Shabbat honoring NEW MEMBERS

Join for a Special Shabbat Service & Dinner on Friday, November 3
See page 7 for details.

also inside...
Temple Connect Fair
Sandwich Salon
Blood Drive
... and more!
SCHEDULE: NOVEMBER 2023

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3
6:00pm  Shabbat Worship Service honoring New Members & November Birthdays

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4
9:00am  Torah Study
10:30am Shabbat Worship Service & B’nei Mitzvah of Elena Sladkus and Orly Sladkus

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10
6:00pm  Shabbat Worship Service honoring our Veterans

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11
9:00am  Torah Study & Kaddish
9:30am  Mini Shabbat Morning

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17
6:00pm  Shabbat Worship Service with Shir Chadash

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18
9:00am  Torah Study
10:30am Shabbat Worship Service & B’nei Mitzvah of Anna Cleveland and Catherine Katz

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24
6:00pm  Shabbat HaNefesh

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25
9:00am  Torah Study & Kaddish

TORAH & HAFTARAH:

NOVEMBER 4: Vayeira

NOVEMBER 11: Chayei Sarah

NOVEMBER 18: Tol’dot

NOVEMBER 25: Vayeitzei
Genesis 28:10–32:3; Hosea 12:13-14:10

LEADERSHIP & STAFF

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

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

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Ryan Benjamin, Engagement & Communications Assistant
Sophie Brilliant, Coordinator of Teen & Family Experiences
Antonio Burston, Maintenance Team
Judy Cole, Pianist
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Lonnie Fitzgerald, Maintenance Team
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Abby Friedman, BEC Administrative Assistant
Rebecca Good, Assistant Director of Education
Nalo Grant, Clergy Administrative Assistant
Lisa Madrigal, Executive Assistant to the Senior Rabbi
Heather McKerley, Accounting Assistant & Facilities Maintenance Coordinator
Dianne Ratowsky, Administrative Assistant
Robin Reineri, WELC Office Manager
Justin Strom, Head of Security
Jordan Wilensky, Music Specialist
We Are the Stories We Tell

OF all the marvelous inventions and massive projects in the world, the story is still the most powerful tool we humans have. Around 70,000 year ago, scientists say that storytelling was born, a cognitive leap called the Tree of Life mutation. With it, legends were born, along with myths, religions, the fiction of kingship...even now, democracy, limited liability companies, Barbie, all of these are stories we collectively share and use to shape our reality. Stories help us define who we are and how we relate to others. Stories help us empathize with others whom we would never meet. Stories unify large groups of us towards a common goal, and give our individual actions more meaning, creating a sense of belonging over time and space.

Emory University professor, Marshall Duke, famously explored ritual and myth in American families. What he found is that children who know their families’ stories tend to do better when faced with challenges. “The more children knew about their family’s history, the stronger their sense of control over their lives, the higher their self-esteem and the more successfully they believed their families functioned.” He also found that the most helpful type of family narrative was one that he called the “oscillating family narrative.”

We know this story. We know it because every one of our families lives it. It’s the story of overcoming adversity and then flailing again, and then triumph followed by pitfall followed by more victories and more challenges. We also know this “oscillating family narrative” because it’s the story of our people. The month of November this year is filled with Torah stories about a certain family and their near constant drama: Abraham passing his wife Sarah off as his sister to avoid dishonor, Hagar and Ishmael’s near death experience, Lot and his poor, curious, nameless wife, Isaac and Rebecca’s story that goes from love to bitterness faster than an episode of The Bachelor, Jacob, Rachel, and Leah and their strained love triangle, the twelve sons and one daughter who all suffer for their father’s shortcomings.

Their stories include infighting and deceit, falling in love and finding God, exile and return, and so much more. Why would this family define who we are to become as a people? Why do we continue to tell these stories and build a future on the tumult of their lives? Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks comments on our family story too: “Knowing the Bible as well as we do, we rarely if ever stop to consider how strange this is. But it is strange to the point of being unique. Every other literature until modern times ... is about epic heroes, gods or demigods, figures of legendary strength and power. The stunning originality of the Book of Genesis is that its heroes and heroines are ordinary people in ordinary situations, made extraordinary not by their power but by their loyalty to one another and to God.”

Continued on page 9.
November is a time to be thankful!

Every November we start to think about what we are thankful for so this year we thought we would share what some of our WELC students are thankful for…

- Emma (4) is thankful for her baby sister.
- Jack (4) is thankful for sleep and his bed.
- Charlotte (4) is thankful for her mommy.
- Lily (4) is thankful for her big sister.
- Sloane (3) is thankful for unicorns.
- Miles (3) is thankful for family, friends, and his house.
- Autumn (3) is thankful for bananas.
- Harrison (3) is thankful for firefighters and firetrucks.
- Emmett (2) is thankful for his mommy and toys.
- Ezra (2) is thankful for firetrucks and cookies.

All of us at WELC are thankful for our amazing families, teachers, staff, and supporters! Happy Thanksgiving!
Project Merry Mitzvah
Project Connect (our high school youth program) is gearing up for our annual social action initiative! Each December our teens host a Shabbat dinner and shopping evening for the residents of the Zaban Paradies Center. Teens will serve dinner, celebrate with the residents, and then give them an opportunity to go shopping in the "mall" for a gift for their spouse or partner. This can’t happen without help from you. If your teen would like to get involved, please contact one of our co-chairs: Sarah Zedd, Daniel Ratner, Anna Banner, or Emily Silver.

We need donations! Visit www.the-temple.org/merrymitzvah to be connected to our Amazon Wish List and make a contribution of a new item for our shopping “mall.” For more information, please contact Sophie Brilliant at sbrilliant@the-temple.org.

45 Club
Our 4th and 5th graders having tons of fun exploring science and making new friends during the 45 Club event.
B’NEI MITZVAH

NOVEMBER 4: 
Elena Sladkus
Parents: Laura & Jeffrey Sladkus

NOVEMBER 4: 
Orly Sladkus
Parents: Laura & Jeffrey Sladkus

NOVEMBER 18: 
Anna Cleveland
Parents: Katy & Adam Cleveland

NOVEMBER 18: 
Catherine Katz
Parents: Lisa & Edward Katz

MAZAL TOV!

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

Temple Z for the second year in a row won the Division B Silver Bracket Championship in the Greater Atlanta Men’s Synagogue League.

Dianne Ratowsky on the birth of her great-granddaughter Pearl Sylvia Brenner; and to parents, Andrea and Nate Brenner.

Hamilton Greene and Megna Saha on their wedding; and to Hamilton’s parents, Natalie and George Greene.

Mrs. Tamara (Smith) Washington and Frank Washington on the birth of their son, Banks Howard Washington; and to big brother Benjamin Washington.

Betty Garrett on the birth of two new granddaughters, Sequoia Jo Sorte Bernstein and Sydney Navarro Heaps.

Marc and Randy Hyman Shapiro on the birth of their new grandnephew, Archer Miles Reich; and to parents, Evan and Norma Leaf Reich.

Joyce Shlesinger on the birth of her great grandson, Daniel Calvin Zacks.

Ashley Fayth Carey and Alexander John Carey on the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Ann Carey, and to grandparents, Beth Ann and I.J. Rosenberg.

Debbie and Jack Wexler on the birth of their 5th grandchild, Fern Eleanor Wilson.

CONSECRATION CLASS OF 5784

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

Our Heartfelt Sympathy to the Families of:

Jerry R. Anglea
(brother of Janet Dortch)

Dr. Louis “Lou” Sheldon Belinfante
(husband of Janice Belinfante)

Susan Geiger
(sister of Larry Sommerfeld)

Noah Leopold
(brother of Jenna Leopold Shulman)

Claire Levine
(aunt of Judy Lipshutz)

Sarah Smith Malino
(mother of Daniel Malino)

Milton Weinman
(father of Richard Weinman)
Shabbat honoring New Members & November Birthdays—Services And Dinner
Friday, November 3 • 6:00pm
Join us in Schwartz-Goldstein Hall as we celebrate our New Members and November birthdays. New Members will be offered a blessing of dedication and gifts during our service. Optional dinner will be available for purchase or bring your own picnic-style meal. Learn more about Temple Connect, our small groups program, as well as other committees and initiatives looking for volunteers and continue to find ways to connect and make your home here at The Temple. Visit www.the-temple.org/sotl to RSVP.

Temple Connect: Mah Jongg & Canasta Luncheon
Sunday, November 5, 2023 • 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
We will begin with lunch and then break into individual games. This event is a thank you from The Temple to all of our game players. Not only do we each appreciate our fellow players, but The Temple wants you to know how appreciative it is of our active participation in Temple Connect. RSVP at www.the-temple.org/games.

Sandwich Salon Returns!
Come connect with other women at these informative events planned just for us! Bring your lunch, bring a friend, and enjoy conversation with women of all ages.
So, mark your calendars and join us for some exciting and provocative discussions at our quarterly programs.

Talking Turkey with Sandra Bank, President of Added Touch Catering
Tuesday, November 7 • 11:30am-1:00pm
Back by popular demand! Join us for a pre-Thanksgiving program and cooking demo with the force behind Atlanta’s award-winning upscale catering company of nearly 30 years.

Mini Shabbat
Saturday, November 11 • 9:30am Shabbat Moments • 10:00am Bagels and Coffee and Playtime
Join us for a beautiful fall Shabbat morning as we give thanks for all of our blessings in the season of Thanksgiving. Sing with your favorite Shabbat puppet friends and join in an activity that will reveal all the many things for which we give thanks! You’ll even learn how to say “thank you” in Hebrew! We’ll meet in The Temple’s Motor Lobby and then continue the fun outdoors.
No RSVP required and feel free to bring your friends and family. Questions? Email Rabbi Lydia Medwin at lmedwin@the-temple.org.

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Age & Stage
VIYP: Games & Giving
Tuesday, November 7 • 6:30-8:30pm
Join us for our friendsgiving event including a yummy turkey day inspired meal and bring a game to share with friends. RSVP at www.the-temple.org/yp.

K-2: Bowling
Sunday, November 12 • 12:30-2:30pm at Midtown Bowl
$10/person includes two hours of bowling, shoes, and pizza. All families with kids in kindergarten, first and second grades are invited to join us to get to know one another and have a great time!

Sages: Lunch and CDC Tour
Friday, November 17 • 12:15 pm
Meet at The Temple for lunch ($18/person), and then we will journey together by bus to the CDC for a Docent Choice tour. Explore the permanent exhibition, The Story of CDC, from the lens of a CDC expert and different highlights based on the docent’s expertise and preference.
Upcoming Events in December!

Montag Speaker Series with Dr. Lisa Miller
December 1-3
Join us for an entire weekend of learning with our Montag Speaker Series guest, Dr. Lisa Miller, author of The Spiritual Child and The Awakened Brain. She will explore with us dimensions of spiritual development throughout life, from the youngest child to the most senior among us.

Rabbi Sugarman Receives NIF Tzedek Award
Sunday, December 3
See details and registration link below.

Shabbanukah
Friday, December 8
Musical service with the help of Shir Chadash (our volunteer band), our youth and adult choirs and teen band, get in the Chanukah spirit. Latkes following services!

Vodka & Latkes: Adult Only Chanukah Party
Saturday, December 9
Join us for an adult-only evening with drinks, dancing, and yummy bites. This will be an evening you won’t want to miss!

Blood Drive
Sunday, November 12 • 9:00am-1:00pm
Blood donation saves lives! Join us for a Lifesouth blood drive at The Temple. All donors will receive a recognition item and a free cholesterol screening. Donors must be 16 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, and show photo I.D. 16-year-olds require written parental permission. To sign up, visit https://donors.lifesouth.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/808958.

Exploring the Stories of Biblical Women
Sunday, November 12 • 11:30am-5:00pm • Cost: Free
Ebenezer Baptist Church: 101 Jackson St, Atlanta, GA 30312
Please join the women of St. Luke’s, The Temple, and Ebenezer Baptist Church on in the Ebenezer Fellowship Hall as we explore the stories of biblical women through the Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney’s artistic, challenging and provocative “midrash” stories. The event will include brunch and refreshments throughout the day.
Register at: https://ebenezeratl.crchechurch.com/goto/forms/179/responses/new. Once you register, you will receive a personal email reminder with pertinent information to ensure that you are prepared for this gathering.
Should you have any questions, please contact Rabbi Lydia Medwin at lmedwin@the-temple.org.

SIGD
Tuesday, November 14 • 7:00pm
Sigd is an ancient Jewish holiday that was preserved by the Ethiopian Beta Israel community through the generations. In Ethiopia this holiday was a highlight of the Jewish year, bringing Jews together in commitment to Torah and celebration of community. Today, the celebration of Sigd is a highlight of the Israeli calendar and spreading beyond the Beta Israel community and even to the United States.
Join us as we learn about Sigd, its rituals, themes and traditions. Hear stories of Ethiopian heroism and the challenges and joys of one of the world’s oldest Jewish communities. This program is presented in conjunction with Be’chol Lashon and with the support of The Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta’s Propel Grant.

Leven Interfaith
Jewish Genes and Jewish Babies—A Conversation with Drs. Jane and Jonathan Meisel
Tuesday, November 28 • 7:00pm
Wondering about genetic testing both for yourself and your future children? Wondering what happens when those children actually arrive? Come have wine and cheese and a conversation with Temple members Drs. Jane and Jonathan Meisel. Jane is an oncologist specializing in breast cancer at Winship and a medical director with JScreen, and Jonathan is a pediatric surgeon and mohel. Rabbi Lapidus will facilitate this informal evening of sharing questions and information. Sponsored by the Leven Family Jewish Identity Institute, this program is for anyone interested in the topic (you don’t have to be married, pregnant, or a member of The Temple!).

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We Are the Stories We Tell
Continued from page 3.

With November’s Torah parshiyot, we begin the Jewish story yet again. In the next few weeks, Abraham will laugh at the prospect of a child after years of infertility. Issac and Esau will have a tearful reunion after a twenty year estrangement. Joseph will go through immigration and a prison term only to become one of the most powerful people in Egypt. “To be a Jew is to see yourself as a part of that story,” says Sacks. It is because our stories are filled with ordinary people that we can see ourselves in them. And through their stories, we understand that our Jewish “oscillating family narrative” gives us immeasurable strength, esteem, and belief in our capacity for survival and thriving.

So, as we head into different opportunities for gathering with family this fall, I encourage you to share the stories of your own families: the good, the bad, and the ugly. All of them will benefit our children and grandchildren. And I encourage you to dig more deeply into our Jewish family stories – take a class, attend Torah study, come to Shabbat services. Inhabit these stories. Make them your own. Share these stories, alongside your interpretations of them, with your children, too. The Jewish stories we tell define what we think about ourselves and others. Continuing to tell them with our own depth and nuance will define our Jewish future. They are our Tree of Life, and they make us more human. Through them, we will shape our world for the better. After all, we are the stories we tell.

Rabbi Lydia Medwin

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

UPCOMING EVENT:
Technology, Anxiety, and Teens–A Program for Parents
Sunday, November 5 • 9:45-11:00am
Gather with other parents and learn from mental health professionals about how to prevent battles over devices, how tech may be contributing to our children’s anxiety, and how we can negotiate tech in all of our lives for the sake of our children (and ourselves).

Blue Jeans, Bow Ties, & Bling
A Fundraiser for the Zaban Paradies Center
Celebrating 40 Years of Home
Thursday, April 11, 2024
The Wimbish House hosted by Atlanta Woman’s Club
Sponsorship Opportunities Available

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis and need immediate help, call or text 988 to get help now.
CONTRIBUTIONS

RABBIS’ DISCRETIONARY FUND

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Larry, Mary & Michael Chesin
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Michelle D. Belinfante
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Scottie Davis
In Appreciation of
Yom Kippur Services
Mark R. & Janis Henowitz
In Appreciation of
High Holiday Services
Andrew Berg
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The Rothstein Family
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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!
**Esther Bleich Scholarship**

More than 40 years ago, Dr. Jack K. Bleich endowed a scholarship fund in memory of his mother, Esther Bleich. Thanks to Dr. Bleich's generosity, The Temple has been able to award college scholarships to many very deserving Temple members and other Jewish Atlantans. This financial assistance is targeted at students who need additional funds for their education. In accordance with Dr. Bleich's instructions priority is given to any applicants pursuing the rabbinate or Jewish studies, however, funds are also awarded to those whose fields of study more broadly contribute society at large.

In accordance with Dr. Bleich's instructions, scholarship recipients will normally be offered a combination of grants and loans. Loans are interest-free until graduation. Recipients can choose not to accept the offered loans and still be awarded the grant portion of their scholarship. Awards can be made for undergraduate or graduate study.

Request an application by calling The Temple office at 404-873-1731 or emailing office@the-temple.org with the subject line “Esther Bleich Scholarship.” Completed applications must be received by The Temple no later than February 28, 2024.

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| In Memory of: |
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| Dianne Ratowsky |
| Dr. Louis Fishman |
| Barbara & Philip Fishman |
| Melvyn Greenberg |
| Paul Greenberg |
| Abe & Ruth Grubman |
| Annette & Marvin Grubman |
| In Honor of: |
| Dianne Ratowsky’s 40+ years at The Temple |
| Alexis & Ross Appel |
| Fayne Frankel's Birthday |
| Billie Guthman |
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| **JACOB M. ROTHSCHILD SOCIAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE FUND** |
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| Ronnie van Gelder |

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| **William & Cell Furman** |
| Judith & Neil Furman |
| **In Honor of:** |
| Birthday of Sidney L. Cohen, our Grandson |
| Janet & Richard Brody |
| **Appreciation of John Andre Williams** |
| Anonymous |
| **Continued good health to Tom Keating** |
| Barbara & Hank Kimmel |
| **Sandy & Ben Krause** |
| Roger Krause |
| **Appreciation of the High Holy Days** |
| Joy & Drew Freilich |
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| Arlene Starr |
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| Gregory Garcia |

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| **SONIA’S PLAYGROUND FUND** |
| In Memory of: |
| Morris Katz |
| Ruth Shacter |
| **TEMPLE LIBRARY FUND** |
| In Memory of: |
| Arnold Tieder |
| Judy Tieder Gringle |
| **TEMPLE SINGERS FUND** |
| In Honor of: |
| High Holy Days |
| Jill & Joe Ferst |
| Sam Hagan |
| Dr. Gary Botstein & Dr. Stephanie Sansom |
| **Donations:** |
| Paula Krone |
| Rebecca Zimmerman |
| Amy Shaye |
| Bonita Edlelberg |
| Susan Carney |
| **WEINBERG EARLY LEARNING CENTER FUND** |
| In Honor of: |
| Mark Jacobson |
| Marc & Randy Hyman Shapiro |
| **Appreciation of High Holidays** |
| Rachel & Brett Lasher |
TEMPLE CONNECT
SMALL GROUPS FAIR

Friday, November 3 • 5:00pm
Temple Connect Small Groups are formed around interests, needs, geography, demographic, advocacy causes or profession. They meet regularly at The Temple and off-site and are self-organizing. They are designed to deepen relationships and connections. Like hiking? Ethnic restaurants? Book clubs? Mah Jongg? Entrepreneurship? Want to start or join a group? Come find out what Temple Connect is all about!

For more information and a complete listing of Temple Connect groups, visit www.the-temple.org/findyourtribe.