



THE TEMPLE

Bulletin

celeMAYtations!

LOTS to Celebrate this month at The Temple!

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... and more!



May 2023
Iyar-Sivan 5783
v. 84 | no. 11

WORSHIP



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

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Kelli Harran, *Director of Engagement*
Mark R. Jacobson, *Executive Director Emeritus*

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Justin Strom, *Head of Security*
Jordan Wilensky, *Music Specialist*
Rita Zadoff, *Donation & Event Coordinator*

* During the Dream for Tomorrow Endowment Fund Campaign, Lila and Doug Hertz recognized their gift by naming the Executive Director Chair the Mark R. Jacobson Executive Director Chair by the Douglas J. Hertz Family Foundation.

SCHEDULE: MAY 2023

FRIDAY, MAY 5

6:00 PM Shabbat on the Lawn with our Professional "House" Band celebrating May Birthdays (Multi-Access)

SATURDAY, MAY 6

9:00 AM Torah Study (Virtual)
10:30 AM B'nei Mitzvah of Nadav Segal & Sabine Schwartz (Multi-Access)
5:30 PM B'nei Mitzvah of Teddy Huddleston & Jack Mischner (Multi-Access)

SUNDAY, MAY 7

10:00 AM Confirmation Service (Multi-Access)

FRIDAY, MAY 12

6:00 PM Shabbat Worship Service with guest speaker Elana Frank, founder of JFF (Jewish Fertility Foundation) (Multi-Access)

SATURDAY, MAY 13

9:00 AM Torah Study & Kaddish (Virtual)
9:30 AM Mini Shabbat Morning (In Person)

FRIDAY, MAY 19

6:00 PM Shabbat Worship Service highlighting Mental Health Awareness Month (Multi-Access)

SATURDAY, MAY 20

9:00 AM Torah Study (Virtual)
10:30 AM Adult B'nei Mitzvah (Multi-Access)

FRIDAY, MAY 26

10:30 AM Shavuot Yikzor Service (Virtual)
6:00 PM Shabbat Worship Service (Multi-Access)

SATURDAY, MAY 27

9:00 AM Torah Study (Virtual)
10:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Ellie Murphy (Multi-Access)

TORAH & HAFTARAH:

MAY 6: Emor

Leviticus 21:1-24:23, Ezekiel 44:15-31

MAY 13: B'har-B'chukotai

Leviticus 25:1-27:34, Jeremiah 16:19-17:14

MAY 20: B'midbar

Numbers 1:1-4:20, Hosea 2:1-22

MAY 27: Naso

Numbers 4:21-5:31, Judges 13:2-12



Summer Learning on the Horizon

IT is difficult to overstate the importance of education from a Jewish perspective. In our most central prayer, the Shema, our liturgy already emphasizes the importance of teaching our children. The Talmud continues, seeing the relationship between a student and a teacher as similar to a parent-child relationship in terms of its importance and impact. Our tradition even emphasizes the mitzvah of teaching your child to swim, understanding the life-saving significance of learning, both in the pool and in the classroom.

These are just a few of many reasons that it brings us joy to announce that The Temple will become the 11th site for Horizons Atlanta, opening this summer! Horizons Atlanta is a summer learning program aimed at closing the opportunity gap for metro Atlanta schoolchildren through high-quality academics and enriching experiences. Led by our Rothschild Social Justice Institute (RSJI) Public Education committee and supported by our clergy, board, RSJI leaders, and all interested Temple members, we are thrilled for this opportunity to welcome students into our Temple building for this transformative experience. We believe the students and our Temple community alike will be changed for the good by being a part of it.

We know there are inequities built into our education system which create barriers for some students to access the knowledge and skills for success. Children in certain parts of our city are more likely to experience cumulative “summer learning loss”—falling behind on reading and mathematics skills over summer break. Covid only exacerbated these gaps. Roughly two-thirds of Horizons students arrive performing below grade level. Many of these students qualify for free or reduced lunch and are identified by their teachers as students who would benefit long-term from an out-of-school learning program.

Horizons Atlanta provides a transformational, tuition-free, summer learning program that helps eliminate critical barriers to success that many of our children face, thus putting them on a path to:

- Read proficiently by the end of third grade,
- Achieve eighth grade math competency,
- Build swimming skills and self-confidence and
- Graduate from high school, college and career ready.



This June, we will welcome our first two cohorts of Toomer Elementary students, 15 kindergartners and 15 first graders, for a six-week, full-day summer program at The Temple. We will continue to add an additional cohort of 15 kindergarten students next year and each year thereafter. Once a student joins our Horizons Temple program, they return each year until they reach 8th grade. They will be in small classes led by professional teachers, and treated to enriching and fun experiences, including swimming, field trips, and cultural learning opportunities. We want them to build confidence, learn new things, and have fun.

We want our Temple community to be involved and embrace this program. This is our summer program, with support and guidance from Horizons Atlanta. If you would like to volunteer or donate resources, you can learn more on the Horizons page on The Temple website at www.the-temple.org/horizons.

We can't wait for students to learn, grow and achieve their goals with The Temple. We are so grateful to be able to offer this program to our community, as we know through our experiences with the Zaban Paradies Couples Center, the lasting impact this investment will have on the students, their families, and on the entire Temple family. We hope you will join us this summer.

Lydia B. Medwin

Rabbi Lydia Medwin

About Rabbi Medwin:

Rabbi Lydia Medwin was ordained on the Los Angeles campus of HUC in May of 2010, where she received a Masters of Hebrew Letters and a Masters in Jewish Education from the Rhea Hirsch School. A native of Memphis, TN, Lydia attended the University of Texas (hook 'em) and Hebrew University for undergraduate studies, earning degrees in Middle Eastern Studies and Honors Humanities. Between studies, she worked as the education director for a synagogue in Jackson, MS, and traveled to places as varied as South Africa, Peru, and Greece. She is the co-author of the book *The Relational Engagement Handbook* (2018).

Connect with Rabbi Medwin:

✉ lmedwin@the-temple.org

☎ 404.873.1731



EDUCATION



Breman
EDUCATION CENTER
at  **THE TEMPLE**

The Breman Education Center Registration is Open!

To register for the 2023-24 program year, simply log on to the-temple.org/bec and sign into your account. If you need assistance with registration, please contact Abby Friemdan at 404-873-1734.

Are you new to our Sunday morning education programs?

We would love to speak with you. We inspire your child's positive Jewish identity in a fun and interactive learning environment on Sunday mornings from 9:30am-noon. Contact Rabbi Rau at 404- 873-1734 to learn more about our exciting programming. We hope your family will join us on Sundays!



The BEC 5th Graders had an awesome time during their trip to URJ Camp Coleman.

*You are cordially invited
to attend the*
**Confirmation
Services**
*of The Hebrew
Benevolent Congregation,
Atlanta, Georgia,
at The Temple*

**Sunday, May 7, 2023
16 Iyar 5783**

**10:00am in the Sanctuary
Reception immediately
following the service**

(This service will also be streamed live)

*Please join us as we
are called to the Torah as*

**ADULT
B'NEI
MITZVAH**

**Saturday, May 20, 2023
10:30am in the Sanctuary
(Multi-Access)**

*Jenna Angst, Brettne Bloom,
Ann Broussard, Peggy Ellis,
Alex Henson, Katie Johnston*



WELC PRESCHOOL

Thank you WELC Family and Friends!

On behalf of the entire WELC community, WE DID IT! We had another fabulous year at WELC, and we want to thank everyone for their help and support this school year. Our students, teachers, staff, and TPA are so thankful to our families! We are looking forward to a fun summer and upcoming 2023-24 school year!



Weinberg Early Learning Center at The Temple

2023-24 WELC Registration is Open!

Registration for the 2023-24 school year is open. We have limited open spots available. Schedule a tour and come see why so many Temple families call WELC their home!

For more information contact us by phone 404-872-8668 or email welc@the-temple.org.

Here's What's Happening This Year at Camp Minimac!

This summer, 2023 Camp Minimac is all about play and learning! Each week will focus on a different theme and enjoy learning more about each topic through activities including special in-house field trips, art, music, science, songs, games, cooking and more! We will, of course, spend plenty of time on Sonia's Splash Pad! All children ages 18 months to 5 years old are welcome at Camp Minimac!



Session 1

June 5-9:
Under the Sea

Session 2

June 12-16:
Wild Wild West

Session 3

June 19-23:
Outdoor Extravaganza

Session 4

June 26-30:
Down On The Farm

Session 5

July 3-7:
Stars and Stripes

Session 6

July 10-14:
All Things Small

Session 7

July 17-21:
Lost In Space

Session 8

July 24-28:
Wacky Olympics

Visit www.the-temple.org/camps.html or email camp@the-temple.org for more information.

The WELC Graduating Class of 2023

The Weinberg Early Learning Center wishes a warm *Mazal Tov* to our Pre-K graduating class! Graduation will take place on May 23, 2023. Thank you to Ms. Alejandra, Ms. Renee, Ms. Rosalyn, and Ms. Tamara for all their hard work and dedication this year!

MEYER BAUMAN

Selena & Bradley Bauman

ELLIOT BLOOM

Gabrielle & Richard Bloom

EMMA BREAKSTONE

Amy & Dean Breakstone

MAX BREAKSTONE

Amy & Dean Breakstone

SYDNEY COOPER

Daniel & Carly Cooper

MICHAELA DUNNOM

Fabrizio Dunnom & Tamar Hamilton-Dunnom

AUSTIN FISHMAN

Jordan & Matthew Fishman

AVERY FORBES

Amy & Jon Forbes

JACKSON "JAX" GOLDBERG

Jonathan & Hannah Goldberg

BENJAMIN "BENNY" GORDIN

Ari & Paulina Gordin

NOAH HART

Arielle & Lee Hart

FOSTER HENDERSON

Audrey & Chris Henderson

AVETT JANOVITZ

Scott & Sara Janovitz

MADDIE KAPLAN

Deborah & Jacob Kaplan

OREN KAUFMANN

Greg & Jodi Kaufmann

ANDY KRIEGER

Philip & Elizabeth Krieger

HENRY LITTMANN

Katherine & Mark Littmann

NORA LOEWENSTEIN

Michael & Lauren Loewenstein

KIRA MILLER

Ben & Elora Miller

CROSBY NEARPASS

Lauren & Jared Nearpass

PARKER NOLAN

Dana & Jeff Nolan

EZRA SCHINDLER

Joanna & Grant Schindler

SAUL SHINEWALD

Michael & Marissa Shinewald

SOFIA SOSNOVSKY

Brigitte & Jason Sosnovsky

JAMIE STECKEL

Maya & Scott Steckel





B'NEI MITZVAH



MAY 6, 2023
Nadav Segal
Parent: Gilly Segal



MAY 6, 2023
Sabine Schwartz
Parents: Jennifer & Michael Schwartz



MAY 6, 2023 (MINCHA)
Teddy Huddleston
Parents: Kimberly & Daniel Huddleston



MAY 6, 2023 (MINCHA)
Jack Mischner
Parents: Meredith & Russ Mischner



MAY 27, 2023
Ellyson Murphy
Parents: Sylvia & Matthew Murphy



THANK YOU!
We thank Joya Schmidt, *Engagement Administrative Assistant & Tour Coordinator*, for 22 years of incredible service to The Temple!
Joya is moving back to Spartanburg, SC to be near family.

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

Our Heartfelt Sympathy to the Families of:

Susan Abrams (mother of David Abrams, Janet Abrams and Judy O'Neill)

Steve Bender

Shirley Blaine

Joseph Daniel (Dan) Carney (father of Susan Carney)

Marc Hamburger (husband of Diane "Deedee" Hamburger)

Judith Ann Reali (mother of Noah Aronson)

Carl Strauss (father of Rena Holland)

Jeffrey Lee Tatelman (uncle of Jaclyn Gilbert)

Lydia Thurbush (sister of Beverly Bondarew)

Julie Loef Weiss (wife of Eric Weiss, mother of Zackary Weiss and Joie Weiss, sister of Lauren Skalla, sister-in-law of Marc Skalla, aunt of Sophia Skalla and Eva-Francesca Skalla, sister of Amy Loef)

Dorothy "Dot" Evelyn Eason Whitfield (sister-in-law of Barbara Eason)

NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

Madison Davis & Joseph Weiss

Allison Fine & Josh Palgon

Victoria & Jonathan Kasper • *Charlie & Will Kasper*

Deborah & Douglas Kuniansky

Liz & Daniel Kuniansky

Sai Mukkamala

Erica & Brent Pease • *Caroline & Henry Pease*

Lane & Grace Shelton • *Sascha & Archie Shelton*

MAZAL TOV!

Have good news to share? Please email Lisa Ellinger at lellinger@the-temple.org.

Eva & Rob Shell welcomed baby boy Aiden Britt Shell on March 13, 2023.

Zoe Taylor and Bryan Sutton had a baby boy, Jack Taylor on March 31.

Alexandra Young & Jake Field on their wedding on April 1.

Rabbi Peter Berg receives prestigious Phoenix Award presented by Mayor Andre Dickens. This is the highest honor in the City of Atlanta.

Photo credit: Islamic Speakers Bureau of Atlanta



EVENTS & NEWS



ROTHSCHILD

Social Justice Institute

RSJI: Racial Justice Group

Reading Race Series: *The Trees* by Percival Everett

Sunday, May 7 • 7:00pm

Warning: Content for Mature Audiences Only

Join the RSJI Racial Justice group as we do a congregational read of the prize-winning fiction, *The Trees*. This wild and (sometimes) irreverent story will captivate you and you'll find yourself flying through its pages. The book will be entertaining and thought-provoking, and set us up well for our congregational trip to Montgomery and the EJI Museum and Lynching Memorial at the end of May. To join us, please register to receive the Zoom link at: <https://tinyurl.com/mry58zuw>.



Counting the Omer

Lag B'Omer

Monday, May 8 • 7:00-8:00pm • The home of Rabbi Lydia Medwin

Join Rabbi Medwin to learn about and celebrate this Jewish holiday making a big comeback! We'll take a look at some of our more mystical traditions, study the story of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, traditionally understood as the author of the Zohar, and enjoy the light of Torah (or a bonfire, if it's not too hot). RSVP to Nalo Grant by May 5th to reserve a spot as they are limited. First come, first serve.

Calling All Counters and Conversion Candidates!

Friday, May 26 • 5:00pm

We will conclude the counting of the Omer together at 5:00pm at The Temple, as we celebrate the end of Shavuot and the end of our counting. This will be an opportunity to spiritually conclude the journey from Passover to Shavuot and reflect on the gifts of our practice. It will also be a chance to gather all past and present conversion students, along with any Jews of Choice who'd like to join us, so we can honor you on this special day and rededicate to our ongoing learning together! So we can buy enough cheesecake for all (as dairy desserts are traditionally eaten for this holiday), RSVP online at www.the-temple.org/shavuot by May 24.

Mini Shabbat

Saturday, May 13 • 9:30am Service

10:00am Bagels, Coffee, and Playground

Join us for a hike up Mt. Sinai as we receive the Torah in honor of the upcoming holiday of Shavuot. We will start together with our mini friends for a fun service, and then enjoy some treats and coffee and run off the energy on our playground. We'll meet in The Temple's Motor Lobby—make sure to pay attention to the weather and dress accordingly, because we can play outside after refreshments! Questions? Email Rabbi Lydia Medwin at lmedwin@the-temple.org.



AJC Atlanta Honors Rabbi Peter Berg

Tuesday, May 23 • 6:00-9:00pm

American Jewish Committee (AJC) proudly presents the 2023 Distinguished Advocate Award to Rabbi Peter Berg of The Temple. Please join to celebrate Rabbi Berg's incredible contributions to AJC and the greater Atlanta community.

More information and registration: www.ajc.org/news/2023-distinguished-advocate-award-celebration.



Kulanu Two-Part Event: "Prayer for the French Republic"

Discussion

Tuesday, May 9 • 7:00pm

Join us at The Temple to discuss the show with Director Freddie Ashley.

Show

Saturday, May 13 • 7:30-10:30pm

Actors Express Theatre - 887 W Marietta St NW

On the eve of the 2016 French presidential elections, a Parisian doctor fears for her family amid the rise of antisemitism in France. This uplifting family saga introduces us to five generations yearning for the safety of home. Register at: www.the-temple.org/event/kulanu-prayer-for-the-french-republic-show.html

EVENTS & NEWS



The Temple visits The National Memorial for Peace and Justice and The Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama

Wednesday, May 31

Bus Departs: 8:00am • Bus Returns: 7:30pm

Cost (includes bus fee, museum entry fee, and lunch):

Member: \$70 / Community Member: \$85

Join us as we travel to Montgomery, AL, to visit the highly acclaimed National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Legacy Museum, which provides a one-of-a-kind chance to investigate America's history of racial injustice and its legacy. We will begin with a tour of the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, the only national memorial acknowledging the victims of racial terror lynching, which serves as a space for sacred truth telling and reflection. Then after enjoying box lunches together, we will visit the Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration, which opened at a new site in September 2021, a site where enslaved Black people were warehoused and forced to labor in bondage. Our hope is that we come away with a clearer sense of our country's history of racism and ways that we, as a congregation, can make a difference for the better.

If finances prevent you from traveling with us, please reach out to Rabbi Medwin for assistance.

For questions and to RSVP by May 1, visit www.the-temple.org/montgomery or contact Elizabeth Foster at efoster@the-temple.org.

Introducing Refaenu!

Dear Temple community,

This past Yom Kippur, Rabbi Peter Berg spoke powerfully about the need to destigmatize mental health issues and ensure that we all see The Temple as an important resource to promote mental and spiritual wellbeing.

We are excited to launch a new initiative called Refaenu, which means "our healing," and refers to the myriad of resources and tools found within ourselves, our community, and our tradition to help us navigate life with a little more ease.

The group behind this work is composed of practitioners and advocates, clergy, lay leaders with direct experience, and lay leaders who know how life-saving this work can be. We have been busy working on our vision, an internal assessment of our current resources and ways to share uplifting additional support with our congregants. As the initiative grows, we look forward to including the many volunteers who've already offered their help and those who'll come forward over time.

We look forward to being a central resource to you and your family. We know that one out of five of us will struggle at some point in our lives with mental health challenges. You are not alone and you are not invisible – we are here for you and we can help.

Warmly,

Beth Krakow, Refaenu co-chair

Rabbi Lydia Medwin, Refaenu co-chair

If you would like to join us or would like additional information, please contact bethkrakow@me.com or lmedwin@the-temple.org.



Refaenu

Healing Our Community From Within

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Join us for a special Shabbat on Friday, May 19 at 6pm dedicated to this topic. We'll pray together using the

ancient mental health healing practices of our tradition.

Following the service, enjoy dinner and an interactive program focused on learning what Temple members believe are mental health needs and wants for our community.

This is critically important to being able to provide future programming and continued resources for Temple members. Register for dinner at www.the-temple.org/refaenu-shabbat.

Did you know?

A national emergency number, 988, for mental health emergencies was recently created. **If you are experiencing a mental health crisis, please call or text 988 immediately for help.**

For ongoing mental health resources and spiritual wellness practices, join us at Temple or online for one of many upcoming programs, services, referrals, or one-on-one counseling with our clergy.

Zaban Paradies Center

Happy May

With May comes warmer weather, and our team continues to be in the community.

Did you know Zaban Paradies Center serves in the community with outreach, diversion, and rapid rehousing? Homelessness Diversion is a Zaban Paradies Program that seeks to assist people experiencing homelessness in the city of Atlanta who have just lost their housing. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, "Diversion is an intervention...Diversion is a client-driven approach; its goal is to help the person or household find safe alternative housing immediately, rather than entering shelter or experiencing unsheltered homelessness. It is intended to ensure that the homelessness experience is as brief as possible, to prevent unsheltered homelessness, and to avert stays in shelter." Joshua and his mother recently sought help at Zaban Paradies Center. During the pandemic, Joshua halted his education, like many other students. He returned to Atlanta to start his program, but his housing plans fell through. Joshua and his mother were experiencing homelessness in Atlanta. Yet, Joshua was determined to finish his degree. A community member told him about Zaban Paradies Center. Joshua and his mother now have stable employment, housing, and Joshua will graduate in May with his degree in English and African American Studies.

Pictured below is Joshua at Morehouse College, where he will graduate in May.

Ways to Support ZPC's Programs

We are grateful for the continued support and partnership of The Temple. Here are ways you can help us to be a light to couples, families, and individuals in need in our community.

- To give safely and securely online, please visit www.zabanparadiescenter.org/ways-to-give.
- To see our updated winter needs for our residents and the public experiencing homelessness please visit our website at www.zabanparadiescenter.org/ways-to-give and click on the Amazon Wish List link.
- We need year-round meal suppliers. To provide a meal, you can visit our website and connect with our signup sheet, or you can connect directly with Bea Feiman (404-504-2370, bfeiman@yahoo.com) or Bobbi Wilson (404-259-1489, bobbwilson@gmail.com).
- Want to facilitate a therapeutic art, music, poetry, or exploratory course? Visit www.zabanparadiescenter.org/volunteer.



Passing the Torch

Executive Director Emeritus Mark Jacobson welcomes his successor, Executive Director Jeremy Perlin.

It's our first Horizons Atlanta summer at The Temple!

Horizons at The Temple is a new enrichment program to support area students with summer learning and engagement.

We need your support to make it a success!

Volunteer in the classroom, on a field trip, or even the swimming pool. One-week or one-time opportunities available.

Busy this summer, but want to help? You can also donate to support Horizons at The Temple. Learn more at www.the-temple.org/horizons

Come learn with us!

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Support The Temple when you shop!

Kroger Community Rewards

It's easy and it doesn't impact your savings! To enroll, visit kroger.com with your Kroger Plus card handy. Create an account or sign in to your existing account, then enroll by searching our **NPO number: ST889**. To verify you are enrolled correctly, The Temple's name, "**The Temple: THE HEBREW BENEVOLENT CONGREGATION**," will appear on the right side of the page. Enrollment takes up to 7 days before you start earning towards The Temple community rewards.



iGive.com Rewards Program

Enroll at www.iGive.com/the-temple, then shop online as you normally would—no added steps. Over 1,900 Online Stores—including all your favorites!



EVENTS & NEWS



A CELEBRATION IN HONOR OF THE TEMPLE'S *LEGENDARY* Mark Jacobson RETIRING AFTER 45+ YEARS!

(1) Mark's family gathered from near and far to attend this once-in-a-lifetime event. (2) Senior Rabbi Peter Berg presented Mark with a portrait that now hangs in the corridor leading to the sanctuary, featuring Senior Rabbi Emeritus Alvin M. Sugarman, Executive Director Emeritus Mark R. Jacobson, and Cantor Emerita Deborah Hartman. (3) Head of Maintenance Lonnie Fitzgerald spoke beautifully about his longtime mentor, boss and friend in what many considered a program highlight. (4) Longtime colleague, Dianne Ratowsky, also transitioning to retirement, shares a hug with Mark. (5) The Temple clergy and staff performed an adapted version of "Time to Say Goodbye" from *Hamilton* for their tribute. (6) Mark and his family say the motzi before everyone adjourns to the reception. (7) Former Program Director Ronnie van Gelder wishes her friend well. (8) The crowd listened to program speakers, including Senior Rabbi Emeritus Alvin M. Sugarman, who hired Mark Jacobson in May 1977. (9) Hundreds of Temple members, current and former staff and colleagues, executive directors, vendors and national leaders were in attendance. (10) The past presidents formed a receiving line at the end of the program to congratulate the nation's longest running synagogue executive director.

Photo Credit: Ellis Vener Photography



(1)



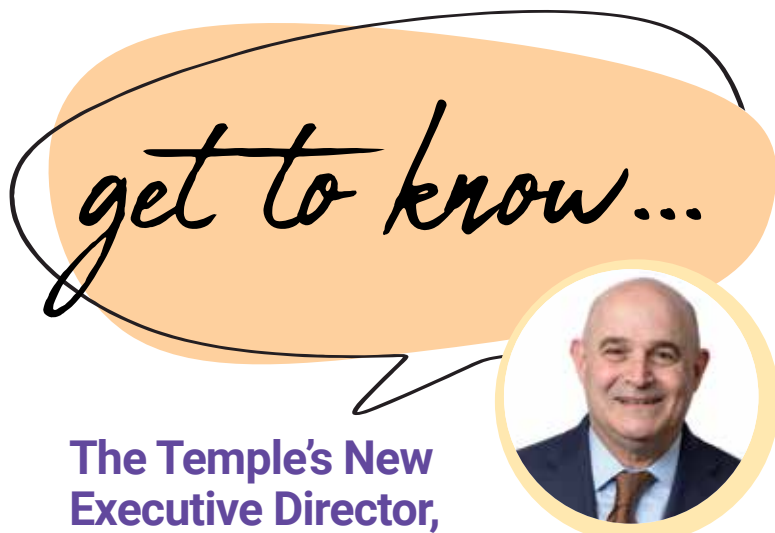
(2)



(3)







The Temple's New Executive Director, Jeremy Perlin

We have your bio and credentials, but we just want to get to know you more as a person and for our congregation to get to know you.

The real Jeremy Perlin?

Exactly. Tell us just a little bit about your early life.

I was born in Baltimore, Maryland, where we lived until I was in kindergarten. Then we moved to Los Angeles. During my time in LA, apparently I went trick-or-treating at Diana Ross and Zsa Zsa Gabor's houses. I don't remember any of this, but this was an early brush with fame. We lived in California for a couple of years and then moved back to Bethesda, MD, where I lived until I went to college and where my parents still live.



Fun fact?

My mother is a native Washingtonian. She grew up on Connecticut Avenue and remembers Harry Truman walking down the street when he was a United States senator. On my mother's side, my family goes back generations in the Washington area—my great grandfather was the first postmaster of Bladensburg, Maryland.



What did you want to be when you grew up?

A firefighter or an NFL running back! At a certain point I did think, especially growing up in Washington, that I would go to law school and become a lawyer, which I did.

How did you then become an executive director of a synagogue?

It's been an interesting journey! My wife, Susan Frankel, and I lived in Chicago in the 1990s and decided to move to Cincinnati, where she grew up. We were young and didn't have kids. So, we took a chance and started our own family business—a specialty running store—called Fleet Feet Sports Cincinnati. We built it into one of the top running stores in the country and operated it for more than a decade. I loved the community building aspect of the store, the day-to-day engagement with customers and partnering with businesses. As our kids got older and started getting into various activities, we decided to sell the store.

After selling Fleet Feet, I worked as legal counsel at the Reform seminary in Cincinnati, Hebrew Union College. I was there for five years, but I missed the community facing & engagement aspects that I had loved when we owned the store.

So I was interviewing for some different roles in the Chicago area and a friend—and congregant at Temple Shalom—mentioned that the congregation was looking for a new executive director. My friend suggested that I meet the chair of the search committee for an 'informal coffee' and the next thing I knew I was moving back to Chicago to become the Executive Director at Temple Shalom. The role fills an important need for me—to be involved in an important mission and to build community.

How would your children describe you?

They would probably describe me as a little embarrassing and definitely loud, with instructions to moderate the level of my voice. Hopefully, they would say a few nice things too!

They would say that I am willing to road trip with them anywhere they need or want to go. These road trips often involve attending sporting events and finding really good restaurants wherever we go.

They would also tell you that I coached many of their sports teams when they were little—mostly soccer and basketball, but also a little bit of baseball and track. And I hope that they would say that I am one of their most avid fans—not missing many games, activities or performances over the years.





What's been your favorite or most memorable road trip?

During the height of the pandemic, I took my sons, Eli and Gabe, to the Boundary Waters in Minnesota. We literally went 'off the grid' on a week-long canoeing and camping trip, where the only way we could reach anybody was by satellite phone.

This will give you a glimpse of the personality differences between our two children: Eli was in his element, lugging the canoes and all of the gear with no problem. For every one trip Gabe and I took, Eli could take two. The first night it was pouring rain. I'm sharing a tent with Gabe, and he looks at me and he says, "Dad, tell me the truth. Wouldn't you rather be at a hotel right now?"

What are your impressions of Atlanta so far?

We have spent a fair amount of time in Atlanta over the years visiting close friends and family, so I know the city a little bit. Truth be told, I've been absolutely blown away by how amazing this experience has been. Everybody is so warm and welcoming, and just incredibly nice. Chicago isn't New York, but there's still an edge/cynicism where somebody from Chicago might say, "What's wrong with these people? What do they want from me? They're being really nice!"

In some ways, Atlanta reminds me of DC in terms of how green it is, the hills, and the older neighborhoods. Between how incredibly nice and generous everybody has been to just feeling great about Atlanta itself as a place to live. I'm thrilled about Atlanta and joining The Temple community—and our family is thrilled too!



What are three things on your bucket list?

- 1) I want to raft the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. That's a definite!
- 2) I really want to go back to South Africa as a family. Susan and I visited when Gabe was six months old. We were honored with a community service award from a vendor that is based there. We helped support a South African school for children with disabilities. The community service award included a trip to South Africa and the "opportunity" to run the Comrades Marathon, which is a 56-mile ultramarathon. Susan and I ran from the start in Durban to the school, which is about 35 miles. We were then with the kids from the school and it was just an amazing feeling. Susan and I would love to go back, but this time with Eli and Gabe.
- 3) And I'd love to go to the Super Bowl.



Do you have a favorite song?

I should say something like "Georgia on my Mind" by Ray Charles, which I love. Since Alan Jackson is from Georgia, I'm tempted to say, "It's 5 O'clock Somewhere"—but people may get the wrong impression of me!

Actually, nearly anything by an artist named Robert Earl Keen, Jr. Many people haven't heard of him, but he was Lyle Lovett's roommate at Texas A&M University. Kind of an eclectic artist—a mix of ironic country music, folk music, rock, and more recently, he put out a bluegrass album.

Are there any questions that you wish I had asked?

You didn't ask me about TV shows. I'm a fan of *The Crown* and *Ted Lasso*—sad that it's *Ted Lasso*'s last season.



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156th ANNUAL MEETING & INSTALLATION

MULTI-ACCESS: JOIN US IN PERSON OR ON ZOOM!

Wednesday, May 17, 2023
6:00pm in the Sanctuary



Register at www.the-temple.org/annualmeeting!

In accordance with The Temple's By-Laws, you will find below the slate of trustees to be presented by the Nominating Committee. We are proposing changes to the by-laws—scan the QR code for more information.



INTRODUCING OUR NEW TRUSTEES:

Trustees, Term Expiring 2026:

Matt Ames

Matt and his wife Elizabeth (Liz) have been members at the Temple for 10 years. Matt graduated from the Leadership Development Class in 2022 and he and Liz have participated in several interfaith initiatives over the years at the Temple together. In addition to his involvement at the Temple, Matt previously served on the board of directors at Jewish Family and Career Services and as Board Chair for Dad's Garage Theatre Company. He is also a graduate of the Metro Atlanta Arts and Culture Coalition Leadership Program, Class of 2008. In recent years, Matt and Liz have organized and led a substantial annual fundraising effort for the Emory Winship Cancer Institute. Matt is a partner at the law firm of Balch & Bingham, where he handles complex business disputes, trade secrets litigation, business divorces, and disputes concerning non-competes and other restrictive covenants. He has been recognized as a Georgia Super Lawyer for several years running and was selected by his peers for inclusion in the 2023 edition of The Best Lawyers in America. Matt and Liz live in Inman Park with their two sons, Eli (10) and Isaac (7), who are both students at the Bremen Education Center. On most weekends, you can find Matt and Liz cheering wildly for their boys out on the soccer field.



Stacey Berg

Stacey Berg and her family have been members of The Temple since moving to Atlanta in 2012. She became chairperson of the RSJI Public Education Committee last year, leading The Temple Backpack Buddies and spearheading the new Horizons at The Temple enrichment program starting this summer. She looks forward to joining the board and continuing her work in Public Education by providing opportunities for student enrichment in the Atlanta area with support from The Temple community. She also serves on the board of The Zadie Project and is actively involved in a number of activities with her daughter's school, Midtown High School.

Stacey has built her career working in innovation and brand development, and now co-owns a marketing company specializing in branding and websites for professional businesses. She has a journalism degree from the University of Missouri and an MBA from Washington University. She and her husband Chris have two girls, Laine and Kate, both of whom became B'nei Mitzvah at The Temple and continued through Confirmation. For fun, you can find Stacey hanging with her family, playing tennis, or attending music festivals.





Justin Bluth

Justin has been a member of The Temple since moving to Atlanta with his wife, Meg from Minneapolis in 2008. Soon after their 1st high holidays at The Temple they knew they found a new Jewish home, developing close friendships with several members of the clergy and other young couples that were members. Justin has been an active member of The Temple community including Melton School Graduate, Torah reader, member of the Cultural Arts Committee, past choir participant and self-proclaimed rock-star 1st baseman for Temple Z softball. Justin's two children, Ezri (10) and Aliza (8) attend BEC each Sunday and, though hard to believe, Ezri has just been given their b'nei mitzvah date.

Justin is a Brand Management Executive responsible for defining and implementing both brand and business growth strategies for major national brands. Justin began his career working for General Mills, working on brands including Betty Crocker, Hamburger Helper, Chex Cereal/Snack Mix, and Pop Secret Popcorn. He moved to Atlanta where he joined Newell Brands. There, he has been the Brand Director for Calphalon Kitchen Housewares, Paper Mate, Sharpie, Expo Dry Erase, Prismacolor, and most recently Elmer's. In these roles, Justin has had overall P&L responsibility and delivered meaningful innovation, commercialization programs, and operational efficiencies to grow both top and bottom line performance.



Michael Hertz

Michael Hertz is the Chief Operating Officer at United Distributors, Inc., the largest beverage alcohol distributor in Georgia and Alabama. A native Atlantan, Michael is a fourth-generation member of The Temple where he celebrated his Bar Mitzvah and confirmation. Michael graduated from The Westminster Schools in 2001 and received a business degree from the Freeman School of Business at Tulane University in 2005. Michael serves on the Board of Directors at the Grady Health Foundation. He served on the Board of Directors at Camp Twin Lakes from 2013-2021. Michael recently completed seven years of service on the Board of Directors at Our House, including serving as Board Chair in 2019-20 and co-chairing their completed \$4.5m capital campaign. Additionally, Michael serves on the Board of the American Jewish Committee of Atlanta. Within his industry, Michael serves on the Board of Directors at the Georgia Beer Wholesalers Association (GBWA), where he was previously Board President. In 2022, he joined the Board of Directors at the Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America (WSWA), where he also chaired their Council for Leadership Development in 2018. Michael and his wife Emily live in Atlanta with their daughter Eloise and sons Jennings and George.



Gail Podolsky

Gail Podolsky and her family have been members of The Temple since 2015. She lives in the Virginia Highlands with her wife, Kim, and their two children, Riley (5) and Jamie (2). Gail is proud to follow in her parents' footsteps as both of them have served as board members at their



local synagogue. Gail is the current chair of the RSJI LGBTQ+ group, a member of The Temple Mosaic, and a graduate of The Temple's Leadership Development Program. She is also a graduate of the ADL Glass Leadership Institute, board member of the American Civil Liberties Union, immediate past president of the ACLU of Georgia, and the Treasurer of Startup Atlanta, a non-profit focused on connecting, growing, and promoting the Metro Atlanta Startup Ecosystem. Professionally, Gail is a technology and intellectual property lawyer and chairs the Technology Industry Group at Carlton Fields.

Deborah Wexler

Debbie's career as a Risk Manager for Piedmont Hospital, Emory Healthcare and MagMutual Insurance Company has taken her from providing care to individuals and families to advising physicians and healthcare institutions on conflict resolution and best practices.



Since her professional retirement, she has worked with Temple programs on refugee support, Caring at the Temple and the Midtown Assistance Center. She serves as a docent at the Berman Museum, where she actively supports its mission of educating school children about the Holocaust.

Debbie and her husband, Jack, met as new members of the Temple 33 years ago and were married there four years later. Their four children became B'nei Mitzvah and Confirmants and now live in Washington DC, Denver and Boston. They have 5 grandchildren.

Lynne and Howard Halpern Endowment Fund, Board of Trustees, Term Expiring 2026:

Patty Reid

Patty Reid is a native Atlantan, a third-generation member of The Temple, and a Temple confirmand. She and her husband Doug were married at The Temple in 1987. Patty has been active over the years at The Temple, most recently, co-chairing The Temple's year-long 150th Anniversary Celebration and chairing the retirement celebration for Mark Jacobson.



An active member of the Atlanta community, Patty currently serves on the boards of the Atlanta Speech School, where she is a former board chair, the Alliance Theatre, Skyland Trail, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, ARCS Atlanta and is a life member of the board of Camp Twin Lakes.

Patty holds degrees from the University of Virginia (BA) and Tulane University (MBA). Before returning to Atlanta, Patty lived in New York for thirteen years, first working at Citibank and then in her own mail-order catalogue business.

Patty and Doug have two grown children, Jill and Tommy, who were both confirmed at The Temple and are currently living in New York and Austin, respectively.

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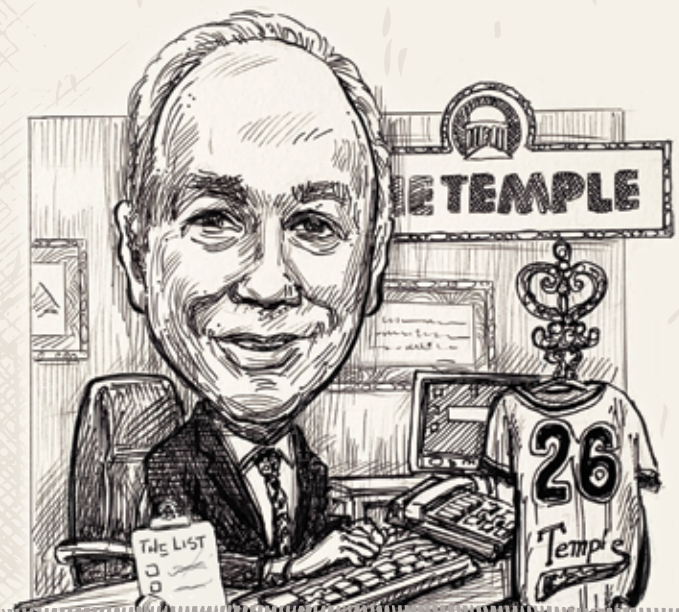
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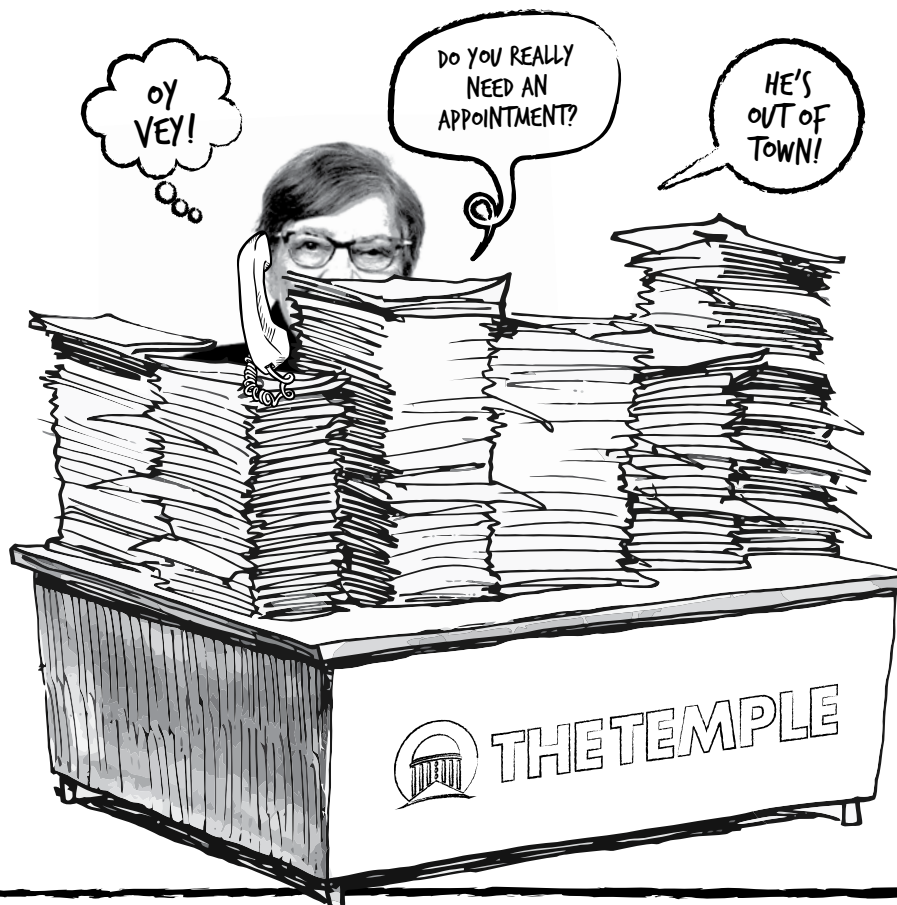
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