SCHEDULE: FEBRUARY 2021

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5
6:00 PM  Shabbat Worship Service

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6
9:00 AM  Torah Study
10:30 AM  Shabbat Worship Service
10:30 AM  B’nei Mitzvah of Lior & Noah Berg

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12
6:00 PM  Shabbat Worship Service

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13
9:00 AM  Torah Study
9:30 AM  Mini Shabbat
10:30 AM  Bat Mitzvah of Sarah H. Solomon

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19
6:00 PM  Shabbat Worship Service

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20
9:00 AM  Torah Study
10:30 AM  B’nei Mitzvah of Dylan Mulqueen and Eli Levit

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26
6:00 PM  Shabbat Worship

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27
9:00 AM  Torah Study
10:30 AM  Bar Mitzvah of Owen Gold
5:30 PM  Mincha B’nei Mitzvah of Lana T. Hirsch and Aiden Abraham

TORAH & HAFTarah:

FEBRUARY 6:  Yitro
Exodus 18:1-20:25

FEBRUARY 13: Mishpatim

FEBRUARY 20: T’rumah
Exodus 25:1-27:19 and 1 Samuel 15:2-34

FEBRUARY 27: Tetzaveh
Exodus 27:20-30:10
Ezekiel 43:10-27

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We are just finishing a long and draining political season in America and here in Georgia. Like any political season, some are happy, some disappointed, and everyone is tired! We feel blessed to live in a democracy and to belong to a Temple that welcomes with open arms diversity of opinion. We are ready to move on from all-consuming coverage and TV spots and to do what we do best: roll up our sleeves and do our part to improve our state and our country.

I once had a professor in rabbinic school who announced on the first day of class: “If you want to succeed in the rabbinate, there are two things you should never get involved in because they are controversial. One is politics and the other is religion!” He made his humorous point without much further commentary: all of life is political, even religion.

Most of us, myself included, understand well that politics itself can be divisive and truly does not belong in the realm of religious life. So, I’d like to share a different frame for how it is we can view the role of religion. We take our cue from Moses, whom our tradition venerates as the greatest prophet of all time. Moses was the quintessential spiritual leader because he spoke to God face-to-face, but he was also a person incapable of minding his own business. When he saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite, he intervened; when he saw two Israelites fighting, he broke them up; when he came to the well of Midian and saw the Midianites attacking each other, he got involved.

Similarly, the Torah that Moses brought down for us from Mount Sinai deals very much with matters of the spirit, but it also addresses mundane matters such as weights and measures. It discusses secular subjects such as how to hire and fire and the rights and duties of people we employ. The Torah deals less with metaphysics and philosophy than it does with the rights of the widow and the orphan.

Making meaning is one of our core values; we will always strive to answer questions about how the world was created, and the purpose of our existence, and how we humans define the nature of God. Moses struggled with those questions, but he also toiled daily with how he could help the poor and how he could extend a loan while preserving the dignity of the borrower.

Moses spent his days contemplating both Divine matters and how to make this world a better place—economically and spiritually.

Moses was not political. He was practical. To be more exact, he taught us to find the spiritual element in the practical. He didn’t try to find the holiness in heaven: he sought holiness here on Earth.

I think we can all agree—no politics in religion; however, we learn from Moses that one must get passionately involved in the struggle for justice in an effort to build a good and moral world. To support a strong US-Israel relationship, to fight anti-Semitism whenever she rears her ugly face, to leave a better world for our children. This is what it means to be a Jew. This is what it means to be a human being. This is what it means to be created in the Divine image. In this New Year, let us renew our commitment to be spiritual and practical together!
B’NEI MITZVAH

With pride, joy and mostly love, we invite you to worship virtually as our sons.

LIOR EVAN & NOAH WILLIAM
are called to the Torah as B’nei Mitzvah

KAREN KERNESS & RABBI PETER BERG

Worship with

LIOR & NOAH

Saturday
02.06.2021
Parashat Yitro

Service broadcast
The Temple | 10:30 A.M EST

Zoom link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/87912049590
Webinar ID: 879 1204 9590
MAY THEIR MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING
Our Heartfelt Sympathy to the Families of:

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Ruth Weinisch (grandmother of Laurence Brennan)
Steven Zweig (father of Sara Grubel)
Evelyn Baron

MAZAL TOV!
Have good news to share? Please email Dianne Ratowsky at dratowsky@the-temple.org.

Wedding of Thomas Henry Callender and Melissa Guiselle Quintana

Wedding of Eric Lee Horovitz and Amy Leona Braunstein

Inauguration of Janice Rothschild Speaker Series by The Southern Jewish Historical Society, The Breman Heritage Museum and The Temple.

Justin Steinfeld on his engagement to Diana Yusupov and to Justin’s parents, Bruce & Shayna Steinfeld

Joe and Jill Ferst on the birth of their granddaughter, Sonya Gloria Ferst, and to parents, Rachel and Igor Ferst and also on daughter, Alie’s engagement to Steven Lubow.

Marilyn Pearlman received the prestigious “President’s Award” from the Atlanta Lions Club, for her assistance in programming and publicity.

NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS
Erin Breslin & Mark Brown
Micah Brown
Janice & Michael Danzig
Tess Malone
McCrea O’Haire & Jason Stern

Did you know The Temple has a podcast?
Rabbi Berg and Rabbi Lapidus host this weekly conversation that covers topics of Jewish interest, features interviews with members of our Atlanta community, and gives some insight into what happens "behind the scenes" for our clergy and Temple. We have conversations with Rabbi Alvin and Barbara Sugarman, Tomer Zvulun of the Atlanta Opera, Adrianne Hamilton-Butler of the Zaban Paradies Center, and many more! All of our episodes are available on Apple podcast, Spotify, and at anchor.fm/thetempleatl

Meet Our Staff!
Get to know some of the friendly faces at The Temple.

Melinda Brackin
Accounting Manager

Melinda Brackin is a Georgia native and grew up in Monticello, GA. She is married and has 2 lovely daughters, ages 30 and 22. They are her pride and joy! To combat being an empty nester, she and her husband have a shih Tzu named Hootie that they fight over.

Likes:
Baking, home improvement and The Hallmark Channel

Dislikes:
Deciding where to go to lunch/dinner, bananas and boiled eggs

Fun Fact:
She has been on the Food Network channel twice!
February & March 2021 TAMID Programming

All classes are online. Registration required to receive the Zoom link: www.the-temple.org/tamid-classes

WISDOM CIRCLE: Searching for Clarity in an Uncertain World
Dates: New Groups Beginning in March—Sign Up Today!
Times: 12:00-1:00pm
There in such uncertain times, we are all searching for meaning and wisdom in our lives from each other and our sages. Please join us each week for a clergy-led discussion with breakout sessions based on topics of Jewish wisdom to add inspiration to our lives and make new connections with our own friends and others in our Temple community. Register with a friend or two, spouse/partner, or sign up solo to be matched with a small group of learners guided by our own Temple clergy’s wisdom. This class welcomes first-time learners.

NEW ELECTIVES:
The Living Sea Scrolls: The Discovery of the Cairo Geniza and Medieval Jewish History
Dates: February 2, 9, 16 at 7:00pm • Cost: Free and open to all!
Instructor: Craig Perry, Assistant Professor of Middle Eastern Studies and Jewish Studies at Emory University
There is an old Jewish tradition that written religious works should never simply be thrown away. Rather such texts should be given a proper burial or resting place, a geniza, where they can rest in dignity. For most of a millennium, the Jewish community of the Ben Ezra synagogue in Egypt took this practice quite seriously. By current estimates, the Ben Ezra synagogue preserved over 300,000 manuscripts that now comprise arguably the richest archive for the study of Jewish life and culture in the Middle Ages. Over three evenings, this course will explore the unlikely story of the Cairo Geniza’s survival into the modern age as well as how its documentary contents have revolutionized what we are able to know about the everyday life of Jews in one of the foremost political and economic capitals of the medieval Islamic world. Topics we will study include A Crash Course in Medieval Jewish-Muslim Relations; Real Jewish Housewives of Cairo (RJHC); and Heretics, Rabbis, and Courtiers...Oh My!

A New Approach to the two thousand year old issue of anti-Semitism
Dates: March 2, 9, 16 at 7:00pm • Cost: Free and open to all!
Instructor: Rabbi Dr. Albert Slomovitz, founder of The Jewish Christian Discovery Center and author of A New Look at Rabbi Jesus: Jews and Christians Finally Reconnected
Throughout these sessions, Dr. Slomovitz’ will chronicle some traditional causes of anti-Semitism including the use of the Christian Bible, Jesus’ life and education, the role of Judas and how the high priests come into play. By learning about some of these misreadings and misunderstandings, we can delve into the historical significance of this “facts” regarding anti-Semitism to help inform our next steps.

Thank you to our WELC TPA Chanukah Fundraiser donors!
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*As of January 15, 2021
Project Merry Mitzvah
We thank all the people who helped make the holiday season a little brighter for the residents of the Zaban Paradies Center. The 11th annual Project Merry Mitzvah was held on December 11 and included a special message from our teen leaders and a catered dinner. Gift baskets and stockings were organized and delivered on Christmas Day.

We thank the following families for making this possible:
Aferiat, Alexander, Azar, Banner, Berg, Bookspun/Levine, Bowie, Buchwalter/Strohl, Caplan, Carter, Cooper, Danzig, Droze, Filson, Ganz, Geller, Goldberg, Golden-Brown, Greene, Herbert, Hockstein, Hopper, Joyce, Kaplan, Kaplan, Kedmi/Schor, Kremer, Lavine/Williams, Lettes, Levine, Lourie, Low, Maldonado, Malino, Maslia/Whitehead, Mechlowitz/McNaught, Rosetti, Ryden, Schroeder, Schwartz, Sender, Simonoff, Wassersug, and Zufi.

We apologize if your name was inadvertently left out. These names were collected from the Amazon boxes that included cards and donations.

WELC PRESCHOOL

What does Pre-k look like during COVID?
It still looks like a lot of fun! Our pre-k kids (and 3 year olds for that matter) do a wonderful job of keeping their masks on all day while still learning and playing in their pod! Our kids will be ready for Kindergarten next year no matter what it looks like! Take a look at these photos to see for yourself!

Registration is open for Weinberg Early Learning Center!
Priority registration for the 2021-2022 school year is currently open for the children of our Temple Members until February 12th! It then opens to everyone starting March 1st! Schedule a virtual tour and see why so many Temple families call WELC their children’s home away from home! For more information contact us by phone at 404-872-8668 or email welc@the-temple.org.

Announcing Transitional Kindergarten at the WELC!
We are excited to be opening up a transitional kindergarten classroom next year! We know these times have been uncertain, so we wanted to give our Temple families another option for a safe and in person school experience for 2021-2022. To find out more contact us by phone at 404-872-8668 or email welc@the-temple.org.
Last year’s Purim shpiel was the last big event before The Temple went to virtual programming. Unfortunately, we will not be able to do our usual festivities, but we look forward to coming together virtually and in socially-distant ways to celebrate Purim!

A Night at the Drive-In Movies!
Wednesday, February 24 @ 6:00pm
The Springs Drive-In, 5920 Roswell Rd Unit C-103, Sandy Springs, GA 30328
Dress up in costume, decorate your car, and come have a fun, socially-distanced night out. We’ll wave from our cars and all be wearing masks while we watch a movie (concessions will be available for purchase to be delivered to your car). Tickets are $10 for a car with one person, or $18 for a car with two or more. Spaces are limited, so RSVP today!

Purim Mishteh and Megillah
(that’s Hebrew for drinking and telling the story)
Thursday, February 25 at @ 7:00pm via Zoom
As you may recall from years past, there is a "no recording" rule for our adults-only Purim spiel. So, that celebration will have to wait until we are back together in person. Instead, join your Temple clergy as they bring humor, a touch of irreverence, costumes, and favorite cocktails and mocktails to a retelling of the Purim story. Think "Drunk History" meets "Wait, wait," meets...you’ll have to tune in to see! Please register at www.the-temple.org/purim to receive the Zoom link.

Purim-themed Shabbat Service
Friday, February 26 @ 6:00pm via Zoom
We’ll bring the festive, the humorous, the somber, and the joyous together for this Purim-themed Shabbat service. Fun for all ages and stages!

For up-to-date info and registration, visit www.the-temple.org/purim
Caring at The Temple
Our Caring at The Temple program reaches out to fellow congregants during times of hardship or pastoral need, providing homemade chicken soup and challah to members who are bereaved, ill, recently discharged from the hospital, or are celebrating the arrival of a new child. We have delivered more than 500 soups, and nearly every step of the program—from soup preparation, to delivery (within your zip code), to letting us know about fellow congregants in need—is led by members of our congregation.

To be a part of this program and to fulfill the mitzvah of bikkar cholim (visiting the sick) or to let us know who needs soup, please contact Rabbi Lydia Medwin at lmedwin@the-temple.org or 404-873-1731.

Temple Connect
For a complete listing of Temple Connect groups, visit www.temple-connect.com. Joining a Temple Connect group is the best way to get to know a small group of people well. Formed around interests, needs, geography, demographic or profession, group meetings take place in the home, in an office, or anywhere in the city. Groups meet regularly (usually monthly), are led by your fellow Temple members, and consist of anywhere between 3-18 people. Temple Connect is designed to inspire us and transform our lives and the world around us. We want to help you get connected.

Jewish Mindfulness Meditation – Virtual
Tuesdays at 1:00pm
Judaism is replete with tools for navigating stressful moments and revealing our inner resilience. Join Rabbi Medwin for a few minutes of discussion and guided meditation as we look to the wisdom of our tradition. See your weekly email for the link.

Mini Shabbat
Saturday, February 13 @ 9:30am
Join us for a Mini Shabbat to prepare for Purim! Our puppet friends will take us on a journey to the land of Shushan. And we’ll learn about the important tradition of mishloach manot—we’ll send you a list of supplies that you might want to prepare ahead of time for your family. As always, no need to RSVP. Just jump on and join us, even in your PJs! Questions? Email Rabbi Lydia Medwin at lmedwin@the-temple.org.

Thanks to you, this Endowment Campaign will help establish financial stability for future generations. Creating a strong endowment is the most important thing we can be doing for the future of our beloved Temple.

– Rabbi Peter S. Berg

For more information on the endowment campaign, please visit the-temple.org/dream or contact Mark Jacobson, Executive Director at 404-873-1731.
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Joan Rosenbluth
Ryan Schaefer
Tim & Adrienne Boyer
Alonzo Neese
Donald McGinty
Sally Kaplan
Elaine Beth Clear
Jay & Ann Davis
Barbara F. Gold
Sara Hene
Hank Aldort & Wendy Lipshutz
Toby Holzer
Ronnie van Gelder
Bert & Barbara Levy
Michael & Donna Masinter
Monday Mah Jongg
Connect Group
Dr. & Mrs. Alan Glazer

Jennifer Glazer Malkin
Michele Glazer
Harriette Oxman
Paul & Harriet Weinberg
Asher-Golden Gift Fund
Barbara Bock
Sam & Sally Coolik
Paul & Ellen Goldstein
Mary & Wesley Harden
Rachel Miller
Howard & Sharon Silvermintz
Penny Berk
Sari Marmur
Mavis Wener
Judith Barkan
Billie Guthman
Mark & Marlene Haber
Jack & Annette Rau
John & Sally Berry
Rick Williams & Janet Lavin
Allen & Judith Soden
Elaine Koenig
Bert & Barbara Levy
Lucille Miller
Reeva Hirsch
Vivian Greene
Neal Miller
Frank Gottlieb
Joan Solomon
Terry Gershon
Ronnie van Gelder
Joel Greenberg
Bert & Barbara Levy
Erica Hecht
Bert & Barbara Levy
Thelma Kirsch
Richard & Carole Liebman
Martin Schneider
Barbara Schneider
Gloria Lief
Penny Berk
Roslyn Schloss
Sarah Levy
Tim & Adrienne Boyer
The Honorable Stan Bernstein
Eric & Jennifer Sender
Ken Lewis
Eric & Jennifer Sender
Sy Erickson
Margaret Erickson
Sunnie Lichtenstein
Herb & Cheryl Orlansky
Valerie & Milton Kassel
Leo & Louise Benatar

In Memory of the Yahrzeit of:
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Tom & Lynne Keating
Samuel Koenig
Ronald & Elaine Koenig
Charles S. Bassin
Robert & Barbara Greene
Vera Gottfried Norman
The Feiner Family
Ida Macher
William & Barbara Wilson
Judge Malvin Englender
Donna Fleishman
Carolyn Levy
Sarah Levy
Frances Lewis & Jimmy Green
Michael & Ellen Lewis
David Solomon
Joan Solomon
Eva Bums
Robert & Joan Dokson
Elizabeth Hoffman
Ellen H. Keating
Mary Schoenberg
Thomas & Karen White
Joseph Kroger
Andrew & Lillian Kroger
Abraham R. Dokson
Robert Dokson
Ann Cohen
Duane & Sandy Cox
Howard Stahlman
Julie Stahlman
Fredric Marc Wolf
Jo Ann Rau
Margery F. Rau
Jo Ann Rau
Sylvia Garber
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Giving Thanks

At The Temple, we are thankful for our community—the diversity of our members, those who deliver soup to congregate in need, our youth and adult learners, those working endlessly to support the Rothschild Social Justice Institute, and our volunteers and ushers just to name a few.

We also see the many ways that you are thankful for the special people in your lives when tribute gifts are made in their honor or memory. These tributes are a thoughtful way of you saying "mazel tov," "thank you" or "you will be remembered."

Recognize the special people in your life by making a gift at the-temple.org/support or by contacting Rita Zadoff, Donation and Special Event Coordinator, at 404-873-1731.
A lot has changed due to the pandemic, including our way of connecting. Did you know most of our services, clubs, and special events are now available online via Zoom to keep you connected with your Temple family? Check the Monday and Friday Temple emails for the latest information and Zoom links to join us live!