



THE TEMPLE

Bulletin

Join us for the

5782

HIGH HOLY DAYS

Dates,
Events and
Information

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Sukkot &
Simchat Torah

RSJI

WELC Corner

... and more!



September 2021
Elul 5781-Tishrei 5782
v. 83 | no. 4

WORSHIP



1589 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30309
404.873.1731 | Fax: 404.873.5529
the-temple.org | office@the-temple.org

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LEADERSHIP & STAFF

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

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Justin Strom, *Head of Security*
Marjorie Vaughn, *TBRIS Administrative Assistant*
Rita Zadoff, *Donation & Event Coordinator*

SCHEDULE: SEPTEMBER 2021

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

6:00 PM Shabbat Worship Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

9:00 AM Torah Study

10:30 AM Shabbat Worship Service

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

7:30 PM Erev Rosh Hashanah

8:30 PM The Well Rosh Hashanah Service

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

9:00 AM & 11:30 AM Rosh Hashanah Sanctuary Service

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

10:30 AM 2nd Day Rosh Hashanah Service

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

6:00 PM Shabbat Shuvah Worship Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

9:00 AM Torah Study

10:30 AM Shabbat Worship Service

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

6:30 PM & 9:00 PM Kol Nidre Service

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

9:00 AM & 11:30 AM Yom Kippur Service

3:00 PM Afternoon/Yizkor/Concluding Service

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

6:00 PM Shabbat Worship Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

9:00 AM Torah Study

10:30 AM Shabbat Worship Service

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

6:00 PM Shabbat Sukkot Worship Service Picnic on Front Lawn

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

9:00 AM Torah Study

10:30 AM B'nei Mitzvah of Zach M. Agami & Max A. Schoenbaum

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

10:30 AM Simchat Torah/Yizkor Service

TORAH & HAFTARAH:

SEPTEMBER 4: Nitzavim

Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20; Isaiah 61:10-63:9

SEPTEMBER 11: Vayeilech

Deuteronomy 31:1-30; Isaiah 55:6-56:8

SEPTEMBER 18: Haazinu

Deuteronomy 32:1-52; II Samuel 22:1-51

SEPTEMBER 25: Third Day Chol Hamoed Sukkot

Exodus 33:12-34:26; Ezekiel 38:18-39:7



Opening and Closing Our Eyes at The New Year

Joseph Albers, one of the most influential visual arts teachers of the 20th century, used to say: *I prefer to see with my eyes closed.*

He must have been referring to what we all know intuitively, but seldom internalize: with our eyes open, we see surface reality – shapes, sizes, colors, etc. With our eyes closed, however, we contemplate the context of things, our relationship to them, and even their hidden meanings.

With my eyes wide open, a cup of coffee is just part of my morning routine, but when I close my eyes, the feel and the smell are part of memories and associations of holidays with my grandparents or dinner growing up. It transports me to other places and times.

The same is true with people. How we see each other is quite different with our eyes open or closed. With open eyes, we see physical features. With closed eyes, we remember shared experiences, friendships, moments joyous and sorrowful. Albers was right: when we want to see something clearly and deeply, we must close our eyes. That's why the meditation we do at the Yom Kippur Yizkor service is so very powerful.

I want to invite you to spend some time in anticipation of the New Year with your eyes closed. Take the time to see things more deeply, more carefully. While being fully aware of the surface failings in our lives, we look for the hidden signs of progress. We look for the long-range vision in our lives.

Opening and closing our eyes also gives us the ability to relate to our own perceptions of external realities. It opens the door to our self-understanding. During this Season of Awe, we will confess our sins and shortcomings. Here, we can close our eyes and look for our real selves, our deeper selves, our dreams, and aspirations. We can also envision our strengths and possibilities in the year that lies ahead.

On Rosh Hashanah, we know that we have to open our eyes – to see the prayer books, to see the people in our community, to see outside the stained-glass windows to the world that so desperately needs us. But, we can't forget to also close our eyes. This year, let us dream big dreams, seek out that which is hidden, and see far beyond the moment.

Let the closing of our eyes move us to a higher level of understanding, behavior, and engagement with our community. Teshuvah, after all, means that we can improve ourselves, that others can improve, and that the world can improve.

I look forward to seeing you for the Holy Days this year, at least the parts where your eyes are open!

I'shalom,

Peter S. Berg
Rabbi Peter Berg

About Rabbi Berg:

Peter Berg became the fifth senior rabbi of The Temple since 1895 in July 2008. He is thrilled to serve this diverse and multi-generational congregation as a spiritual leader. Rabbi Berg is passionate about Jewish learning and meaningful worship, and he is an advocate for social change. A native of Ocean Township, New Jersey, Rabbi Berg holds a degree in Education and Human Development, with a focus in human services, counseling and Judaic Studies from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He earned his M.A. in Hebrew Literature and his rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion in New York and Jerusalem. In 2013 Rabbi Berg was named by Newsweek and the Daily Beast as one of the most influential rabbis in the United States. In 2016, he was named by Georgia Trend as one of the 100 most influential Georgians and in 2019 and 2020 as one of Atlanta's most powerful leaders.

Connect with Rabbi Berg:

✉ pberg@the-temple.org
☎ 404.873.1731



WORSHIP

5782

HIGH HOLY DAYS

at  **THE TEMPLE**

IMPORTANT HIGH HOLY DAY INFORMATION

The High Holy Days are just around the corner! Please let us know if you have not received your mailings regarding schedules, usher volunteers, childcare, and membership status. We want you to enter the holiday season on a sweet note!

Erev Rosh Hashanah – Monday, September 6

Rosh Hashanah Day 1 – Tuesday, September 7

Rosh Hashanah Day 2 – Wednesday, September 8

Erev Yom Kippur – Wednesday, September 15

Yom Kippur – Thursday, September 16

Yizkor

Thursday, September 16

If you would like the name(s) of your loved one read at Yizkor Services, they passed away during last year, and the service was not performed by one of our Temple rabbis, or the service was out of town, please call The Temple office 404-873-1731.

All Babies Born in 5781

We would like to celebrate the birth of any new life during our Rosh Hashanah Service on Monday, September 10. If you or anyone in your family has given birth to a baby since last Rosh Hashanah please call The Temple office 404-873-1731.

Kever Avot Services

“The Graves of Our Ancestors”

Sunday, September 12

11:00am @ Crestlawn Cemetery

1:00pm @ Arlington Memorial Park

We are continuing our custom of Kever Avot (The Graves of Our Ancestors) for our members. This service is held on the Sunday between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Sunday, September 16. We will offer separate services at Crestlawn Cemetery and Arlington Memorial Park. It will be a time for us to confront our own mortality, and it will help each of us face the future with serious intent and purposefulness.



High Holy Day Food Drive & Help Unload the Truck

Sunday, September 19 @ 1:00pm

The Temple is a founding sponsor of the Midtown Assistance Center (MAC). MAC is a non-profit organization that has provided emergency assistance to the working poor of Midtown and Downtown Atlanta since 1986. As always, we continue to collect food on the High Holy Days in order to meet the critical hunger needs in our community. This expression of our unwavering commitment to social justice is a part of our proud Temple tradition. Help us unload the truck and sort and stack all of the food we collect here at The Temple.

RSVP to unload the truck by emailing Joya Schmidt at jschmidt@the-temple.org or by calling The Temple at 404-873-1731.

**You can find a schedule of services, parking information,
and more about the High Holy Days at the-temple.org/high-holy-days.**



HIGH HOLY DAYS 5782 SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES









Please visit our website at www.the-temple.org/high-holy-days for more information about our High Holy Days programming. Questions? Please contact The Temple at 404-873-1731.

 Available virtually.  Available in-person.

Erev Rosh Hashanah: Monday, September 6

		Location	Way to Access
7:30 PM	Sanctuary Worship Service	Sanctuary	 
8:30 PM	The Well Service	SG Hall	 

Rosh Hashanah: Tuesday, September 7

		Location	Way to Access
9:00 AM	Sanctuary Worship Service	Sanctuary	 
9:00 AM	Tot Service*	Zoo Atlanta*	 
10:15 AM	Family Service*	Zoo Atlanta*	 
11:30 AM	Sanctuary Worship Service	Sanctuary	 

Second Day Rosh Hashanah: Wednesday, September 8

		Location	Way to Access
10:30 AM	Sanctuary Worship Service	Sanctuary	 

Shabbat Shuvah: Friday, September 10

		Location	Way to Access
6:00 PM	Sanctuary Worship Service	Sanctuary	 












Kever Avot—The Graves of Our Ancestors: Sunday, September 12

		Location	Way to Access
11:00 AM	Kever Avot: Crest Lawn Cemetery	Crest Lawn Cemetery	
1:00 PM	Kever Avot: Arlington Memorial Park	Arlington Memorial Park	

Kol Nidre/Erev Yom Kippur: Wednesday, September 15

		Location	Way to Access
6:30 PM	Sanctuary Worship Service	Sanctuary	 
9:00 PM	Sanctuary Worship Service	Sanctuary	 

Yom Kippur: Thursday, September 16

		Location	Way to Access
9:00 AM	Sanctuary Worship Service	Sanctuary	 
9:00 AM	Family Gathering & Yom Kippur Ritual**	Atlanta Memorial Park**	
11:30 AM	Sanctuary Worship Service	Sanctuary	 
11:30 AM	Family & Tot Virtual Service	Virtual	
11:30 AM	Teen Service	SG Hall	 Teens only (12 & up)
2:00 PM	Study Session: Our Experiences in Israel: A Panel Discussion with Temple Teen Trip and Temple Birthright Trip Israel Participants	SG Hall	
2:00 PM	Meditative Music	Chapel	
3:30 PM	Afternoon/Yizkor/Concluding Service	Sanctuary	 

* Registration Required. Parking and admission information available upon registration.

** Registration requested. There will be a 15 minute ritual and activities distributed to enhance your time at the park.



B'NEI MITZVAH



SEPTEMBER 25

Zach Mayer Agami

Son of Amy & Ronnie Agami



SEPTEMBER 25

Max A. Schoenbaum

Son of Samantha & Marc Schoenbaum

MAZAL TOV!

Have good news to share?

Please email Dianne Ratowsky at dratowsky@the-temple.org.

Rachel Beth Menter and Nathan Rudy Krehbiel on their wedding and to parents Ruth and Larry Menter

Nathan Samuel Brenner and Andrea Leanna Ratowsky on their wedding and to Grandmother, Dianne.

Knox Richard Maslia and Samantha Megan Dines on their wedding and to parents Diane and Martin Maslia.

Andrew Meyer Fishman born to Matthew & Jordan Fishman and big brother, Austin.

Nora Janovitz born on 6/10/2021 to Scott & Sara Janovitz and to big sister, Avett

Isla Hart born to Arielle & Lee Hart and big brother, Noah.

Eloise Archer born to Abby & Grant Archer (and to big brother Wyatt and sister, Quinn).

Charles (Charlie) Hayden Altman born to Jonathan Altman & Ivy Cohen

Lila Hertz appointed as Chair of Piedmont Atlanta Hospital Board of Directors

NEW&RETURNING MEMBERS

Leslie & Jay Bland

Liam & Avery Bland

Molly Campbell Kroll &

Matthew Kroll

Viviana Kroll

Sara Hoffenberg & Jon Hoffenberg

Gabriel, Temma,

& Bennett Hoffenberg

Jodi & Greg Kaufmann

Oren, Eli, & Isaac Kaufmann

Brooke & Jason Linefsky

Micah & Eric Linefsky

Laura Rosen

Allison Sall & Thomas DiNatale

Theo DiNatale

Blair Schwab & Eduardo Escalona

Hillary Shaw & John Hyman

Wade & Mac Hyman

Gail Tescher

Mamie & Steven Vogel

Marian Grace Vogel

Kelsie Wenzel & Bowen Johnson

Wyatt Johnson

Jonathan Young

Annalise Young

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

Our Heartfelt Sympathy to the Families of:

Bert J. Schoeman (father of Lauren Levy)

Bill Schmidt (husband of Joya Schmidt)

Edwin Marvin Katten (father of Sue Tilis)

Samantha Beton (friend of Lissie Stahlman)

John "Tom" Tucker (father of Leo Tucker)

Phyllis Sanders Frankel (mother of Faith Levy)

Rebecca Ann Donaldson (mother of Cristy Solomon)

Ada Kaufman (mother of Jonathan Kaufman)

Nancy Geller (mother of Matthew Geller, David Geller and grandchildren, Audrey Henderson and Rachel Seiber)

Fred Chekanow (father of Mark Chekanow)

Dewey Schiele (father of Jeff Schiele)

Carole Metzger (wife of Nathan Metzger, father of Jennifer Metzger)

Ellie Berman (mother of Dan Berman)

Meet Our Staff!

Get to know some of the friendly faces at The Temple.

Nalo Grant

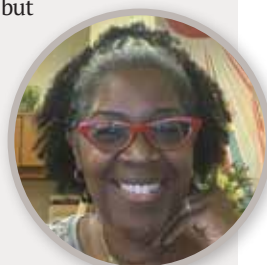
Clergy Administrative Assistant

Nalo was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan and raised her 4 daughters in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She moved to Bloomington, Indiana for 3 years before visiting Georgia and loving it so much she moved here and now calls Georgia her true home. After moving to Georgia, she met and married the love of her life, Antwan Grant. They have a dog and two cats and dream of one day owning a home and land so that they can have more pets. Nalo has a pet sitting service and also a hair braiding business that keeps her busy in her spare time, but she counts it a blessing to work at the temple and assist the clergy team.

Likes: Animals, chardonnay, good music, sunny days, lunch dates with friends, Starbucks

Dislikes: Mean people, cilantro, cold weather, sporks

Fun Fact: Nalo is a west African name that means "much loved."



EDUCATION



The Temple's Family Trip to Israel

June 14-26, 2022

We can't wait to travel again! This trip provides a wonderful b'nei mitzvah experience for children 12-14 years old as of June 2022 in addition to a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Israel! We have limited spaces remaining. If you are interested in this trip and would like to find out more about it, please visit www.the-temple.org/israel2022 (you must be logged into your Temple account to view this page) or contact Rabbi Rau at srau@the-temple.org.

TAMID Tuesdays at The Temple

Beginning on October 5, 2021

Classes include:

- The Melton Two-Year Program
- Adult B'nei Mitzvah
- Ulpan-Or: Conversational Beginner's Hebrew
- Judaism 101
- Judaism 102
- Hebrew 101
- Lunch Time: Wisdom Circle
- And more!

More information is available online at www.the-temple.org/tamid.



Breman
EDUCATION CENTER
at THE TEMPLE

SEPTEMBER 2021 PROGRAMMING

- 5 No BEC Sunday Program
- 6 Erev Rosh Hashanah
- 7 Rosh HaShanah Tot Service at the Zoo @ 9:00am
Rosh HaShanah Family Service at the Zoo @ 10:15am
- 12 BEC Sunday Program @ 9:10/9:30am
Kindergarten Family Program
- 15 Erev Yom Kippur
- 16 Yom Kippur Tot & Family Gathering at Atlanta Memorial Park @ 9:00am
Family & Tot Virtual Service @ 11:30am
Teen Service at The Temple @ 11:30am
- 19 BEC Sunday Program @ 9:10/9:30am
- 20 Sukkot begins at sundown
- 26 BEC Sunday Program @ 9:10/9:30am
Kindergarten Consecration @ 10:30am
- 27 Simchat Torah begins at sundown

WELC PRESCHOOL

L'Shana Tovah from Weinberg Early Learning Center!

We love celebrating Rosh Hashanah at the WELC! It is the perfect time to learn using all of our senses! We touch when we use apple slices to make paintings, see and hear the shofar being sounded, and of course, taste and smell delicious apples dipped in honey! Enjoy these photos from Rosh Hashanah's past! We hope everyone has a sweet new year!

Please note: Photos are from years past.



Weinberg Early
Learning Center
at The Temple



EVENTS&NEWS



Sukkot 5782— A Time of Gathering Outside in Joy!

Visit www.the-temple.org/sukkot for more info!

Starting on Monday, September 20, we have the festival of Sukkot. It is supposed to be a time of joy and festivity and celebration in our outdoor sukkah, our booth. We hope that you will join us virtually or in person for any and all of the festivities!

Unity Sukkah

Beginning September 10 after services through September 17 after services, all will have the opportunity to participate in building the roof of our sukkah. As we did in 2019, we will weave yarn to represent ourselves in the fabric of our community, and then throughout the festival have a chance to learn from what we see. Temple Mosaic will have a guide to participating in the wrapping and will provide an introduction/discussion guide for any groups meeting in the sukkah.

Sukkot Schedule

As events are added, please check out The Gathering (www.thegathering.the-temple.org) or www.the-temple.org/sukkot to register and get more details. If you'd like to host your Temple Connect group or other gathering in the sukkah, please contact Laurie Simon.

Erev Sukkot Services: Monday, September 20 at 6:00 PM via Zoom.

Rabbi Lapidus will lead a brief service via Zoom so we can participate from our own sukkot, outside spaces, or the sanctity of our homes. The link will be available in the weekly email.

First Day Sukkot Services: Tuesday, September 21 at 10:30 AM (multi-access)

Rabbi Kaye and Cantor Hartman will lead festival services from The Temple.

Sukkot Shabbat Picnic for All Ages: Friday, September 24 at 6:00 PM

From the front lawn of The Temple, we'll welcome Shabbat and celebrate Sukkot with a casual service and then enjoy picnic dinner while listening to music from some Temple members and their bands! Food from Tom+Chee food truck will be available for purchase or you can bring your own. Registration encouraged?



Simchat Torah— Five Books, Five Learning Opportunities!

Tuesday, September 28 • Visit www.the-temple.org/torah for more info!

Throughout the day of Simchat Torah, our Temple clergy will lead teaching and worship moments. Join for one or all of these events!

- **8:00am:** "Deuteronomy: Endings and Beginnings"—an early-morning Torah study session with Rabbi Lapidus (Zoom only)
- **10:30am:** Simchat Torah/Shemini Atzeret/Yizkor services with Rabbi Berg and Cantor Hartman (multi access). Rabbi Berg will teach about Genesis (title TBD)
- **12:00pm:** Exodus with Rabbi Steven Rau (Zoom only)
- **5:00pm:** Leviticus Happy Hour with Rabbi Lydia Medwin (Zoom only)
- **7:00pm:** Numbers with Rabbi Kaye (need title and description)

**SAVE
THESE DATES**



Shabbat in the Wilderness

October 22-24 • Cloudland Canyon

As we move into the hottest months of the year, it's fun to dream about the cooler days ahead. As such, save the date on your calendar for a relaxing weekend of Shabbat rest and campfire fun. Family friendly, and novice campers are welcome!! More information coming soon.

Our Shared Journey: The Temple's Interfaith Trip to Israel for Young Couples

Rescheduled for November 4-14, 2021

We are (finally!) going to Israel! There are a few spaces left on this very exciting pilot trip for young interfaith couples, generously subsidized by Temple members Leah and Richard Davis. For \$1000 plus the cost of trip insurance, couples who have never been to Israel together will travel with Rabbi Lapidus and experience an amazing introduction to the state and land of Israel. To see all of the criteria for this trip and to apply for a spot, please go to www.the-temple.org/oursharedjourney. If you have additional questions, please email Rabbi Lapidus at llapidus@the-temple.org.

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.

Thank you to our Caring at The Temple volunteers who delivered soup this month: **Barbara Abend, Zavi Bailey, Cameron Carter, Sandy and Duane Cox, Brooke Dickerson, Scott Edlein, Nancy Hirsch, Debbie Levinson, Joanne Lipshutz, Polly Marchbanks, Deborah Maslia, Sharyn Mulqueen, Cheryl Orlansky, Fran Putney, Dianne Ratowsky, Sarah Shinsky, Jean Shulman, Shayna Steinfeld, Jack & Debbie Wexler, and Bobbi Wilson.**

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



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.

AmazonSmile

Contribute to The Temple with every purchase with AmazonSmile. Visit smile.amazon.com/ch/58-0835812 and change the way you shop!

Bereavement Groups

We all know that we are living through unprecedented times. But we are also experiencing unprecedented grief. If you are dealing with loss in your life, these groups can help. Please don't hesitate to be in touch with any of our clergy for guidance towards what might be right for you.

Temple Connect Bereavement Group with the Drs. Greene

"Death ends a life not a relationship." We are so blessed that Temple members Dr. Robert Greene MD, a retired surgical oncologist and hospice director, and Dr. Barbara Greene PhD, a psychologist who specializes in grief groups, are offering a free, bimonthly bereavement group to help deal with the loss of a loved one and to honor the experiences of the bereaved. Whether you have recently experienced a loss or there's more distance in time from your loved ones passing; whether you need just one session or many; whether you want to schedule ahead of time or wake up that day discovering a need to talk about your experience – coming to this group will be an act of love for yourself and others, and way to honor of your loved ones. Available on Zoom. Email them directly at rjgbbg@yahoo.com.

JF&CS Synagogue Support

Through a generous grant, JF&CS is partnering with The Temple and other synagogues to provide direct support to our members. By calling 770-677-9480, you can get in touch with dedicated JF&CS staff members to access counseling and clinical services, geriatric care managers, and emergency financial support. While your Temple clergy continue to be a resource in making these connections, this special synagogue support phone number allows you to access JF&CS on your own as well.

Temple Connect

Lead a Group Today!

Do you have a hobby that you'd like to share like hiking, theatre, or golf? Do you want to join with friends for a great conversation?

Do you hope to meet some new people who live in your neighborhood for Shabbat Happy Hours? You could be a Temple Connect group leader! Especially with all the uncertainty of the year ahead, connecting with your own small group could be a vital step for a healthy and happy Jewish New Year. All you need to start is an idea and then email Rabbi Lydia Medwin at Imedwin@the-temple.org. We will help you organize the rest. Create community for yourself and your Temple with a Temple Connect group this year!

Join a Group!

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. For a complete listing of Temple Connect groups, visit www.temple-connect.com.



EVENTS & NEWS



RSJI: Racial Justice Committee

Despite the unprecedented challenges we faced during the pandemic, the Racial Justice committee (the “RJC”) of the Rothschild Social Justice Institute has been very active in our goal to seek equity and justice in our communities. Buoyed by the energy of the social unrest in the spring of 2020 and building upon our previous achievements, we have engaged in a range of initiatives over the past few years that have positively impacted our community here in Georgia and also nationally. We wanted to highlight just a few of the projects that we have been working on.

Record Restriction. As you may know, many people – disproportionately our Black and brown sisters and brothers – are unable to pursue careers and opportunities that would allow them to provide for their families because of the weight of previous offenses on their criminal records. Even when the infractions were minor and occurred decades earlier, some people are deemed ineligible for professional and even civic roles because of their records. One of the RJC’s initiatives has been to partner with the Georgia Justice Project to clear some of these records so that people can move on with their lives. About 400 people applied to have their records restricted (or “expunged”) and we were able to successfully restrict about 200 of them. We provided legal advice on next steps for folks whose records weren’t restricted and had a moving Zoom celebration for those who were. The celebration, which was held on Juneteenth was a really emotional experience, with people giving beautiful testimonies about experiences and struggles in the past and hopes for the future.

Education. Part of the RJC’s mission is to educate ourselves and our communities about some of the injustices in our communities. To that end, we have partnered with organizations to do deep dives into these topics. One was the harms of the cash bail systems on people in lower social economic groups, especially Black women and Black mothers. Every year, millions of Americans are incarcerated before even being convicted of a crime solely because they cannot afford to post bail. We hosted a (virtual) viewing session and discussion of the documentary “Trapped: Cash Bail in America” (which you can watch for free here: <https://youtu.be/TNzNBn2iuq0>). The film very vividly highlights the flaws in criminal justice system’s approach to bail and features activists, lawyers, and judges who are seeking to reform the system. In addition to riveting conversation and dialogue with people from across the country, we partnered with Ebenezer Baptist Church on collecting funds to support a bail fund for Father’s Day—allowing men to be with their families instead of in jail while they await trial.

Advocacy. Our group has been very active in advocacy efforts in a non-partisan manner in order to encourage civic participation in our democracy. From meeting with Senators, state leaders, and local representatives to robust letter-writing campaigns and get out the vote initiatives, our group is both highly motivated and highly effective at furthering the efforts of a truly representative government. With re-districting efforts ongoing, we are remaining engaged and active on our government affairs efforts.

Our group is lead by a coalition of enthusiastic and thoughtful people, with Rabbi Lydia Medwin (Imedwin@the-temple.org) serving as our Temple liaison and Jonathan Grunberg (jgrunberg@gmail.com) and Lauren Linder (lauren.linder@gmail.com) as lay leaders. Please reach out to us or our Director of Operations, Alli Golish (allison.n.golisch@emory.edu) if you would like to get involved!

RSJI: Public Education and Homelessness Committees

Help Backpack Buddies offer Food Assistance to Elementary School Students

Did you know many children in our community are dependent on the “Free and Reduced” lunch program provided by their schools during the week but have very little to eat over the weekends? Our RSJI Homelessness and Public Education committees want to help and have partnered with Toomer Elementary School. Through our Backpack Buddies program, eligible children are provided Friday backpacks of nutritious food to ease hunger and the gap of being away from school on the weekends. Let’s help relieve hunger and let children focus on learning and building skills for growth!

You can help by donating items off our Amazon Wish List. Items will be shipped directly to The Temple. Visit: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/X5IM9GJA992H?ref_=wl_share

If you are interested in packing backpacks or joining either the Homelessness or Public Education committee, you can email Scott Edlein s.edlein@gmail.com or Stacey Berg stberg@yahoo.com.

ROTHSCHILD Social Justice Institute

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1589 Peachtree Street NE | Atlanta, GA 30309
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See page 8 for details!