

# ST-KA

## BULLETIN

May 2023



SUBURBAN TEMPLE-KOL AMI

always welcome.

### Shabbat and Worship Calendar

**Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> | 6 PM**

*Kabbalat Shabbat Service*

**Confirmation**

**Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> | 6 PM**

*Kabbalat Shabbat*

**Celebration of Learning**

with Ice Cream Truck Oneg!

**Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> | 6 PM**

*Kabbalat Shabbat Service*

**Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> | 6 PM**

*Kabbalat Shabbat Service*

**Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> | 10:30 AM**

**Bar Mitzvah: Liam Zalevsky**

*Shabbat Services are held in our Sanctuary and simulcast via Zoom and on our website.*

Visit our [Shabbat Page](#) for links.



### MORE THAN TWO CENTURIES OF CONFIRMATION

Did you know that Confirmation originates in the Reform movement?

Scholars attribute the creation of confirmation to Israel Jacobson, a German businessman and influencer of early Reform Judaism. In 1810, Jacobson built a synagogue in

Seesen, Germany. He introduced radical reforms for the time, including a graduation ceremony for teen boys. The idea caught on, and in 1817, a synagogue in Berlin included girls in Confirmation. Finally, Rabbi Samuel Egers of Brunswick, Germany, connected Confirmation to Shavuot, the festival of the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. By 1846, the first recorded Confirmation was held at Anshe Chesed Congregation in New York.

You only have to view the years of Confirmation pictures upstairs in the learning wing to see that it was once very elaborate. When ties between Confirmation and Shavuot were strong, students wore robes, brought flower offerings to the bimah, and performed cantatas with dramatic readings and songs.

Today, Confirmation continues to evolve. There are variations in practice from an elaborate synagogue service to informal camp-like programs. Synagogues continue to develop programming and rituals to ensure that Confirmation is relevant to teens during their high school years.

At Suburban Temple-Kol Ami, our emphasis is on building meaningful community, understanding current events, Jewish values, social justice, and exploring Jewish identity. Students are co-creators in their service, writing personal interpretations to the prayers. They are also working to create a spiritually comfortable worship experience that feels welcoming-- just as they feel so at home at Suburban Temple-Kol Ami.

*Rabbi Allison B. Vann*

**Rabbi Allison Vann**

[avann@suburbantemple.org](mailto:avann@suburbantemple.org)

*Mazal Tov to the*  
**ZALEVSKY**  
*family!*



Liam Zalevsky, son of Claudia & Daniel Zalevsky, will become Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.

YOU'RE  
*invited* ...

**Confirmation Shabbat**  
**Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Together with their families, our 2023 Confirmation Class invites our Congregation to join in the celebration as they confirm their commitment to Jewish life.*

משה	Cameron M. Bresler
מוריאל	Daniel M. Lust
רפאל	Raphael B. Mendlowitz
יהודה לבי	Jesse L. Nathenson
אהרון ישועה	Zachary S. Nathenson
אהרון אוזר	Aron S. Oppenheimer
אפרים ישראל	Eli A. Silver
חיים מנשה	Isaac S. Vann



## FROM BRETT'S DESK

The daffodils have just peaked, tulips are coming up, and there's the freshness of spring in the air. I truly love this time of the year in Cleveland.

Even though it feels like things should be slowing down, we've got a lot going on. I certainly hope to see many of you at Confirmation, Mitzvah Day, and the Celebration of Learning. You can learn more about each throughout the bulletin and Temple Times.

In addition, every May is the time that we prepare Open Doors solicitations for the coming fiscal year which begins on July 1. Our sustaining gift will be determined at the May board meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>. We hope to get the mailing to you by late May or the first week of June.

I want to reiterate the importance of Open Doors and your gift to ST-KA's budget. In the proposed 2023-24 operating budget, we expect Open Doors membership gifts to account for 50% of our annual income. This revenue stream is critical to our financial health. When you receive your 2023-24 Open Doors solicitation, please make the best gift that you can. Every dollar matters. If you've been making the same gift for a few years and can add a few dollars, it will make a difference!

Also, please make your commitment as soon as possible. Over the last few years, we've seen an increase in the number of congregants who've made their gifts late in the year. It is easier for everyone - you and the office - if your commitment is received on-time.

I am always available to discuss Open Doors with you. Please reach out at anytime (well, maybe not at 2 a.m. – I'm likely sleeping 😊)

B'shalom,

[bshankman@suburbantemple.org](mailto:bshankman@suburbantemple.org)

**A Concert for YOM HA'ATZMAUT**  
with **THE SHALVA BAND**  
Tuesday, May 9  
7:30 PM @ the Mimi Ohio Theatre  
1511 Euclid Avenue

Also in our 75th year, ST-KA is a proud sponsor of The Shalva Band In Concert. The Shalva Band is comprised of 8 talented musicians with disabilities who united a country, and world, in support of inclusion. Their performances have changed how millions of people view and embrace disability.



**THERE'S STILL TIME TO REGISTER!**

**MAY 7<sup>th</sup>, 11 AM – 1 PM**

**IMPROVE THE WORLD, ONE DAY AT A TIME. TOGETHER.**

Please register with [Rochelle](#) so we know you're coming! Space is limited for some projects.



### SPRING SPRUCE-UP: INDOOR EDITION!

Tidying Temple Together! Our indoor spaces need time, too.



(13 and older only)

### KOSHER FOOD BANK – LIMITED TO 10!

Bag food for the hungry. OFFSITE from 9:30 to 10:30 AM



### KIDS' BOOK BANK (ages 13 and older please)

Help increase access to books by 'delibrarying'!



### MAKE TOYS FOR DOGS WAITING TO BE ADOPTED!



### PROVIDE LOW-BARRIER ACCESS TO NEEDED OBJECTS

We'll be packing bags @ST-KA 11-12:30, then leaving to install our "Wall of Love" at 12:45 PM (RSVP for Location)



### HELP 'SPRINGIFY' THE GROUNDS!

It's time to spruce up our yard! Dress for the weather.



Reproductive Freedom Campaign

### HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Petition to put Reproductive Freedom on the ballot this fall will be available to sign.

Read Muriel Lederman's heartfelt letter on Page 5 about her work on RAC-OH's Reproductive Freedom Campaign.



Celebrate Israel with an outdoor carnival, including:

- Live Israeli music
- Activities and games for all ages
- Entertainers
- Israel-themed swag
- Kosher food and alcohol available for purchase
- A *shuk* (Israeli marketplace) with Israeli gifts and foods for purchase

... And more!

**IsraelFest and The Shalva Band are presented by**



**Jewish Federation OF CLEVELAND**  
**HERE FOR GOOD**

For more information and tickets, go to [www.jewishcleveland.org/israel75/](http://www.jewishcleveland.org/israel75/).





## SEEING, HEARING AND FEELING IS BELIEVING

Beginning on the evening of May 25, we will celebrate *Shavuot*, which commemorates the Israelites receiving the Ten Commandments

from God through Moses. The scene the Torah sets is quite majestic. The entire Israelite community is gathered at the foot of Mount Sinai. I am sure their bodies were pressed close together, all trying to get as close to the mountain as they could, and the feeling of being one community was palpable. The Torah tells us there were the blasts of horns to get the people's attention and there was thunder and lightning. We read that Mount Sinai was covered in smoke and that God came down the mountain in fire. I cannot even begin to imagine the awe of this moment.

Each one of us experiences the world in different ways. Some of us are kinesthetic and we feel our way through the world, others are visual and we use our eyes to take in what is happening, and still others of us are auditory and we use our ears. Revelation, the receiving of the Ten Commandments and the renewal of our covenant with God, was meant for everyone, and in that moment God made sure there was something for each one of us to experience. And this revelation can continue each and every day if we only open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts.

On the evening of May 12, we will celebrate our year of learning at Shabbat services. In Our Tent, we believe that learning, like revelation, should be available to and experienced by all in a meaningful way. Please join us as we honor our teachers, madrichim and learners who come each week with open minds and hearts, ready to listen to each other and to see all the possibilities of what can be.

And because learning should always be sweet, we will end our service with an ice cream truck oneg!

B'Shalom,

*Rabbi Shona*

[snyer@suburbantemple.org](mailto:snyer@suburbantemple.org)



**CELEBRATE.  
APPRECIATE.  
HONOR OUR TEACHERS,  
MADRICHIM, & LEARNERS**

**CELEBRATION OF  
LEARNING**

**FRIDAY, MAY 12, @ 6 PM**

What a year we had! Let's review our year of learning and growing, enjoy a Shabbat service together, and celebrate with an

**ice cream truck oneg!**

**STUDY.  
SONG.  
CHEESECAKE.**

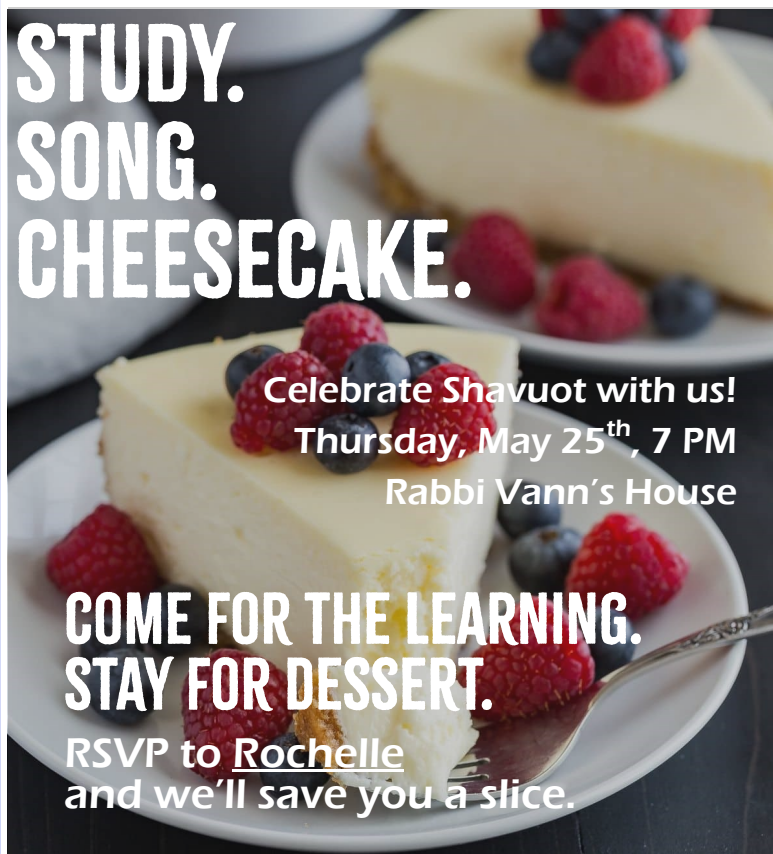
**Celebrate Shavuot with us!**

**Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM**

**Rabbi Vann's House**

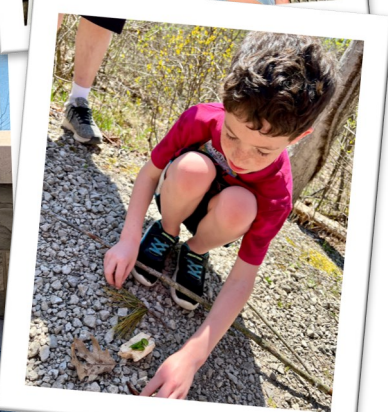
**COME FOR THE LEARNING.  
STAY FOR DESSERT.**

**RSVP to Rochelle  
and we'll save you a slice.**





# Member Moments



## Our Tent Retreat





## Reproductive Freedom: A Jewish Value

*The Reproductive Justice team of ST-KA's Tikkun Olam Committee is actively working to ensure passage of an amendment to Ohio's Constitution protecting reproductive freedom for all people. Members of the committee want to share their individual reasons why they are supportive and working on this campaign.*

*The letter below expresses the personal opinion of committee member Muriel Lederman.*

L'dor vador... access to abortion was passed from my generation to my daughters'. But that chain is now broken. My granddaughters now live in fear of an ectopic pregnancy, for which an abortion would be necessary. These decisions are being made by men who tangentially know the emotional and physical consequences of suffering a miscarriage, or being told your fetus will die shortly after birth, or a healthy pregnancy.

The beliefs that restrict bodily autonomy overlook the thinking of the modern world. For example, look to Justice Alito's reference to eighteenth century laws in his opinion(s) on reproductive cases. Thus, women are denied the agency to plan one of the most basic aspects of their lives: if and when to bear children. Medical care is no longer entrusted to those with specialized knowledge and scientific expertise is subservient to political agendas. The religious strain to these claims means that the beliefs of some are foisted on all.

Judaism's stance on abortion is opposed to this view and supremely humane. Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg explains it beautifully: "life does not begin at conception. . . a fetus is not regarded as an independent being . . . it is part of the body of the person carrying it . . . abortion is not only *permitted* in Judaism but it's *required* in order to save the life of the pregnant person."

Would that these options were available to all who would desire them. In the meantime, as Ruttenberg says, "We must not remain idle while barriers to health care place any individual's health, well-being, autonomy, or economic security at risk."

The campaign for reproductive freedom tears down the barriers that are risking women's health. We have petitions to place an amendment codifying reproductive rights in Ohio's Constitution on the ballot to be voted on in November. Please sign and perhaps work to insure its passage.



### Reproductive Freedom Campaign

Want to sign the petition? Petitions are available before services on Fridays, or call Rochelle in the temple office at 216-991-0700.



*Click for more information on RAC-OH's campaign and to learn how you can help.*

## Kol Nashim Book Club

Meets Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> @ 7 PM

We'll be reading and discussing two **SHORT** books:

**ROSALIND FRANKLIN: The Dark Lady of DNA**

*by Brenda Maddox*

and **THE DOUBLE HELIX** *by James Watson*

**NOW MEETING IN PERSON AND ON ZOOM!**

RSVP to Rochelle for in-person meet-up address or to get the Zoom link (you'll need the password too!):

[ararian@suburbantemple.org](mailto:ararian@suburbantemple.org)





Stories, Music, and Activities  
for Families with Very Young Children

# RISE & SHINE Shabbat!

Sat., May 6<sup>th</sup>  
10:30-11:30 AM  
at the Orange Library

RSVP to Rabbi Shana:  
[snyer@suburbantemple.org](mailto:snyer@suburbantemple.org)

Friends with 'Littles'? Spread the Joy!  
Rise & Shine is Open to the Community!

# gatherings

share. experience. connect.

## SUMMER GATHERINGS ARE FORMING!

Our popular **HIKE AND KIBITZ** is meeting monthly,  
**YOGA** will be outdoors at ST-KA again this summer,  
and **GAME NIGHT** is gearing up for summer too

(drum roll...) and **ANNOUNCING...**

## FOODIES UNITE!

Our newest **gathering!** Register now to join us as we enjoy  
restaurants across NEO, some new, and some faves!

Visit our [webpage](#) for all the details, meeting times and locations, and  
registration information. Or, reach out to [Rochelle](#) and she'll sign you up!  
Advance registration is required for all **gatherings**.

### We Gratefully Acknowledge the Following Contributions

Please consider making a contribution to Suburban Temple — Kol Ami to celebrate a special occasion, express gratitude or sympathy, or to honor important accomplishments or events. A current list of temple funds is available from the temple office. Donations may be made online at [www.suburbantemple.org/form/STKAdonation-form](http://www.suburbantemple.org/form/STKAdonation-form). Donations listed below were received between February 23 and March 21, 2023. Please let us know if we made an error or failed to list your donation.

#### Annual Appeal

In loving memory of  
**Ruth Yosowitz**  
Pamela and Stuart Katz

#### Bimah Flowers

In loving memory of  
**Leslie Grodin**  
Barbara Andelman and  
Richard Nemeth

#### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of  
**Rabbi Vann**  
Emily and Jim Gusky

In loving memory of  
**Paul Gusky**  
Emily and Jim Gusky

In loving memory of  
**Edward Dale Katz**  
Pamela and Stuart Katz

In loving memory of  
**Lillian Queen**  
Pamela and Stuart Katz

In loving memory of  
**Muriel Nachman**  
David Nachman

In loving memory of  
**Barbara S. Robinson**  
Lisa Robinson

In loving memory of  
**Barbara S. Robinson**  
John Robinson

In loving memory of  
**Barbara S. Robinson**  
James Robinson

#### Operating Fund

In honor of  
**Rita Orpett's Birthday**  
Janet Lieblich

In honor of  
**Flossy Mitchell's Birthday**  
Janet Lieblich

In honor of  
**Adrienne Sharp's Birthday**  
Janet Lieblich

In honor of  
**Aron Oppenheimer's**  
**Confirmation**  
Carolyn Oppenheimer

In honor of  
**Linda Wolfe Receiving the**  
**Braverman Award**  
Carolyn Oppenheimer

#### Our Tent Education Fund

In honor of  
**Linda Wolfe receiving the**  
**Libbie L. Braverman Award**  
Flossy and Dennis Mitchell





Alice Dub  
Judy Herzog  
Peter Mitro  
Karen Nehilla  
Leonard Podis  
Marcy Shankman  
Natalie Skall

...and to our members  
who celebrate milestone  
anniversaries in May:

Nancy and Howard Feldenkris  
Dori and Irv Katz

Milestone birthday listings begin at age fifty and every five years afterwards. **All birthdays 100 and over are listed.**  
Milestone anniversary listings begin at 10 years and then every five years afterwards.

## Volunteer TUTORs Needed!

Help break a root cause of poverty: **ILLITERACY.**

### WHY Adult Literacy MATTERS



of Cleveland adults are  
**FUNCTIONALLY ILLITERATE**

*They may have trouble understanding*



UTILITY  
BILLS



BUS  
SCHEDULES



OR A  
DOCTOR'S  
INSTRUCTIONS

### x2 IN POVERTY

The percentage of adults without a high school diploma who live in poverty is twice that of those who have a high school diploma.

An increase in education leads to an increase in  
↑ employment and a decrease in ↓ poverty.

A mother's reading skill is the **SINGLE STRONGEST DETERMINANT** of her child's future academic success

#1  
FACTOR



42% LESS

Adults without a high school diploma or equivalent earn 42% less than those with a diploma



110,000+

Adults in Cuyahoga County LACK a  
Diploma or High School Equivalency



### YOU can make a difference for adult literacy!

Seeds of Literacy provides the training so that you can join the more than 200 volunteers who tutor more than 1,100 students annually by providing GED® and HiSET® preparation to adults in the Cleveland area. Training can be done in person or online, and so can tutoring!

**CHANGE THE FUTURE: VOLUNTEER FOR SEEDS OF LITERACY.**  
Click for information about how YOU can get involved.

**OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE  
OF MEMORIAL DAY ON MONDAY, MAY 29<sup>th</sup>.**





22401 Chagrin Blvd. • Beachwood, Ohio 44122-5345  
Phone: 216.991.0700 • Fax: 216.991.0705  
E-mail: [info@suburbantemple.org](mailto:info@suburbantemple.org)  
[www.suburbantemple.org](http://www.suburbantemple.org)

Member, Union for Reform Judaism

## STAFF

Allison Vann, *Rabbi*  
Rabbi Eric J. Bram, D.D., z"l (2002-2010)  
Rabbi Michael A. Oppenheimer, D.D., z"l (1976-2002)  
Rabbi Myron Silverman, D.D., z"l (1949-1976)  
Brett Shankman, *Executive Director*  
Rabbi Shoshana Nyer, *Director of Lifelong Learning*  
Deb Rogers, *Cantorial Soloist*  
John Farragher, *Maintenance Supervisor*  
Rochelle Arian, *Administrative Assistant*  
Smadar Lahav, *Administrative Assistant*

## OFFICERS

Lori Rosenberg, *President*  
Rich Silver, *Vice-President*  
Margery Mazoh, *Secretary*  
Michelle Brown & Tessa Gable, *Co-Treasurers*  
Matt Lehman, *Immediate Past President*

Follow us on social media:



[www.facebook.com/suburbantemple](http://www.facebook.com/suburbantemple)



<http://bit.ly/ST-KAyoutube>



[www.instagram.com/suburbantemplekolami](http://www.instagram.com/suburbantemplekolami)

SLOW DOWN.  
TAKE TIME.  
'DO' SHABBAT.



Join Rabbi Vann and Cantorial  
Soloist Deb Rogers for Shabbat  
Services. Oneg follows.

FRIDAYS @ 6

Click for links and details,  
including information about joining us online:  
[www.suburbantemple.org/shabbat.html](http://www.suburbantemple.org/shabbat.html)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR! HERE'S  
WHAT'S COMING UP IN JUNE!

Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>: Pride in the CLE (see below)

Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>: Pride Shabbat (see below)

Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup>: Annual Meeting (see below)

Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>: First Day of Summer!

Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>: KKA Kabbalat Shabbat with Torah



will be  
marching at

PRIDE  
in the CLE®



MARCH WITH ST-KA on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon!

E-mail Rabbi Vann for Meeting Place & Time

Save the date!

ST-KA'S ANNUAL LGBTQ+



PRIDE SHABBAT

Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6 PM

Ken Schneck, our speaker, is a self-described  
"ACTION-ORIENTED RABBLE ROUSER!"  
Founder of The Buckeye Flame, Ken has a lot to  
say about how you can use your voice  
to create **ACTUAL CHANGE**.

CELEBRATION.  
AWARDS.  
GRATITUDE.

Save the Date for  
ST-KA's Annual Meeting:  
Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.  
Oh - and we'll feed you, too.

