



# THE TEMPLE

*Bulletin*

# Summer RECAP

## Cantor Tracey Scher joins The Temple

Get to know her!  
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## Music & Memories

Cantor Deborah Hartman's  
retirement celebration!  
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## The Temple's 2022 Israel Experience

Photos from the Teen and  
Family trips! » PAGE 7



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Breman  
Education Center  
A Note from  
Temple President  
Louis Lettes  
... and more!



August 2022  
Av-Elul 5782  
v. 84 | no. 2

# WORSHIP



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## Follow us!

thetempleatlanta @the\_templeatl

## LEADERSHIP & STAFF

### Clergy

Rabbi Peter S. Berg,  
*Lynne & Howard Halpern Senior Rabbinic Chair*  
Rabbi Loren Filson Lapidus  
Cantor Tracey Scher  
Rabbi Steven H. Rau, RJE, *Director of Lifelong Learning*  
Rabbi Lydia Medwin, *Associate Rabbi*  
Rabbi Alvin M. Sugarman, Ph.D., *Emeritus*  
Cantor Deborah L. Hartman, *Cantor Emerita*

### Officers of the Board

Louis Lettes, *President*  
Jeff Belkin, *Executive Vice President*  
Amy Adelman, *Vice President*  
Steve Kushner, *Vice President*  
Francie Schwarz, *Secretary*  
Sara Loft, *Treasurer*

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Mark R. Jacobson, *Executive Director*  
Sarah Shinsky, *Weinberg Early Learning Center Director*  
Kelli Harran, *Director of Engagement*

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Melinda Brackin, *Accounting Manager*  
Judy Cole, *Pianist*  
Amy Cox, *Accounting Assistant*  
Tena Drew, *Membership Manager*  
Dan Fishman, *Audiovisual Manager*  
Lonnie Fitzgerald, *Maintenance Team*  
Elizabeth C. Foster, *Jewish Identity & Experiences Educator*  
Rebecca Good, *Hebrew & Jewish Life Educator*  
Nalo Grant, *Clergy Administrative Assistant*  
Audrey Henderson, *WELC Assistant Director*  
Summer Jacobs, *Engagement Coordinator*  
Heather McKerley, *Accounting Assistant & Facilities Maintenance Coordinator*  
Dianne Ratowsky, *Administrative Assistant to Rabbi Peter S. Berg*  
Joya Schmidt, *Engagement Administrative Assistant & Tour Coordinator*  
Justin Strom, *Head of Security*  
Marjorie Vaughn, *BEC Education Coordinator*  
Obie Williams, *Maintenance Team*  
Rita Zadoff, *Tribute Donations Coordinator*

## SCHEDULE: AUGUST 2022

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

6:00 PM Shabbat Worship Service

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

9:00 AM Torah Study

10:30 AM Shabbat Worship Service VIRTUAL ONLY

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

6:00 PM Shabbat on the Lawn with Dinner

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

9:00 AM Torah Study

9:30 AM Mini Shabbat with a Splash

10:30 AM Shabbat Worship Service VIRTUAL ONLY

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 19

6:00 PM Shabbat Worship Service

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

9:00 AM Torah Study

10:30 AM B'nei Mitzvah Service of Reesa D. Citron & Jonah D. Citron

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

6:00 PM Shabbat Worship Service

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

9:00 AM Torah Study

10:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Emerson (Emmy) Loft

5:30 PM Mincha Bat Mitzvah of Sadie R. Friedlander

# LIFECYCLES



## NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

Abby & Grant Archer  
*Wyatt, Quinn, and Eloise Archer*

Marissa Freed & Michael Shinewald  
*Ruby & Saul Shinewald*

Jaclyn Gilbert & Austin Moskowitz

Paige Hale & Tyler Levy Sniff

Mary Nelson & Matt Barnett  
*Lawrence & Anna James Barnett*

Stephanie & Travis Peterman  
*Flora & Jude Peterman*

Laura & Nicholas Richardson  
*Bennett Richardson*

Jill & Paul Rothstein  
*Kacy, Bo, Reese, & Bridget Rothstein*

Sarah Shapiro

Samantha Skolnick & Jake Morris

Barbara & Arthur Sohn



# Let Our Voices Be Heard

I write this bulletin article less than one week after returning from the Temple's Family Israel Trip, our first in three years. To say it was a great trip is an understatement—it was an amazing opportunity to reconnect after so much isolation during the pandemic. The approximately 70 participants formed new friendships with one another and stronger connections with The Temple...and of course, deeper connections with Israel. Our "Spectacular Sixteen" bnei mitzvah became adults overlooking the Old City, affirming their commitment to tradition, history, community, and faith. For those who have not been to Israel, or have not been in awhile, please consider joining us in a future trip. 2024 information will be coming soon!

As part of our itinerary, we had the opportunity to meet with Anat Hoffman, executive director of the Israel Religious Action Center and a leader of Women of the Wall. She passionately spoke about the desire for equality both at the Kotel and in Israeli society, recognition for all genders, for all families, for all races, and for all streams of Judaism. It is noteworthy that almost every family purchased at least one WOW tallit, and I look forward to seeing them in our sanctuary in the weeks and months ahead!

The next day, our Temple group went to ezrat Yisrael, the area where women and men can pray together without the restrictions placed on the main Kotel plaza. Our families were visibly moved to finally be together in this holy space, after dividing into men's and women's sections in our previous visit to the Kotel. The women in the group chanted the aliyah, both women and men chanted Torah, and all of us joined together in prayer. Following this, each family had the opportunity to hold the Torah—another right denied to women at the main plaza. And, we concluded by taking photos with our Pride signs from the Israel Religious Action Center. What better expression of all of our Reform Jewish values!

The work ahead is to continue force the government to uphold its agreement to make this egalitarian space equivalent to the rest of the plaza. The goal is not to remove the men's and women's sections, but to make room for those who would choose this third, inclusive space.

The theme of allowing choice is a significant one right now. Our final Shabbat was overshadowed by the news from the United States. What I offered as a reflection during services I will paraphrase here...both in Israel and in the United States we face obstacles to the ability to make our own personal choices about religious expression, we feel moments where our voices are silenced, where we do not feel seen. But we are not powerless, and the work is not done. We will fight for our space—our space at the Kotel to express ourselves as Reform Jews, and our space to allow our Reform values and autonomy to determine our personal medical choices. Our voices are sacred and deserve to be heard.

As part of the healing and moving forward, I invite you to join me in restarting the Rosh Chodesh minyan in solidarity with Women of the Wall after the High Holy Days. We used to gather for an early service, and now with the wonders of technology it can be a multi access service for those who choose. This Rosh Chodesh minyan, open to all genders, is a time for us to celebrate our voices and strengthen ourselves for the work of the upcoming month. If you are interested in attending, planning or have any questions, please reach out to me at [llapidus@the-temple.org](mailto:llapidus@the-temple.org).




Rabbi Loren Filson Lapidus

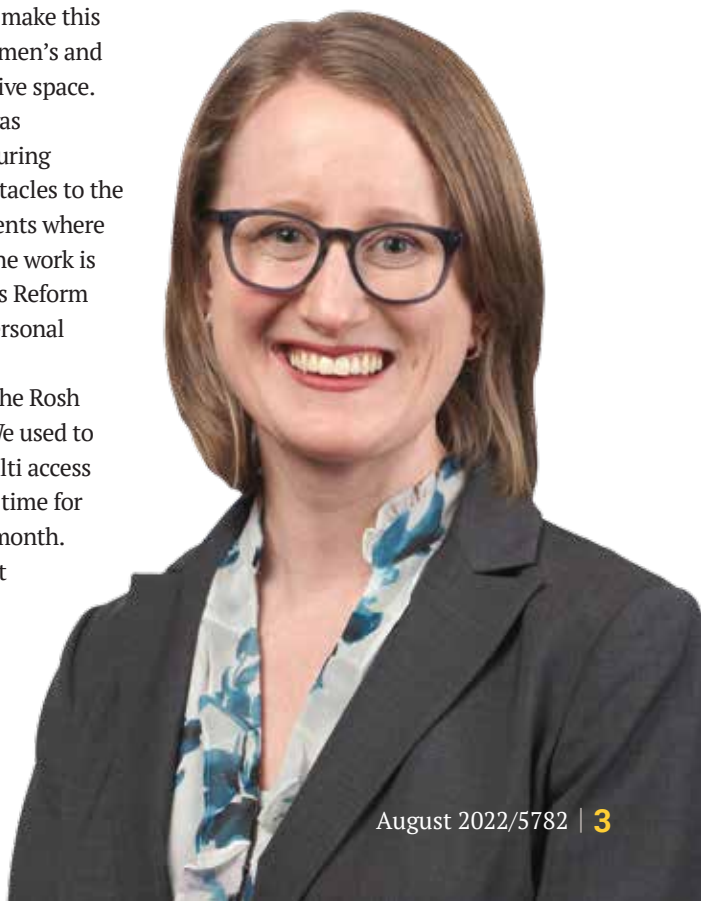
## About Rabbi Loren Filson Lapidus:

Rabbi Loren Filson Lapidus joined the The Temple in 2008 and currently serves as Senior Associate Rabbi. She was ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and also has a Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters and a Master of Education in Administration.

Here at The Temple, Rabbi Lapidus brings her experiences as the child of an interfaith family and a parent of young children to help people of all backgrounds to feel more welcome and involved in the congregation. Rabbi Lapidus is married to Rabbi Micah Lapidus, the Director of Judaic and Hebrew Studies at The Alfred and Adele Davis Academy. They have two children, Hadara and Caleb.

## Connect with Rabbi Loren Filson Lapidus:

-  [llapidus@the-temple.org](mailto:llapidus@the-temple.org)
-  404.873.1731 x1141
-  @lorenlapidus







## B'NEI MITZVAH



AUGUST 20:

**Jonah D. Citron**

Son of Deborah Citron  
& Jeremy Citron



AUGUST 20:

**Reesa D. Citron**

Daughter of Deborah Citron  
& Jeremy Citron



AUGUST 27:

**Sadie R. Friedlander**

Daughter of Brad Friedlander  
& Caroline Friedlander



AUGUST 27:

**Emerson (Emmy)  
G. Loft**

Daughter of Sara & Evan Loft

## MAY THEIR MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

**Our Heartfelt Sympathy to the Families of:**

Avery Fierman (son of Stuart and Anne Fierman  
and brother of Reis)

Jason Coolik (son of Sally & Sam Coolik  
and brother of Daniel)

Charles Foster (father of Elizabeth Foster)

Gerald "Gerry" Sapadin (brother of Judy Lauter)

Larry Browder (husband of Arline Browder and father  
of Ian Hoffman, Garrett Hoffman & Justin Browder)

Milton "Milt" Wiskind (father of Bob Wiskind &  
Ellen Schwartz)

Cindy Goldstein (sister of Deborah Schwartz Griffin)

Rosaline L. Baranovitz (mother of Helen Steinheimer)

Andy Cohen (son-in-law of Barbara Greenstein)

Sandra Caroline Nollman Poretsky Fall  
(step-mother of Sylvia Poretsky)

Bea Gotthelf (mother of William  
& aunt of Barbara Sugarman)

Nancy Gray Abrams (mother of Eric Abrams &  
Shari Marx)

Alice "Lisl" Schick (mother of Ken Schick,  
grandmother of Adam Schick & Leslie Bland)

Gerald Sonenshine (brother-in-law, Ann Davis)

Howard I. Levine (uncle of Billy Levine)

## MAZAL TOV!

**Have good news to share?**

**Please email Dianne Ratowsky at [dratowsky@the-temple.org](mailto:dratowsky@the-temple.org).**

Birth of Robert Forest Lowe to Jimmy & Lynn Lowe, big brother, Peter  
and to grandparents, Joyce Bihary & Jon Lowe.

Birth of Levi Henry Goldberg to Caroline & Alex Goldberg and  
to grandparents Debra & Chris Patterson and to great-grandmother,  
Carole Goldberg.

Birth of Jacob Alexander Binney to Amy Baugher and Zachary Binney.

Kendall & Joshua Tappan on the birth of their son, Dane Tappan.

Mark Arnold on the birth of his granddaughter, Goldie Sheila Arnold to son,  
Daniel Arnold & Dr. Taylor Pomerantz.

Faye and Brian Maloney on the birth of their grandchild,  
Anna Kit Lee Loveless to Jennifer & Steve Loveless.

Birth of Matthew to Michelle & Ian Stribling.

Birth of Archie to Lane & Rosanna "Grace" Shelton.

Birth of Stella to Phillip & Elizabeth Krieger and to big brothers,  
Jackson & Andrew.

Birth of Sophie Zara Auz to Yotam and Katie Auz and to big brother, Ari.

Marriage of Jason Philip Miller & Samantha Lynne Teyhen and to parents,  
Marcia & Mark Miller

Marriage of Wilson Coutre & Rebecca Frances Hanrahan and to parents,  
Caryn Hanrahan & Andy Siegel

Marriage of Noah Shaye to Rachel Weiner and to parents,  
Amy and Seymour Shaye.

Marriage of Robyn Paulina Deroche & Austin Slade Pepper.

Marriage of Bryan Wynn Sutton and Zoe Susanna Taylor.

Caroline Goldberg receiving Federation's Marilyn Shubin Community  
Professional Staff Development Award.

# EDUCATION



## WELC PRESCHOOL

### Camp Minimac was so much fun this summer!

Play and learn with Camp Minimac's Science Camp was a blast! We learned about bugs, plants, zoo animals, and so much more! We became engineers, paleontologists, and marine biologists. Wow! There were so many experiences, things to learn, along with art and cooking to try! Of course, we also had fun on the Splash pad at Sonia's playground and cooling down with summer popsicles. Check out the pictures to see some of the fun we had this summer. Remember to look out for more information on Camp Minimac 2023 next February!



### 2022-2023 Weinberg Early Learning Center school year officially starts August 15!

We have a phenomenal preschool and nurturing infant program to provide care as young as 3 months – Pre-Kindergarten. We have very limited spots available in our 3-year-old program and waitlists in our other age groups. School is more than learning our a,b,c's. WELC's curriculum is hands on, play-based experiences which prepare our children for elementary school while bestowing upon them an education rich with Judaic studies and Jewish values to enter the community.

Amazing things are happening at the Weinberg Early Learning Center! To learn more visit [www.the-temple.org/WELC](http://www.the-temple.org/WELC) or contact Sarah Shinsky at [sshinsky@the-temple.org](mailto:sshinsky@the-temple.org).



Weinberg Early Learning Center  
at The Temple



**Bremman**  
EDUCATION CENTER

at  **THE TEMPLE**

*Sparkling Positive Jewish Identities.*

### AUGUST 2022 PROGRAMMING

- 14** Faculty, Madrichim, Tzadikim, and Gesher Orientations
- 21** Opening Day of BEC Sunday Program @ 9:30am  
Opening Service @ 11:30am
- 28** BEC Sunday Program @ 9:30am  
4/5 Club Kick-off Youth Group Event @ 12:00pm  
Project 678 Kick-off Youth Group Event @ 12:00pm  
Project Connect Kick-off Planning Event @ 12:00pm

### Bremman Education Center Registration is Open!

#### New to The Temple?

No problem. We would love to speak with you about our program. We strive to promote positive Jewish identity is a fun and interactive learning environment. Contact the BEC Team at 404-873-1734 to learn more about our exciting programming. We hope you will join us!

#### Returning Families:

Please contact Marjorie Vaughn at [mvaughn@the-temple.org](mailto:mvaughn@the-temple.org) or 404-873-1734 if you have not received a registration packet in the mail. All forms are due by August 2 to avoid late fees. Can't wait to see you on the first day, August 21!

# EVENTS & NEWS

## Mini Shabbat

### Summer is for Splashpads!

Saturday, August 13

9:30am: Service with Puppets

10:00am: Bagels, Coffee & Splashpad!

Join us as we celebrate summer with our puppet friends! The summer is a special season, where we cool down in the water and heat up in the summer sun. We'll spend time this summer looking at both water and sun in the Jewish tradition—and have a blast!

We will start together with our Mini friends for a fun service, and then enjoy some treats and coffee, and the splashpad! Wear your swimsuits and bring your towels. We'll meet in The Temple's Circular Drive near the outdoor playground—make sure to pay attention to the weather and dress accordingly, because we'll be outside! Questions? Email Rabbi Lydia Medwin at [Imedwin@the-temple.org](mailto:Imedwin@the-temple.org).



## Temple Connect Small Group Reboot!

Meet new friends! Reunite with existing ones! Explore Atlanta! Have fun! Learn something new! If any of these are interesting to you, you may want to lead a small group! All you need is a desire to gathering people and we will help you do the rest. Meet other Temple members who have led small groups for years, and hear how it has transformed their lives. It can transform your Jewish life too! Email Rabbi Lydia Medwin today at [Imedwin@the-temple.org](mailto:Imedwin@the-temple.org).



### SAVE THESE DATES!

## Brockey-Rothschild Institute Presents: Rabbi Dr. Kerry Olitzky

Selichot Weekend: Friday, September 16 & Saturday, September 17

As we head toward the High Holy Day season, we look to our teachers and scholars for inspiration and direction. Join us for a celebration of our holiday season kick off by welcoming Dr. Kerry Olitzky for Shabbat and Selichot services.

Dr. Olitzky is executive director of Big Tent Judaism, a national independent organization dedicated to bringing Judaism to interfaith families and the unaffiliated. He is a glass and mosaic artist, an author of children's books, a leading voice in Jewish spirituality and Jewish 12-Step Programs, and an internationally acclaimed academic. For more information, check out his website: [www.kerryolitzky.com](http://www.kerryolitzky.com).

## New Member High Holy Day Welcome and Orientation

Sunday, September 11 • 5:00 pm

Please put this happy hour date on your calendar now if you have joined The Temple any time in the past 3 years! We cannot wait to welcome you home to The Temple and help you get oriented to what a High Holy Day experience in person looks and feels like. Plus, meet your Temple clergy and board with time to eat, drink, and schmooze.

## What an amazing time to be a Temple member!

By Louis Lettes, Temple President



Thanks to our outstanding clergy, staff and lay leaders, thanks to the tremendous leadership of Kent Alexander the past two years, and thanks to the steadfast support of our membership, The Temple emerges from the pandemic in better shape than ever. And yet, we never rest on our laurels—we keep striving for new ways to engage our members, to practice tikkun olam, to offer meaningful worship and educational experiences, and to build community. As we approach a robust fall full of Temple experiences, I want to share (a second time, for those who attended the Annual Meeting) just three of our many priorities for the coming year.

First, Temple leaders stand at the ready to open doors for all members seeking a connection—from new members to multi-generation members, for members of all ages and stages, for members of all walks of life. We've done so much in recent years to engage our members, thanks largely to the wonderful work of our engagement team led by Rabbi Lydia Medwin, who has transitioned to becoming our full-time pulpit rabbi. We now continue Rabbi Medwin's efforts under our fantastic new Director of Engagement, Kelli Harran. But ... we need your help. If you don't have a meaningful connection here, tell me, tell Kelli or tell a rabbi, and we will help you find your connection. Rabbi Berg is fond of saying there are many doors through which people enter Temple life. Indeed, there are so many! Let's work together to find the right one for each of you.

Second, let's all join Cantor Tracey Scher as she introduces us to her vision for the evolution of music in Temple life. Cantor Scher, like Cantor Deborah Hartman, is a leading cantor in the Reform movement, and we are so lucky to have her join our Temple family. We look forward to singing with Cantor Scher for years to come. If you're like me, you do your best singing alone in your car, but let's shed our inhibitions and fill the sanctuary with our voices.

Third, it's time to get Jews in the pews on Friday nights. Over the past two years, we've had great virtual participation on Friday nights. It's now time to envision a future of spirited Friday night services here in our sanctuary. I look forward to vibrant Friday evenings that reflect the best of what The Temple has to offer. I assure you, at the end of a long week, there is no better place to reconnect with what really matters in life than our sanctuary, surrounded by our Temple family. One of our Temple values says simply, "We Need Each Other." After two years of separation, that's more apropos than ever. So, please, join me in returning to our sanctuary for Friday nights as often as you can—and bring a friend!

Again, these are just three of many priorities. Inspired by Rabbi Peter Berg's mantra—"If it ain't broke, break it!"—our clergy, staff and lay leaders are an ambitious group, and we aim to make our great Temple even greater. For The Temple to remain a leader in the Reform movement and a meaningful place of Jewish worship and community for our members, we must continue pushing the envelope. Please join us in our ongoing journey, and thank you for being part of our community!





# The Temple's Israel Experience 2022

Rabbis Peter Berg, Loren Filson Lapidus and Steven Rau led two June trips to Israel:  
The Teen Experience (June 4-17) and The Family Experience (June 14-26). Enjoy a few highlights!





# EVENTS&NEWS

## The Temple, A Story of Care: Listening Campaign Recap

*The following is a summary of our 2021/2022 Listening Campaign. After careful listening and scribing, we were able to compile this report out. **The items that are bolded are verbatim from our campaign.** We hope you'll be as inspired as we were ... and find a way to take the next steps with us.*

Once upon a time, there was a community named The Temple, humming along with its incredible leadership and congregants, generous with their resources, their gifts, and their time. They worked **hard to care for one another** and for the world around them, and things seemed to be going according to plan when, suddenly, a tiny but mighty microbe attacked the entire planet.

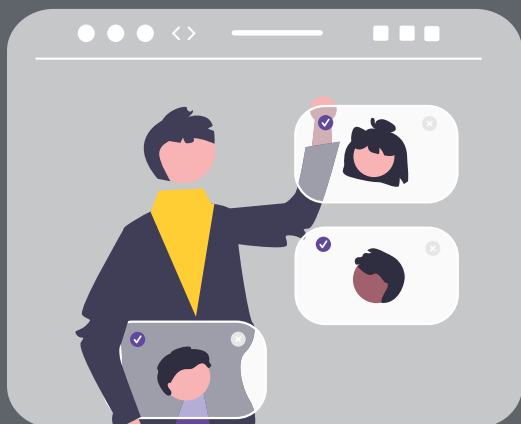
This lethal monster was so small that it was practically invisible, making it that much more dangerous and difficult to overcome. The Temple immediately jumped into action—urging people to stay home, offering ways **to remain connected from afar**, remaining present while also remaining away. One congregant shared in her listening party: **The Temple building was closed, but The Temple was always emotionally and spiritually available to us.**

We didn't just talk about how close we were and how much we cared—we showed it every day. **We called every member of the community, twice.** We delivered soup to those in need of a warm soup hug. We showed up for victims of hate crime and passed a bill protecting them. We understood our own prejudices and committed to **racial healing**. We brought people and organizations together to **battle sex trafficking**, and **environmental degradation**, and to protect women who **need access to abortion care**, and to offer real redemption to those eligible **to clear their criminal records**, and made that redemption available to even more people thru **passing further legislation**. You came to our clergy for counseling and for tragedy and for joy—and together, **we walked with you through all of it.** Together, we fought hard against hatred and apathy, depression and hopelessness, division and disease.

But as the attack dragged on, it inflicted real damage. Ours was a quiet kind of damage. Many of us **had never experienced such a sickening quiet**. While we **appreciated the slower time**, the unexpected extra **time with older children, the sounds of birdcalls**, and our new relationships with Netflix, we also lost so much. **We lost the lives of our loved ones.** We lost out on **prom dances** and **graduation** speakers and precious events that marked sacred time. We lost touch with friends and family who fell on different **sides of political divides**. **We gained weight.** **We gained computer skills** that we didn't really want. We gained a new appreciation for time with loved ones whom **we couldn't touch or hug**. We felt isolated and we felt alone. We, like all communities, were **challenged by exhaustion** and the desire to escape.

And we know that **we are only just now beginning to process** and realize what these past few years have meant for us. We humans are meaning-making machines, and The Temple is the hardware production floor. We come to The Temple, to our tradition and to one another to take these pieces and assemble them so that we can process our reality with more equanimity and love, spaciousness, grace and ease. We are only now learning about which pieces are needed for this moment, and how to **reassemble our reality** so that it makes sense to us. There are likely many in our congregation who **seem fine on the outside** but battled not just the daily traffic to get their to-do lists done each day. We each sit with our personal pain and loss.

No matter how skilled and caring our professional staff is, and I **do believe there are none better on the planet**, it is going to take every hand that counts itself amongst our Temple family, to put each other back together. It is going to **take investments of time, energy, and curiosity** in building connections with one another as an intentional Jewish activity of The Temple. It is going to take risk and vulnerability as we all **take off our "It's fine" mask** and show up with our authentic selves. It's going to take more Temple members stepping into leadership, not necessarily defined by board service (which remains central) but also by you, grabbing an opportunity, **creating a small group** and inviting your friends, introducing yourself to a stranger and



## Calling All Zoomers! (teens and adults)

The Temple Technology Teams needs your help with broadcasting our multi-access Shabbat services!

As a "Zoom operator," you would need to:

- Be able to operate Zoom
- Be able to follow the prayers and advance the slides through the service

We are offering \$50 per service for this position, although we welcome anyone who would like to volunteer their time in support of our Temple. Training will take place during a Friday afternoon and then there will be opportunities to sign up to work any of the 8 to 12 services per month.

Please email Dan Fishman, A/V Manager, at [dfishman@the-temple.org](mailto:dfishman@the-temple.org) or Rabbi Lapidus at [llapidus@the-temple.org](mailto:llapidus@the-temple.org).





claiming them as part of your Temple tribe. It's going to take **choosing times to be physically present in the building** versus attending virtually, not all the time, but at the right times. It's going to take paying special attention to **our newest members**, and **our oldest members**, those who've **relocated during the pandemic**, and those who've been **isolated** during the pandemic, as well as our **teens and young professionals who are trying to make sense out of difficulty** that our older generations know is just sometimes a part of life.

So, as big as we are, we came to you, we asked you questions, and you spoke your truth. From your stories, this story emerged. Because this is the story of here, and the story of now, and the story of us. Now is the time to recommit to sticking together. The **world will not go back to "normal"** nor will it magically get easier to navigate. It will continue to evolve and change. So we stand at a moment of choice: what we do next will define the next iteration of Temple life. The only thing we know for sure is that we need you to make it a success story. You will be invited into new initiatives, including:

- **ReEngaging Our Community**

As our Temple President Louis Lettes emphasized in his speech, "each person at The Temple needs a meaningful connection here." It will take the entire village to accomplish this goal. Through small groups, attending Shabbat services, engaging with The Gathering online, joining an Age and Stage event, and more, whether you are our longest or newest members, you deserve to feel like a part of the Temple family. If you need help with this, tell a rabbi, tell Kelli, our Director of Engagement, tell a board member!

- **Wellness in Our Community**

Our rabbis stand ready to support you through any challenge in your life. But we can do more as a community to ensure that our Temple family stays healthy mentally and spiritually. Through weekly meditation offerings, monthly classes focused on healing, partnerships with specialists in memory loss, mental health, addiction, and beyond, not to mention special Shabbat services and retreats, we are dedicated to The Temple as one important resource in your self-care toolkit.

- **The Caring Spectrum:  
Across Lines of Difference Here and Beyond**

And the care doesn't stop at caring for yourself. When we are dedicated to our own wellbeing, we also become dedicated to the wellbeing of all others. As a Jewish community, we should exemplify the notion that we can build bridges, even over the hottest issues, because our community can do anything... together. Through celebrating our many differences within the Temple community as well as extending our care to those who seem most different, and with the support of the Rothschild Social Justice Institute and our incredible lay leadership, we can extend our care well beyond the Temple's walls.

Care and connection will be our fiercest champions—they will cut through the bravado and create openings for being real and brave and insisting on dignity and equity. But for now, simply know that we see you, we hear you, and you matter so very much. The End.

## JAVA NAGILA PRESENTS: cafe & gallery

### From Shavuot to Succoth *A Harvest of Many Arts and Media*

Pop into Java Nagila to see the works of metalsmith Susan Coddon and mixed media artist Beth Thomsen, both award-winning artists and Temple members. Susan makes fine sculpture, jewelry and hollowware out of precious metals, heavily influenced by her seven-year stay in Japan. Beth is a marvelous and inventive folk artist who creates ketubas and other ritual art from wedding and b'nei mitzvah invitations, collages made of found letters from the early 1900's and boxes covered with handmade paper.



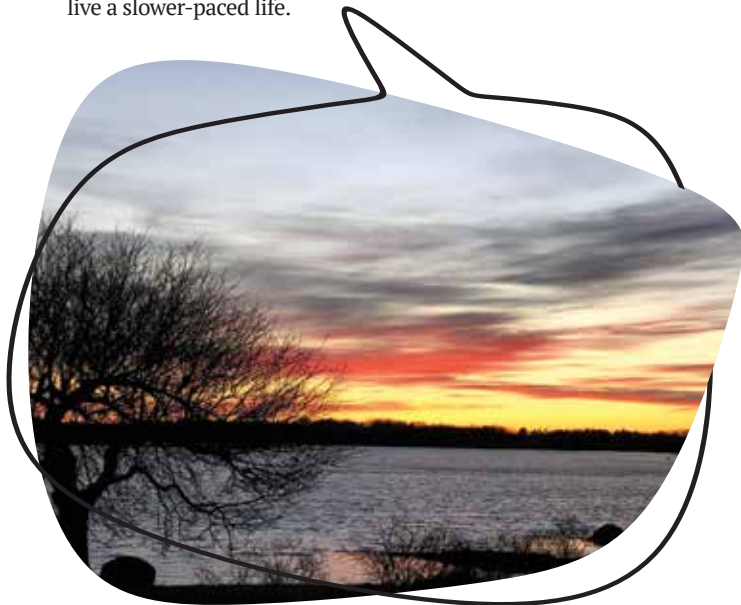
get to know...

## Cantor Tracey Scher



### Tell us about your early life.

I grew up in Nova Scotia in a little fishing village. I was born in New York, but when I was 3 years old, my family left and moved up to Canada. I am a dual citizen. They wanted to “live off the land” and live a slower-paced life.



### Was there a Jewish community there?

There’s a synagogue in Halifax, the only real city in Nova Scotia. That was an hour and a half away. There was a rabbi from the temple who used to come down to our area and all the Jewish kids within 40 miles would come for religious school. There was also a Jewish summer camp nearby that drew from kids all over Canada where I spent many summers.

### What did you want to be when you grew up?

When I was little, I wanted to be a veterinarian. By the time I went to high school, I wanted to be a musician. I was headed down the path of piano. Then I switched over to voice, really as a result of an accident in which I hurt my shoulder and couldn’t play anymore. By the time I got to college, I wanted to be an opera singer.

### How did you decide to become a cantor?

I was singing at Park Avenue Synagogue in New York, which had an amazing, rich musical tradition. I was there for the High Holy Days, and then I ended up singing every Shabbat as the alto singer in a quartet. I really fell in love with the music. I had a visceral feeling of connection to it. The cantor there, along with my voice teacher at the time, encouraged me to pursue that path. I really went into it a little blindly! As soon as I began my studies in Israel at HUC–JIR, I never looked back.



### Tell us about your family.

Chris and I met through the love of music. He is a great musician as well! We were both moving to NYC to live. This was 25 years ago. Right after we got married, I started my first year at cantorial school. We moved to Israel together and then had our two children, basically while I was at Hebrew Union College. My daughter just turned 19. She just finished her freshman year at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia where she’s studying political science. And my son is going to be a senior at Villanova University where he is a finance major.

### How would your children describe you?

Very outgoing and funny. Very health conscious! They would also say I’m very passionate about music.







## Why The Temple?

Peter was my first rabbinic partner when I was just ordained. We had the chance over the years to work together, and we sort of marveled at how we could just get up there and still read each other. It didn't matter how many years we were apart. Knowing that I was going to get to partner with him once again was very exciting. I also did a two-year spirituality institute with Lydia, and we got to know each other on a deep level. We then spent a couple of years studying with each other on a weekly basis where our relationship grew even more.

The opportunity, in partnership with the whole Temple, led by the clergy, to be able to build a music program and help people connect through the arts is really what I love to do and what has been my goal in the places that I've served. To have the opportunity to do that here—in double the size of the synagogue I just came from—is really exciting!

## What are your impressions of Atlanta so far?

The Southern hospitality I've always heard of as a Northerner was evident the minute I walked into The Temple and started meeting people.



## What role do you envision music playing at The Temple?

I hope that music is a foundation of everything that we do—whether it's social justice, joining voices with people of other faiths and backgrounds, helping to bridge differences, helping to inspire and lift people up. I see it as integral in bringing in our kids and being a bridge between kids and adults, so that when our youngest walk into a service on a Friday night, they are as familiar with the tunes as the regulars. They all have a part in making the musical visioning come to life.

I think that when members of our congregation see other members connecting to their Judaism through music and being a part of the whole worship experience, or any musical experience, it makes people feel like they're all part of the same thing. We're all on the same team.



## Do you have a favorite quote?

When Peter Taylor gave his Berklee College of Music address, during his speech he said, "I thank God for music, and I thank music for God." I thought, wow, that is so powerful, and for me, so true. It just rings so deeply.

## Do you have a favorite pop song?

I do love "American Pie." It reminds me of my dad!

## Fun facts about Cantor Tracey Scher?

- 1) I caught a lobster with my bare hands when I was in high school growing up in a fishing village.
- 2) Dudley Moore played piano at my wedding and was a guest at my wedding.
- 3) I'm an expert, bubble gum blower. Like really, really good.



## Three things on your bucket list?

- 1) We love food; I'm a total foodie. All I want is to have people introduce me to really good ethnic food.
- 2) I love the water more than anything! We lived on the water in Larchmont, N.Y, where I just moved from, and I grew up on the water in Nova Scotia. I think probably the hardest thing for me to get used to will be not living on the water. This is one of my bucket items: to find my way to the water as much as possible!
- 3) I want to make lots of friends. I love having relationships in my temple life with congregants who become friends as well.



## What is a question you wish I asked?

You didn't ask anything about my dog, Ginger, but that's okay. She is getting up there in age. She doesn't think she is, but she is.

## How was the drive down for her?

She has been chill about it. She's really good in the car. As long as we're with her, she's good.

## How did Ginger get her name?

I'm a redhead, and when I lived in Israel, they call redheads gingit (Hebrew for "ginger" or "redhead"). I have a tendency to talk a lot, so my teachers were always saying: "Sheket, gingit!" When Ginger was a puppy, her hair was reddish blonde, so we named her Ginger.





# EVENTS&NEWS

## music & memories

A Celebration Honoring Cantor Emerita Deborah Hartman's Retirement







D



F



I



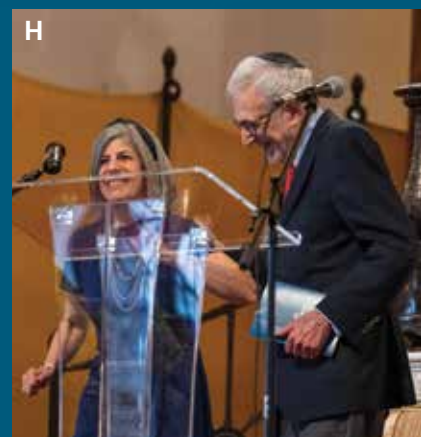
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E



G



H

**Photos courtesy of Ellis Vener.** [A] The program closed with one of Cantor Hartman's favorite ending pieces, "Count Your Blessings." She raised her voice with The Temple Professional Singers one last time! [B] The Temple Singers performed a beautiful rendition of "One Voice," arranged for the occasion by Will Robertson. [C] The packed sanctuary enjoyed the May 22, 2022 program filled with song and tributes from Atlanta area and national clergy colleagues, Broadway performer Idina Mendel and Sen. Raphael Warnock. Rabbi Berg also announced an annual Musician-in-Residence weekend in Cantor Emerita Hartman's name. [D] Cantor Hartman's children and their families traveled from Charleston and Miami to be part of the program and celebrate their mother. She is pictured here with her husband, Sanford Hartman, to her left; daughter, Leah (far left), and her husband, Ethan; her son, Jake (far right), and his wife, Lexie; and four grandchildren (front). [E] Pianist Judy Cole (left) has accompanied Cantor Harman at Friday evening worship and Saturday b'nei mitvahs for over 15 years. In both Judy's tribute and Cantor Hartman's remarks, they highlighted their trusted collaboration and ability to know what the other is thinking without words. Not only is Cantor Herb Cole (right) married to Judy, but he is also a longtime friend and colleague of Cantor Hartman's. [F] The celebration for Cantor Hartman continued in Schwartz-Goldstein Hall. [G] Rabbi Peter Berg presented Cantor Hartman with a Proclamation from the Atlanta City Council recognizing her many accomplishments: "With more than three decades at The Temple, she is the longest serving cantor in Atlanta's history and the longest serving cantor in the state of Georgia." It was accompanied by a letter from Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens congratulating her on a well-deserved retirement. [H] In 1987, Senior Rabbi Alvin Sugarman brought Deborah Hartman on board as a cantorial soloist. [I] Tenor Sam Hagan has been part of The Temple's professional quartet for over four decades. He wouldn't miss an opportunity to sing for our beloved congregation! [J] Leah, Cantor Hartman's daughter, joined with The Temple choirs for the opening musical presentation, "One Voice."

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