

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2019



Temple Shalom OF NEWTON



Temple Shalom looks to the future

IYAR/SIVAN/TAMUZ/AV

Thank you to our many donors!

WORK BEGINS JUNE 24, 2019

IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE:

- Accessible bima
- Flexible seating
- All new lighting and state of the art AV system
- New open and welcoming vestibule
- Renovated bathroom
- New all-gender and fully accessible bathroom
- Increased seating capacity in the social hall



We are very close to reaching our fundraising goal! If you have already pledged and wish to make an additional commitment, or if you have not yet been invited to participate, please contact Ellie Goldman at egoldman@templeshalom.org for more information. Thank you!

Cantor Peter Halpern

Dear friends,

I did not know when I would write my final letter to Temple Shalom, but I knew it would come at the right time. I am on the plane back to Boston from Florida where the next phase of my life will begin. Someone I was speaking with recently told me that I must see *A Star Is Born*. Delta Airlines was offering it on the flight, and I put it right on. The story revolves around the life of a rock star who meets a young woman whose singing strikes him. He tells her that it is not about talent. Many people have talent. It is about having something to say that people want to hear. Temple Shalom, more than any other congregation in my life, are the people for whom I sang and prayed and who wanted to hear what I had to say. For this, I will be eternally grateful, and I will never forget you.



Thank you for your incredible kindness to Nathan and me. He found as a teenager, a young adult, what it means to feel himself as part of a Jewish community who knows him and embraces him. I know he will speak of you often and that you will always be in his heart. On behalf of Nathan, thank you. One thing I knew I wanted to say to you is that I have felt profoundly appreciated and accepted by you. Our closeness is based on both who I am and who and how you are, on both what you have said and done and what you haven't. I feel scared and excited and above all, so blessed.

Music Committee thanks Cantor Halpern

In late 2011, Arlene Pressman and I were given the task of chairing a Cantor Search Committee, which included an additional 19 dedicated congregants. We were united in our strongly held belief in the essential role of music in our spiritual and communal life, and we were determined to find someone who would enhance our religious experience through his or her personality and dedication to Jewish music in all its forms. We were seeking a person with a good heart and character, excellent vocal quality and a good soul. After we received 17 applications and interviewed several candidates, Cantor Halpern quickly captured our interest. In his Skype and in-person interviews, he was friendly and engaging.

Here are some of my notes about his impressive audition: "Sang: Ma Tov and R'tzei. Beautiful texture, control, tone, power and sweetness. Expressive. Pleasant demeanor. Lovely bima presence. Relaxed and friendly. Sang: Avinu Malkeinu. Majestic! Takes you to a new place. Sang: Shalom Rav. A sweet sound. Music well thought out and a nice teaching component."

He won us over. The references were stellar. One former congregant stated, "something beautiful, almost mystical in his music and spirituality...He reaches out to people and gets them involved...Gives people confidence with his support and warmth. He's kind and gentle."

Cantor Halpern, in his time with us at Temple Shalom, proved himself to be the genuinely good person we sought, beloved by many, especially those of us in the music community both in-house and outside Temple Shalom's walls. He brought his stirring tenor voice to our services, often moving many of us to tears on the High Holy Days with the beauty of his singing. He extended our musical appreciation, as the choir and the congregation experienced music by Louis Lewandowski, Robbie Solomon, Debbie Friedman and Leonard Cohen, among others.

We also enjoyed music by Ari Sussman, a talented, up-and-coming

young composer from the New England Conservatory, who began composing for and with Temple Shalom because of Cantor Halpern. Unbeknownst to many in our congregation, some of the most beautiful pieces we sang were original compositions of Cantor Halpern's.

Our musical reach extended to participation with Zamir Chorale and Koleinu and to the greater Newton Community, with presentations to the residents at Lasell Village, our singing in Project Manna with Temple Emanuel and other Boston area Jewish and gospel choirs, and other events. Temple Shalom became synonymous with great music.

Cantor Halpern's services were friendly and heimish; his sensitivity and support palpable during life transitions, his belief so deeply felt and genuine. Shir Shalom, the Temple choir, expanded in number (I and others joined because of him), repertoire, and musical sophistication; the Cantor, ever smiling and uplifting and appreciative of our efforts. He brought new members to the Shabbat Halleilu Band and greater participation. He enhanced the Music Committee's efforts to expand our congregation's awareness and appreciation of the world of Jewish music, with sponsored events featuring Sephardic, Middle Eastern, European and African music. He spearheaded the production of the CD featuring our Shabbat music that was sent to each of our households.

It saddens me to say goodbye to my dear friend and to his son, Nathan, whom we have watched grow up before our eyes into such a remarkable young man. Looking back at our priorities, when the search committee went about its task, I feel that Cantor Halpern more than fulfilled our dreams.

Thank you, Cantor, for all the beauty you brought into our lives. Your next congregation is about to receive a gift. We wish you and Nathan God-speed and shalom.

Steve Amira

Member of the Temple's Music Committee

Rabbis Allison Berry & Laura Abrasley



Dear Temple Shalom Community,

The Amidah or Standing Prayer is found at the center of our liturgy. Much of the central part of the Amidah is traditionally recited silently. However, one important prayer is an exception. When we reach the prayer - Modim Anachnu Lach, "We give thanks to You" - the entire congregation is not only encouraged, but compelled to participate. As Rabbi Elijah Spira (1660-1712) explains, "when it comes to saying thank you, we cannot delegate this away to someone else to do it on our behalf. Thanks has to come directly from us."

HaKarat HaTov - appreciating and calling out the good - is a core Jewish value. As we approach the end of our program year, there is so much good to celebrate and so many people to whom we are grateful. It is our honor to thank and acknowledge them. Modim Anachnu Lach.

In particular, we are grateful to Cantor Peter Halpern. Seven years ago, Cantor Halpern became our cantor and brought his beautiful voice and musicianship to our congregation. Over the years, Cantor Halpern has taught us new music, supported our choir, band and music committee and co-officiated at countless B'nai Mitzvah services. Cantor Halpern has shared important occasions in the life of our community - both moments of joy and moments of sadness. He has been our teacher and our friend. As Cantor Halpern and Nathan move to a warmer climate in Florida, we wish him well as he moves into a new cantorial role. Cantor Halpern, Modim Anachnu Lach.

We are also grateful to Emily Kieval, our Director of Inclusion. Over the past four years, Emily has helped to grow our inclusion program and supported countless children and families. Our grades K-5 education program is now nationally recognized due to her work with children with learning differences. We are proud that our doors are open wider because Emily was on the other side to say "join us" and "welcome." Emily, Modim Anachnu Lach.

We are grateful to Bridget Kinahan, who for the past two years has greeted our members as they enter the building. Bridget will attend Boston University's School of Theology beginning this fall. We wish Bridget joy and meaning in all of his endeavors. Bridget, Modim Anachnu Lach.

We are grateful to our returning staff: Lucy Banerji, Alonso Batista, Kim Bodemer, Erin Borrás, Caroline Dorn, Lucy Dube, Anne Fried, Ellie Goldman, Alison Lobron, Rebecca MacKillop, Jeff Remz, Liz Shiro, Marriah Vengroff, Al White, Rebecca Yudkoff and Loretta Zack. What a privilege to continue to work with all of you. Modim Anachnu Lach.

We are grateful to the special community of teachers who lovingly teach our students and families. Your dedication and commitment to this community is extraordinary. Modim Anachnu Lach.

We are especially grateful to Scott Birnbaum, our outgoing Temple President, as he completes his term this June. Over the years, his wisdom, menschlichkeit and vision have been central to the success of our congregation. Scott's time, attention to detail and support to not only the staff and clergy, but to the entire congregational community, have made a tremendous difference. We know Scott will continue to be part of the fabric of Temple Shalom, and all of us will continue to be blessed by his presence. Scott, Modim Anachnu Lach.

And finally, we are grateful to each and every one of our members and volunteers. You spend countless hours ensuring that Temple Shalom is a home where all of us feel safe, cared for and known. You are the Jewish present and the Jewish future. It is an honor to serve as your rabbis. Modim Anachnu Lach.

As we take a much-needed summer breath, we wish all of our staff and members joy, wholeness and blessing. May our community continue to go from strength to strength. We close with a version of the Hatimah - the seal or summary of the Modim Anachnu Lach blessing:

ברוך אתה ה', הטוב שמך וְכָל יוֹשְׁבֵי תְּבֵל נִאֶה לְהוֹדוֹת

Blessed are You, Adonai, Your Name is Goodness, and You and all those who dwell amongst us are worthy of thanksgiving.

Rabbi Berry and Rabbi Abrasley

President Scott Birnbaum

Thank you

After three years as Temple Shalom's president, this is my final bulletin article. I hope you will indulge me as I offer a few reflections.

First, the job took a lot of time and effort and was very challenging at many points. A modern, Reform temple of our size is a surprisingly complex organization. In part, it's because, more than many other not-for-profit entities, Temple Shalom occupies a special place for our members. What that place is may differ among individuals — for some it is a house of worship, for others, a school for themselves or their children, and for still others, it's the location for friendship and fellowship — but its centrality in the lives of many congregants transcends all of these explanations.

Our participation in Temple Shalom, indeed in any synagogue, represents the clearest manifestation that, regardless of whether we were born Jewish, are Jews by choice or are family members of Jews, we have a place in the chain of tradition reaching back millennia and amongst the Jewish people spanning the world.

It's no surprise, therefore, how much our members really care about Temple Shalom. It was truly my privilege to get to hear from so many members, not just words of praise, but more importantly, words of criticism and complaint. Such feedback, valuable and constructive in itself, is infinitely preferable to apathy, which, fortunately, was in rare supply.

The last three years have been a time of great change in our clergy, our other staff and as is about to happen, our sanctuary. Much of the personnel change was unplanned and undesired. Such dramatic change can be unsettling, to say the least. Institutions built on shakier foundations than ours might not have survived.

But I am absolutely convinced that Temple Shalom has emerged from this period of change even stronger and with a bright future. I hasten to add that this has very, very little to do with me. Rather, it is a tribute to the incredible work and creativity of our staff, particularly Rabbi Abrasley, Rabbi Berry and Executive Director Ellie Goldman, and our intelligent and forward-thinking trustees and executive committee members as well as many other lay leaders with whom I have had the pleasure to work. I was especially honored to be preceded as Temple president by Jo-Ann Suna, from whom I learned a great deal. I am equally honored to be followed as president by Fred Kraus, who is uniquely equipped to lead Temple Shalom from strength to strength.

I must add words of thanks to my family who put up with quite a bit these past three years. To Lynn, Rachel and Hannah, I'm sorry for all of the late-night meetings and endless conference calls.

And to my parents, thank you for giving me an excellent Jewish education that instilled in me the values that continued to guide me throughout my presidency.

Finally, thank you to you, our members, for your commitment to Temple Shalom and for entrusting me with the honor of serving as your president.



THE MOSAIC OF TEMPLE SHALOM

Preserving our Past &
Celebrating our Future

Friday, June 7 at 7:30 after services
Appropriate for adults, children, & families

Local artist Josh Winer will lead a hands-on art workshop (**no art experience necessary**) to help preserve the memories created in our sacred space and celebrate the amazing moments ahead as our community builds toward the future.



Sponsored by the Anita Winer Open Your Eyes Fund

Open
your
eyes...

Executive Director Ellie Goldman



Each June, I look forward to the side by side comparison of my kids' first and last day of school pictures. Did they get taller? Do they look wiser? How has the year shaped and changed them? This year, I find myself similarly nostalgic about this year at Temple Shalom. I'm looking back with joy and pride at all that we have experienced together and the ways we have grown and changed.

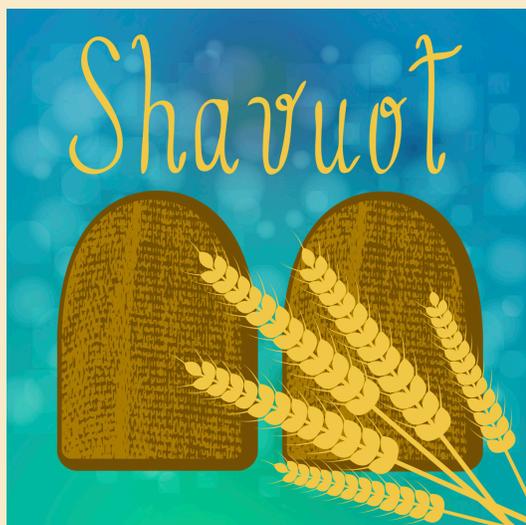
We have shared incredible moments including the B'yachad service on Rosh Hashanah morning, the adult trip to Eastern Europe, the installation service and gala in November, the family Israel trip in February, family mitzvah day at SHACHARIT, the adult b'nai mitzvah, Purim Megillah and Margaritas, the Altshuler Scholar-in-Residence weekend with Cantor Boxt, the Progressive Dinner and many, many more. This has been a year of tremendous growth and change for our community, and there is still so much to come.

Our cup (and calendar) overflows with opportunities to learn, gather, pray, engage and be together. None of these experiences would be possible without the dedicated volunteers who make it all happen with grace and love. Please join us on June 14 to celebrate and thank the members of our congregation who volunteer on dozens of different projects and efforts that make Temple Shalom so special.

As we look ahead to the coming year, there is also much for which we are thankful. Construction will begin June 24 on the renovation of our Sanctuary and social hall. The project will include a new entry and vestibule, an additional all-gender and fully accessible bathroom on the worship level as well as updated sound and video capability, a new lowered bima, flexible seating and more.

The Sanctuary and social hall will be closed during renovations, but our Temple office will remain open as usual in its regular location. Services beginning the Shabbat of June 28 will be held in the Rothman Chapel, and the building will only be accessible through our day time entrance on the office level. Our popular Nature Explorer Summer Camp program will not be impacted, and the construction areas will not overlap in any way with the spaces used by our campers.

Thank you to every person in our community who shares with us your time, your enthusiasm, your talents and your generous financial support. Looking back at this year, we have so much about which to feel proud. Looking ahead, we will gather to welcome the new Jewish year in a space that reflects our rich history and our bright future. Have a wonderful summer.



Celebrate Shavuot with Temple Shalom with Shavuot Torah-Telling

Saturday, June 8
7 p.m. Yizkor
7:30-9 p.m. Shavuot program

Join us for a wonderful night of Torah-Telling with a few Temple members sharing their most meaningful text.

Please register online for this free program.

Shavuot and Shabbat Happenings

KABBALAT SHABBAT

FwYC Tot Shabbat Halleilu

Friday, June 7, 5:30 p.m.

Our Friday night family experience begins with a short Tot Shabbat service, followed by a family dinner for ages 0-5 (siblings invited). The larger congregation's Shabbat Halleilu service begins at 6:30 p.m. with free babysitting available for ages two and up. Come to any/all portions of the evening that fit your family!

SHABBAT HALLEILU BAND AND ELLEN ALLARD

Friday, June 7, 6:30 p.m.

Shabbat Halleilu and Ellen Allard will be part of this spirited service in song. Shabbat Halleilu is held the first Friday of every month with the Temple's Shabbat Halleilu Band, led by keyboardist Matt Savage, accompanying the worship. This service is appropriate for all ages. Children are welcome and invited to lead Hamotzi, the blessing over the challot (two challahs) at the conclusion of the service. The service is preceded by our Shalom Nosh at 6 p.m. "Shabbat Club" babysitting is provided and free of charge for ages two and up.

THE MOSAIC OF TEMPLE SHALOM

Friday, June 7, 7:30 p.m. (after services)

Preserve our past and celebrate our future as we ready for renovations of the Temple starting June 24. After services, artist Josh Winer will lead us in a hands-on art workshop to help preserve the memories created in our Temple (no art experience is necessary) and celebrate as the Temple Shalom community builds towards the future.

SHAVUOT

Shavuot Torah-Telling

Saturday, June 8, 7 p.m. Yizkor; 7:30-9 p.m. Shavuot celebration and program

On the holiday of Shavuot, we celebrate receiving the Torah. Over the centuries, we have made the stories and teachings of Torah our own by interpreting and reinterpreting this sacred text in light of our own challenges, joys and life experiences. Join us for a Shavuot evening of Torah-telling, as a few members of our community share their most meaningful text from Torah. Drinks and appetizers will be served. Event is free. Please register online.

SHABBAT MORNING

Minyan and Torah Study

Saturdays, 8:45 a.m.

A lively lay-led minyan service is held every Saturday morning in the Rothman Chapel, followed by a light breakfast and Torah study.

B'NAI MITZVAH

A Saturday morning Shabbat service will be held at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary with a Torah service when there is a Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

SUMMER SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday night services move to the Rothman Chapel starting June 28. Services throughout the summer are at 6:30 p.m. See you this summer!

Homebound? Dial in to Shabbat Services!

For our members who are unable to be present at Shabbat services held in the Sanctuary, Temple Shalom offers the option of listening to Shabbat services via telephone. While unable to be physically present, you may connect with your community by hearing and experiencing any Shabbat service taking place in the Sanctuary.

To take advantage of this option, call (800) 846-4808 at the time of the service. When prompted, enter 99955000 on your phone. You will be connected to the line transmitting the Temple Shalom service. After you call the first time, your number will be recognized, and you will no longer need to enter the code. The Temple pays all phone charges for this service.

We hope you can be here in person, but when you can't, we hope you can "be here" by phone!

Please note that for Summer Shabbat services, it will not be possible to call in starting June 28. The call in resumes this fall.

Education and Youth Engagement



Kim Bodemer, Senior Director of Education and Youth Engagement

We spent the first night of Passover at my sister's house. It was a lovely night surrounded by extended family and friends, many of whom I hadn't seen since last Passover. The question I was asked over and over again was, "How's your new job?" I've been at Temple Shalom for nearly a year now, and my "new job" is not so new anymore. I've completed a full school year cycle and have learned so much. I am proud of the education team and what we've accomplished, and I'm so excited for what the coming year will bring. Here is a recap of seven new or reimagined initiatives we've undertaken this year:

1. Parent Orientation for SHACHARIT Families

This session held on the first day of SHACHARIT allowed me an opportunity to meet SHACHARIT parents while sharing curricular goals and introducing new programming. By starting the year this way, we had a shared language to start our work together.

2. Newly Reimagined MINCHA

Introducing our teaching staff to project-based learning, students were able to explore Jewish values through a variety of modalities and create meaningful products that they shared widely. Engaging middle school students is not always easy, but students responded positively to this meaningful work, deepening relationships with friends while developing connections with teens they didn't know before.

3. Grade Six Retreat

Bringing our sixth graders together for a weekend of learning, service and engagement at Camp Ramah was amazing. The students enjoyed interactive programming including "Paperbag" Dramatics – Torah edition, Minute-2-Win-It challenges, social action projects and an "unplugged" talent show. It was great seeing them come together as a group, and it was all screen free!

4. Family Learning Sessions

Happily, we brought back opportunities for families in grades five and six to engage in rich conversations and study together. Our fifth-grade cohort considered how people make names for themselves and thought about how they wanted to be known in the world. This was an introduction to tikkun olam and mitzvah projects. Our sixth graders and their parents explored the values around B'nai Mitzvah and created a brit (an agreement) on what the B'nei Mitzvah process would be like. More family learning sessions are being planned for next year.

5. SHACHARIT Family Mitzvah Day

Over 250 members of the SHACHARIT community came together to participate in a day of service. Some participants went off-site to the Newton Food Pantry. Some delivered food for Family Table while others spent time with residents at the Golda Meir House doing a "cake-off." We had several projects that took place at the Temple Shalom building. We had members making meals and treats in connection with the Caring Community. We had a hamantaschen brigade, preparing for Purim; a group writing joke books and making "cool ties" for service men and women overseas; some made blankets for Project Linus while others made fleece hats and scarves for Cradles 2 Crayons; we learned about refugees and packed backpacks full of supplies, and we made dog and cat toys for a local shelter. It was a meaningful day, and I look forward to beginning to plan for next year.

6. All new PurimPalooza including *Lion King* Shpiel

This program represented an amazing team effort. All members of the education team stepped up to plan and implement this spirited day. I loved that parents and children participated in the shpiel, that the teens of SHAFTY stepped forward to help run the games and that many got in the spirit and dressed in costume.

7. Tzedakah Expo

This initiative was born out of what was "Mitzvah Mall." Students learned about Maimonides' Ladder of Tzedakah and explored how "righteous giving" can create more justice in the world. We then had representatives from four organizations who help those in need come to speak with our students about the work that they do and how donations are used. Students then had the chance to decide how our collected tzedakah funds would be allocated. This was an important way for our students to consider how philanthropy can truly make a difference in the world. I look forward to building on the success of this year's program.

I feel truly blessed to be part of this incredible community and look forward to continuing to build relationships and develop programming that meets the needs of our families. Wishing you all a restorative summer break!

SHACHARIT

Liz Shiro, Director of SHACHARIT

We had a fabulous year in SHACHARIT! Our program wrapped up on May 5 with a day full of sharing student work and marking ritual moments.



Our first graders finished up their Chesed (kindness) Rocks. One student's message on her rocks (pictured left) was "Your wishes will come true" and "Have a nice day." The other shows a connection between Chesed and Star Wars, "May the force be with you" and "Do or do not, there is no try."

Third graders wrapped up their unit on tzedakah by creating an actual Maimonides Ladder of Giving (right). This is on display in the lobby. They also supplemented this project with a video of why giving tzedakah is important and a game to help remember examples of tzedakah. Our fifth graders shared posters they made about famous Jewish people they studied this year.

To finish off our year, we had a wonderful family t'filah service where our third graders went through the ritual of Siyyum HaSefer (completion of the book) and received their siddurim with beautiful covers made by their parents. Our fifth graders passed these down to the third graders to mark their transition into the MINCHA program.

Our teaching staff was incredible this year, and we honored and thanked them for their hard work! Many of our teachers are moving on to new jobs and locations, and we wish them lots of luck. We also honored and thanked Emily Kieval, our Director of Inclusion, for all her hard work and visioning to make SHACHARIT the Inclusive program we want it to be. We wish Emily good luck on her new endeavors and are excited to bring on Alison Lobron to help continue this vision of inclusion across all of our programs.

Thank you to all of the volunteers and staff that have helped make SHACHARIT such a fabulous and positive experience this year! We look forward to spending the summer planning for next year. Have a wonderful summer.



Families with Young Children (FwYC)



What a great year it has been getting to know so many new families at all of our events for Families with Young Children. We loved your spirit and excitement for all our themed Tot Shabbats. Thank you for coming ready to sing and dance in your pajamas, rainbow colors and costumes. We extend a huge THANK YOU to Rebecca Korb of RK's Kitchen and Catering for making such delicious homemade meals for us each Friday.

We had so much fun seeing you at Musical Matzah Balls and Little Explorers, and we loved getting to know your smart, curious and wonderful children.

Thanks for coming to our Parent's Nights as well.



Have a wonderful summer. We hope to see many of you at Nature Explorer Summer Camp!

Becca Yudkoff

Program Director for Families with Young Children

Youth Programs



It is hard to believe that the 2018-2019 youth programming year has come to an end. Our calendar was so jam packed with classes and events for our teens, and the time really flew by.

Highlights of this year included launching a new project-based MINCHA program for our sixth and seventh graders, a super-fun and unplugged sixth grade retreat, spending time with our incredible madrichim, watching new friendships form across all youth groups, confirmation and celebrating our seniors, working with our dedicated education team and building relationships with our families.

I am sad to say goodbye to our teens as they head to camp and other summer adventures. However, I am excited for our program planning to kick into high gear. This summer, we will reflect as a team on our successes and the lessons we gleaned from the bumps in the road we met along the way. These insights will guide us in the development of next year's teen offerings. Look out for a mailer and an email with the full 2019-2020 youth programming and calendar. We can't wait to welcome you back in the fall.



The confirmation class of 5779 at rehearsal preparing to lead the Confirmation and Celebration of Youth service. (l to r): Anya Lefkowitz, Zach Sardi-Santos, Michael Tsicoulis, Carrie Ryter and Rabbi Berry



Taste of Campers were pumped up for the second annual color war.

On behalf of Youth Engagement, we wish you a summer full of fun and relaxation. Mazel tov to our graduating seniors. We are so proud of you!

Marriah Vengroff

Director of Youth Engagement

Nursery School

Spring at the Temple Shalom Nursery School is marked by many exciting changes: renewing our gardens, playing with water; observing blossoming trees, returning birds, bees and butterflies and spending more time in the outdoor classroom.

For me, springtime is also a time of meeting with prospective families. I am excited to welcome them to school. Every conversation is an opportunity for new connections. During visits, parents are impressed by the bright classrooms, thoughtful outdoor space and many examples of our dedication to nature-rich explorations and Jewish values. It is not as easy, however, to show what goes on beyond the events, activities and materials. I invite visitors to observe in the classrooms with hopes that they will see our depth of respect for the children, the quality of relationships and our unique approach to education. These observations can be insightful. One parent noted: "How is it possible that you have 18 children in the classroom playing so quietly? I don't think my child would be able to do this - he is full of energy and loud all the time!"



This mother observed exploration time in the Parparim classroom. Children happily played and conversed in small groups in different areas of the classroom. Three children in the block area worked together, building a "presents-making machine." They added blocks to the structure while explaining their ideas: "This is the window for the presents to come out. This is the part which opens and closes when you put money in. This will be the moving thing for the present to go from here to there."

Two children worked at the "inventors' table" constructing a transformer out of a pizza box. Four children worked on their potions of paint and water. Another four children molded clay and embellished their sculptures with sparkling beads. Two children were busy playing "sisters" in their "home" created with pillows and blankets. Finally, three children were sitting with a teacher, discussing the book they just read at circle time while other teachers joined the "inventors" and the "builders" to support their creative process.

What was not immediately visible to the eye was the thoughtful planning that preceded these playful explorations and the consistent effort of our teachers to develop close relationships with their students and to understand their personalities, interests and drives. Based on their knowledge of the children, teachers make careful considerations about the organization of their classroom, as well as their daily routines, materials, books and activities. Teachers' decisions empower every student. Children are able to decide what materials and toys to explore, who to partner with and how to plan and design their play. In addition, children know that their play will be respected, protected from interruptions and supported. By feeling in control, children experience a deep engagement with their chosen activity. On the level of neurons, such engagement creates a "brain in flow" - an idea proposed by psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi - a state of total concentration resulting in joy and peak performance.

After this observation, I assured the surprised parent: "What you see is an example of children engaged in their projects, not just entertained by toys, materials or peers. Children remain their wonderful selves, active and loud, but they learn to organize and channel their energy to achieve goals, which they established for themselves."

When children experience this "flow," they focus their attention, observe their own thinking and collaborate. These skills are foundational for future academic success. "Flow" is experienced again and again when children save their work and keep returning to the same project over periods of days and weeks. They exercise persistence and experience great joy when they overcome challenges and bring their vision to life. As educators, we try to share our beliefs with prospective families. We are convinced that teaching is not equal to learning and knowing is not equal to understanding. We see children as active constructors of their knowledge, and we partner with children in this process. We encourage children not just to play, but to play deeply and immerse themselves in ideas, symbols, representations, arguments, relationships, listening and seeking solutions. Great play equals great learning.

Lucy Banerji
Nursery School Director

Getting to Know You with Loretta Zack



Nursery School students (l to r): Sophie Schumacher, Sari Schumacher, Andrew Winston, Emily Farwell and Kyle Zinner

For the last six bulletins, I have covered the stories of some of the most fascinating members of Temple Shalom. From Lica Brill escaping from Romania, to the Finkelstein/Alkon family and our co-worker Ben, along with their challenges; from David Harris and his family to the Forbes family covering mental awareness; from Serena Jampel, one of our youth with a bright future, to Michael Appel and Guy Ronen, with an amazing story of love despite all odds. So what am I missing?

Believe it or not, this is going to be my most challenging of all interviews. Will this work for them and me? Will I be tearing my hair out? Will they end up crying? Will I end up crying? Who knows, for today I met with our “bubelas,” our “klainers,” our “little ones” in the Nursery School and all of our futures.

Let me introduce you to Sari and her twin sister Sophie, 5; Kyle, 5; Andrew, 4; and Emily, 4 1/2.

I started by telling them what I was doing there and told them I would ask questions so that I can learn more about them. They cheekily gave me their parent’s names: Sari and Sophie told me that their mother is Suzanne Schumacher, and they don’t have a father, which prompted a question from the group as to why. Sophie explained that her father had died from cancer, so I told them that I had met their father as he used to come into the office. They were all very “grown up” about this and didn’t ask any more questions and moved on. As for me, all I could wonder was how proud he would have been of these two beauties.

Kyle, who kept falling off his chair with excitement, told me his parents were Lori and Ken Zinner. It took a while to get the real names of Andrew’s parents because he gave me all sorts of comical answers, but I finally learned that Amy and Robert Winston had produced this young comedian. Finally, Emily told me that her parents were Ellen and Wildon Farwell. My next questions were what classes they were in, which were Kochavim and Parparim, and they told me who their teachers were and how much they liked being with them.

“What about the things you do in class and playtime?” The crowd grew very rowdy and started jumping about and shouting out things like “playing soccer on the playground” and “going into the spaceship,” which they showed me. The poor spaceship almost fell apart with all the excitement. They said they liked the math area, and I honestly didn’t know they even had one! When I asked them about their families and the things they like to do when they are at home, a riot almost broke out as they all shouted at once different things like “I love watching *The Incredibles* with my mom and dad.” “We went to Story Land and met Winnie the Pooh.” “Was it a real bear?” I asked. “Yes” and “no,” they said.

We went on to talk about vacation time, and I was told by Sari and Sophie, “We are going to nana’s Cape house, and we are going to borrow it.” Andrew said, “I want to go to a water park with my parents and my brother.” Emily was more concerned about her bluefish called Bubbles, who had died, and she wanted a new fish. Andrew was showing me his Ninjago shirt, which was very cute. Kyle talked about his dog, who was basically still a pup and his older brother, Miles. At this point, I am not sure who was more worn out, but the group was unruly and wanted to roll all over the floor, and I could do no more than smile at all this energy around me.

Finally, I asked them if they wanted to ask me anything to which Andrew replied, “How old are you?” I kind of knew that this might come up, so I asked all of them how old they thought I was. Sophie said, “21,” and Andrew said, “29,” and I am truly grateful for that because I accepted the 29 and said my goodbyes to my new friends.

I dragged my 29-year-old body up the stairs and wondered at the energy of the kids, their teachers and everyone involved in the Nursery School. These youngsters are our future, and I am so glad I was able to spend some time with them and look forward to watching them grow and go through the stages of life at Temple Shalom.

Calendar of Events

JUNE 2019

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

Minyan and Torah Study
8:45 a.m.

Shabbat Mind:
Mindfulness and Meditation
9 a.m.

B'nai Mitzvah of
Adam Levin and Ellie Black
10:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

Nature Explorer Summer Camp
Kickoff BBQ
11 a.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 4

Grade 4 Parent Meeting/Social
7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

Executive Committee Meeting
7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

Mah Jongg
1 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

Tot Shabbat Halleilu
5:30 p.m.

FwYC Dinner
5:45 p.m.

Shalom Nosh
6 p.m.

Shabbat services
6:30 p.m.

Community Art Experience
with Artist Josh Winer
7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8 | EREV SHAVUOT

Minyan and Torah Study
8:45 a.m.

Cornerstone Member Luncheon
11 a.m.

Yizkor for Shavuot
7 p.m.

Shavuot Torah-Telling program
7:30- 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9 | SHAVUOT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

Music Committee Meeting
7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

Mah Jongg
1 p.m.

Spirituality Discussion Group
7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

Annual Meeting
5:30 p.m.

Shalom Nosh
6 p.m.

SHABBAT SERVICES

6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

Minyan and Torah Study
8:45 a.m.

Bat Mitzvah of Grayson Freid
10:30 a.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 17

Garden Club
7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

Board of Trustees Meeting
7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

Mah Jongg
1 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

Shalom Nosh
6 p.m.

Shabbat services
6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

Minyan and Torah Study
8:45 a.m.

Bat Mitzvah of Sophie Grace
10:30 a.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 24

Nature Explorer Summer Camp begins
7:45 a.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 27

Mah Jongg
1 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

Shabbat services
7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

Minyan and Torah Study
8:45 a.m.



Calendar of Events

JULY 2019

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3

Drop-in coffee with Cantor Shafritz
9 a.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 4 | INDEPENDENCE DAY

Temple office and
Summer Camp closed

FRIDAY, JULY 5

Shabbat services
6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 6

Minyan and Torah Study
8:45 a.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 11

Mah Jongg
1 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 12

Shabbat services
6:30 p.m.

Welcome dinner for
Cantor Leah Shafritz
7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 13

Minyan and Torah Study
8:45 a.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 18

Mah Jongg
1 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 19

Shabbat services
6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 20

Minyan and Torah Study
8:45 a.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 25

Mah Jongg
1 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 26

Shabbat services
6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 27

Minyan and Torah Study
8:45 a.m.

AUGUST 2019

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1

Mah Jongg
1 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2

Shabbat services
6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

Minyan and Torah Study
8:45 a.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

Mah Jongg
1 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

Shabbat services
6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

Minyan and Torah Study
8:45 a.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

Mah Jongg
1 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

Last day of Nature Explorer
Summer Camp
7:45 a.m.

Shabbat services
6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

Minyan and Torah Study
8:45 a.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

Mah Jongg
1 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

Shabbat services
6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

Minyan and Torah Study
8:45 a.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

Mah Jongg
1 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

Shabbat services
6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

Minyan and Torah Study
8:45 a.m.

Mental Health Initiative

The Mental Health Initiative has had a busy and productive year. It began with Rabbi Berry's Kol Nidre sermon, which focused on mental health in our community and beyond, and the announcement of the formation of the Temple's Mental Health Initiative. This was followed by a Yom Kippur afternoon learning session, led by Dr. Jennifer Stone and Dr. Robert Waldinger, in which more than 50 members brainstormed about how we as a community can further our efforts to reduce stigma and support those who suffer mental health challenges.

In January, about 12 participants met to create a plan for the year. The goals the group decided on were to:

1. Produce an updated emergency mental health crisis resource sheet for Temple restrooms as well as a comprehensive document of resources for mental health services in our area
2. Dedicate a Shabbat evening service and program/dinner designed to call attention to mental health and offer an opportunity for members to share their personal stories and expertise
3. Convene a gathering of mental health providers who are also members of Temple Shalom

We are proud to share that we are in the process of meeting all three goals. First, Wendy Case and others have been working to create a mental health resource guide, which will be ready in the fall.

On March 30, we held a Shabbat service, dinner and panel discussion focused on reducing the stigma surrounding mental health. We are grateful to Dr. Jennifer Stone for moderating, as well as Temple members Leslie Bernstein, Dr. Jennifer Green, Zoe Forbes and Dr. Sol Levin for sharing their stories and expertise with our community. More than 80 Temple members joined us for a meaningful evening of learning, prayer and discussion.

Finally, also in March, we were excited to convene close to 30 mental health professionals who are also Temple members. The group spent time learning together about the intersection of Judaism, spirituality and mental health as well as getting to know one another as they offered ideas and support for our mental health initiative.

Looking ahead to next year, on Friday evening, Sept. 13, we look forward to welcoming Hadassah Margolis to our congregation. Hadassah is the lead therapist for the Department of Spirituality and Mental Health at McLean Hospital and leads discussion groups about the intersection between spirituality and mental health throughout the greater Boston Jewish community. We are excited to learn with her and launch a discussion group that she will lead next fall. Other important initiatives in the planning stages include Sunday morning screenings for depression in adults and a program with NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

We are thrilled to have made a great deal of progress this year moving our Mental Health initiative forward. There is still so much work left to do to make a difference at both Temple Shalom and in our great community.

Rabbi Allison Berry, Barbara Fierman, Judy Levin-Charns

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES IN OUR COMMUNITY

American Federation for Suicide
Suicide prevention lifeline
(800) 273-TALK (8255)

Colony Care Behavioral Health
Mental health/substance abuse therapy
(781) 431-1177 x210

Crossroads Counseling
Mental health for adults, couples and families
(781) 431-2277

Jewish Family & Children's Services
Services for families, children and seniors
(781) 647-JFCS (5327)

Mass Men
Mental/behavioral resources for men
(800) 322-1356

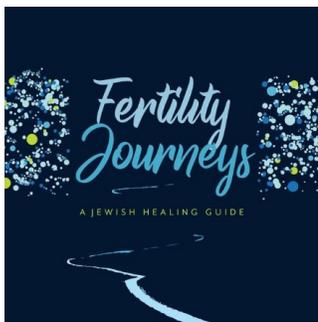
Riverside Emergency Services & Outpatient
For children, adolescents and adults
(781) 769-8674 (emergency)
(617) 969-4925 (outpatient)

Samaritans Suicide Hotline
If you or someone you know is in crisis
(877) 870-HOPE (4673) (adult)
(800) 252-TEEN (8336) (teen)

William James Interface
Free referrals to licensed mental health providers
(888) 244-6842 x1411

For immediate help, always call 911

Supporting those on Fertility Journeys



Did you know that the rates of infertility within the Jewish community are higher than the national average, and that one in six Jewish women will experience a fertility challenge? (1) “Be fruitful and multiply” our texts tell us; it can be a harsh reminder for those who struggle to do so.

Last month, several members of Temple Shalom attended a unique gathering: a training for clergy, lay leaders and clinicians in our Boston area community who support those on fertility-related journeys. Hosted by Mayyim Hayyim, our community mikveh, and Uprooted: The Jewish Response to Fertility Journeys, the training explored medical and emotional perspectives of fertility, role-plays of family dynamics, moving first person stories, Mayyim Hayyim’s resources (books, immersion ceremonies) and a discussion of how our community can do a better job of understanding and supporting these individuals and families.

Traditionally, the time between Passover and Shavuot has a special ritual – the counting of the Omer (learn more here <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/counting-the-omer/>). Counting – sefira in Hebrew – is an everyday reality of those dealing with fertility challenges. The article below beautifully connects these two counting experiences that are both in anticipation of receiving something extraordinarily precious – Torah and children.

The Temple Shalom members who attended the training will be working to identify specific ways we can help out in our own Temple community. We welcome your involvement; contact Loretta Zack in the Temple office: lzack@templeshalom.org.

Compassion vs. counting: reflections on the counting of the Omer By Dalia Davis, Co-Founder, Uprooted: The Jewish Response to Fertility Journeys. (2)

“...today is the __ day of the __ week of the Omer.” For seven weeks and seven days, there is counting. Counting up towards

revelation, towards a dream, a life changing gift and moment filled with joy – receiving the Torah.

20 million sperm. Eight eggs retrieved, three that fertilized. Ten more days to see if the pregnancy took. 14 days past ovulation. Miscarriage at week 11. 18 months of waiting to be chosen for adoption. Six years of trying to conceive.

These are just some of the countings that arise during a fertility journey.

The fertility journey is filled with counting. Counting up towards revelation, towards a dream, a life changing gift and moment filled with joy - a child. So often though, during the journey, the counting feels endless, burdensome, painful and hopeless. Every day of the fertility journey has a number attached to it, whether one is trying to conceive, waiting to adopt or counting the weeks, months and trimesters of a pregnancy.

Often within a community we become acquainted with one another through numbers as well. “How many children do you have?” “How long have you been married?” “Is this your first child?” “Will this be your first grandchild?”

As we seek to get to know each other, perhaps we can try to ask questions that are less dependent on numbers. Questions that do not re-conjure painful countings past and present. Perhaps we can aim to ask more open questions that tell us about the essence of a person. Questions such as, “What do you enjoy doing?” “What’s something new that you discovered lately?” “Tell me about yourself.”

As we approach the end of the counting of the Omer, let us use our final moments counting up to a precipice of joy to hold in our hearts those whose counting is more complex. Let us work to take such quantifying out of our interactions and to approach others with openness and greater sensitivity.

Lisa Berman

Mayyim Hayyim Mikveh and Education Director

(1) Jewish Fertility Foundation

(2) mayyimhayyim.org/product/fertility-journeys-a-jewish-healing-guide/

Engagement

Hachnasat Orchim (Welcoming the Stranger) through the eyes of MINCHA

Earlier this year, I was invited to come to our sixth and seventh grade program, MINCHA, to speak to a group of students about Temple Shalom's membership and engagement efforts. Led by Kim Bodemer, our Senior Director of Education and Youth Engagement, this small group of kids was studying the Jewish value hachnasat orchim - welcoming the stranger - through the lens of art. The students had been tasked with visiting areas of our congregation - the lobby, the entrance to our Nursery School, even the parking lot - through the eyes of someone who was brand new to our congregation, and looking for signs of welcome. We had a great conversation, where the kids asked important and thoughtful questions, like:



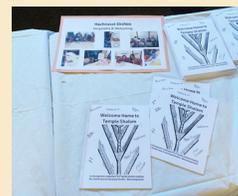
"Who gets to decide what artwork gets hung in the building?"

"What do you show new members when they come to visit our synagogue?"

"What is the best part about your job at Temple Shalom?"

"What does a typical day look like for you?"

"How did you get into this role?"



Under Kim's guidance, the group decided to create a coloring book to hand out to new families when they came to visit Temple Shalom for the first time. If I am being completely honest, while I loved the idea, I haven't thought much about it since - I figured that it wouldn't be done for a few months and that I'd see it when it was finished, and that was that. Recently, I did see the final product - and I am completely blown away. The group absolutely outdid themselves, creating the first coloring book I have ever seen that might also be called a holy document. Titled, "Welcome Home To Temple Shalom," the book features hand-drawn pictures from around our congregation, coupled with Jewish text and the students' own commentary.

A drawing of our sanctuary is accompanied by the words "For my house shall be a house of prayer for all people" (Isaiah 56:5). Our all-gender bathroom has its own page. The page that features our bulletin board is illustrated with flyers about our social justice work with refugee families, our commitment to gender equality and a poster that says "Believe in yourself." Our Rabbis, our nursery school and our center for inclusion are all represented. Best of all, these drawings are all through the eyes of our sixth and seventh graders and were created with so much thought and intention.

I come to Temple Shalom every day, and even though I know every inch of our building (almost - I don't go in the attic much) the students included details that truly represent Temple Shalom that I see all the time, but don't think about on a day-to-day basis. For example, our Nursery School Director, Lucy Banerji, recently noticed that when parents use the keypad to securely enter our Nursery School, their little ones were also interested in pressing the buttons. Rather than giving toddlers the access code, she installed a calculator at preschool height so that the kids could have the same experience. Both the keypad and the calculator are in the coloring book, behind a big sign that says "Welcome to TS Nursery School." This detail may seem insignificant, but it's so much more than a page in a coloring book - it's a moment in a story, a reflection of who we are and how we welcome.

Another favorite is the drawing of collection bins for canned food and crackers that we gather monthly to donate to the Family Table food pantry - I love that these kids see that collection as part of our sacred community and that they truly take note of it as a sign of welcoming. It's so easy to go through our days not really observing what is around us - what a wonderful opportunity to really take note of our surroundings and what they represent about Temple Shalom. I can't wait for our new families to fill both these books and our community with color and light. The beauty of this project is that it's incomplete - each person who enters our synagogue home brings their own perspective and vision that help make our community so colorful.

Welcoming the stranger isn't one person's job - it belongs to all of us. Thank you to Davis, Alissa, Amelia, Gabe, Macy, Marley, Sasha, Max, Savannah, Sophie, Izzy, Sasha and Noah for doing this sacred work!

Caroline Dorn
Membership and Engagement Coordinator

Get Involved

CARING COMMUNITY PROVIDES HELP

Temple Shalom Caring Community volunteers spent many hours this year supporting fellow members during times of joy and times of difficulty or loss. We baked, cooked and delivered food; provided rides and shared sympathies. Many thanks to Susie Gudema, who organized the meal preparations and deliveries. And thanks also to our many volunteers - too many to name in this space!



Personally, I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to those families who supported our initiatives by contributing to the Caring Community Fund, volunteering their time and helping to create a more caring community in so many ways. For the Purim holiday this year, volunteers delivered mishloach manot, gifts of food, to 65 of our most senior congregants. During SHACHARIT Mitzvah Day, a group of families baked hamantaschen and also decorated holiday cards, gift bags and masks. On Purim delivery day, Haley Director's first grade class finished the decorating and filled the bags with treats.

Thank you to the Purim delivery drivers: Jennifer Behr, Nathalie Blitz, Wendy Case, Susan Dansker, Barbara Hecht, Ellen Nussbaum, Ellen Parker, Sara Pollock and Sharon Sholkin. Both school community and Caring Community volunteers collaborated on this successful initiative. We look forward to more joint projects!



Please be in touch if you have any ideas for "caring" initiatives for the coming year. And, of course, our outreach continues all year long. So, if you have availability for volunteering over the summer, be sure to let us know. If you have concerns or needs, call the Temple office at 617-332-9550, and the staff will pass your message along.

Rhoda Ben-Gai
Caring Community Chair
CaringCommunity@templeshalom.org

Excerpts from some recent notes of appreciation:

"Thank you for the delicious meal. Everyone enjoyed the meal and it helped us out a lot while I was recovering."

"Thanks to you and the Caring Community Group for your thoughtful delivery this week. It was a tough week that was made better with the treats and candles."

"It means so much to me and our family to have such a supportive Temple community."

"Grieving is difficult, but your expressions of compassion and kindness were great comfort to us."

Three stories from congregants:

"It is wonderful to be a part of the Caring Community at Temple Shalom. When a member of my family was ill and in need of help with transportation to treatment, volunteers from the community were there for us. It has also been a gift to participate in offering care and support to fellow synagogue members. Helping to provide rides and meals is good nourishment for my soul and has deepened my relationships with others in our community. The circle of giving and receiving is a blessing for our congregation."

"The Caring Committee reflects a key value of our Temple: that our commitment to tikkun olam is not just directed towards the world outside the Temple, but is central to our Temple family. We are there for each other. The Temple community has supported me in numerous times of need, including assisting with the shiva when my father died and meeting my needs for transportation, meals and companionship after several disabling illnesses and surgeries. It has been my privilege to be part of helping other members when they need rides to or from medical appointments or Shabbat services, visits when ill, or help with picking up food or prescriptions when they cannot drive. What a joy to be part of a community that supports each other."

"Since I lost my right to drive, Rhoda and Renee in particular have been there for me. Either they, or another Shabbat morning minyan participant, have driven me as needed, enabling me to attend the service and study on Saturday mornings. Many thanks to all the minyan community volunteers who have responded to this call for help. Special thanks to Renee for coming to visit me after I got discharged from the hospital. It meant a lot to me. Her care and generosity continue on, as she always checks with me to see if I have a ride home. The gift bag that was delivered to me on Purim was a wonderful surprise; it really touched me deeply. To the Temple: I appreciate all the support and care I get. I feel lucky and proud to be a member of Temple Shalom."

BOOK CLUB EXAMINES BOOKS *BUTTON MAN*, *BENEATH A SCARLET SKY*

Monday, June 17, 7:30 p.m. and Monday, Aug. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Summer offers no vacation for the Temple Shalom Book Club as the group will discuss Andrew Gross' novel *Button Man* in June and Mark Sullivan's *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* in August.

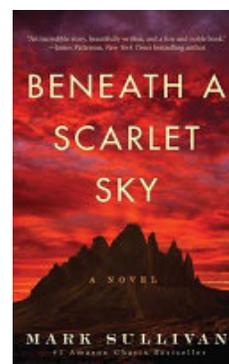
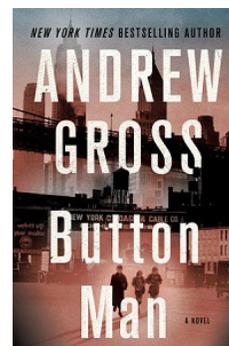
In its review of *Button Man*, the Associated Press said, "Gross transports readers back to a tumultuous time where religious persecution and organized crime ran rampant in New York City. He mixes real historical figures with fictional creations, and the story still feels authentic and personal."

"The author incorporates his real family history to enrich the story, and his love of that rich genealogical connection along with vast research into life in the Big Apple almost a century ago results in another outstanding and engrossing read." The Book Club will meet at the home of Marty Kretsch and Judith Di Leo, 84 Leeson Lane, Newton Centre. Please call Marty and Judith at (617) 965-3192 for parking instructions.

In August, the club will discuss Sullivan's exciting novel, *Beneath a Scarlet Sky*. Based on the true story of a forgotten hero, the USA Today and number one Amazon Charts bestseller *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* is the triumphant, epic tale of one young man's incredible courage and resilience during one of history's darkest hours.

The restaurant for our last meeting of the year must be selected. Temple members not receiving Book Club emails who are interested in attending this discussion should call Richard Morrison at 617-969-4572 for the name and location of this meeting.

The Temple Shalom Book Club's bi-monthly discussions are open to all Temple Members, their family and friends.



SISTERHOOD LOOKS AHEAD TO NEW YEAR

Looking for stimulating conversations, good food and drink, interesting programs both daytime and evening, a place to make new friends? Join Sisterhood! We are working hard to create some new programs and to schedule some of our favorites, such as the Fall Fling and Women's Seder. Look for our bulletin articles as the New Year begins. We hope you will join us. To give us feedback and new ideas, please visit Templeshalom.org/sisterhood to answer a short survey. The Sisterhood thanks the many women who brought all our programs to life and Rabbi Allison and Rabbi Laura for making our experiences richer and sweeter. We wish you a wonderful summer, and we will see you in the fall!



SINGLE WOMEN'S GROUP FORMS

A new group has formed to facilitate socializing between and among women Temple members who are single, widowed or divorced. If you enjoy theatre, museums, films, dining out and other activities and would like to meet others, contact Caroline Dorn (cdorn@templeshalom.org) for more information.

Social Action/Tzedek: Gun buyback

Do Your Piece for Peace:

Temple Shalom's Tzedek Task Force Supports Newton Gun Buyback Program

"He who takes one life, it is as though he has destroyed the universe, and he who saves one life, it is as though he has saved the universe." - Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5

Addressing gun violence in the United States often seems insurmountable. However, Mishnah Sanhedrin's statement expresses exactly why we have a moral imperative to do everything in our power to reduce the risk of gun violence. If our efforts - big or small - can save even one life, then we have an obligation to act. Newton is providing a concrete, practical way to reduce the risk of gun violence right here in our community. On June 15, the Newton Police Department, Middlesex Sheriff's Office and the Newton Interfaith Clergy Association will team up to hold the first gun buyback in Newton in more than 10 years.

Gun buybacks provide a safe way for residents to remove firearms from their homes in exchange for grocery gift cards. People participate for many reasons, including to protect their children, rid their homes of inherited or unwanted guns or simply in response to tragedies in the news. By reducing the number of guns in our community, we can reduce the risk of suicide, accidents and thefts of guns that may later be used in crimes.

One particularly concerning area impacted by the presence of guns is youth suicide. Like youth across the country, 15 percent of Massachusetts' youth had seriously considered - and seven percent attempted - suicide in the past year. (1) Suicide attempts can be impulsive and a cry for help, especially among youth. In fact, the vast majority of people who attempt suicide do not die, unless they use a gun. Research has shown that lower gun ownership rates are associated with significantly lower rates of suicide. (2) Even here in Newton, guns have a significant presence. According to the Newton Police Department, there are currently 2,022 active gun permits in Newton. Of those, 1,881 are Class A License to Carry permits. These are permits to purchase, carry, possess and transport loaded or unloaded large and non-large capacity handguns, rifles and shotguns, as well as ammunition. There are also currently 11 licenses to possess a machine gun in Newton. These numbers indicate the number of individuals who may legally purchase one or more firearms.

This year, the Tzedek (Social Justice) Task Force adopted gun violence as one of its key focus areas and committed \$1,000 in matching funds to support Newton's gun buyback program, which has a goal of raising \$20,000 Newton-wide. Temple members can donate \$25 gift cards from Wegmans, Whole Foods or Stop and Shop through June 5 at the Temple office and can also volunteer on the day of the event to help distribute materials and gift cards.

It is impossible to know whether an individual gun turned in and destroyed at a gun buyback may have contributed to a suicide or homicide or been involved in an accident. However, knowing that higher gun ownership rates are associated with higher rates of gun violence, I believe we should not wait to find out. If we can help facilitate the removal of one gun from our community that might be used in a teen suicide or stolen from someone's home to be used in a crime, then I believe we have an obligation to do so. I hope you will join the Tzedek Task Force in supporting Newton's gun buyback.

For more information or questions, please contact Laura Towvim at lgtowvim@gmail.com.

Laura Towvim

Board Member and member of Tzedek Task Force Gun Violence Prevention Team

(1) Data Brief 2015, Suicides and Self-Inflicted Injuries in Massachusetts. (Fall, 2017). Injury Surveillance Program, Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

(2) Banerjee, Ankur. (2019). More Youth Suicides Seen in States with High Gun Ownership Rates. Health News, Feb. 8, 2019.

Our Thanks

An update on the Syrian refugee family that our congregation supported for over a year

- Both children are doing well in school and are speaking English fluently. Both parents are making progress
- Both parents are working jobs, allowing the family to be self-supporting
- Thanks to Howie Sholkin, the father has earned his driver's license, and Howie is now helping the mother as well
- A huge thank you to Herb Chambers who donated a reliable used car to the family, including paying taxes, registration + filling the tank with gas
- Our fundraising also helped to provide drivers training, Uber funds, car insurance and a contribution towards future needs

Donations

RABBIS' SERVICE FUND

In Appreciation/Honor of

Rabbi Laura Abrasley

By Carole M. Stone

Rabbi Allison Berry for the support and beautiful service for our mother, Zelda Glazier

*By Nancy and Russell Lightman
Linda and Terry Bard
Margaret and James Glazier*

The naming of Ayelet Ben-David

By Danielle and Maor Ben-David

Rabbi Allison Berry

By Stacy and Mitchel Bernstein

Rabbi Berry for her care and comfort at the funeral of Ruth Novak

By Sid Novak and family

Marley Sherman's Bat Mitzvah

By Elissa and Adam Sherman

Rabbi Berry for her kindness, support and comfort

By Phyllis Pollack

In Memory of

Florence Kolman Adler

By Pamela Kolman

Robert T. Goldsmith

By the Fineman family

Sue Mack

By Carole M. Stone

Selma Miller

By Helaine Miller

CANTOR'S SERVICE FUND

In Honor of

Cantor Peter Halpern's services at Robert Hurwitz's funeral

By Judith Hurwitz

In Memory of

Anna Dane

By Harriet Dane Mandell

ADULT SPIRITUALITY GROWTH FUND

In Honor of

Ellen Glovsky's special birthday

By Brenda and Paul Burke

In Memory of

Michel Cohen

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Irene Laursen*

Paul Vanek

By Carol and Chuck Berlin

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In Memory of

**David R. Green
Michael Koskoff**

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**Leonard D. Lewis
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BUILDING FUND

In Memory of

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By Mim Cole and family

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By Anita M. Walk

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In Honor of

Alan Cemaj

By Denise Lasky

**Marjorie Greenberg's special birthday
Cathy Zoloth's special birthday**

By Loretta Zack

In Memory of

Edna Bosman

By Judi Goldberg

Jerry Kahn

By Phyllis and Jerry Briskin

Mabel Raum

By Sharon and Howard Sholkin

Florence Shulman

By Irene and Richard Laursen

Paul Vanek

*By Audrey Cooper
Marion and David Pollock
Arlene and Kurt Pressman*

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In Honor of

Deborah Shapiro becoming a Bat Mitzvah

By Karen and Joel Siegel

EDUCATOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory of

Paul Caplan

By Linda Mills

Paul Vanek

*By Susan and Neil Glazier
Barbara Holzman
Judy Isroff*

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In Memory of

**Maurice Gertel
Murray Solomon**

By Judith Solomon

FINE ARTS FUND

In Memory of

Grant Schwartz

By Lesley Cohen

GENERAL FUND

In Honor of

The installation of Chuck Briskin as Rabbi of Temple Shir Ami of Newtown, PA

By Stephanie and Fred Cohen

In Memory of

Lawrence Asquith

*By Phyllis and Jerry Briskin
Stephanie and Fred Cohen*

Charlot Berson

By Marsha and Peter Berenson

Ludwig Boraks

By Steven Boraks

Michel Cohen

**Zelda Glazier
Michael Koskoff
Rose Simon**
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Bernice Frieze

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Annabelle Hearst

By Phyllis Hersch

Thelma Marcus

By Joseph Marcus

Marcia Judith Parven

By Carol Parven Hutter

Janice Phillips

*By Michael Cutler
Lisa and John Kazanovic
Marjorie B. Tiven*

Donations

Andrew Riseberg
Leslie Riseberg
By Marilyn Riseberg

Lottie Schneider
By Phyllis and Jerry Briskin

Samuel Shaw
By Ida Shaw

Isabelle Shyavitz
By Linda Shyavitz

Murray Solomon
By Ilene and Neal Solomon

Helen Tabenken
By Marcia Tabenken and Jeff Kolodney

Samuel Tucker
By Blanche Tucker

Paul Vanek
By Stephanie and Fred Cohen
Linda and Michael Frieze
Joe Marcus, Hanna and Jamie Marcus

Helen Yelen
By Barbara Newman and Charles Yelen

ZELDA AND SIDNEY B. GLAZIER ENRICHMENT FUND
In Memory of

Sidney Glazier
By Nancy and Russell Lightman

Zelda Glazier
By Lee and Jim Aven
Carol and Marc Bard
Judy Bard and Susan Litoff
Carol and Charles Berlin
Phyllis and Jerry Briskin
David Collins
Carol and Mitchell Fischman
Paul Fruitt
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Cindi and Randy Glickman
Sylvia and Alan Goodman
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Terri O'Sullivan
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Ellie Shuman

LIBRARY FUND
In Memory of

Zelda Glazier
By Jeanne and Leo Stolbach

Samuel Hutter
By Sidney Hutter

Donald Koblitz Jacobs
By Vicki Jacobs and family

Peter Rainey
By Loretta and Michael Zack

MUSIC FUND (WORSHIP)
In Memory of

George Diamond
By the Diamond Jones family

Theodore Koskoff
By Susan and Neil Glazer

Kenneth Marks
By Jennifer London and Steven Feinstein

Jane N. Morningstar
By Betty Morningstar

Ruth Novak
By Phyllis and Jerry Briskin

Sara Rosen
By Janet and Mark Gottesman

NURSERY SCHOOL ENHANCEMENT FUND
In Memory of

Beatrice Corman
By Sarah Ruderman Wilensky and Ryan Wilensky

NURSERY SCHOOL STAFF DEVELOPMENT
In Honor of

The Nursery School community
By Amy and Scott Sanders

In Memory of

Chester Bonder
Joyce Bonder
By Cheryl and Gary Fertig

Muriel Bonder
By Susan Brown
Maxene and Alan Wilson
Paula and Steven Zeitlin

PEAH GARDEN FUND
In Honor of

Stephen and Ellen Parker's 50th wedding anniversary
By Edie, Jonathan, Rachel and Miriam Addeleston
Dorothy Shaker and Joan Lewis
Kate and Ilyssa Parker and Pehya and
Germaine Simon
Elaine and Gene Shapiro
Sandy Shuster

Ellen Parker's special birthday
By Edie and Jonathan Addeleston
Elaine and Gene Shapiro
Sandy Shuster

In Memory of

Irving Binder
By Ellen and Stephen Parker

ROTHMAN CLERGY INSTITUTE FUND
In Memory of

Zelda Glazier
By Jo Rothman

SISTERHOOD FUND
In Honor of

Janet Brandwein for taking the lead and hosting a wonderful first Single Women's Group brunch
Elinor Nelson for all of her hard work on the Progressive Dinner
By Caroline Dorn

SOCIAL ACTION FUND
In Honor of

The Bar Mitzvah of Chuck Berlin
The Bat Mitzvah of Judy Levin-Charns
By Malva Gordett and Michael Drossos

In Memory of

Lillian Garelick
Margaret Stolbach
By Jeanne and Leo Stolbach

Richard Gladstone
By Susan Pasternack and family

Zelda Glazier
By Jo-Ann Suna

David R. Green
By Arlene and Kurt Pressman
Susan Pasternack and family
Jo-Ann Suna

Michael Koskoff
By Susan and Neil Glazer

Bertha Richmond Morgenthal
By Donna and William Carleton

Selma Rosen
By Carol and Jim Rosen

Dorothy Rudman
By Audrey Cooper

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP
In Honor of

Julie Reimann
Max Reimann
By Ellie Goldman

Donations

TREE OF LIFE

In Memory of

Edythe Fertig

By Cheryl and Gary Fertig

Yahrzeit and Remembrance Fund

In Memory of

Max Berenson

Maurice M. Stein

By Marsha and Peter Berenson

Adele Diamond

By Margery Freedman

Manuel N. Fineman

By the Fineman family

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By Eugene Gover

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By Rosalind Switalski

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By Rainy Kaufman

Ethel Krieger

By Robin and Ernest Krieger

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By Sara and Robert Danziger

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By Judy Levin-Charns and Martin Charns

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Rabbi Morton Pomerantz

Susan Pomerantz

By Barry Pomerantz

Marilyn Seidman

By Susan Shuman, Rhonda and Amy

Rebecca Tucker

By Blanche Tucker

Olga Weinstein

By Michael Weinstein

Golda Zaydenberg

By Mila Margul

Youth Activities Program Fund

In Memory of

Pauline Teszler

By Heather Alker and David Teszler

Donations listed were received by May 9, 2019.

Generation to Generation

BIRTHS

Zoe Adira Goldman

*Daughter of Aaron and Chava Goldman
Granddaughter of Susan Opdyke and Henry Goldman*

Violet Skye Lazan

*Daughter of Rachel Ashley Platten and Kevin Lazan
Granddaughter of Pamela and Paul Platten*

Lilah Joy Kibble

*Daughter of Jessica and Adam Kibble
Granddaughter of Nancy and Russell Lightman
Great granddaughter of Zelda and Sidney Glazier, z'l*

B'NAI MITZVAH

Grayson Freid

Daughter of Jenessa and Jeremy Freid

Sophie Grace

Daughter of Naomi and Benjamin Grace

ENGAGEMENTS

Carrie Krieger and Michael Caggiano

Daughter of Robin and Ernie Krieger

DEATHS

Our beloved members...

Lawrence Asquith, our long-time member

*Husband of Gloria Asquith
Father of Joan Shrier
Father of Marcia Kaufman z'l*

Steven Ertel

*Husband of Shara Ertel
Father of Tess and Anabella Ertel*

Zelda Glazier, our long-time member

Mother of Linda Bard and Nancy Lightman

Robert Hurwitz, our long-time member

Husband of Judith Hurwitz

Ruth Novak, our long-time member

Wife of Sidney Novak

Rose Simon, our long-time member

Wife of Myron Simon

We also remember...

Michael Koskoff

Brother of Susan Glazer

Janice Phillips

Mother of Russell Phillips

Selma Rosen

Mother of Jim Rosen

Edward Samuel Stavis

Brother of Frederick Stavis

Paul M. Vanek

Father of Julie Vanek

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Listing appears alphabetical by first name. Dial (617) 332-9550 and extension.



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Facilities Manager



Alison Lobron x26
*Inclusion and Program
Development Coordinator*



Rabbi Allison L. Berry x15



Anne Fried x28
*Exec. Assistant to Rabbi
Abrasley and Ellie Goldman*



Becca MacKillop x18
*Assistant Director of
Youth Engagment*



Becca Yudkoff x29
Program Director for FwYC



Bridget Kinahan x10
Greeter Receptionist



Caroline Dorn x16
*Congregational Membership
& Engagement Manager*



Ellie Goldman x11
Executive Director



Erin Borrás x20
*Education Program
Coordinator*



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*Director of Communications
and Marketing*



Kim Bodemer x21
*Sr. Dir. for Jewish Education
and Youth Engagement*



Rabbi Laura J. Abrasley x24



Liz Shiro x23
*SHACHARIT Director
of Education*



Liz Shiro x23
*SHACHARIT Director
of Education*



Lucy Banerji x55
Nursery School Director



Lucy Dube x14
Controller



Marriah Vengroff x22
*Director of Youth
Engagement*



Cantor Peter Halpern x17

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Communications and Marketing*

Next Issue: September 2019

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