

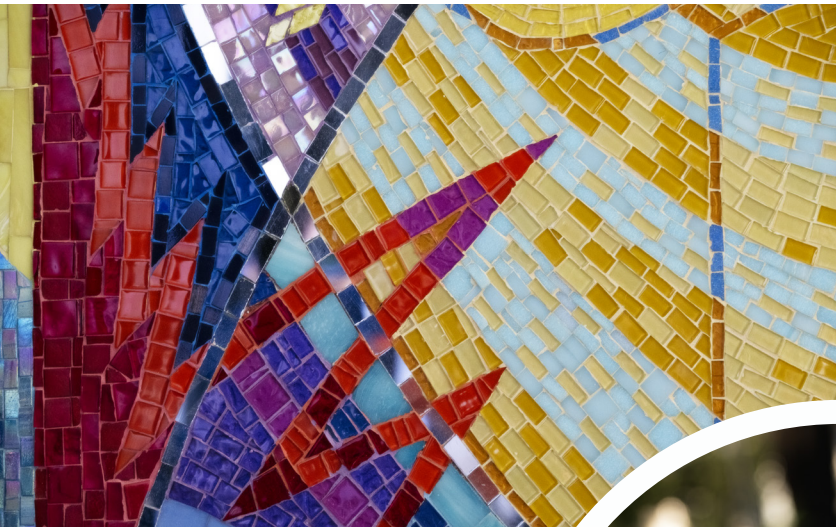


TEMPLE SHALOM *of* NEWTON

A Welcoming and Inclusive Jewish Community

TEMPLE BULLETIN

November 2020 | Cheshvan/Kislev 5781



📷 [templeshalomofnewton](#)

🐦 [temshalom](#)

📘 [templeshalomnewton](#)

Rabbi Laura Abrasley

Finding Salvation in the Chaos | Rosh Hashanah 5781 Sermon



“

... Somewhere deep inside of me there is a spark, one that I know lives in all of you. That spark can save us. It is found in the most unlikely of places, in the rubble of our disaster, in the chaos that changed our life.

”

In the early morning hours of April 18th, 1906, the city of San Francisco was struck by a major earthquake. And in the aftermath, a perfect storm of broken gas lines and damaged chimneys produced fires that threatened to destroy the city and everyone in it.

But if you ask the citizens of San Francisco it was the fires that saved them. At least that was the case for Anna Amelia Holshouser. She and her friends dragged working stoves from damaged buildings to create makeshift kitchens and shelters that fed thousands of displaced people. These outdoor community kitchens became places where neighbors could stave off hunger and feed one another spiritually and emotionally.

When I read this story in Rebecca Solnit's extraordinary book *A Paradise Built in Hell*, it felt familiar and hopeful. It reminded me that sometimes the upending of normal as we know it can lead us to a new path of possibility.

Today is Rosh Hashanah, the beginning of the Jewish New Year, opening day of our season of return, renewal, and reflection. Around the world, Jewish communities are commanded to gather, and fill our sacred spaces with people, with purpose, with prayer.

If I close my eyes this morning, I can see your beautiful faces as you smile and greet one another, hear your laughter and conversations bouncing off the stained-glass windows. I recognize the college kids home for the holiday. I giggle at the almost adolescents itching in their “good clothes.” I watch our multi-generational families scout out their regular seats and our cornerstone members hug one another.

If you listen carefully, perhaps you can imagine it too:

Shanah Tovah! Happy New Year! How was your summer?

Your son has really grown-up. I remember when he was so little.

I heard you moved. I hope you're still here in Newton.

Thank you for asking. My mom is recovering. We are lucky and grateful.

But this year, you are not here. We must be apart in order to keep one another safe. Our lives depend on it.

Six months ago, the fires of a global pandemic changed everything. And we know in our heart of hearts that the foundational Jewish value of *Pikuah Nefesh*, saving one life in order to save the world, is the only thing that matters as we fight off a fire we never imagined would ravage our world for so long.

We wear masks. Wash our hands. Negotiate social distance. Manage an ever-changing set of guidelines, mourn losses that could have, should have, been mitigated.

We crave our old routines. And some days we just want to crawl under the covers and give in to the darkness.

But somewhere deep inside of me there is a spark, one that I know lives in all of you. That spark can save us. It is found in the most unlikely of places, in the rubble of our disaster, in the chaos that changed our life.

So perhaps today we too can look to the fire, in the form of light, from the story that begins the Jewish story...



Rabbi Allison Berry

Panim El Panim: Face to Face with Loneliness | Yom Kippur 5781 Sermon

This April, after a beloved temple member died of Covid-19, I joined his family at the cemetery to say goodbye. Each of the mourners, myself included, wore a mask. We stood six feet apart, and we approached the grave only after the casket had been fully covered with earth. As the service ended, the widow did something that a few weeks earlier would have been the most natural thing in the world - she walked over to me with arms outstretched to give me a hug. I panicked. And...in an effort to maintain our physical distance, I took a step back. Within seconds my heels were sinking into the ground. I looked down and to my horror discovered I was standing on top of the grave.

As I worked to liberate myself from my predicament, I could no longer pretend everything was normal and ok. I'd given her words but what she needed was simple human touch, and that I could not safely give. As she walked away, I knew she was going home to an empty house and my heart broke for her.

Covid-19 has created whole new levels of loneliness for all of us. Vivek Murthy, former surgeon general, and physician Alice Chen writing together in the Atlantic share: "this pandemic could [and I would argue already has] triggered...a social recession - a fraying of social bonds that further unravel the longer we go without human interaction."

I know what they mean. The depths of this "social recession" is not only apparent at funerals. Over the past six months, I have seen and felt your loneliness during every phone call, every masked conversation and every Zoom meeting I attend.

In Dr. Murthy's new book, *Together*, released just a month ago, he beautifully defines the concept of loneliness: "[It] is the subjective feeling that you're lacking the social connections you need. It can feel like being stranded, abandoned or cut off from the people with whom you belong - even if you're surrounded by other people."

I know it sounds counter-intuitive, but it's actually what's happening around us every day.

This is my neighborhood. I live down the street. This playground used to buzz every morning when our kids arrived at school.

In this photo is Cabot Park Village - one of Newton's senior residences - it's just a few blocks away from the school. The seniors who live here, some of whom are Temple Shalom

members, used to eat together and spend warm summer days outside.

But in March everything changed. My kids, and yours were sent home from school. Now their classes take place mostly on Zoom. They don't have playdates or participate in sports. The seniors at Cabot Park Village have been alone in their rooms

for months. They eat meals by themselves and watch through their windows as summer turns to fall.

And it's not just our youngest children and our oldest adults who have been impacted by the loneliness of this moment. There is the friend who is newly divorced, the neighbor who spends days without speaking to a soul, the sisters who live 1000 miles apart and don't know when they'll see each other again. The married couple suddenly together more than they've ever been, who realize they no longer fit. There are the working parents like me, who already hold themselves to impossible standards and now must also be teacher, caregiver, house-keeper, and often partner 24/7 with no break in sight.

Today, one in three of us feel lonely. Yet we are conditioned to believe that if this is our experience then something must be wrong with us. We feel ashamed, and then we try to hide our shame, which only exacerbates our self-doubt and makes us think we are unworthy of friendship or love.

But our tradition wants us to know that we ARE worthy; friendship and partnership are core Jewish values. From the very first lines of Genesis, we learn God wants us to seek out human connection and love:

God created the earth and the sea, and called them good - tov. God created day and night and called them tov. In fact, all of God's creations were tov. Until God created Adam and said:

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים לֹא-טוֹב הָיִית הָאָדָם לְבַד־

Lo Tov - it is NOT GOOD - that Adam is alone.



Cantor Leah Shafritz

Strengthening Community Through Song



“

I am still brimming with pride from the work put in by our Shir Shalom volunteer choir, as well as some of our musical young people, so that we might hear a group of voices singing together.

”

Several months ago, when we began to hold our first few B'nei Mitzvah services over Zoom, a moment during a rehearsal for a service particularly struck me. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have been stripped of the ability to sing together and the sound of a solo voice started to feel like the norm.

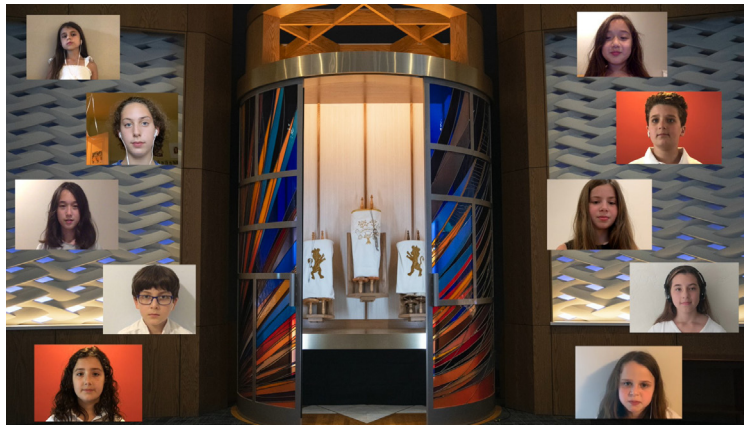
During this B'nei Mitzvah rehearsal, in the middle of running through the service, the family members in the home joined in with the student to sing shema all together. It sounded both strange and familiar all at the same time, hearing a group of people sing this central text of our people in unison for the first time, in a long time. It gave me goosebumps.

I wrote in the previous bulletin about our loss of the sound of the choir in our High Holy Day services, and, while it could not replace the entire scope of the choral music we are so used to hearing, I have continued to receive messages expressing the impact of and gratitude for our two virtual choir videos. (If you have not yet seen them, please take a look on our website! www.templeshalom.org/hhd2020)



Our Shir Shalom choir joining their beautiful voices together, virtually, to sing Adonai Li for our Rosh Hashanah services.

I am still brimming with pride from the work put in by our Shir Shalom volunteer choir, as well as some of our musical young people, so that we might hear a group of voices singing together. As I layered the tracks of our young people singing Or Zarua for Kol Nidre in my sound software, lining them up with my vocal part and the organ, it did feel as though they were singing with me—something I have not had the opportunity to experience these past months over zoom and live stream (and something I miss very much as a worship leader).



Young people from our congregation joining Cantor Shafritz in singing Or Zarua for Yom Kippur services

To see the faces of our community joining together in song was an incredible uplift for so many of us during this challenging time. It is my hope, as we must continue to remain physically separate from one another though still in community, that more videos like this will bring us some comfort and joy.

And, as we head into the darkest time of the year (literally), I hope to be able to offer up a little bit of light through the sound of communal singing and music making.

Stay tuned!

PODCAST: Panim el Panim



Today, one in three of us feels lonely. In our combined efforts to stay safe and save lives, our usual ways of seeing family, friends, or just familiar faces have been put on pause. In our new podcast, **Panim el Panim: Face to Face with Loneliness**, host Rabbi Allison Berry talks with psychologists, spiritual leaders, and other experts in the field about our everyday experiences with loneliness and how we can help ourselves cope, while supporting our loved ones and our greater community.

EPISODE 1:

How Do We Help Ourselves and Our Loved Ones? with Yael Schonbrun

In this episode, we talk with guest Yael Schonbrun, a licensed clinical psychologist, assistant professor at Brown University, and writer about parenting, work, and relationships. Yael lives in Newton and is parent to three young boys. Read more from Yael on her website (www.yaelschonbrun.com) and listen to her podcast *Psychologists Off the Clock*.

EPISODE 2:

Finding Happiness in Times of Isolation with Dr. Robert Waldinger

In this episode, Rabbi Berry chats with Dr. Robert Waldinger, Temple Shalom member, Harvard psychiatrist, Zen priest, and psychoanalyst. Their conversation begins with the connection between loneliness and the Harvard Study of Adult Development directed by Dr. Waldinger and concludes with the power of relationships, radical self compassion, and forgiveness.

EPISODE 3:

What's in Your Hand? Supporting Each Other through Loneliness

In this episode, Rabbi Berry speaks with three fellow clergy members from the Newton community, Reverend Ken Bailey from Newton Highlands Congregational Church, Reverence Alicia Johnson from Myrtle Baptist Church, and Reverend Devlin Scott from New City Church. Together, they consider how our faith and our collective community can support each other through these times of challenge and isolation.

EPISODE 4:

The Loneliness Epidemic with Dr. Jennifer Molinsky

This episode, Rabbi Laura Abrasley joins the podcast and talks with Temple Shalom member Dr. Jennifer Molinsky, an expert in urban planning and housing for older adults, about the deeply important questions of our seniors. What does it mean at this moment for the seniors in our community to feel fulfilled knowing that, because of the coronavirus, they must be isolated in so many ways?

To listen to the Podcast, visit: www.templeshalom.org/panim-el-panim-podcast

Kim Bodemer

Jewish Learning & Engagement During the Pandemic is Robust and Meaningful!



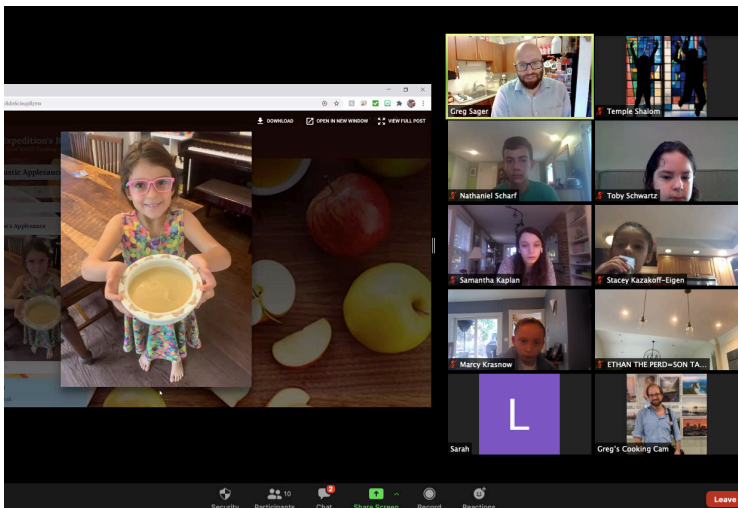
“

Because a situation is complex doesn't mean that we should walk away from it. Rather, we need to lean in, gathering many different points of view, researching possibilities, and collaborating with stakeholders to make the best decision possible.

”

One of the features I appreciate most about Facebook are the memories. I love looking back to see what I was doing, who I was with, and how I was feeling at this time in years past. It's amazing how much insight I have about something with time and space to reflect. Recently, the memory of our Simchat Torah celebration popped up. It was a reminder of how life was before Covid. The past eight months have been strange indeed. When we left the temple building on March 12, 2020, little did we know that we would not be returning for the rest of the school year. In the first weeks when we were “safer at home,” the Learning and Engagement Team turned our attention to creating opportunities for connection. Within days, we moved all our Hebrew learning online and, in the following week, brought our SHACHARIT community together for worship, singing, and classes. Our middle schoolers had the opportunity to meet daily for check-ins and games.

As it became clear that the pandemic would greatly affect day-to-day life into the new school year, the Learning & Engagement Team began brainstorming what our families would need during this time. Above all else we knew that families needed support.



They needed to be listened to and to be heard. To address this very real need, we launched our “Guide Program.” Every family in our K-7 cohort has a staff liaison who checks in regularly. Our check-ins are not only about how children are accessing our programs but about the health and well-being of the family. These conversations have been meaningful and authentic. They have played a key role in our decision-making and influenced our offerings.

One thing we hear over and over again is the desire to be in person. And, in the next breath, we hear the anxiety that comes with that. The decision about when and how to be physically together is not a simple one. Families have different reasons for the choices they make, and we respect and support them. Because a situation is complex doesn't mean that we should walk away from it. Rather, we need to lean in, gathering many different points of view, researching possibilities, and collaborating with stakeholders to make the best decision possible. As you read this article, we are working with the Board of Directors to consider the feasibility of in-person offerings.

Benjamin Franklin is credited with saying, “Out of adversity comes opportunity.” As a “glass half full” person, this is the frame I take when considering how to move forward given our current circumstances.

Supporting our students and families is our priority and we have had to rethink how we do that. Covid has given us the opportunity to boldly experiment with new learning models that empower students and offer maximum flexibility. Here are five silver linings from the changes we’ve made:



Deeper Connections

Our Guide Program has offered us a unique entry point into people’s lives. The relationships we are forming will outlast this pandemic and continue to inform our work in important ways.

Increased Flexibility

Families have more choice than ever when scheduling and this has translated into more consistent attendance (up 10-15%) than we’ve seen in previous years.

Multigenerational Learning Opportunities

Many parents join with their children during their learning and have enjoyed the chance to explore together.

Empowering Teens

Our Madrichim (teen learning assistants) have taken on more responsibility in the Zoom classrooms. They lead breakout room discussions, connect with students over shared interests, and work with teachers to develop community building opportunities.

Impactful Learning

With less instructional time, our professional team has developed a keen ability to identify priorities and craft engaging experiences for our learners that honors their time and interests.

We are currently reading from the book of Genesis. The narrative talks of families, conflict, resolution, and blessings. Our biblical ancestors emerge stronger from the trials and tribulations they endure and are transformed as a result. May we too be surrounded by family and loved ones, have the courage to face adversity and to learn from it, and be blessed as we navigate these uncharted waters.

With gratitude,

Kim Bodemer

Senior Director of Jewish Learning and Youth Engagement

Check out the amazing student work from the first quarter on our Student Hub: www.templeshalom.org/student-hub.
You must be logged in to view the web page.

Youth Learning & Engagement

A Look Forward to Our 2nd Quarter Projects!



In our second quarter, our Learning Community is grappling with the big question, “What is a blessing?” Using the stories we read in Genesis and throughout the Torah as a guide, students are embarking on several different expeditions.

Here is a sneak peek at what our K-5 students will be exploring:

Cooking Up a Storm

The Torah tells us the stories of our Matriarchs and Patriarchs and the blessings God bestowed upon them that they shared with the world. In this expedition, we will explore many of these stories and blessings through fun hands on baking and cooking projects. ALL VIRTUAL

Get Movin’: Blessings Through Movement

Reciting blessings is an integral part of Jewish tradition. Many of these blessings have movement associated with them (for example, circling your hands over the Shabbat candles). In this expedition, we will use movement as a tool to find deeper meaning in the blessings. HYBRID (AT LEAST ONE IN PERSON SESSION)

Games Games Games

Do you like puzzles or word games? In this expedition, students will explore how the role of blessings appear in Torah stories. We will learn some of these stories and then create an activity book for other elementary-aged children with the theme of blessings. ALL VIRTUAL

Greetings! Cards, Art, and Blessings

This expedition will invite students to create greetings cards to mark the moments big and small that are a blessing and give them the opportunity to acknowledge those in their lives who are a blessing to them. ALL VIRTUAL

Our 6-8th grade students will be engaging in the following classes to answer the questions, “What is a blessing?” and “Why bless?”:

Cooking: The Blessings of Food

The rabbis begin with the notion that God is the source for everything in the world and underscore the importance of expressing gratitude for all that we have. This expedition will give chefs the opportunity to prepare recipes and offer reflections to create a book of food blessings. ALL VIRTUAL

Blessings Through Art: Murals

Students will use themes from some of Judaism’s many blessings to design imagery that can be mapped onto a full-scale wall mural at Temple Shalom. Working separately, students will create the individual puzzle pieces that will come together to form a large and cohesive piece of artwork. HYBRID

Escape Room: Torah Edition

The Torah is FULL of stories of difficult and clever escapes. The class will develop an interactive online escape room experience based on the characters and stories we explore. ALL VIRTUAL

BitMoji Sanctuary

When we enter a synagogue sanctuary, we can sense immediately that we are in a holy place. In this expedition, we will explore the components of a sanctuary. Then, we will create our own interactive, virtual sanctuary. HYBRID (AT LEAST ONE IN PERSON SESSION)

Adult Learning *at Temple Shalom*

Jewish learning is an essential value of Judaism. At Temple Shalom, we work in sacred partnership with our community to create meaningful and enriching Jewish learning and engagement experiences for adults. Beginning this fall, Kim Bodemer, Senior Director of Jewish Learning and Youth Engagement, will take a leadership role in planning our adult learning and engagement opportunities. As a first step, this fall, Kim will be talking to adults in our congregation about their interests, hopes, and ideas for what a robust adult learning program can look like at the Temple. Please reach out to Kim (kbodemer@templeshalom.org) with your thoughts or questions.

And stay tuned; we plan to launch our new suite of programming in January 2021!

Current Opportunities for Adults

Torah Study - Saturdays at 9:45 AM on Zoom

Join us weekly—or as often as you can—for an informal study of Jewish texts and lively discussions, with a member of the clergy and fellow Temple Shalom congregants.

Shabbat B'yachad - Second Friday of Each Month on Zoom and Livestream

Introducing our new interactive, multi-generational Friday night worship experience —Shabbat B'yachad. Join us on Zoom as we sing, pray, learn, and build community together.

Art Shabbat - Third Friday of Each Month on Live Stream

During this special Friday evening service, we will feature one piece of artwork on display in the Temple Shalom building and talk about its history and connection to Judaism and our beloved congregation.

Shabbat Mind - One Saturday per Month on Zoom

Join us for Shabbat Mind, an hour of Shabbat-inspired stillness and reflection led by members of our community. Shabbat Mind includes guided imagery, meditation, discussion, and sharing. Appropriate for all experience and comfort levels.

Mazal Tov to Temple Shalom congregant Fred Cohen!

Fred Cohen will be honored as a hero at this year's Synagogue Council Gala for his leadership of our weekly Minyan during the Covid Pandemic.



Synagogue Council of Massachusetts Gala
Thursday Evening, December 3, 2020
Seven o'clock (EST)
Virtual

Learn More - <https://www.synagoguecouncil.org/gala-winter-2020-landing-page>

Lucy Banerji

Our Outdoor School: A Place of Hope, Joy & Resiliency



“

We believe that nature and an outdoor education are a wonderful platform for learning about Jewish ways of living.

”

We believe that nature and an outdoor education are a wonderful platform for learning about Jewish ways of living.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted many areas of our lives. The field of early education and care has been impacted in a devastating way. It is predicted that nearly 50% of schools will not be able to reopen without urgent financial help.

Reopening schools requires brave and careful thinking. Here at Temple Shalom Nursery School, we have found our courage in the wisdom of Jewish tradition and its core values: community, resilience and joy.

We believe that nature and an outdoor education are a wonderful platform for learning about Jewish ways of living and entering the spiritual state of awe and wonder. Even before COVID-19, being outdoors was always a big part of learning experiences in our school. Every day, our children are reminded that joy is not just a feeling; it is a skill. Small and big adversities in life uncover opportunities for joy if approached with a sense of gratitude. Rain brings puddles, a warm jacket wards off cold and patience brings a delicious harvest.

This year, being outdoors acquired an even greater

meaning—the safety and health of our community. With the generous support of nursery school families and the Temple Shalom congregation, we have moved our classrooms outside. The lush green lawn and the tall trees on temple property have become the floors and walls of our school.

A few tables, plastic bins for personal belongings, hammocks, camping sinks and toilets meet our basic needs, while books, sticks, pinecones, acorns, leaves and flowers provide endless opportunities for exciting and engaging learning.

After three full months of schooling outdoors, we have rediscovered the wonderful difference that outdoor learning makes for our children.

If you have some experience being around a group of toddlers or preschoolers, you have probably witnessed the vibrant and lively energy of running and jumping feet, excited voices, exaggerated movements and dramatic upsets.

Groups of young children are naturally loud and exuberant. But most indoor spaces are not designed to withstand this

liveliness. Being indoors puts pressure on very young brains: “use your walking feet,” “find your indoor voice,” “be safe,” “wait for your turn,” “share!” Outdoors, however, children discover a natural, evolutionary-demanded freedom to be who they are and learn self-constraint only when their brains are ready.





The classroom that has no walls or ceiling soaks up loud voices, allows for stomping and skipping feet, holds up to crashing and rolling bodies and offers an immediate retreat on the soft grass or a mound of whispering leaves. Everything is pleasant to touch, hold, look at, smell, explore and play with! Sticks, rocks, ants, mud and pine needles satisfy a craving for curiosity, ignite questions and provide gratifying sensory experiences.

Our outdoor classrooms are inviting and dynamic. Wind, rain, sunshine and clouds catch out attention and sharpen our observation skills. A helicopter flying above, a trash truck appearing every Monday, the sound of a church bell every noon. All these things connect us to the larger community and bring us back home, to shared stories, conversations and adventures with friends.

Our classes have become smaller—only 10 children with two teachers. But this size allows for closer and deeper relationships. During a class conversation, one child exclaimed: “And now I know what everyone thinks! Last year there were so many of us, it would take forever to listen to everybody!” From the mouths of babes! This is true for teachers as well. It seems as if it has become easier for us to hear our students. We admire the depth and the beauty of the children’s thinking. We are able to slow down together.

Just pause with us for a moment:

After experiencing cloudy weather, children noticed a clear blue sky.



E: I don’t see any clouds.

EI: Maybe they are on vacation.

L: I know, they are going to cloud land! It’s another planet like our puzzle.

T: It’s gonna rain. I have my boots just in case.

R: Clouds...they are in the ocean. That’s where they go.

Our life in the outdoor school is simple: We enjoy every weather, we do everything outside and we don’t feel a need to rush anywhere. But this simplicity transforms into a very rich life. As children don’t need to share materials on every occasion (there’s an abundance of sticks and leaves!), they learn to share ideas instead. As they don’t have to restrain their emotional expressions often (there’s more than enough time and space to feel and think deeply), children learn to appreciate their authentic selves and to respect others for who they are. What more can we ask for? We are simply happy to be with one another.

We practice hope, resiliency and joy every day. Together, we are building a great school and want to contribute to the healthy future of our community.

Getting to Know You

by Loretta Zack

This is a tribute to someone most of you already know. If you had a baby, Rhoda Ben-Gai delivered a gift to you. If you needed a ride to a medical appointment, she might have driven you. If you have lost a loved one, she delivered a Shabbat challah and candles to you. Rhoda has done a million other mitzvot for all of us as Chair of the Caring Community for 10 years, along with her team of volunteers that join her on this journey.

But let's start at the beginning. Rhoda Madeson Ben-Gai grew up in Newton where she and her family were active members of Temple Shalom. She made her first visit to Israel with Rabbi Rothman where her love of the country took root. Her husband, Ofer, grew up outside Tel-Aviv and joined the fledgling youth group of the Israeli Reform Movement. Together with friends, he joined the Israeli army in a program affiliated with Kibbutz Yahel. Yahel is an amazing community founded in 1977 in the Southern Arava desert by a group of young Israelis and Americans affiliated with liberal Jewish movements.



Later, Rhoda made Aliya and moved to Israel where she met Ofer in the vineyard of Kibbutz Yahel. Rhoda and Ofer married at Yahel and sons Zohar and Asaf were born in the nearby Eilat Hospital. They moved to Newton for two years when Ofer received his Masters at Bentley University. As they settled in near family and friends, the plan to return to Israel after his graduation faded. Luckily for us, Rhoda and Ofer, joined Temple Shalom on July 1, 1994.

At the Temple, Ofer chaired the Religious Practices Committee, served as Financial Secretary, and is currently a member of the Board of Trustees. He is a regular participant in the Shabbat morning minyan study group which is the highlight of his week. On weekdays, Ofer works at the IT Department at Brandeis University.

Rhoda taught at Temple Shalom's Nursery and Religious Schools and, more recently, has been active in two areas of Temple life. She has worked on the Temple Archives Project, preserving and organizing photographs and files containing everything from Rabbinic correspondence to Youth Group yearbooks. She and her partner in this project, Peggy Freedman z"l, discovered file boxes both in the building's attic and various storerooms and encountered water damage and a mouse nest along the way.

For the last 10 years, Rhoda has led the Temple's Caring Community. Caring volunteers welcome newborns, reach out to the ill, provide rides, connect with isolated members, and comfort the bereaved. Rhoda has loved the opportunity to connect with congregants across the generations. She is most proud of the publication of the *Death and Mourning Guide: Customs and Observances Surrounding Death and Mourning in 2017*. If you don't have a hard copy, a link to the booklet can be found on the Temple website on the Caring Community page.

Rhoda is now stepping back from Caring Community responsibilities and invites others to consider getting involved. There are needs ranging from performing a small task to launching a new initiative to meet the challenges of our crazy times. Rhoda leaves behind big shoes to fill and she urges you to contact Pastoral Care Coordinator Loretta Zack or Rabbi Abrasley to express your interest.



Ofer and Rhoda are thrilled that Gila Hoffman, Asaf's wife, joined their family and are looking forward to holding their newborn granddaughters, Noa and Remi.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



Sun November 22 | 8:30am-1:30pm
Temple Shalom

Generation to Generation

BIRTHS

Hannah Muryn Wessler
Daughter of Sarah Frank and Joshua Wessler
Granddaughter of Susan Goodman and James Wessler

Remi Lila Hoffman Ben-Gai
Noa Essie Hoffman Ben-Gai
Daughters of Asaf and Gila Hoffman
Granddaughters of Ofer and Rhoda Ben-Gai

WEDDINGS

Carrie Krieger and Michael Caggiano
Daughter of Robin and Ernest Krieger

DEATHS

Our beloved long time members....

Peter Newman

Gloria Asquith

Joel Siegel
Husband of Karen Siegel
Brother-in-law of Susan and James Shulman
Son-in-law of Ruth Weiner

We also remember....

Bernice Ezekiel Brant
Mother of Jonathan Brant z'l and
mother-in-law of Renee Brant

Craig Hardin
Uncle of Marriah Vengroff

Sheldon Hearst
Brother of Phyllis Hersch

Jay F. Sullivan
Father of Jonathan Sullivan and
father-in-law of Blair Lesser Sullivan

Donations

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH FUND

In memory of

George and Eva Gold
from Irene & Richard Laursen

Joel Siegel
from Mona Yaguda-Ross

David Morningstar
from Betty Morningstar & Jeanette Kruger

ANITA WINER OPEN YOUR EYES FUND FOR THE ARTS

In memory of

Arthur Kaplan
from Ellen Kaplan

Gloria Asquith
from Mona Yaguda-Ross

BRONSON SCHOOL FUND

In memory of

Sylvia (Sibby) Goldston
from Saralee Mulcahey

■ Vincent Mulcahey
from Saralee Mulcahey

■ Melvin Goldston
from Saralee Mulcahey

BUILDING FUND

In honor of

■ Ellie Goldman and staff for her efforts in
planning and executing our remote High
Holy Day services
from David & Marion Pollock

CANTOR SHAFRITZ SERVICE FUND

In honor of

■ Cantor Shafritz for bringing beauty and
meaning to our High Holy Day remote
services
from David & Marion Pollock

■ Cantor Shafritz in appreciation of her care
and concern during my husband Joel's
illness and memorial service
from Karen Siegel

■ Cantor Shafritz at Lily's Bat Mitzvah and
tutoring Lily during her last few sessions
from Kenneth & Lisa Shapiro

■ Milo Blecher's Bar Mitzvah
from Robin Skirboll & Mark Blecher

■ Cantor Shafritz for her beautiful High Holy
Day music
from Susie & Marc Gudema

■ Cantor Shafritz for her leadership as part
of our daughter Sasha's bat mitzvah
from Anna Sinaiko & Joshua Klevens

CARING COMMUNITY FUND

In honor of

■ The birth of the granddaughters of Rhoda
and Ofer Ben-Gai
from David & Marion Pollock

■ The special kindness of Caring Community
and Loretta Zack and Ellie Goldman
from Lois Liss



Donations

In memory of

Joan Di Leo
from Martin Kretsch & Judith Di Leo

Sheldon Hearst
from Murray Frank

Marjorie Rezendes
from Paul Rezendes & Joy Elbaum

Joel Siegel
from Richard & Marguerite Beaser

Beverly Weiss
from Sanford & Joan Katz

Samuel Shulman
from Irene Laursen

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In honor of

Rob Berman
from Ms. Ellen Berman

In memory of

Virginia Orac Secemsky
from Eric Secemsky

EDUCATOR'S DISC FUND

In honor of

Lauren Epstein, tutor extraordinaire for
Milo Blecher's Bar Mitzvah
from Robin Skirboll & Mark Blecher

In memory of

Ira Lerner
from Henry Lerner & Phyllis Scherr

Stephen Barolsky
from Rachael & Joshua Sack

Anne T. Carleton
from William & Donna Carleton

ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of

Violeta Arboleda
from Howard Baden

FRIEZE PASSPORT TO ISRAEL FUND

In memory of

Joel Siegel
from Yvonne Baehr-Robertson

GARDEN CLUB FUND

In memory of

Blanche Sussman
from Emily Rubenstein

GENERAL FUND

Abby Fierman & Michael Grossman

William Carey

Alyssa & Garrett Brown

Michael Kraus

Roz & Howard Bilow

Ed & Wendy Case

Kurt & Arlene Pressman

Ethel & Gary Furst

Robert & Barbara Fierman

Janet & Mark Gottesman

Susan & Michael Epstein

In honor of

*My grandsons Jordan, Ryan, Abe, and
Zachary Carey
from Brenda Carey*

Our five grandchildren: Clara, Julia, &
Jonah Brown and Asher and Zevy Levin
from Elise & Richard Rothbard

The clergy and the beautiful yizkor
service on Yom Kippur
from Linda Schwager

Ellie Goldman and the Temple Shalom
Staff for working so hard to give us
a wonderful High Holy Day worship
experience
from Susie & Marc Gudema

In memory of

Gerald Donald Walk
from Anita Walk

Charles Broner
from Emily Rubenstein

Joel Siegel
from Fred & Stephanie Cohen

Gloria Asquith
from Fred & Stephanie Cohen

Charles Kahn
from Gerald & Phyllis Briskin

Helen Miller
from Scott Birnbaum & Lynn Baden

Ferdinand Feiss
from Shelah Feiss & Mark Likoff

Ilse Boraks
from Steven Boraks

Morton Canter
from Steven Canter & Vicki Jacobs

MUSIC FUND

In honor of

Deborah Shapiro's Bat Mitzvah 2/9/2019
from Jane Meryll

In memory of

Joel Siegel
from Kurt & Arlene Pressman

Joel Siegel
from Robert & Barbara Fierman

Joel Siegel
from Scott Birnbaum & Lynn Baden

GURVIS ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Dick and Dottie Morrison

NURSERY SCHOOL ENHANCEMENT FUND

Emil and Lena Rasamat

RABBI ABRASLEY SERVICE FUND

In honor of

Rabbi Abrasley in appreciation for her care
and concern during my husband Joel's
illness and memorial service
from Karen Siegel

Rabbi Abrasley at Lily's Bat Mitzvah
from Kenneth & Lisa Shapiro

Rabbi Abrasley's awesomeness with Milo
Blecher's Bar Mitzvah
from Robin Skirboll & Mark Blecher

Rabbi Abrasley for the creative and
inspirational High Holy Day services
from Susie & Marc Gudema

Rabbi Abrasley for helping to make our
High Holy Day remote services meaningful
and beautiful
from David & Marion Pollock

In memory of

Ronald Slovin
from Andrea Weinstein

Eric Mazmanian
from Carol and Brian Mazmanian

RABBI BERRY SERVICE FUND

Ruth Weiner

Donations

In honor of

Rabbi Berry for helping make our High Holy Day remote services meaningful and beautiful
from David & Marion Pollock

Rabbi Berry for helping our daughter Carrie and son-in-law Mike prepare for their wedding
from Ernest & Robin Krieger

Rabbi Berry's visit to us and her participation in High Holy Day services
from Jordan & Sandra Golding

Our upcoming child
from Natan Seidel

Rabbi Berry's leadership as part of our daughter Sasha's Bat Mitzvah
from Joshua Klevens & Anna Sinaiko

Rabbi Berry in appreciation for the incredible care and concern during my husband Joel's illness, funeral, and memorial service
from Karen Siegel

Rabbi Berry in appreciation of the beautiful and meaningful High Holy Day services
from Marjorie & Michael Feldman

Abe Carey's Bar Mitzvah
from Matthew Carey & Greta Feinberg

Rabbi Berry for the creative and inspirational High Holy Day services
from Susie & Marc Gudema

In memory of

Bert Martinson
from Ellie Shuman

Bernard Siegel
from Karen Siegel

SISTERHOOD FUND

Ken and Nancy Leaser

In honor of

The Get Out the Vote Efforts
from Jeffrey Eisen & Melanie Henriques

Arlene Pressman and Get Out the Vote
from Judith Isroff

The Get Out the Vote effort
from Marjorie Greenberg

The marriage of Carrie Krieger to Mike Caggiano
from Robert & Barbara Fierman

In memory of

Sarah Resnick
from Ernest & Robin Krieger

Herbert Schwartz
from Harry Meade & Erica Schwartz

Dorothy Koskoff
from Neil & Susan Glazer

SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

Susan Fritz

In honor of

The birth of the grand daughter of Mona Yaguda-Ross
from David & Marion Pollock

The Get Out the Vote effort
from Nicholas & Margaret Brill

In memory of

Alvin H. Greenwald
from Brian & Carol Mazmanian

Joan M. Kunitz
from Daniel Kunitz

Phyllis Hersch's brother Sheldon Hearst
from Kurt & Arlene Pressman

Enid Paul
from Steven & Lee Paul

Richard Lief
from Barbara & Robert Fierman

YAHREZEIT & REMEMBRANCE FUND

In honor of

Kali Hurley
from Amy & David Hurley

In memory of

David Cooper
from David & Marion Pollock and Audrey Cooper

Frances Cooper
from Audrey Cooper

Milton Holzman
from Barbara Holzman

Mollie Holzman
from Barbara Holzman

Blanche Paul
from Barbara Holzman

Herbert Kruger
from Betty Morningstar & Jeanette Kruger

James P. Shaw
from Ida Shaw

H.H. and Dorothy Golding, Samuel and Rebecca Hirsch
from Jordan & Sandra Golding

Lillian Slate
from Lester & Patricia Slate

Rita Lerner
from Michael & Joan Weinstein

Philip Frieze
from Michael & Linda Frieze

Ralph Howard
from Michael & Sara Matzkin

Marsha Freed
from Michael Freed & Elizabeth Geist

Rozaliya Zaydenberg
from Mikhail & Lyudmila Margul

Alexander Kucher
from Mikhail & Lyudmila Margul

Ellen Marcus
from Tonya Glantz

Myrna Fruitt
from Paul Fruitt

Joel Siegel
from Richard & Dottie Morrison

Phyllis Canter
from Steven Canter & Vicki Jacobs

David Rolbein
from Ethel & Gary Furst

Myra R. Fineman
from David & Peggy Fineman

YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM FUND

In honor of

The Bat Mitzvah of Lily Shapiro
from Roberta Greenberg

The Bat Mitzvah of Lily Shapiro
from Allan & Linda Gersten

In memory of

Marriah Vengroff's Uncle Craig Hardin
from Carol & Charles Berlin

CONTACT LIST

Dial (617) 332-9550 and extension.



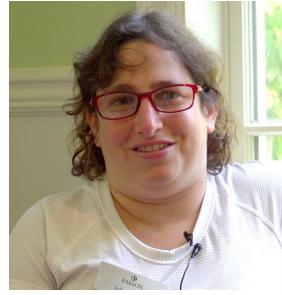
**Rabbi
Laura J. Abrasley**
ext. 24



Lucy Banerji
Nursery School Director
ext. 55



**Rabbi
Allison L. Berry**
ext. 15



Julie Belsky
Receptionist



Kim Bodemer
Senior Director of Jewish
Learning and Youth
Engagement ext. 21



Erin Borrás
Assistant to the Clergy
ext. 20



Caroline Dorn
Membership Director
ext. 16



Lucy Dube
Controller
ext. 14



Ellie Goldman
Executive Director
ext. 11



Fred Kraus
President
president@templeshalom.org



Alison Lobron
Inclusion and Program
Development Coordinator
ext. 26



Becca MacKillop
Youth Engagement
Specialist
ext. 18



**Cantor
Leah Shafritz**
ext. 17



Liz Shiro
Director of Curriculum
and Instruction
ext. 23



Emily Sienkiewicz
Director of Communications
and Marketing
ext. 27



Mariah Vengroff
Director of Experiential
Learning ext. 22



Al White
Facilities Manager



Becca Yudkoff
FWYC Program Director
& Summer Camp Director
ext. 29



Loretta Zack
Pastoral Care Coordinator
ext. 13

Temple Shalom

175 Temple Street
Newton, MA 02465

(617) 332-9550

info@templeshalom.org

www.templeshalom.org

Laura J. Abrasley, *Senior Rabbi*

Allison L. Berry, *Senior Rabbi*

Leah Shafritz, *Cantor*

Ellie Klein Goldman, *Executive Director*

Kim Bodemer, *Senior Director for Jewish
Education and Youth Engagement*

Lucy Banerji, *Nursery School Director*

Fred Kraus, *Temple President*

Emily Sienkiewicz, *Director of
Communications and Marketing*

Next Issue:

JANUARY 2021

TEVET – SHEVAT

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Boston, MA
Permit No. 56317

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED