



THE TEMPLE

Bulletin

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SHABBAT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

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also inside...

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Chanukah Recap

... and more!



January 2024
Tevet/Shevat 5784
v. 84 | no. 6

WORSHIP



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*The Mark R. Jacobson Executive Director Chair is endowed by the Douglas J. Hertz Family Foundation.

SCHEDULE: JANUARY 2024

In-person Virtual Multi-access (virtual & in-person)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

6:00pm Shabbat Worship Service

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

9:00am Torah Study & Kaddish

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

8:00pm MLK Shabbat Worship Service

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

9:00am Torah Study & Kaddish

9:30am Mini Shabbat Morning

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

6:00pm Shabbat Worship Service featuring Shir Chadash & Birthday Blessings

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

9:00am Torah Study

10:30am Shabbat Worship Service and Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Schuman

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

6:00pm Shabbat HaNefesh

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

9:00am Torah Study

10:30am Shabbat Worship Service and B'nei Mitzvah of Nate Resnick & Ella Rogers

5:30pm Bat Mitzvah of Talia Miller

TORAH & HAFTARAH:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6: Sh'mot

Exodus 1:1-6:1; Isaiah 27:6-28:13; 29:22-23

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13: Va-eira

Exodus 6:2-9:35; Ezekiel 28:25-29:21

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20: Bo

Exodus 10:1-13:16; Jeremiah 46:13-28

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27: B'shalach

Exodus 13:17-17:16; Judges 4:4-5:31



Bring Them Home: One of The Highest of All Mitzvot

There is a common sentiment that everyone in Israel knows: the two groups who always know what the government should do are the barbers and taxicab drivers. As I write this article in time for publication (just after Thanksgiving), Israel has just begun to negotiate the very complicated deal to get the hundreds of Israeli hostages freed, an extremely difficult task for any government. It is easy to be a Monday morning quarterback and tell Israel what to do from across the ocean. You may be surprised to know that Jewish tradition has much advice to offer the Israeli government on the issue of rescuing captives.

Jewish law (*halacha*) says three perhaps contradictory things, and we can learn much from all of them. First, in Jewish tradition, human life is sacred; therefore, we are told that we should pay any price to rescue a Jew who is being held captive and whose life is in danger. This mitzvah is called *Pidyon Shvuyim*, rescuing the captives, and is one of the highest of all the mitzvot. We are even taught that we can sell a *sefer Torah* to raise money to redeem a hostage. For if we stand idly by and do nothing and the hostage is killed, we bear a measure of responsibility for what happens to that hostage. In every generation, Jews have banded together to raise funds to rescue hostages who have been held ransom.

The second law states that there is actually a limit to how much we are allowed to pay in order to redeem a captive. The Talmud instructs that we should not redeem captives for excessive funds. This is done so that the community does not bear a burden and go bankrupt. Also, it would turn kidnapping into a lucrative business, which would make all people unsafe. Famously, Rabbi Meir of Rotenburg was kidnapped by the government and held for an exorbitant ransom. His disciples loved him and would have paid any price to get him back. Rabbi Rotenburg forbade them from redeeming him, for he did not want “rabbi redemption” to become a lucrative business from which no scholar would be safe.

So, do we follow the tradition that says it is a mitzvah of the highest importance to rescue hostages or the tradition that says there are limits to how much we can pay for hostages? Perhaps the answer is found not in the laws of redeeming hostages but in the laws of warfare. Morale is crucial in warfare. If the soldiers believe their commanders will never abandon them, that they will do whatever it takes to bring them back if they are captured, then they will fight more bravely and with higher morale. Therefore, if we are to have a victorious army, we are obligated to save our soldiers.

This is why Israel is famous for doing anything and everything that it must do in order to bring its soldiers back home. Other countries can’t understand it, but this is what Israel does. It is a small country in which everyone knows someone in the army or in the reserves, especially now. Israel always must be ready to rescue her soldiers, no matter what, at any cost. This is why Israel has paid with many prisoners to bring home our fallen.

Today we also ask: How will the Arab world respond when they see Israel paying a high price to save their hostages? Will it impress them with how humane and how civilized Israel is? Or will it encourage them to understand this as a weakness? What about the western world? Will America and Europe appreciate Israel for her humanity? Or will American opinion see this as a sign of Israeli weakness? These are the very tough questions and decisions Israel faces every single day.

May God give the government of Israel the strength needed at this difficult hour. May the wisdom of Jewish tradition be the source of their guidance and strength. And may God give strength to the people Israel; may God bless our people of Israel with peace.

Rabbi Peter Berg

About Rabbi Berg:

Peter Berg became the fifth senior rabbi of The Temple since 1895 in July 2008. Rabbi Berg serves on many communal boards including, but not limited to: The Anti-Defamation League, Outcry: Faith Voices Against Gun Violence, Faith in Public Life, The Georgia Holocaust Commission, the URJ/CCAR Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism, and The Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta. He is immediate Past President of the Atlanta Rabbinical Association. He was named by *Newsweek* and *The Daily Beast* as one of the most influential rabbis in United States, by *Georgia Trend* as one of the 100 most influential Georgians, and by *Atlanta Magazine* as one of Atlanta’s most powerful leaders. In 2023 he received Atlanta’s highest honor from Mayor Dickens, the Phoenix Award, as well as the Distinguished Advocate Award from The American Jewish Committee. Rabbi Peter Berg is married to Karen Kerness and has three children—Matan, Noah, and Lior.

Connect with Rabbi Berg:

pberg@the-temple.org

404.873.1731



EDUCATION



Project Merry Mitzvah

We want to thank all the people who helped make the holiday season a little brighter for the residents of the Zaban Paradies Center. The 14th annual Project Merry Mitzvah was held on December 15th. We want to especially thank our event Junior co-chairs, Anna Banner and Emily Silver, and Senior co-chairs, Daniel Ratner & Sarah Zedd, for their leadership.

We are grateful for all those who donated money or items for the shopping mall! Thank you for donations from The Johnson Family, The Tartell Family, The Goldman Family, The Good Family, The Carter Family, The Rau Family, The Kirschbaum Family, The Seiton Family, The Schlossberg Family, The Dalton Family, The Sender Family, Cathy Herman, The Louie Family, The Jones Family, The Bernstein-Wilner Family, The Peterson-LeFrancois Family, The Lavine Family, The Ganz Family, Cathy Filson, The Rose Family, Nancy Prager.

We are also thankful for all of our 8th-12th grade teens who made Project Merry Mitzvah such a huge success, as well as our adult volunteers: Brian and Susan Banner, Karen Kerness, Scott Edlein, Jeremy Perlin, Julie Rau, Ethan Kahn, Nalo Grant, Lisa Madrigal, Elizabeth Foster, Cantor Tracey Scher, Dianne Ratowsky, Amit Rau, Lee Ben-Arie, Matan Berg, Sophie Brilliant, Rebecca Good, Jordan Wilensky, Abby Friedman, Rabbi Steven Rau, Lonnie Fitzgerald, Antonio Burston, Dillon Fitzgerald, and Ahmad "Jay" Smith.

WELC PRESCHOOL



Breman
EDUCATION CENTER
at THE TEMPLE

BEC PROGRAMMING

JANUARY 7

9:30am Sunday Program
9th & 10th Grade Civil Rights Trip

JANUARY 8-10

Midweek Hebrew Resumes

JANUARY 12-15

8th/9th Grade Trip to Florida

JANUARY 14

No Sunday Program

JANUARY 15-17

No Midweek Hebrew Program

JANUARY 21

9:30am Sunday Program
9:30am 6th Grade B'nei Mitzvah Program

JANUARY 22-24

Midweek Hebrew Program

JANUARY 28

9:30am Sunday Program
9:30am 1st Grade Family Education
11:00am 2026 B'nei Mitzvah Dates Meeting
12:00pm Project 45 Event

Looking Forward

Our amazing early learning program strives to provide a warm, supportive, and inspiring learning environment for each child (3 months –Pre-K)! We are looking forward to continuing our school year with even more learning opportunities!

2024-2025 WELC Enrollment

Enrollment for Temple members will be opening February 1st for the 2024-2025 school year. Visit www.the-temple.org/welc to learn more. We'd love to schedule a tour and show you what the WELC is all about! Give us a call 404-872-8668.



Weinberg Early
Learning Center
at The Temple



LIFECYCLES



ADULT EDUCATION

In-person Virtual
 Multi-access (virtual & in-person)

**RSVP for all of these courses
at www.the-temple.org/classes.**

21st Century American Judaism: Re-Imaging the American Jewish Experience

January 9 • 7:00pm

Instructor: Dr. Steven Windmueller,
Emeritus Professor of Jewish Communal
Studies at the Jack H. Skirball Campus of
Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of
Religion in Los Angeles

Why Here, Why Now: Anti-Israel Rhetoric and Antisemitic Behavior

January 16 • 7:00pm

Instructor: Dr. Steven Windmueller

Historical Debates: How did American Jews Discuss Antisemitism a Century Ago?

January 23 • 7:00pm

Instructor: Dr. Geoffrey P. Levin, Assistant
Professor of Middle Eastern and Jewish
Studies at Emory University

Understanding Antisemitism

January 29 & 30 • 6:30-8:30pm

Instructor: Brendan Murphy, Holocaust
educator at Marist School. Cost: \$18,
includes light dinner beginning at 6:00pm.



B'NEI MITZVAH



JANUARY 20:
Ethan Schuman

Parents: Julie &
Michael Schuman



JANUARY 27:
Nathaniel Resnick

Parents: Stephanie
& Stuart Resnick



JANUARY 27:
Ella Rogers

Parents: Kelly &
David Rogers



JANUARY 27 (MINCHA):

Talia Miller
Parents: Ben Miller
& Elora Raymond

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

Our Heartfelt Sympathy to the Families of:

Frank Abramson (friend of Susan
& Jon Amsler)

Louis Iteld Baum (friend of Dianne Ratowsky)

Timothy Boyer (husband of Adrienne Boyer)

Cecil Janet Duff (mother of
Richard Augustine Duff III)

Charles Kozell (cousin of Lynne Keating)

Esther Shirley Sloan Lewyn (mother of Andrea
Lewyn Krakowsky, Lawrence Lewyn, Marc
Lewyn, Cynthia Lewyn, and Michael Lewyn)

Mary Lynn Rosenberg (mother of Carol Wien)

Lawrence "Larry" A. Rosenbluth
(son of Joan Rosenbluth)

Ellen Weintraub Roxland
(mother of Jon Roxland)

MAZAL TOV!

**Have good news to share?
Please email Lisa Madrigal
at lmadrigal@the-temple.org.**

Arielle and Andrew Poorman on the
birth of their son, Asher James Poorman;
and to grandmother and WELC & BEC teacher,
Ms. Sylvia.

Julian Applebome and Jamie Lincenberg-
Applebome on the birth of their son,
Blake Applebome.

Dr. Phyllis Kozarsky for 35 years of
dedicated service.

Elizabeth Foster on the birth of her niece
Pearl Avery Foster, and to parents Rabbi Chase
& Sarah Foster, and to big brother Nathan.

NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

Lauren & Harris Abrams
Rafael, Naomi, & Beatrice Abrams

Cheryl & Joseph Ahlzadeh

Asia Lampley

Sarah & Jeffrey Marks

Aliya & Ian Shecter-Gregg

Julie & Scott Voelker

EVENTS & NEWS

New Members' Kahal

Bagels & Backpack Buddies

Sunday, January 7, 2024 • 9:45-11:00am

Join us for bagels and to help stuff hundreds of backpacks for kids in need through our Backpack Buddies Program. RSVP online at www.the-temple.org/newmember.



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SHABBAT

Celebrating MLK Shabbat
with Guest Speaker
Rev. Raphael Warnock,
Senior Pastor,
Ebenezer Baptist Church

FRIDAY,
JANUARY 12,
2024

6:30pm: Dinner
(Previous Reservation Required)

8:00pm: Service

www.the-temple.org/MLK



Mini Shabbat With PJ Library

Saturday, January 13 • 9:30 am: Service

10:00am: Bagels & Coffee • 10:30am: PJ Library Story & Craft

Join your favorite puppet friends, along with their clergy, to learn all about Tu B'Shvat, the holiday of the trees! Come with the name of your favorite tree! We will start together with our mini friends for a fun service, and then enjoy some bagels and coffee. Stay for a story and tzedakah box craft with PJ Library, a Jewish engagement and literacy program, and then run off energy on the playground.

Questions? Email

Rabbi Lydia Medwin at
lmedwin@the-temple.org.



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER ATLANTA



RSJI Events and Updates

Gun Violence Prevention

Monday, January 22 at 7:00pm

Join Rabbi Peter Berg and Kathy Colbenson, CEO of CHRIS 180, to learn about CHRIS 180's services and how we can help them achieve their goals. CHRIS 180 is a 41-year-old nonprofit renowned for providing physical and emotional resources to underserved communities, many of them often stricken by gun violence. These opportunities, in addition to our advocacy efforts, can help prevent gun violence in Greater Atlanta.

The Temple Joins Jewish Environmental Coalition

The Rothschild Social Justice Institute's Environmental Protection and Sustainability group (aka The Temple Green Team) is proud to announce that The Temple has joined a growing coalition of Jewish community organizations who recognize the urgency of climate change.

Rabbi Peter Berg signed the Coalition Founding Statement, publicly articulating that collective climate action is necessary and that the Jewish community is responding. We will develop and release a Climate Action Plan annually, detailing climate actions taken

to-date and setting strategic goals for the coming year, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions through a variety of strategies and interventions, as well as multiplying impact in the areas of education and advocacy.

Adamah, the leading Jewish environmental organization, with its mission to cultivate vibrant Jewish life in deep connection with the earth, launched the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition in September 2022, in partnership with its 20 founding partners who represent national and international Jewish umbrella organizations.

The Temple will tap into those national resources and the local resources of Adamah ATL, proudly launched in August 2023. For questions and information, please email ruth.menter@gmail.com.



Temple Connect

Single Seniors Prime Timers Schmooze & Nosh

Tuesday, January 23 • 11:00am-1:00pm

Schwartz-Goldstein Hall

The Temple is thrilled to host the third gathering of the Prime Timers, a group designed for Jewish single seniors ages 65+. The cost is \$5/person. Questions? For registration assistance, contact Ryan Benjamin at rbenjamin@the-temple.org, or call the office at 404-873-1731. Please reach out to Cindy Zeldin at cindy@zeldin.com if you have event questions.





JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING TEMPLE RETREATS



The Temple's Marriage Retreat

March 8-10 • Brasstown Valley Resort

This marriage retreat is a great blend of reflection, connection, and fun. Led by Rabbis Loren and Micah Lapidus, it is designed for couples ranging from newly married to around 15 years of marriage. For the first time, it is two nights allowing for more free time to enjoy Brasstown Valley Resort and the North Georgia Mountains. The cost is only \$500 per couple for the entire weekend, including room and resort fees, meals, and retreat activities.

Made possible by the Leven Family Jewish Identity Institute, which promotes programs designed for interfaith couples and those couples and families who are starting to find their connections to the Jewish community. To register, go to www.the-temple.org/marriageretreat.



Women's Wellness Weekend

March 8-10 • Callaway Gardens

Rest and recharge as we come together for an unforgettable weekend of learning, laughing, singing, praying, and connecting with new and old friends alike.

Limited spaces available! Pricing: \$495/person for double occupancy; \$315 single supplement. Price includes two dinners, two breakfasts, one lunch, a weekend of fun and meaningful programming, and entrance into Callaway Gardens. Payment in full is due at time of registration and fully refundable until February 1, 2024.

More info and reservations: www.the-temple.org/women.



Bernstein and Bahr's AJFF Best Bets

Sunday, January 28 • 3:00pm

Emory University film scholar Matthew H. Bernstein and *Atlanta Jewish Times* media correspondent Bob Bahr will again present their Best Bets at the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival. The program, which highlights top choices for films at the festival, will include video previews of the films and a discussion of each choice.

The Atlanta Jewish Film Festival is scheduled from February 13 to February 26 with select titles available to stream February 27 to March 7. It is one of the largest such events in the nation and is in its 24th year.

Matthew H. Bernstein is Goodrich C. White Professor of Film and Media at Emory University, an internationally recognized film authority and a founding board member of the AJFF. He has also served as a board member of The Temple.

Bob Bahr writes regularly about entertainment and media for the *Atlanta Jewish Times*. He has lectured at The Temple and is a multiple winner of the annual Simon Rockower Awards in American Jewish journalism.

RSVP at www.the-temple.org/movies.



Men's Club 2024 Calendar

Cooking Demonstration to Add Credits to the Marital Bank Account with David Aferiat

Sunday, January 21 @ 10:00am



Facts & Finances from MONTAG with Ned Montag, CEO

Sunday, February 4 @ 10:00am



A Priceless Legacy: Models of Mental Health for Our Children with David Alexander, M.S. LPC

Sunday, March 3 @ 10:00am



Cooking Demonstration to Add Credits to the Marital Bank Account with Scott Edlein

Sunday, April 7 @ 10:00am



UPCOMING MEN'S CLUB SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 24

Backpack Buddies

Tuesday, March 26

First Night Passover Seder

Monday, April 22

EVENTS & NEWS

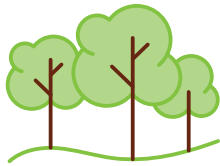
Tu B'Shvat Tree Planting

Sunday, January 28 • 1:00-4:00pm

Tu B'Shvat has been adopted by Jewish environmentalists as a day of general ecological awareness. Celebrate the Jewish New Year of the Trees as we gather together with the Jewish community and Trees Atlanta. Join us to add to our Atlanta area tree canopy in a fun and rewarding experience! Prepare to dig in the dirt at an Intown Atlanta park location. Exact location to be provided to registrants prior to the event.

Questions? Email Ruth Menter at ruth.menter@gmail.com.

Register at www.the-temple.org/treesatlanta.



Sandwich Salon 2024 Calendar

Come connect with other women at informative Sandwich Salon events planned just for us! Bring your lunch, bring a friend, and enjoy conversation with women of all ages.



What to Eat Now for Health, Energy and Longevity with Cheryl Orlansky, RD

Tuesday, January 9 @ 11:30am

Cheryl Orlansky, a registered, licensed dietician nutritionist, will speak about nutrition, diet and lifestyle. She has worked in health promotion services for the CDC and led a diabetes and nutrition program for a Northside Hospital network provider. Her expertise is in weight management, diabetes education and management, and chronic disease prevention and management.

In addition to being a proud Temple member, she is also the proud mother of three kids, one granddaughter, and one more on the way in May!



Inside Scoop on Social Justice with Dena Blank Kimball, RSJI Chair

Tuesday, March 5 @ 11:30am

Dena Kimball, chair of The Temple's Rothschild Social Justice Institute, guides and supports RSJI and works closely with RSJI group leaders and their clergy liaisons. Dena has dedicated her career to driving scalable, transformational change through social activism in nearly every role in the non-profit world, including executive roles at several high-impact organizations. Most recently, she was the Executive Director of the Kendeda Fund. Dena will share more about RSJI's mission, vision, accomplishments, and involvement opportunities.



Tap Dancing on Everest with Dr. Mimi Ziemain, OB/GYN

Wednesday, May 8 @ 11:30am

Mimi will share her latest book and recount her unlikely journey from an upbringing in an Orthodox Jewish community in 1970s New York City as the daughter of immigrants, to an audacious and historic Everest expedition in 1988. Ziemain's play, *The Post-Roe Monologues*, recently previewed in New York.



ShalomCare

**Supporting Mental Health
Powered by The Temple**

Mission

Our mission is to create a supportive culture at The Temple and within our community with intentional programming focused on mental health. We seek to increase awareness, eliminate stigma, provide education, and advocate for expanded support around mental health within our community and in coordination with the broader Jewish community and its stakeholders.

Contact:

If you are ill or in need, please reach out to our clergy at 404-874-1731. If The Temple is closed, one of clergy can be contacted on the emergency page by selecting option #3.

Web

www.the-temple.org/shalomcare

ShalomCare
SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH
Powered by The Temple

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis and need immediate help, call or text

988
to get help now.

Chanukah RECAP

Thank you to Amy Birnbaum and Justin Bluth from the Cultural Arts Committee for planning and executing our Vodka & Latkes Chanukah Party.





A New Year; A New Show, A New Medium. New Beginnings, indeed.

Once the site of The Temple gift shop, the Java Nagila Cafe was installed in 2015. It became a lovely place to grab a cuppa, chat with new and old friends, keep working on your laptop, or just sit quietly and enjoy the peace.

Early in 2018 the cafe added a small art gallery where talented Temple members could display their work. That spring, the gallery hosted its first show, "The Temple, A New Perspective" featuring beautiful photos by Steve Director, in honor of our sesquicentennial. Steve created a series of new pictures around The Temple from some unusual angles.

Since then the gallery has hosted eight shows—two to three a year—each with a different theme and a variety of media. The pandemic brought the gallery to a close, as it did everything else, and as life slowly came back to normal, we started looking for our next artist.

The gallery is pleased to present our newest artist, a newly minted (and newly married) Temple member who makes digital art - a first for the gallery. Jason Arel-Klein thoughtfully uses superimposition photography to document himself, his family and subjects related to his Jewish identity. His work glows with color and careful study reveals layers (literally) of additional meaning. He strives to use a variety of signs and symbols to convey multiple concepts in one image. The gallery will exhibit several series on topics ranging from Jewish Iconography to his personal family experiences, to the conflict in Israel.

The opening reception will be right after services on Friday, December 29. You won't want to miss the opportunity to discuss Jason's work with him, and enjoy his meaningful and beautiful images (and some wine and light refreshments). His pieces are like no others we've shown before. Their beauty will soothe the soul and their statements will challenge the mind.

Jill Slavin, *Curator*



**Thank you to our Holiday Heroes and Shalom Corps
for making Shabbanukah a success.**



**Over 60 of
our Young
Professionals
gathered at
Urban Tree
Cidery to
celebrate the
6th night!**



CONTRIBUTIONS

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SCHOLARSHIP

@  **THE TEMPLE**

We have a gem at the Temple you may not know about! It's the Bleich Scholarship Fund. Set up 38 years ago by the late Dr. Jack Bleich in a generous gift to the Temple to honor his mother, Esther, its mission is to help Jewish college students who don't have all the necessary funds and need a little help to complete a meaningful education. Since its inception in 1980, we are very proud the Bleich Fund has assisted almost three hundred students entering college, during college, or going for graduate degrees, by offering them grants, loans, or a combination of both.

Please call Heather McKerley at 404-873-1731 ext. 1150 at The Temple to receive the necessary paperwork. The deadline for grant/loan applications has been extended to Friday, March 15, 2024.



THE TEMPLE

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**The Temple's
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March 8-10, 2024



See page 7 for details!