollins Avenue, again financed by him and a few of the members. Having reached his mid-eighties, Rabbi Bogner fell ill and was unable to continue to carry the burdens of a struggling congregation. He retired fully in 1987 and moved to Israel.

Macey Kronsberg and Dr. Harry Polacheck assumed leadership of the Congregation after Nathan Bogner became unable to remain involved in shul affairs. The shul survived through the sale of tickets for High Holiday services (first at the JCC and in recent years at the Ring House), membership fees, and contributions. The rental arrangement at 200 Rollins Avenue continued until 1992, when we knew it was time to find a place of our own.

With help from the treasury of Ezras Israel of Washington, which had in the meantime sold its building at 7th & Dahlia Streets in downtown Washington, President Zev Halpern and the Congregation purchased our shul’s permanent residence at 803 Montrose Road. The original Ezras Israel Congregation also gave us three Sifrai Torahs, a memorial board with plaques, curtains for the ark, table covers, chairs, prayer books, and other items essential to a shul.

Under the leadership of President Rachmil Jacobovits, the congregation addressed the need to add spiritual leadership to assure the shul’s continued growth. With the help of The Center for Rabbinic Leadership, the congregation retained the services of Rabbi Eli Weiss in 1995. The Congregation modified the interior of the building to provide a residence for the Rabbi and his family on the upper two levels and a place for the congregation on the lower level.

Under the leadership of President Lazer Fuerst, attendance at services increased. Under Rabbi Weiss’ tutelage, Ezras Israel expanded its services to include a Sunday morning minyan, classes, and an eruv surrounding the community. We have celebrated bar and bat mitzvahs, held Brit Milot, weddings, and funerals, and celebrated three Hachnosat Sefer Torah (Torah dedication): (1) in 1995, repaired and returned to service the very large Sefer Torah received from Ezras Israel; (2) in 2003, a new Sefer Torah commissioned by the Jacobovits brothers in memory of their parents written in Israel; and (3) in 2007, a Holocaust-re-
covered Sefer-Torah from Tarnow, Poland dedicated in memory of Samuel and Irene Roschwalb by their nephew, Abraham Wolf. In 2007 we undertook a major repair and restore operation of two of the three Sefer Torahs we originally obtained from Ezras Israel of Washington. They are now in use at our Ring House daily minyan.

After four years of service, Rabbi Weiss left our shul. With the dedicated work of a rabbinical search committee, we found new and vigorous spiritual leadership in Rabbi Eliezer Kreiser. Now in his ninth year, Rabbi Kreiser's influence is strong, and his and Perel's outreach and welcoming spirit welcome all visitors to our community. The Rabbi and Perel joined their family to that of Ezras Israel and are the warm nucleus of the shul—teaching classes, welcoming guests, and always seeking to help Jews from all walks of life connect with their Torah roots. With Rabbi Kreiser's continuing involvement in the community, the Ring House, the Hebrew Home, Aish Hatorah, and the Vaad, our small and friendly shul has become an important community resource. In 2001 the Kreisers moved into their own house, and the Congregation was able completed Phase 1 of our building expansion program by renovating the building and moving the sanctuary upstairs. With this move, our shul evolves from a “shtibel” in the Rabbi’s basement to a community facility where we meet every Shabbat to daven and share each other's joys and sorrows. We have hosted numerous lectures and run regular classes in Talmud, Chumash, Tehillim, and the structure of the davening. We are members of the Orthodox Union, and our Internet site at www.ezrasisrael.org provides visitors with information about our shul, its neighborhood, including the Eruv it built and maintains, and its schedules and programs. Ezras Israel is now known as an institution that serves the spiritual needs of traditionally minded Jews.

We have continued to attract Israeli families, on temporary assignment at NIH, the embassy and Israeli companies, who have enriched shul life immensely with their talents, participation in Torah reading, giving classes and enlivening shul life with young children. We have also celebrated births of at least ten new babies, the marriage and sheva brochot of a Board member and the upgrading of our website to now accept shul payments via the web.

Our annual dinners, which serve to frame the history of the shul and the important contributions by its members and spiritual leaders by honoring people who bring honor to our congregation by their deeds and service to the Jewish community everywhere, have celebrated the following:
1st Annual Dinner —
Early 1999
We recognized Dr. Jack and Elsie Trombka for their service on behalf of Soviet Jewry and Jewish education, including service on the Washington Board of Jewish Education.

Farewell Dinner to Rabbi Weiss —
June 1999
We bade farewell to Rabbi Eli & Tova Weiss after four years of devoted service and much accomplishment.

2nd Annual Dinner — 2000
We honored Rabbi Oscar Groner for the central role he played in establishing us in Rockville and for serving as our de facto volunteer Rabbi. We also celebrated Rabbi Kreiser’s arrival the previous August.

3rd Annual Dinner — 2001
We honored our six octogenarians “minyan-aires”: Sam Ackerman, Rudy Abraham, Fred Bieler, Ephraim Friedman, Nathan Jacobs and Hans Nussbaum who helped us establish and run a daily minyan at the Ring House.

4th Annual Dinner — 2002
In 2002 we honored Ana and Bernardo Kliksberg for their Tikkun Olam work on behalf of our fellow Jews of Argentina as well as for bringing worldwide attention to our little Shul.

5th Annual Dinner — 2003
Rick and Ilene Van Houter encouraged Ezras Israel’s sponsorship of the two Ben Yehuda Street Fairs at the JCC of Greater Washington in June and October of 2002, and in 2003, they were honored for their hard work leading to a great success for the merchants of Israel and also for bringing recognition to our congregation.

6th Annual Dinner — 2004
In 2004 we honored Sue and Lazer Fuerst--Sue, for her writing, editing, and publishing numerous articles for the benefit of the Ezras Israel community, and Lazer for his continuous dedication as gabbai, shul Treasurer (and President), High Holiday Committee Chairman, Succah construction foreman, and for helping Ezras Israel flourish.

7th Annual Dinner — 2005
In 2005, we highlighted the Ezras Israel community; it is not just a few people who make our shul what it is today. Every member contributes to the warm and holy atmosphere of Ezras Israel. We had nominations for over twenty people, none then serving on the Board, and who through their good works and acts of chesed were considered by their fellow congregants to be worthy of acknowledgement and honor at our Seventh Annual Dinner. So, that year, we honored those unsung
volunteers who give of themselves in an unofficial capacity—no titles, no names on the Ezras Israel letterhead, no committees, etc.—people who, out of the goodness of their hearts, give of their time and energy to make (and keep) our shul the best it can be.

8th Annual Dinner (Melave Malka) – 2006

In 2006 we were informal and celebrated a Melave Malka where we were informed and entertained by Shmuel Rosner, US correspondent for Haaretz and a member of the shul, and by the musical talents of Manny Zymelman, Jordan Chill and Cyrille Cohen. Under the leadership of Cyrille Cohen, we introduced an annual Yom Ha’atzmuot (Israeli Independence Day) Picnic, complete with a contest of Israel’s history and culture, we refurbished our sanctuary and replaced all our chairs with all new same-color chairs.

9th Annual Dinner – 2007

We celebrated 100 years of Ezras Israel’s history, first in Washington, DC and now in Rockville, by honoring the memory of two key figures during the congregation’s first century – Rabbi Dr. Arthur Bogner, who was our Rabbi and spiritual leader for 40 years in DC and for almost 10 years in Rockville, by establishing a Torah Learning Library Endowment; and Benjamin J. Futrovsky, who served as president of the congregation during much of the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, by establishing an Ezras Israel Capital Endowment Fund to support our Phase II physical expansion plans. We also presented our Community Service Award to Charles Futrovsky and Kitty Futrovsky Strauss, two of the children of Benjamin Futrovsky and his wife Eva, in grateful appreciation for their many years of dedicated service to the Washington Jewish community and their work and support of the re-establishment of Ezras Israel in Rockville and their key role in making the centennial anniversary dinner celebrating the founding of Ezras Israel Congregation in Washington a resounding success.

10th Annual Dinner – 2008

We are honoring Ron & Tami Unger and the contributions that they and other visiting Israelis have made to our Congregation, while joining with rest of the Washington area Jewish Community in celebrating “Israel at 60.”
February 10, 2008

Dear Ron and Tamar Unger,

It is my honor and privilege as the President of Ezras Israel to express my gratitude to you both for allowing Ezras Israel Congregation of Rockville to honor you both during this most special year. You both exemplify the wonderful attributes of what Ezras Israel is all about; learned and scholarly people who have an incredible bond to the state of Israel. I cannot think of a better way to connect the 60th Anniversary of Israel Celebration with you both. Additionally, a very big thank you also goes out to you for connecting us to the extraordinary guest speaker this evening, Dr. Irwin Arias. Without your link to the life sciences we certainly would not have been able to hear such a distinguished speaker talk about such a fascinating topic.

Thank you to for making this evening so very special and memorable. A special wish to your entire family for a Nesiah Tova back to Israel and we look forward to seeing you both and your beautiful family back in Rockville in the near future.

Sincerely,

Michael Fellner, President
Ezras Israel Congregation of Rockville
February 10, 2008

There is often a story or incident that encapsulates the essence of a person. For me, the story that personifies the Ungers is one that occurred after Sukkos of this year. It was Friday evening, and due to a miscommunication, I realized that we did not have a Baal Koreh for that Shabbos. Knowing how much time it takes to prepare even half of the Torah Portion, and knowing how much everyone cherishes a relaxing Friday night. I was reluctant to ask anyone for help at this point. However, after realizing that I could not do the whole Parsha by myself, I knew that I had no choice but ask for help. As if in cue, in walked Ron Unger. After davening, I approached Ron with a long and apologetic introduction to my request. It was Ron's response to my request which to me personifies who Ron is. After glancing at the section of the Parsha that I asked him to read, with a shrug and a smile, he said "Nisht Geferlach-(not too bad), I can prepare this". I thought to myself, this is Ron, yes, he has a busy schedule all week, now he would have to work on it at home for some time, but to help out, "nisht geferlach"-I’ll do it. Ron doesn’t make a big deal out of what is asked of him. His "nisht geferlach" reflects the easygoing way in which Ron does for others what needs to be done. He is always ready willing and able to fill any role necessary for the Shul. He doesn’t seek accolades or recognition for what he does, he just does it.

Ron and Tammy Unger have achieved considerable success in their respective academic fields - Tammy, as a research biologist and Ron, as research computational biologist. At the same time, they have endeared themselves to all with whom they come in contact with through their warmth and readiness to help. Tammy’s unique brand of warmth and true interest in others has always served to touch people, in a way that puts everyone she meets readily at ease. There is a Posuk that comes to mind when I think of the Ungers. This Possuk, from Micha, (Ch. 6) tells us what Hashem seeks of us all: ‘אָהַבֹּת חָסְדֵי - וְצֶרֶצֶנִי לִמְלוֹכָה (מיימא פּרָק יג)’ “Love [and pursue] kindness, and walk humbly with your G-d.”

This is how the Ungers conduct their lives. They do for others in a quiet and unassuming way, without fanfare and with their great humility. Tonight we gather to show what they mean to us and to recognize their contributions to our Ezras Israel community. May Hashem continue to give them the strength to continue their good work, and may they derive much nachas from their beautiful children, Amir, Ayelet, Hilla and Inbal.
Dr. Irwin (Win) Arias is Emeritus Professor of Medicine (Albert Einstein College of Medicine), Emeritus Professor of Physiology (Tufts University School of Medicine) and currently Senior Scientist and Head of the Unit on Cellular Polarity, National Institute for Child Health and Development, and Assistant to the Director, Intramural Program, National Institutes of Health.

Following graduation from Harvard, Columbia and State University of NY, he trained in liver disease at the Boston City Hospital and, in 1957, joined the faculty at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine where he founded the first NIH-supported Liver Research Center, directed the Gastroenterology Training program and was Associate Chairman of the Department. In 1983, he became Chairman of the Department of Molecular and Cellular Physiology and Professor of Medicine at Tufts Medical School where he remained until 2000. Among his accomplishments are Founding Editor of Hepatology, President of the AASLD, recipient of distinguished achievement awards from every major GI-Liver organization, author of over 350 peer-reviewed articles and four editions of a major liver text., and mentoring many students and fellows who now head liver centers throughout the world.

Arias’ career involves bridging advances in basic science with better understanding of liver disease. The continued expansion of knowledge of basic biology creates unparalleled opportunities to solve longstanding problems of human health. Bridging the gap between advances in science and their application to medicine is a major challenge and his life-long profession.
Our honorees for Ezras Israel’s 10th annual dinner are Ron and Tami Unger, who are residents of Rehovot, Israel – and from time to time of Rockville, Maryland. We are recognizing them for their sustained service to our shul over the past 18 years, whether living in Rockville or in Rehovot.

Prof. Ron Unger is an associate professor in the Faculty of Life Science at Bar-Ilan University. He earned his Ph.D. at the department of Computer Science at the Weizmann Institute of Science in 1990. His research interests are in the interface between computer science and biology, namely in the emerging fields of bioinformatics and computational biology. Prof. Unger is the head of the computational biology undergraduate program in Bar-Ilan University, and is involved with several national committees to advance bioinformatics in Israel. Prof. Unger is currently the president of the Israel Society of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (ISBCB).

Dr. Tamar Unger is a Senior Staff Scientist in the Department of Structural Biology in the Israel Structural Proteomics Center (ISPC) at the Weizmann Institute of Science. She holds a Ph.D. in Biology from Weizmann. Her research focuses on protein expression and structure determination of proteins to advance our understanding of protein function and drug design.

They actually first came to the Montgomery County area in the summer of 1988, while students at the Weizmann Institute, staying in the Gaithersburg area. When they were applying for post-doctorate programs after receiving their Ph.D. degrees in 1990, they decided to return to Montgomery County. Ron got a position at the University of Maryland, and Tami at the National Institutes of Health.
The question was – where should they live? Kemp Mill was an obvious choice, with a large Israeli Orthodox community. But they also liked the Gaithersburg/Rockville area and had heard that there was a small Orthodox community in Rockville, close to where they previously lived. Another attraction was the Hebrew Day Institute, which was located then where the Jewish Day School Upper School is now, since they had two young children, Amir and Ayelet (Their daughter Hilla was born during their U.S. stay, and their daughter Inbal after their return to Israel.) They also were familiar with the “Kibbutz” – the large Israeli community in and around Rollins Park, consisting largely of visiting scientists like themselves. So they decided on Rockville. As a result, they believe they were probably the only Israeli Orthodox family in the area at the time living outside the Warwick, the large apartment building at the intersection of University Boulevard and Arcola Avenue in Kemp Mill.

Ezras Israel in 1990 was a bit different from the Ezras Israel of today. It met in what during the week served as a nursery school, at the corner of Rollins Avenue and East Jefferson. The shul’s leaders at the time were principally Jonathan Lubick and Zev Halpern, and there was no rabbi (Rabbi Bogner had retired a few years earlier). There was a list of people to be called each week to make sure there would be a minyan on Shabbat, and there were non-religious Israelis living in the Kibbutz who had agreed to be available if needed on Friday nights.

The Ungers quickly became part of the community. Ron led services as Chazzan or Sheliach Tzibur from time to time on Shabbat and holidays, and also on the Yamim Noraim. He was not the official Torah reader – that was mainly an Israeli who read without the cantillations, who shared the role with others – but Ron did help out from time to time.

Would they have been better off in Kemp Mill? In retrospect, they do not think so. Kemp Mill then, as now, is a large community in which it can be difficult for individuals to find their place. In Ezras Israel, by contrast, it is clear that every individual counts, so there is more of a sense of community – and, in fact, the Ezras
Israel community has come to feel to them like family. Of course, how things worked out for them was quite accidental – they did not know much about the area before they came – but they are happy with the choice they made.

The only drawback they saw was that their children did not have friends their age living nearby, with whom they could spend time during Shabbat. That changed a bit when some other Israelis arrived, including Yoram Bar-Noy and his family in 1993, with children close in age to the Ungers’ children. So that became a bit easier.

During this time, they also got to know a number of other key figures in the history of our shul, including Lazer Fuerst, Manny Zymelman, the late Moshe Rosen and the late Rabbi Oscar Groner. They described Rabbi Groner as “the most unorthodox Orthodox rabbi you can imagine.” He was very dedicated to the shul, giving divrei Torah that were always to the point and evocative.

They saw Rabbi Groner’s passing, just after they returned in 2001, as a real loss to Ezras Israel. Their older children loved Lazer and Sue Fuerst, and shared a mutual interest in science fiction with Lazer.

In 1993, the shul moved to the Hebrew Home while preparing to transfer to its current location on Montrose Road. Ezras Israel settled in its new home just before the Ungers returned to Israel in 1994.

While Ron visited the area every summer to continue with work he was doing with the University of Maryland, the family as a whole did not return for any length of time until 2001, when Ron and Tami were both on sabbatical from their respective positions. The main difference from their previous stay, they said, was that the Ezras Israel now had a rabbi – our current rabbi, Eliezer Kreiser. Their shul in Rehovot does not have an official rabbi, but it does not really need one, since there is a Jewish community to belong to outside the shul, they observed. But in the United States, they pointed out, the shul becomes the focal point for Jewish communal life, so that having a rabbi is important in
creating that sense of community. And they see Rabbi Kreiser as having made a big difference in that regard – they say that Ezras Israel is very fortunate to have him.

During this period, they left their mark on the shul as well. They donated the “Modim” text that is posted on the women’s side, which was their idea – they found this poster in Israel and dedicated it to the shul. They also helped to arrange for the Menorahs that decorate the front of the shul’s interior. Rachmil Jacobovits asked if they could help find Menorahs that Janet Weiner, who was about to visit Israel, could bring back with her. They asked Ron’s mother, living in Tel Aviv, to see if she could locate one. But there was nothing like it in any of the lighting stores she visited. She did know one of the store owners, though, so the two of them got together and designed the Menorah fixtures that Janet brought back with her and that we still use to this day.

They then returned to Israel in 2002. Ron has continued to visit during the summers, staying with Rachmil and Agi Jacobovits, who they both say have become like family. (And maybe they even are family – it turns out that Tami’s cousin was Agi’s childhood friend from Romania.)

They are now back with us for a few months with their younger daughters Hilla and Inbal on a partial sabbatical (after all, it is only six years since their last sabbatical), heading back to Israel shortly after the dinner. The difference in Ezras Israel is not as great as it was between their previous visits, but they do enjoy the opportunity to meet the new people, and miss those who have left. They say that Ezras Israel has come to feel like home, and the people in the community like family. As we feel about them, which is why we have chosen them as our honorees this year.
Name: Unger Ron
Date of birth: 30th Nov. 1958
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Science,
Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, 52900 Israel
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Tel: 972-3-5318124   Fax: 972-3-7384058
Home address: 29th Aaroni St. Rehovot Israel.
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EDUCATION
1981-1984  The Technion, The Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa
Extended program in Computer Science
B.Sc., Cum Laude
1984-1986  Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science,
The Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel
Computational Biology
M.Sc.
1986-1990  Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science,
The Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel
Computational Biology
Ph.D.

Doctoral Thesis:  Enriched Analysis of Biological Sequences
Supervisor:  Prof. Joel L. Sussman and Prof. David Harel

EMPLOYMENT
2005-Present
Faculty of Life Sciences, Bar-Ilan University, Israel
Computational Biology, Associate Professor
2003-Present
Open University, Israel
Bioinformatics Program, Consultant
1998-Present
Faculty of Life Sciences, Bar-Ilan University, Israel
Bioinformatics Undergraduate Program, Head
2001-2002
Center for Advanced Research in Biotechnology (CARB),
University of Maryland
Nano-Biotechnology
Sabbatical: Visiting Professor
1995-2005
Faculty of Life Sciences, Bar-Ilan University, Israel
Computational Biology, Senior Lecturer
1990-1994
A joint appointment with the Center of Advanced Research in
Biotechnology (CARB) - and Institute for Advanced Computer Studies
(UMIACS)-University of Maryland
Computational Biology
Postdoctoral , Research Scientist

PUBLIC SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES
2006 President of the Israeli Society of Bioinformatics and Computational
biology (ISBCB)
2006 Organizer and Co-Chairman of the Ninth Israeli Bioinformatics
Conference
2006 Member of the organizing committee of ECCB 2006, the sixth European
Conference for Computational Biology
2005 Board member and President Elect of ISBCB (Israel Society of
Bioinformatics and Computational biology)
2003 Member of organizing committee of the 7th Israeli
Bioinformatics Conference
1996-2000 Steering Committee: INN 2000 - National Center for Bioinformatics
1999 Organizer and Chairman of the Third Israeli Bioinformatics Conference

RESEARCH INTERESTS
My main research interest is the interface between Computer Science and Biochemical
Sciences, towards better understanding of the sequence and structure of proteins and
RNA molecules both in terms of basic research and practical applications. Current
research projects are: Designing simple models to better understand protein structure and
protein folding dynamics. Applying genetic algorithms for protein threading. Analysis
of sequential order in biological sequences. Comparative genomes analysis. Identifying
RNA control elements in genomes. Nanotechnology: Using biological molecules for
computation.

RON UNGER: LIST OF PUBLICATIONS
List of Publications include 41 articles and four book chapters.
Personal Status:
Name: Tamar Unger
Date of Birth: February 19, 1958
Citizenship: Israeli
Marital Status: Married, 4 children
Address: 29 Aharoni st.
Rehovot 76282, Israel
Phone: 972-8-9344290 (Work); 972-8-9364271 (Home: voice/fax)
e-mail: tamar.unger@weizmann.ac.il

Academic Positions:
2005-to date:
Senior Staff Scientist in the Department of Structural Biology in the Israel Structural Proteomics Center (ISPC) headed by Prof. Joel L. Sussman
http://www.weizmann.ac.il/ISPC
Research topics: Development of high throughput methodologies for protein expression in E.coli, bacterial cell free system and in baculovirus.
Provide service to researchers in the academia and industry in protein expression for structure determination.
Studying 3D structure/function of protein complexes.

2002-2005:
Associate Staff Scientist in the Department of Structural Biology in the Israel Structural Proteomics Center headed by Prof. Joel L. Sussman.
Research topics: Establishment of high throughput methodologies for protein expression in E.coli, bacterial cell free system and in baculovirus.
Provide service to researchers in the academia and industry in protein expression for structure determination.

2001-2002:
Visiting Scientist at the NIH, in the Laboratory of Human Carcinogenesis in the group of Dr. Curtis Harris.
Research topic: The role of X protein of Hepatitis B Virus and of Core protein of Hepatitis C Virus in Hepatocellular Carcinoma.

2000-2001:
Associate Staff Scientist in the Department of Molecular Genetics in the group of Prof. Yosef Shaul.
1998-2000:

Associate Staff Scientist in the Department of Biological Chemistry in the
group of Prof. Yecheil Shai
Research topic: Design of diasteriomeric polypeptides as active and
selective components against bacteria, fungi and cancer cells.

1995-1998:

Associate Staff Scientist in the Department of Immunology in the group of
Prof. Larry Steinman.
Research topic: Apoptosis as a mechanism in the pathogenesis of
autoimmune diseases.

1994-1995:

Senior Fellow in the Department of Molecular Cell Biology in the group of
Prof. Moshe Oren.
Research topic: Phosphorylation as a regulatory mechanism for p53
activity.

**EXPERIMENTAL EXPERTISE:**

Molecular biology methodology (cloning, sequencing, PCR, transfections,
infections, protein expression systems, etc.).
Peptides synthesis, HPLC purification, FACS analysis, 2-D gels etc.

**EDUCATION:**

Post-doctorate:

1991-1994 NCI, Laboratory of Tumor Virus Biology, group of Dr. P. Howley.
Research topic: Mechanisms of p53 activation.

1990-1991 NCI, Navy Medical Oncology Branch, laboratory of Dr. J. Minna.
Research topic: The transcriptional activity of p53 mutants in lung
tumor cell lines.

1988-1990 Weizmann Institute of Science, Department of Molecular Genetics
and Virology, group of Prof. Yosef Shaul.
Research topic: The human hepatitis B virus X protein and its
transcriptional transacting activity.
ICRF Postdoctoral fellowship, 1988-1990

Ph.D.:

1983-1988 Feinberg Graduate School of the Weizmann Institute of Science,
Department of Chemical Immunology. Supervisor: Prof. David Givol.
Research topic of Ph.D. Thesis: Mechanisms of oncogene activation in
mouse B cells (c-mos and bcl-2). Degree awarded in 1989.

M.Sc.:

1981-1982 Feinberg Graduate School of The Weizmann Institute of Science,
Department of Chemical Immunology. Supervisor: Prof. Israel Schechter.
Research topic of Master Thesis: Cloning of hamster immunoglobulin
Distinction prize of the Feinberg Graduate School, 1982.
B.Sc.:  
1978-1980  Bar-Ilan University, Biochemistry (Ext. Curr.)  
Degree awarded in 1981 (cum laude).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:  
2007  Teaching a course at the Feinberg Graduate School for Ph.D. students in the faculty of Chemistry “New strategies for cloning and recombinant protein expression in different systems”  
2003-2004  Qualifying a technician to work in advanced methodologies in protein expression.  
Supervise 2 students on the E.coli cell free system.  
2000-2000  Organizing the De-Shalit Ulpanah at the Weizmann Institute for Biology’s students  
1997-2000  Instructor in the laboratory course at the Weizmann Institute for M.Sc. students.  
“Introduction to basic techniques in cell culture and protein chemistry.”

PUBLICATIONS  
List of Publications include 21 articles and five conference presentations.
Dear Mom and Dad,
We are all very happy that you gave us the opportunity to see life in another country.
We see that now not only were we enriched, we were enriching as well.
I would, at this point also like to thank the entire Ezrath Israel community for extending their welcoming hand to our family.
Le shana haba byerushalim habnuya.
Mazal Tov on the Honor,
Amir

Dear Ima and Aba,
Thank you. I know I don’t say this as often as I should, but this occasion is a good excuse to stop and say thank you. Thank you for all of your support, your help, your advise, your caring, your guidance, even sometimes your worrying, and most of all your love, although i know at times i may have possibly been just a tinny tiny difficult to deal with.
I couldn’t have chosen any better parents even if I’d picked you out myself.
May we all get to celebrate many more happy occasions together.
Love, Ayelet
Dear Daddy and Mommy,

Congratulations on the honor dinner.

May you have many more happy occasions like this.

I hope you have as much fun as we had in Disney and may we go there many more times.

Love, Hilla

Dear Mommy and Daddy,

Mazal Tuv on your honorary dinner, I think you definitely deserve it.

I hope you have a great time at the dinner, but don’t forget that the real celebration that is coming up soon is my Bat Mitzvah, so you guys better be prepared.

I also just wanted to let you know that I really enjoyed these past six months, with all the wonderful people here and all the great TV shows, so I hope that we will come again soon.

Kisses

Inbal.
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

PRESENTED TO

Ron & Tami Unger

IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION FOR THEIR EIGHTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR CONGREGATION AND FOR FOSTERING OUR CONTINUING AND EVERLASTING BONDS TO ISRAEL ON THE OCCASION OF OUR COMMUNITY’S CELEBRATION OF

February 10th, 2008

Michael Fellner, President

Eliezer Kreiser, Rabbi
Visiting Israelis Ron and Tamar Unger have become an important part of the Ezras Israel of Rockville community over the past 18 years. At the same time, though, they are part of an even longer and more extensive relationship between our congregation and the State of Israel. Since our congregation’s early days, visiting Israelis have played a major role, and several U.S.-born congregants have made aliyah, so that there is now a large Ezras Israel contingent in Eretz Israel made up from both groups.

This relationship is evident as far back as our first rabbi, Rabbi Arthur Bogner בּוֹגֶּן. He came to Rockville when he retired as rabbi of Ezras Israel of DC. When he finally entered into full retirement, he fulfilled his life-long dream of living in Israel and moved to Jerusalem. He died there in 1996.

In the first years of Ezras Israel’s presence in Rockville, Dr. Moshe Rosen רֹסֶן, a distinguished Israeli physicist, moved into the area with his wife Lea and three sons, Boas, Ron and Tzachi – they were among the first Bar Mitzvah’s to be celebrated at the new location. The Rosen family is still a part of our shul, even though the family has now spread out beyond Rockville to Arizona, California and Israel.

In the 1980s, the congregation benefited from Israel Lavit and his wife Edna and their three sons, the youngest of whom, Gil, also had his Bar Mitzvah in our shul. Israel Lavit, now of Shoham with his wife Edna, served as the unofficial executive director and was involved in all aspects of shul operation, including the hiring of Rabbi Weiss. Another Israeli who contributed to keeping the shul going during
this period was a computer scientist, Baruch Halachmi, who served as gabbai and sheliach tzibbur. He returned to Jerusalem in 1993 and maintained an ongoing relationship with Rabbi Bogner until he died. At the time the congregation bought its current building, Rami Zera, who still lives in area, worked hard to make connections with the shul’s new neighbors and asked them to participate in its life.

One of the benefits of our location is being near several important greater D.C.-area Jewish institutions. These include the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, the Hebrew Home for the Aged, the Ring House, and … the “Kibbutz.” The latter is the nickname given to an area of low-rise apartments off of Rollins Avenue (the Rollins Park area) because of the large number of visiting Israelis who have lived there over the years, including several visiting scientists at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in nearby Bethesda or otherwise doing post-doctorate work. The NIH contingent is probably the most numerous, including, in recent years, Cyril Cohen, Jordan Chill, Gil Katz and Yossi Kutner. Many of them have been active in our congregation.

The role of the Israelis has covered the whole spectrum. Ron and Tami remember that in the early 1990s, when the congregation met in a rented space on Rollins, several non-religious Israelis would help make minyanim, being on call for Friday night to make sure there were enough people. Others, including Ron Unger and Yoram Bar-Noy, have helped lead davening (including for the High Holidays – Yoram was our High Holiday Hazzan for many years) and in doing Torah and Megillah reading. Ron recalls, from the early 1990s, an Israeli who served as the regular Torah reader but read without the cantillations. The Ungers previous sabbatical was preceded by a four-year stay by Moshe & Hana Berger. Moshe, employed by Israel Aircraft Industries, was frequently our Torah reader, with cantillations, and a wonderful sheliach tzibbur. Hana, a Physics teacher, tutored some of our members children in Math and Physics at no charge. The entire community turned out for a farewell barbecue in their honor. More recently, we

WE CONTINUE TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH SEVERAL OF OUR EZRAS ISRAEL ALUMNI IN ISRAEL, HELPING TO MAINTAIN, THROUGH THEM, OUR CLOSE CONNECTION WITH ERETZ ISRAEL.
had Jordan Chill as our regular Torah reader, who read flawlessly and with the cantillations. And, of course, there is our immediate past president, Cyril Cohen, who wrote about his involvement in our shul in an article entitled “Ezras Israel ... an Israeli Perspective” in last year’s dinner journal. Cyril is actually a second-generation “Kibbutznik” – he remembers visiting his uncle, then working at the NIH (as Cyril would be two decades later), in a Rollins Park apartment around 1980.

The visiting Israelis have become part of our community in deeper ways as well. Several families, including the Ungers, Chills, Cohens, Rosners and Kuttners, have had children while in the area, so that we have been able to celebrate those simchot with them. In recent years, the younger crowd in shul Shabbat mornings has been largely Israeli – Noa and Daniel Cohen, Daria and Ariel Chill, and Shaul, Yochai, Ariel and (most recently) Yael Rosner. The younger Rosners typically finish up the Shabbat morning service. Cyril, while president, started the tradition of the Yom Haatzmaut picnic and quiz. Longer term Israelis with us include Itzhak and Odette Goldberg of the World Bank and Dov Popovici, who serves on our Board.

In addition to those from Israel who returned there, several congregants have made aliyah. Jonathan Lubek was a treasurer of sorts before Lazer Fuerst (who has since made y’rida to Florida) took on that responsibility. Janet Weiner, now of Jerusalem, was the editor of the shul’s newsletter for two years in the early part of this decade.

Another source of our connection to Israel is our current rabbi, Rabbi Eliezer Kreiser. In addition to traveling there at least once a year on a recruiting trip for the Yeshiva of Greater Washington, he spent time learning in Jerusalem when he was younger, and he also has close relatives who made aliyah. He always returns from his trips with inspiring stories about the people he saw and his experiences.

We continue to keep in touch with several of our Ezras Israel alumni in Israel, helping to maintain, through them, our close connection with Eretz Israel. We very much value this relationship, and look forward to seeing it continue to grow over the years ahead.

The above names and details are evidence of how over the years the shul’s life has intertwined with the lives of many Israelis of distinction an accomplishment. There can be no better examples than Ron and Tami Unger, who by their personal accomplishments and professional distinction have enriched our kehilla in innumerable ways. We can think of no better way to begin to celebrate “Israel at 60” than by celebrating them and all that they embody to us and to the flowering of Jewish life since Israel’s birth.
February 10, 2008

I want to take this time to thank everyone who was part of the dinner committee. The people mentioned below gave of their time, energy, and resources to make this evening the wonderful event that it is. First and foremost I want to thank Rachmil Jacobovits who headed the committee and gave its vision as a celebration of two of its most distinguished honorees, Ron and Tami Unger and of the centrality of Israelis and Israel to our Congregation, as we join the community-wide celebration of “Israel at 60” while also supervising this event’s endless details. I am particularly grateful to Doreen Blech, Charlene Disler and Agi Jacobovits for designing and creating the magnificent table centerpieces. I would also like to thank Doreen Blech and Jerry Roschwalb for making numerous phone calls to remind people and encourage them to attend the dinner and take out ads in the Dinner Journal. Doreen and Jerry have only been a part of Ezras for a couple of years, but their impact has already been felt in many ways and we cannot thank them enough for their service. We are so very happy that they have chosen to join their lives with ours and we look forward to working with them on more events in the future. A special thank you also goes out to Michael Richman for taking on much of the research and writing assignment on the Dinner Journal. We never cease to be amazed by Michael’s range of talents and his willingness to generously share them with the shul.

Please know that everyone who helped out with the dinner and the journal this year has our utmost respect and we are forever grateful for their efforts.

Sincerely,

Michael Fellner, President

Ezras Israel Congregation of Rockville
Mazel Tov to the
UNGER FAMILY
to
EZRAS ISRAEL
and to its esteemed
PRESIDENT
AND BEAUTIFUL FAMILY

Baruch & Karen Fellner
He [Rabban Yochanan] said to them: Go out and discern which is the proper way to which a man should cling. Rabbi Eliezer says: A good eye. Rabbi Yehoshua says: A good friend. Rabbi Yosie says: A good neighbor. Rabbi Shimon says: One who considers the outcome (of a deed). Rabbi Elazar says: A good heart. He [Rabban Yochanan ben Zakkai] said to them: I prefer the words of Elazar ben Arach to your words, for your words are included in his words. - Pirkei Avot, Ch. 2. Verse 13

Truer words cannot be said of

RON & TAMI

both as individuals and as a couple.

Their “good heart” embraces our Ezras Israel community whether they are in Rockville or in Rehovot.

Our hearts “cling” to them not only as people who know the proper way, but also as perfect embodiments of our feelings for Israel, and Israelis that have strengthened our community.

With love, affection and admiration,

Rachmil, Agi, Tova & Ari Jacobovits
"שר חכמים"

to

RON & TAMi UNGER

on their well-deserved award

Thank you for all you have done

for Ezras Israel of Rockville

during the past 17 years,

and for all you will do in the

years to come, ד"ע

Michael Richman
In Loving and Devoted Memory Of:

EVA MAE & BENJAMIN J. FUTROVSKY
Our Beloved Parents

MARTIN STRAUSS

DONALD FUTROVSKY

EVALYN STRAUSS LUBAN
My Beloved Daughter

Also in Honor of

OUR BELOVED FAMILIES

In gratitude for honoring us at the special evening

The 100th Anniversary of Ezras Israel Congregation

Thank You

Charles J. Futrovsky
and
Kitty Futrovsky Strauss
Mazel Tov to

RON & TAMi UNGER!

May
Israel &
Ezras Israel
Go from Strength to Strength.

Nechama, Michael,
Kaylee, Arielle and Ross Fellner
In Loving Memory of

ISRAEL S. BURKA

and

GERTRUDE G. BURKA

Judge Alfred Burka & Dr. Edw. R. Burka
Israel has always blessed our congregation

with gifts of its finest young people.

And of these,

RON & TAMI

you are shining examples!

Manny & Nancy Zymelman

In honor of

RON & TAMAR UNGER

and with warm regards to all our friends at Ezras Israel

Rabbi Eli and Tova Weiss
In honor of

RABBI & REBBETZIN KREISER

Debora & Oscar Chemerinski

Here’s to happy memories –
the ones we have now and the ones
we’ll share in the years to come.

Lazer & Sue Fuerst
Dear TAMI & RON

and the EZRAT ISRAEL COMMUNITY

Even though we always miss you when you’re not in Israel, we are always comforted by the fact that we know that, in Rockville, there is a community that embraces you warmly. A community that serves as a home away from home.

It is no coincidence that you keep going back.... So thank you Ezrat Israel, for taking such good care of our family. Hopefully, we will be able to return the favor for you in Israel beezrat hashem.

Ron, Tami, Hilla and Inbal - Come back home safely!

Zippora, Ozer, Amir, Ayelet, Adi, Tali, Vered and the entire Unger family

To the

UNGERS

A special couple who has made such a positive impact on our community in so many ways.

May your lives be full of ברכה and simcha.

Eliezer & Perel Kreiser
Mazel Tov to the Community Service Award Recipients

DRS. TAMAR & RON UNGER

Elissa Weisblatt

RON & TAMI
Yasher Koach on your many achievements.
With gratitude and best wishes
May you go from strength to strength

Stu & June Graff

Another 60 will bring to 120!
Mazel Tov!

Judith & Michael Klein

Mazel Tov and Yasher Koach to the Honorees!

Joel & Jane Lubin
Dear TAMI & RON

We enjoy your visits with us and ask that you try to be here more often.

*Odette & Itzhak*

---

Best Wishes
from

*Rabbi James & Karen Michaels*

---

Congratulations to TAMAR & RON
from

*Mayer Jacobovits & Agnes Goldberg*

---

Mazel Tov and Yasher Koach to the Honorees!

*Lilia & Stephen Lord*
Mazal Tov to TAMI AND RON
and Kol Tuv to our friends at Ezras Israel we deeply miss.

*Helit and Cyril Cohen*

Best wishes to

RON & TAMAR UNGER

*Elsie & Jacob Trombka*

To: RON AND TAMAR UNGER
Thank You for your support of Ezras Israel Congregation

*Morris & Harriet Altschuler*

Dear RON AND TAMI
Mazal Tov. Wishing you many happy years of Shul service.
*From your friends at your other American shul in Rehovot*

Mazel Tov and Yasher Koach to the Honorees!

*Gussie Scher*

Mazel Tov and Yasher Koach to the Honorees!

*Rabbi Lewis & Fannie Weintraub*

Mazel Tov and Yasher Koach to the Honorees!

*Judye Groner*

RON AND TAMI, It was great having you as our next door neighbor, in your last sabbatical. Hopefully we can be neighbors again soon.

Congratulations and Mazal Tov for receiving these awards.

*Dov, Charo, Daneilla and Yoel Popovici*
Best Wishes from

Charlene & Mark Disler

Mazel Tov to RON & TAMAR UNGER, and Ezras Israel Congregation, In Celebration of “Israel at 60”.
Thank You for your many contributions to our community.

Jill Smudski and Robert Rubinoff

Mazel Tov and Yasher Koach to the Honorees!

Louis Taub

Mazel Tov to “Israel at 60”

Bea Garoon

It’s not how much or how little you have that makes you great or small, but how much or how little you are with what you have.”

– Rabbi S. R. Hirsch (Horeb, vol. 1, pg. 46)

TAMI & RON: Keep up the good work!,

Best wishes from Pennina & Hershel Safer

Many thanks for the invitation to join Ezras Israel Congregation in its tenth annual dinner. Currently, we are grounded as Hana is due to submit her PhD thesis by the end of February. Please convey our best greetings to the honorees and to all our friends in the community.

Wishing you a wonderful evening.

Best regards, Moshe [Berger]

Best Wishes to Ezras Israel Congregation.

Fred & Miriam Gross
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<td>Benguigui, Drs. Yehuda &amp; Aziza</td>
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<td>Blech, Doreen</td>
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<td>Boltax, Andrew &amp; Amanda</td>
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<td>Brandriss, Rabbi Yitzchok</td>
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<td>Chaimovich, Mark &amp; Irina</td>
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<td>Danemark, Amanda</td>
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<td>Disler, Mark &amp; Charlene Saportin-Doughty</td>
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<td>Dvир-Ginsburg, Mona &amp; Ariel</td>
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<td>Edery, Hanan &amp; Rachel</td>
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<td>Fellner, Michael &amp; Nechama</td>
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<td>Friedman, Shaya &amp; Shula</td>
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<td>Futrovsky, Charles</td>
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<td>Garoon, Bernice</td>
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<td>Glasner, Rose</td>
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<td>Goldfarb, Tamara &amp; Joshua</td>
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<td>Graff, Stuart &amp; June</td>
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<td>Groner, Judye</td>
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<td>Jacobovits, Aaron w/Rita</td>
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<td>Katz, Gil &amp; Alexandra</td>
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<td>Lefman, Jonathan &amp; SaraBeth</td>
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<td>Maroof, Rabbi Joshua</td>
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<td>Mayo, Santos &amp; Elana</td>
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<td>Menn, Dr. Julius</td>
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<td>Needle, Sheldon &amp; Roz</td>
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<td>Pollack, Norman</td>
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<td>Seidel, Scott &amp; Tzipi</td>
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<td>Strauss, Kitty</td>
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<td>Trombka, Jack &amp; Elsie</td>
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<td>Van Houter, Rick &amp; Ilene</td>
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<td>Vartcoussky, Lyuba, MD</td>
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<td>Yahoodain, Mordechai &amp; Mona</td>
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<td>Zymelman, Manuel &amp; Nancy</td>
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We Celebrate Ezras Israel at 60!

We join Congregation Ezras Israel in celebrating and honoring the invaluable contributions Tamar and Ron Unger have made to our community and to the life sciences.

The Garden of Remembrance is a serenely beautiful memorial park conveniently located in Clarksville, Maryland. It is the region’s only non-for profit cemetery operated by a board of Jewish community leaders, and open to members of all congregations as well as those unaffiliated with a congregation.

Nineteen Washington area congregations, including Ezras Israel, have joined together to make the Garden of Remembrance the area’s most inclusive Jewish cemetery.

To learn more, call Morris Altschuler at (301) 770-5591.

Garden of Remembrance
GAN ZIKARON MEMORIAL PARK

www.gardenofremembrance.org