

# currents

August 2021  
Elul 5781



Don Ganz  
Ba'al T'Kiah

# Welcome Back!

In September 1975, the TV sitcom *Welcome Back Kotter* debuted. It was a show about a thirty-something man who returns to his high school alma mater as a teacher. The usual hijinks ensued. The theme song for the show, composed by John Sebastian, climbed to No. 1 on the charts and was one of those songs that could stay in your head for hours.

In July 2021, Temple Emanu-El re-opened its doors, turned up the lights in the Sanctuary and welcomed back our congregants for our first in-person service in over a year. No hijinks ensued.

Rather, mid-way through the Service, Rabbi Meyer and Jon Nelson sang their parodied version (a collaboration with Heather Greenberg from our Religious School) of the *Welcome Back Kotter* theme song to the delight of attendees.

*Welcome Back – Your dreams were your ticket back  
Welcome back – Lift your hearts and rejoice that we're right on track!  
It's been over a year since Covid shut us down  
But our hopes have sustained – Take a look around  
We couldn't wait to see you (Just couldn't wait to see you)  
Back here where we need you (Back here where we need you)  
Well, this year's been a lot – But we're at our favorite spot  
Welcome back, Welcome Back, Welcome Back  
Welcome back, Welcome Back, Welcome Back*

The song, the words and the sentiment said exactly what was in the heart of every member sitting in the Sanctuary. We were thrilled to be welcomed back to the place we had all greatly missed.

As you welcome this, our third issue of *Currents* into your home, we hope that you are enjoying this publication. Our intent is to write about the people, the activities and the community that make Temple Emanu-El such a heartwarming and important place for so many.

Thank you to those who helped in getting this issue to press. As always, if you would like to be part of the *Currents* team, please contact [claudiakaufman@comcast.net](mailto:claudiakaufman@comcast.net).

Looking forward to a joyous High Holyday season.  
*L'Shana Tova!*

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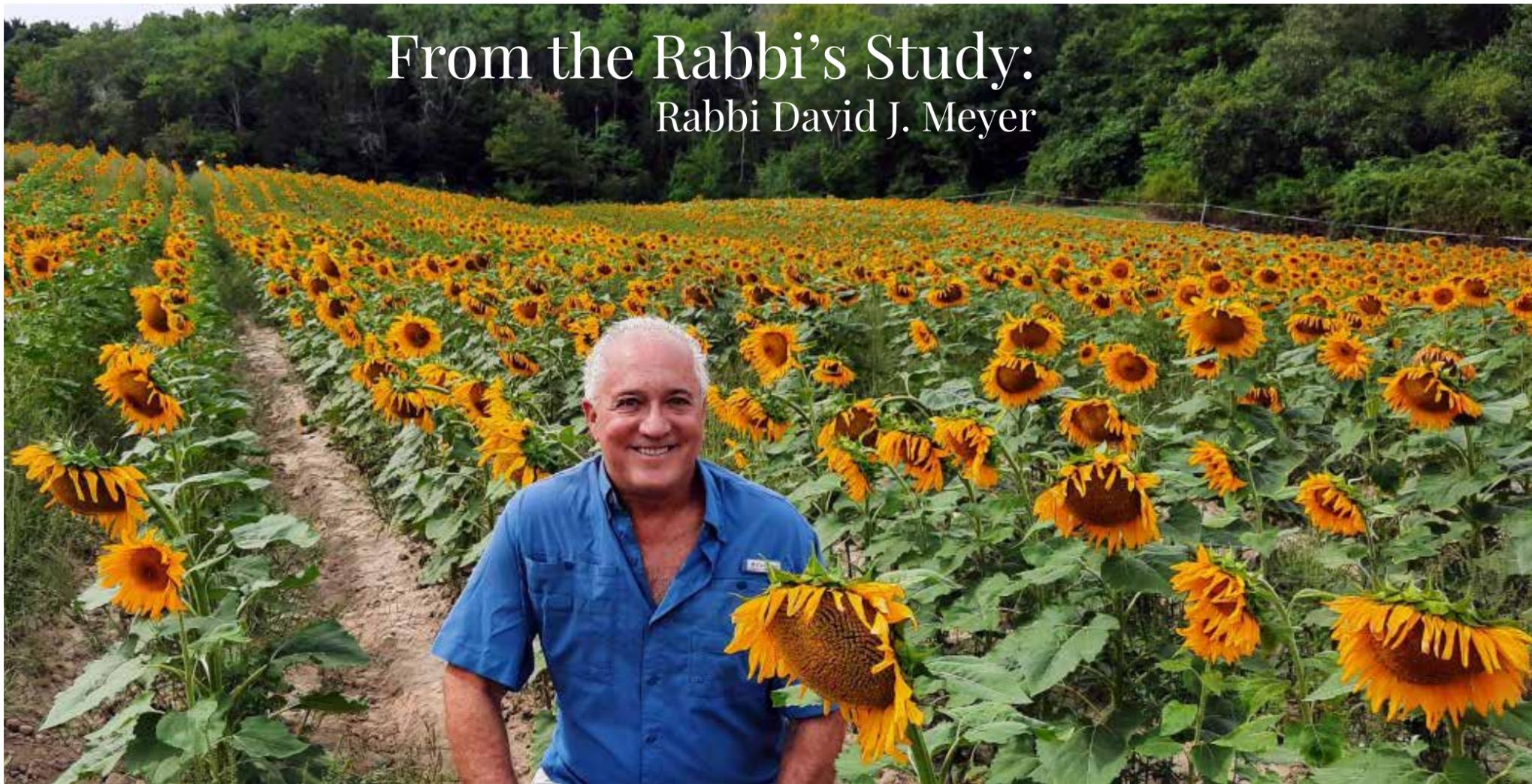
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# From the Rabbi's Study: Rabbi David J. Meyer



## Back To Nature in a Post-COVID World

Last month, Marla and I got up and out of the house to watch the sunrise over the ocean from Castle Rock Park near the lighthouse in Marblehead. The occasion wasn't just the dawn of a new day, but also to catch the unusual sight of a partial solar eclipse shortly after dawn.

Not every planet (including those harboring extraterrestrial life-forms) is able to witness solar eclipses like we do here on Earth; the relative sizes and distances between the earth, our moon, and the sun combine to allow for these occasional but rather unique astronomical events. Randomness has favored us in this case.

But our sages never considered the idea of simple luck when considering the wonders of nature, including

eclipses such as we have witnessed. Rather, in Jewish tradition, such marvels of earth and sky become occasions to feel ever more closely the presence of our Creator and an opportunity to capture the awe and beauty by reciting a *bracha*, a blessing: "Praised are You, our Eternal God, Ruler of the Universe, *Oseh ma-aseh v'raysheet* – Who fashions the works of creation."

When it comes to Jewish spirituality, our approach is certainly not limited to services, holydays and life-cycle milestones. These are important, of course. But experiencing the imminent presence of a transcendent God is the primary agenda of Jewish spirituality, and in the Jewish faith, nature is one pathway to having such an experience, couched in

both wonder and awe. I believe that we share such an approach to spirituality with a great many religious expressions; it may even be hard-wired into our human essence. So, we find, in the Psalms, such passages as "The heavens declare the glory of God, the sky proclaims His handiwork." (Psalms 19:2). Similarly, "O Lord our Lord, how majestic is Your name throughout the earth, You who have covered the heavens with Your splendor! ... When I behold Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and stars that You set in place, what is man that You have been mindful of him, mortal man that You have taken note of him?" (Psalms 8:2, 4-5)

A recent article in the *Boston Globe* (June 7, 2021) suggested that one of the

there are signs that this newfound love affair with nature seems to be enduring. Nature preserves are reporting big jumps in membership while cities and towns across Massachusetts are moving to make temporary outdoor spaces permanent."

I do hope she's correct in her prediction. Being in the out-of-doors seems to be healthy for people, regardless of their spiritual inclinations, and it's probably good for the planet as well, that we stop taking for granted the fragile beauty of our world.

In the 18th Century, Rabbi Nachman of Bratslov composed the following prayer, which continues to inspire to our own day. He wrote:

**"as restrictions have eased and most indoor places have fully reopened, there are signs that this newfound love affair with nature seems to be enduring."**

*Master of the Universe,  
grant me the ability to be alone;  
may it be my custom to go outdoors each day  
among the trees and grass — among all growing things  
and there may I be alone, and enter into prayer,  
to talk with the One to whom I belong.  
May I express there everything in my heart,  
and may all of the foliage of the field  
— all grasses, trees, and plants —  
awake at my coming,  
to send the powers of their life into the words of my prayer  
so that my prayer and speech are made whole  
through the life and spirit of all growing things,  
which are made as one by their transcendent Source.  
May I then pour out the words of my heart  
before Your Presence like water, O Lord,  
and lift up my hands to You in worship,  
on my behalf, and that of my children!*

"silver linings" of the past 16 months has been for many an embrace of the outdoors, of the beauty of nature. For although indoor gatherings have been so restricted, many have discovered or rediscovered the joy of simply being in the out of doors, in the sanctuaries of the natural world. And just as there are many aspects of the COVID era that will endure long after pandemic conditions have abated, it seems clear that an escape to the parks, seashores, campsites and hiking trails show no signs of slowing down.

"The pandemic drove people outside. They really liked it," writes columnist Kay Lazar. "Countless people cooped up by restrictions during the pandemic discovered the outdoors, where they could have fun with little risk of contracting the virus. But perhaps more surprising, as restrictions have eased and most indoor places have fully reopened,

Experiencing the beauty of rainbows, the ocean, trees in blossom, shooting stars, thunder and lightning, and yes, even the rare eclipse may prompt a prayerful response in our Jewish practice. As we prepare to enter a New Year, let us hope that this newly re-discovered love for the miracles

of nature continues as an enduring legacy, a silver lining from the past year and a half, to illuminate our lives and elevate our spirits long into the future.

*Rabbi David J. Meyer*



## From the Temple Educator: Rabbi Allison Peiser

We have been busy this summer preparing for a new year of Jewish and Hebrew learning... in person! We hope you will enjoy reading about all the new components of the Religious School and Hebrew curriculum for 2021-2022.

Our **Hebrew** classes for **third to sixth**-graders will begin on Wednesday, September 22 and Thursday, September 23, 2021, and we are excited to introduce a new curriculum for our **fourth to sixth**-grade students. The year will begin with a seven-week "Hebrew reading refresher" to integrate students into a new year of learning. We know the combination of learning online and an extended summer necessitates review, so attending these first seven weeks of school will be important for students to build a strong foundation for learning this year.

After Thanksgiving, we will use an inventive curriculum called "jPrayer," which follows the same format of the refresher course. All the lessons include multiple modalities to learn a prayer including the meaning of the prayer, the reason we say the prayer, and multi-sensory lessons about the prayer.

One of the most exciting components of this curriculum is the "Flashmob." A group of Madrikhim will work with Rabbi Allison Peiser to prepare fifteen-minute lessons based on the weekday

"jPrayer" curriculum. The Madrikhim will visit the fourth through sixth grade classrooms every Sunday and will work with students one-on-one or in small groups to reinforce weekday learning. These activities are interactive and generalized so that students who missed a lesson or attend Day School will be able to participate as well. Madrikhim will also help our students learn the "Jewish Vocabulary Word of the Week" and will encourage students to use the weekly word during their classroom visit.

In addition to the "Madrikhim Flashmob," our **fifth** and **sixth**-grade curriculums will be shifting. In the past, **fifth** grade focused on Israel. We have discovered that it is difficult to understand the significance of Israel to the Jewish people without having some historical context. Therefore, the first semester of fifth grade will focus on Jewish History. We will then start our Israel curriculum second semester.

In **sixth** grade, students will start preparing to become "B'nai Mitzvah" by learning about what it means to become a Jewish adult. This includes ways in which they can contribute to the larger Jewish and worldwide community through Mitzvah projects. We will continue using the "Moving Traditions B'nai Mitzvah" Curriculum, which has a family component that supplements student learning. We will also welcome representatives

from community organizations to provide examples of ways students can develop their passions into a B'nai Mitzvah project, which they will continue working on through their B'nai Mitzvah year. Our goal is to enable our students to take ownership of their own projects while honoring the communal component of being Jewish adults.

Pre-Confirmation, our **seventh** and **eighth**-grade program, will meet twelve times over the course of the year. Our seventh-grade students will start the year focusing on maturing into Jewish adulthood as they prepare for their B'nai Mitzvah. In the spring, students will choose electives to expand their learning. The eighth-grade curriculum will begin and end with learning about the Holocaust events leading to World War II and the aftermath of the war until today. We hope that this will provide a foundation for our students to understand how this specific period of Jewish history impacts our lives today.

In addition to our Tuesday night pre-Confirmation sessions, we have set aside three Sundays during the year for students to bake a special treat for Temple members who would benefit from a visit. Students can volunteer to help bake and/or drop off treats and visit with community members. After a year of isolation, we are hoping that this program will create inter-generational bonds within our community.

While cooking is not an "official" part of the curriculum, we have set aside five Wednesday nights for baking in people's homes. We will send out ingredient lists prior to the program and students and families will prepare a recipe together over Zoom. Families are encouraged to invite friends over for baking nights, making this a more communal event. We hope these programs will continue some of the positive aspects of this past year.

Our **Pre-Kindergarten** through **second**-grade program continues to make Judaism exciting for our youngest learners. Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten focus on Bible Stories and Jewish holidays. In first and second grade, our students learn about the Jewish calendar, including how to calculate the Hebrew date by looking at the moon! On Sundays, all grades have art and music as part of their program. In addition, we will start

having "big-little" days: our sixth-grade students will partner with third-grade students, fifth-grade students with first and second graders, and fourth-grade students with Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students.

We are going to "kick off" our year of Religious School with a special community-wide program on Sunday, September 12th. We will have multiple activities connected to Rosh Hashanah and Sukkot. When school officially begins on Sunday,

September 19th, students will hang their finished projects in the sukkah. (Sukkot officially begins the next events, Monday, September 20th.) September 19th will also be our first day of in-person classes in the building - we are hoping for no more unforeseen changes!

We encourage families to stop by the Temple the weekend of August 20th to participate in our Open House festivities. Friday night worship will be outside with other special treats.

Sunday morning, August 22nd, there will be a "block party," which will include craft projects, visiting with Sunday teachers and Madrikhim, and other fun outdoor activities. If you know of anyone exploring the start of Religious School this fall, please encourage them to come!

We are very excited and looking forward to another year of growth and learning at the Samuel and Bernice Shapiro Religious School at Temple Emanu-El!

# Open House

## Block Party Weekend!

Experience all that Temple Emanu-El has to offer with two days of Block Party fun! *Invite your friends and family!*

Aug 20th  
6pm:

### Outdoor Shabbat Service

Following the musical and joyful service by Rabbi Meyer and Jon Nelson, enjoy a sweet treat from Terry's Ice Cream Truck!

Aug 22nd  
9:30am-11:30am:

### Religious School Block Party

Current and Prospective students and families are welcome!

- Participate in fun activities hosted by our teachers
- See the classrooms and tour the building
- Play fun outdoor games, including gaga!
- Apple cider, coffee and donuts will be served

#### Guess what??

First-time students in grades pre-k through second grade get free tuition! Also- Register for Religious School by the end of the Open House for an early bird discount!

It is hard to believe that another year has passed and we are quickly approaching the Jewish High Holydays. Growing up, this time of year was filled with a mix of emotions. Summertime was coming to an end and the business of life was returning with the start of school, sports, work... and, inevitably, attending High Holydays services. I did not necessarily dislike any of these activities; however, they all came barreling in at once, and they made it difficult to really enjoy the beginning of autumn. It was not until we reached the holiday of Sukkot that I was able to take a deep breath and settle into the new year ahead.

Sukkot was the holiday I enjoyed celebrating the most with our family's congregation. The service was always held at a congregant's home that had an extremely large backyard adjacent to a forest of trees and vegetation, perfect for building and decorating a sukkah. On a crisp fall day, members of our congregation would arrive dressed down in jeans, sweatshirts and sneakers, ready to get to work. This was the day to construct our temporary dwelling, reminding us of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt.

My family was usually one of the first to arrive, armed with tools and decorations to get the sukkah ready for services. A huge benefit of arriving early was the availability of munchkins from Dunkin' Donuts and cider for all to fuel their efforts.

The main structure of the sukkah consisted of three walls and a roof, constructed simply with wood and chicken wire. Adults with saws and clippers would go into the woods and bring back huge branches to cover the roof and sides of the sukkah. Every branch seemed to have different colored and shaped leaves, creating a beautiful overlay to our little dwelling.

Once the walls were completely covered and the roof had enough foliage to allow for partial viewing of the sky, people would begin adding the accents such as fruits, vegetables, pumpkins, gourds, homemade paper crafts and whatever else represented wonderful blessings in our lives. Larger items were placed around the base of the structure and smaller



**From the Temple President:  
Lisa Nagel**

items were hung from the walls and roof. I remember looking intently to find just the right places to hang the apples and gourds my mother had tied with string in the days leading up to Sukkot. The best moment as a child was getting the opportunity to hang an item from the ceiling right in the middle of the sukkah where everyone would see it.

Once the decorating was complete, a small table was placed in the sukkah in preparation for the service. Guests would find grapes, challah, wine, and a small bowl of M&Ms on the table. The Rabbi would then place the lulav and etrog, adding these important symbols of the harvest to our celebration. This was also our signal that he was ready and it was time to start the service.

Family and friends of the congregation would lay blankets on the grass in front of the sukkah and sit in awe of our shelter, a beautiful quilt of colors and textures that made our sukkah warm and welcoming to all. As families, we would sit in comfort, singing, praying and listening to the story of our people wandering the desert for 40 years after receiving the Torah atop Mount Sinai.

In keeping with tradition, the Rabbi would always recite a blessing over

the lulav and etrog and would wave them together in six directions – north, south, east, west, up and down – symbolizing G-d's presence in every direction. Each year, the Rabbi would invite upfront anyone who wanted the chance to wave the lulav and etrog. Most of the volunteers were kids who really wanted to prove they could successfully remember and execute the waving in all six directions without help. It was a more difficult task than it seemed for many, leading to moments of great amusement for members of the audience.

At the end of the service, all guests were invited to take a walk through the sukkah, pausing for a moment or two to enjoy a nosh within its walls. Grapes and M&Ms were my go-to every time. Families and friends would stay for quite some time after the service. Adults would be talking in small groups, kids would be running and playing all over the big backyard. It was a celebration like no other and one that still fills me with such joy to this day.

I look forward to this New Year when we can come together at Temple Emanu-El, in our Sanctuary and our outdoor courtyard, to make new memories and to celebrate the festival of Sukkot once again in person.

# Autumn B'nai Mitzvah



**Benjamin Cohen**  
August 7th  
Son of Cynthia and Scott Cohen



**Asher Orenstein**  
August 21st  
Son of Michelle Gottlieb and Dan Orenstein



**Sadie Newburg**  
August 28th  
Daughter of Day and Richard Newburg



**Phineas Jakious**  
October 2nd, 2021  
Son of Rachel Smullin and Rick Jakious



**Avery Kerble**  
October 30th  
Daughter of Jodi and Michael Kerble



**Jesse Swartz**  
November 13th  
Son of Allison and Matthew Swartz



**Caleb Reilly**  
November 20th  
Son of Johanna and Steven Reilly



**Leah Smullin**  
December 4th  
Daughter of Kelli and Sam Smullin

Congratulations to all our upcoming B'nai Mitzvah! We look forward to having you continue your religious education through Confirmation.



## A Closer Look: Don Ganz

He's the man –  
our Ba'al T'kiah.  
And it's almost time  
to once again hear  
T'kiah, Sh'varim,  
T'ruah, T'kiah  
G'dolaaaaaaaaah!

Even as a little boy, Don Ganz, wearing a yarmulke and tzitzit, going to Hebrew school five days a week and walking to shul on Shabbat, loved being Jewish. Raised in an observant home in Everett, the middle child of a mailman father and office-manager mother, he knew that being Jewish meant a watchful eye from his grandfather as he davened, enthusiastic holidays with lots of relatives, and that you got home in the dark.

At nine years old, his family moved to West Peabody. And when a Jewish neighbor asked which Temple the family planned to join, his father answered, "whichever one is closest". The neighbor recommended his Temple because of the proximity – it happened to be a Reform congregation. "I flipped my beanie! said Don. Going from Orthodox to Reform, from Hebrew to English... I loved it all even more!"

### The Early Years

For the next set of years, Temple played a big part in Don's life. He was active in the youth group, helped in the Temple office, and his boy scout troop met at the Temple. His mother ran the Judaica shop, his cousin was the Temple janitor, and his aunt was a Temple caterer. He was moved by the operatic voice of the rabbi. Going directly after school, it seemed he was always at Temple.

As he got older, many of his Temple buddies were going on to St. John's Prep in Danvers. When Don was recruited by the school, he jumped at the chance to go. From an early age, he had a dream of becoming a physician. He was intrigued by medicine and was a good student. St. John's Prep promised a more challenging academic environment that could help get him one step closer to achieving his dream of a life in medicine. Also, when asked by adults what he wanted to be when he grew up, he knew that answering, "I want to be a doctor" was always met with a lilting "Ohhhhh!" and a nod of approval.

During his undergrad years at St. Louis University, a Jesuit school, Don maintained his Jewish life by connecting and traveling to the Hillel at Washington University in St. Louis. At SLU, Don was required to take classes in theology. One course, Comparative Theology, studied Judaism, Christianity and Islam. With a third of the semester studying Judaism, Don, the only Jewish kid in the dorm, quickly became the go-to source for all things Jewish. But because the questions became such a source of interruption to his studies, Don posted a flyer indicating that once a week he would offer fellow students tutoring on Judaism. Sometimes the questions were tough and Don didn't know the answers, so he would call his rabbi. "I felt even more Jewish at a Catholic university", notes Don.

SLU was a great college experience and his senior year found Don working at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. Growing up in the era of Dr. Kildare and Marcus Welby MD, he quickly realized that television doctoring and real-life medicine were very different. In the face of real-life medicine, the commitment was huge, the decision making was daunting, and emotionally he wasn't sure he was ready. He decided to pause on pre-med. However, there really was no Plan B.

After graduation and back in Massachusetts, Don began working at the General Motors Assembly Division in Framingham building Oldsmobiles and Buicks, with the promise of moving up to management. But the oil embargo happened and training programs froze. Don stayed on the assembly line, took advantage of GM's tuition reimbursement plan and started working towards his MBA.



## In the fall of 1978, Dondo the Magiclown was born

### Clowning Around

While at the assembly plant, Don met an older man who used to juggle spare auto parts during his breaks. Don became fascinated and fashioned himself some juggling balls to learn the craft. He soon became obsessed with the street performers in Harvard Square. He had never seen up-close, live entertainment like this before and was enthralled, mesmerized... he wanted to learn.

With schooling always an element in his life, Don looked to North Shore Community College to see if they offered a class on magic to explore his newfound fascination with street performers. Unfortunately,

the only class that fit in his schedule was a class on clowning. He signed up. Clowning was an especially odd choice for Don, who, as a child, suffered from coulrophobia, a debilitating fear of clowns.

The final assignment for the clown class was to create a clown character, develop a 5-minute act and come up with a clown name. He worked out an act with some magic tricks, came up with a 'goofy-professor' type clown character, but he still needed a name. Hmmmm.....Bozo was taken, Bingo? Dumbo? Nothing seemed right. So, he started with his own name, Don, and thought – what about Dondo? It stuck, and in the fall of 1978, Dondo the Magiclown was born.

One fateful day, his NSCC professor told him that the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey circus was coming into Boston and would be holding clown auditions; he told Don he had to audition. Don did and was one of the 50 applicants out of 5000 annually to be accepted into the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Clown College. "I've got to go," Don thought. "I'll quit my MBA program and go to clown college. I can always come back and finish my MBA."

For the next several months in Venice FL, seven days a week, Don learned every aspect of circus clowning – acrobatics, pantomime, tumbling, juggling, trapeze, make-up, stilt walking, tightrope, you name it. He was being trained in the ancient art of clowning from some of the best in the field.

But when it was over, Don remained true to his word and went back to finish his MBA. For the next few years, he worked as a salesman in the bio-medical field, traveling constantly across the country. But entertainment kept pulling at him. He kept some private parties and magic performances on the side, but soon it all became too much. He quit sales and headed into entertainment full time.

Don put a small ad in the *Marblehead Reporter* advertising that he was 'not just any Bozo', and the phone started ringing. During the eighties, families were getting larger, children's entertainment was flourishing, and Don rode that wave. Between birthday parties, private parties, and a growing demand for corporate events, Don was not only able to make a living, but he also became so busy that he began referring other acts when he was double-booked.

Soon realizing that booking was a business in and of itself, Don got licensed and incorporated as a theatrical booking agent and opened The New Vaudeville and Circus Company. Always continuing as a performer, requests came for bigger acts, multiple acts. Ultimately the business grew to where Don was managing all facets of an event - the entertainment, venue, food, AV, and all the other details.

As a performer himself, Don always continued to audition for commercials, film, and other opportunities. At one point, he was asked to audition for a stint on a cruise



ship. His business was just taking off, but when he was offered a six-month contract with Celebrity Cruise line, he asked someone to keep his business going for the next few months and he headed out to sea. The six-month contract turned into three years, five transatlantic voyages and 50 countries, the equivalent of one year in the Caribbean and South America, one year in the Mediterranean and one year in northern Europe, the Baltic and North Seas.

## The key is controlled breathing, almost yoga-type breathing

Although he lived like a king on the cruise ship, eventually it was time for a change and Don returned to Marblehead and to a business that had essentially dried up. Acts had found new ways to be booked, and Don set out rebuilding his business full time, full steam ahead. Always an expert at networking, he continued with his recipe for success, a mixture of children's entertainment, social events and large corporate circus events (for the likes of Verizon Wireless, MIT and Mohegan Sun). He loved it all.

### Jewish life

During all the twists and turns of Don's career, his Jewish life remained a constant. He joined Temple Emanu-El in 1985. In the early 90s, during the cruise ship years, there were no real services onboard, but if a big Jewish party asked for a room for a Shabbat service, he was always invited. The ship would dock in Curacao on Saturday mornings and Don would walk to

Temple Mikveh Israel, the oldest surviving synagogue in the Americas. After services, he would hang out with the American rabbis for the rest of the day and catch up on American news.

Prior to joining Temple Emanu-El, Don had never blown a shofar. He still has a vivid childhood memory of being in awe as his father lifted him up on his shoulders to see the shofar blower during the High Holydays. For many years, Bill Cantor had served as the Ba'al T'kiah for Temple Emanu-El's High Holydays. When Bill decided to retire, Don expressed an interest in assuming the role and Rabbi Meyer invited him to audition. Another audition, and again, he got the job. Don has been the Ba'al Tekiah at Temple Emanu-El for over a decade now. Don never took a lesson or played another instrument, although he has now begun playing the bugle. "Good embouchure, I guess," he says.

His one and only shofar was purchased at Kolbo, the Judaica store in Brookline. The clerk let him check out and test his entire shofar inventory until Don zeroed in on the perfect one.

Over time, Don has built up his shofar-blowing stamina, at first, holding a note for about 20 seconds, but now for about 40 seconds. During some practice sessions, he has held the note for over a minute. The key, according to Don, is controlled breathing, almost yoga-type breathing, letting out air very slowly, which can be especially difficult when you're nervous. On T'kiah G'dolah, you just let the air out very, very, very slowly.

"I know how powerful and important it is to people and what a great honor it is to blow the shofar; to



“Blowing the shofar is something that is done the same way, with the same instrument, for the very same reason, with nothing changing for thousands of years...That is so profound to me.”

have that kind of connection to my faith, a connection that reaches back thousands of years. Blowing the shofar is something that is done the same way, with the same instrument, for the very same reason, with nothing changing for thousands of years. You are that connection to the ancient past, part of that tradition as a direct lineage of that observance. That is so profound to me; that I am that representative that gets the honor to be the vehicle, to fulfill that mitzvah of hearing the shofar blown.”

Don has never missed one of Temple Emanu-El's Tashlich gatherings at the beach on Rosh Hashanah. "It's such a wonderful tradition, bringing people together. Every year is different, with stereo shofars on the rocks."

In 2005, Don started to wind down his New Vaudeville Company. After a life of clowning, being willing to try almost anything, lots of traveling and having fun all the time, it was now time to think more about the future. He had come back to the area to take care of his parents, who had always been very supportive of his life as a clown. One of Don's greatest joys was having his late father see him blow the shofar, "Kvell just isn't a strong enough word... he was so proud, just beaming. And I was so proud and happy to be able to share that with him."

Now living in Pepperell, MA, Don has been working as a consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton at Hanscom Air Force Base, doing cyber-security work for the Air Force since 2008.

Always the class clown, the comedian, the joke teller, Don looks at his many years of making people laugh and draws the connection back to his early dream of being a physician. "Laughter is, in fact, the best medicine. I went from pre-med and a life-long dream of becoming a physician to becoming a different kind of healer. Clowning and comedy are healing arts and I realized that all along I was doing what I was always meant to be doing."



## Date

Begins the evening of Monday, September 6, 2021 and observed through sundown on September 7. Some communities observe a second day of Rosh Hashanah.

## Overview

Rosh Hashanah (translating to “Head of the Year”) is the holiday marking the beginning of the 10-day period known as the Days of Awe or High Holydays. This fall holiday is both a time of celebrating the completion of another year as well as a time for serious introspection and taking stock of one’s life.

At this time of year, we atone for our individual sins (and on Yom Kippur, our communal sins) committed in the previous year, before God metaphorically closes the Book of Life and inscribes our fates for the coming year. It anticipates the holyday of Sukkot, when we give thanks for the abundance of the past year and pray for sustenance and blessings in the year to come.

## Customs/Rituals

**Hearing the Shofar:** Made from a ram’s horn, the shofar is one of the world’s oldest wind instruments and has long played an important role as a ritual object in Jewish life.

Why do we blow the shofar at Rosh Hashanah? One reason is the ram’s horn harkens back to the story of Abraham, who sacrifices a ram instead of his son Isaac, averting Isaac’s death. Another explanation is that the shofar serves as a “wake-up” for the tasks of bettering ourselves and the world in the year to come.

## Memory

*“Every year at Rosh Hashanah, one of the highlights for our family is Tashlich. From a young age our kids have loved being with their friends and family at the beach. They understand how significant it is to consider how we were last year, and how we can be better in the coming year. Walking to the beach as a Temple community, listening to the shofar, and carrying crumbs to cast into the ocean make us really feel the emotion and hope of the New Year. We always look forward to this special tradition.”*

- Mira Kucharsky



We hear four different shofar “calls,” each with a unique name: t’kiah (one long blast), sh’varim (three short blasts), t’ruah (nine quick blasts) and t’kiah g’dolah (one very long blast).

**Tashlich:** Another popular Rosh Hashanah tradition is Tashlich, a ceremony performed in the afternoon of the holyday, when people throw breadcrumbs into a naturally running body of water as a symbolic expression of casting away their sins from the past year.

## Foods

The challah that is eaten at Rosh Hashanah is round, symbolizing the cycle of life. It is traditionally dipped in honey, symbolizing the hopes for a sweet New Year. The same is done with apples. Other traditional foods include pomegranates (the seeds of which symbolize the mitzvot that shape our spiritual lives), fish (to symbolize abundance), and dates (also symbolizing our hopes for a sweet New Year).

## Greeting

Good wishes for the New Year to friends and family is “*L’Shanah Tovah!*”

## At Temple Emanu-El

Rosh Hashanah brings the sweet smell of honey cakes baking in the Temple kitchen as approximately 600 honey cake loaves are baked and handed out to Temple members on Rosh Hashanah morning. A communal walk to the beach to mark Tashlich is another Temple Emanu-El tradition with shofars blown on high and breadcrumbs tossed into the ocean.

## Date

Begins the evening of Wednesday, September 15, 2021.

## Overview

Yom Kippur means “Day of Atonement” and refers to the annual Jewish observance of fasting, prayer, and repentance. Yom Kippur is considered the holiest day on the Jewish calendar. Tradition teaches that on Rosh Hashanah the Book of Life is written, and on Yom Kippur the decree for the New Year is sealed. We review our actions during the past year, and we look for ways to improve ourselves, our communities, and our world in the year to come.

As both seekers and givers of pardon, we turn first to those whom we have wronged, acknowledging our misdeeds and the pain we may have caused them. We are also commanded to forgive and to let go of any resentment we feel towards those who have committed offenses against us. As we read in the Yom Kippur liturgy, “For all these, God of forgiveness, forgive us, pardon us, and grant us atonement.”

## Customs/Rituals

**Fasting:** Fasting originally was seen as fulfilling the biblical commandment to “practice self-denial.” The 24-hour Yom Kippur fast enables those age 13 and older, who are able, to ignore physical desires, focusing instead on our spiritual needs for at least one day each year. Throughout the day, we concentrate on prayer, repentance, and self-improvement before returning to our usual daily routine after the holiday.

**Wearing White:** Some Jews wear white on Yom Kippur because white is a symbol of purity and Yom Kippur is a day when we undertake a spiritual cleansing.

**Hearing the Shofar:** Yom Kippur ends with a single long blast of the shofar, recalling the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai and signaling the triumph of the Jewish community over its sins for another year.

## Greeting

“*G’mar Chatimah Tovah,*” “May you be sealed [in the Book of Life] for a good year ahead.”

## Breaking the Fast

A long-awaited “break-the-fast” meal is served at the conclusion of the day. Some families wait until after sunset to gather for their joyful repast.

## At Temple Emanu-El

The heart of Yom Kippur is congregational and communal worship. It is seen as a mitzvah to attend all the services on Yom Kippur. Beginning with Kol Nidre, the evening service at the beginning of the holiday, Temple Emanu-El honors its past leadership with all past presidents sitting on the Bima and a congregational address given by the current president. During the next day, a morning and afternoon service is followed by the memorial service (Yizkor), ending with N’ilah (concluding services). The sounding of the shofar and Havdalah is recited at the end of the day. For the past three decades, Temple Emanu-El has conducted a food drive on Yom Kippur to benefit the Marblehead Food Pantry, collecting more than two tons of donations which help replenish the pantry at a vital time of year for the needy.



## Memory

*“Among the Temple’s High Holyday rituals is the honor of the past Presidents sharing the Bima on Kol Nidre. Before the service, this special group gathers in the Rabbi’s Study to greet one another and to have a photograph taken of us together. As the years have gone by and we have lost many of those so instrumental in the building and evolution of our Temple, these pictures represent particularly precious memories. This unique time is such a lovely tradition of camaraderie as the Temple shows its appreciation for the dedication of past leadership.”*

- Judith Emanuel, Temple President 1992-1994

## Date

Begins on Monday Evening, September 20, 2021 and continues through September 27, 2021.

## Overview

Sukkot is one of the most joyful festivals on the Jewish calendar; in fact, it is the only festival associated with an explicit commandment to rejoice. "Sukkot," Hebrew meaning "booths" or "huts," refers to this Jewish festival of giving thanks for the fall harvest.

Sukkot is celebrated five days after Yom Kippur, on the 15th of the Hebrew month of Tishrei, and is marked by several distinct traditions. One, which takes the commandment to dwell in booths literally, is to erect a sukkah, a small, temporary booth or hut with open doors to welcome family, friends, neighbors and community to rejoice, eat and share what we have with each other.

## Customs/Rituals

**Building a Sukkah:** The sukkah symbolizes the frail huts in which the Israelites lived during their 40 years of wandering in the desert after the Exodus from Egypt.

Sukkot come in many variations, but there are some guidelines to follow when building them. Two important ones are:

- A sukkah should have a minimum of two and a half walls, only one of which can be an existing wall, like the side of a house. The walls may be constructed of any material, generally canvas, wood, or even PVC piping!
- The roof is to be temporary, covered with loose branches from trees or anything that grows out of the ground (such as corn stalks).

It should give shade and yet allow those in the sukkah to see the stars through the roof at night.

Once the sukkah is built, it is common to decorate it with hanging fruit and other items, putting artwork on the walls, and even laying carpet on the floor.

**Lulav and Etrog:** The lulav is a combination of date palm, willow and myrtle branches, held together by a woven palm branch. The etrog, or citron, is a lemon-like fruit with a wonderful citrus smell. When reciting the blessing over the lulav and etrog, one should wave them in six directions – north, south, east, west, up, and down. This action symbolizes that God can be found in all directions, not confined to any one place in particular.

## Greeting

*Chag Sameach* – Happy (pilgrimage) holiday!

## At Temple Emanu-El

An outdoor sukkah is built and decorated by students from the Religious School and enjoyed by all, sometimes with a holiday meal celebrated by the Holidays Together Neighborhood. Worship services are held on the first and final days of the Festival. For the past several years, we have invited another local Reform congregation to join us for our services and a luncheon in our outdoor sukkah. An indoor sukkah is constructed on the Bima to serve as a decorative reminder and enhancement of the holiday season.



## Memory

*"The Families with Children Neighborhood has been helping decorate the sukkah for several years. We gather, decorate, and play outdoor lawn games. It's a special way to collaborate not just with other families, but also with the Religious School and other temple members. I love how the kids enjoy seeing their own creations hung in the sukkah. I think it helps them to feel and understand their own place as part of the congregation."*

- Sarah Waelchli

## Date

Begins the evening of Tuesday, September 28, 2021 and continues through Wednesday, September 29, 2021.

## Overview

Immediately following Sukkot, we observe Sh'mini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, a fun-filled day during which we celebrate the ending of one cycle of Torah reading and the beginning of the next cycle. Historically, Sh'mini Atzeret and Simchat Torah were two separate holidays (a day of reflection after the end of Sukkot and a celebration of Torah the following day). However, today we generally observe one day of holiday rather than two.

Simchat Torah is a joyous holiday with a relatively young history, since it is not mentioned in the Torah. It is traditionally the only time when the Torah is read at night, when we conclude the year's annual reading cycle with the last section from Deuteronomy, to be followed immediately by reading from the start of the Torah at the beginning of Genesis.

## Customs/Rituals

As part of the celebration, the Torah scrolls are taken from the Ark and carried or danced around the Sanctuary seven times. These circuits are known as *hakafot*. The singing, dancing, and flag-waving that accompany the *hakafot* symbolize the collective joy of Torah study and the centrality of Torah in Jewish life.



## At Temple Emanu-El

In recent times, Simchat Torah has also become a very "child-friendly" holiday. It is the holiday of Consecration, when we welcome our newest Religious School students with prayer and celebration, including presenting them with miniature Torah scrolls. It has become our custom to completely unroll one Torah scroll around the circumference of the Sanctuary, held in place by our members, as bar and bat mitzvah students from the past year are given the honor of reading their Torah portion. Flags are given to children (and adults) to march around with during the *hakafot*. Candied apples are also enjoyed by children (and adults) in celebration of this sweet holiday which concludes the High Holyday time of year.

Sources:

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/rosh-hashanah-101/>

<https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays>



## Memory

*"Watching our daughter Jenny in 2019 read from the Torah on Simchat Torah was as much magical as it was a celebration of the completion of the annual reading of the Torah. It happened to be prior to her Bat Mitzvah and we were overjoyed that she was able to take part in this honor surrounded not only by our family, but by the entire Temple Emanu-El community. We could not have been more proud of her on this day as she read from the Torah scroll."*

- Kate Aikman

# (Jewish) FOOD FIGHTS

There are a few absolutes in this life – death, taxes and...  
 Jews like to argue.  
 Well, maybe argue is too strong, maybe simply disagree.



Throughout history, the descendants of Abraham are taught to question almost everything. Even the Talmud records differing opinions regarding just about every matter being considered. We can argue about almost anything, and we do. The old adage is true – two Jews, three opinions.

But few things will cause voices to raise and a verbal food fight to ensue than a discussion about food. Jews are somewhat obsessed with food. There are laws about food, holiday themes around foods, symbolic foods on our seder plates. And although Yom Kippur is about forgiveness, there's a lot of thought given to food, or the lack of it, and the scrumptious meal to follow at the end of the day. So put the two together – an obsession with food and a penchant for arguing and you end up with a Jewish food fight!

In some places, Jewish food debates have even become formalized. Every year since 1946, the University of Chicago invites its professors to take sides in a live, traditional (but humorous) Latke vs Hamantaschen debate. (We have also hosted a Latke vs Hamantaschen debate here at Temple Emanu-El, which was

adjudicated by Judge David Lowy of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court!)

And in December 2020, in the midst of the pandemic, Congregation Beth El in Bethesda, Maryland asked Dr. Anthony Fauci to weigh in at their 13th annual Latke vs Hamantaschen debate. Turns out he's Team Latke leaning towards sour cream as his topping of choice. At the end of his video message to the Temple he wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah, and oh by the way, stay safe, keep well and wear your mask.

Latkes seem to be one item where opinions are strong and unbending. After the candles, dreidels and gelt are long gone, discussion about the appropriate topping for latkes lingers on. You could be Team Applesauce or Team Sour Cream or even find yourself on both Teams. But if you squeeze a dollop of ketchup onto your plate, you could be asked to leave the table. And if you suggest something like mango chutney as a latke topping, you just might be voted off the island.

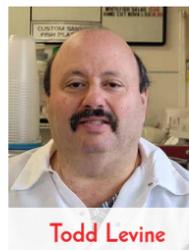
You can't talk Jewish food without talking to a couple of deli-masters, to learn from their years of experience.

First up was Evan Madoff, owner of Evan's New York Style Deli on Humphrey Street in Marblehead. Evan has been in the deli business for 25 years, 17 of which as the owner and operator of Evan's Deli.

**“The schmaltzier the better— fat is where the flavor is.”**



Evan Madoff



Todd Levine

## JEWISH FOOD CHOICES

**Meat:**  
Pastrami  
or Corned Beef

**Knishes:**  
Beef, Spinach  
or Potato

**Bread:**  
Pumpernickel  
or Rye

**Macaroon:**  
Almond  
or Coconut

**Pickles:**  
Half Sour  
or Kosher Dill

**Lox:**  
Capers  
or No Capers

**Horseradish:**  
Red  
or White

**Babkah:**  
Chocolate  
or Cinnamon

**Matzah Balls:**  
Sinkers  
or Floater

**Hamantaschen:**  
Apricot, Prune  
or Poppy

**Manischewitz:**  
Concord Grape  
or Cherry

**Dressing:**  
Russian  
or Mustard

**Challah:**  
Raisin  
or Plain

**Sandwich Topping:**  
Cole Slaw  
or Sauerkraut

**Rugelach:**  
Chocolate  
or Raspberry

**Dr. Brown's:**  
Cream  
or Black Cherry

**Kugel:**  
Noodle  
or Potato

**Fish:**  
Nova Lox  
or White Fish

**Salad:**  
Tuna Salad  
or Egg Salad

**Roll:**  
Onion  
or Kaiser

**Bagel:**  
Everything  
or Plain

**Latkes:**  
Sour Cream  
or Applesauce

With ease, Evan breezed through our list of Jewish food choices using his years of experience in knowing what people liked as well as his personal opinion.

When asked what were the All-Star items that he couldn't run his business without, he quickly answered: corned beef, pastrami, brisket, turkey and chopped liver – the end.

He explained that corned beef was actually shoulder or brisket that had been pickled and boiled and that pastrami was the belly that was spiced and smoked. He said as performers, corned beef and pastrami were pretty close, but always, “The schmaltzier the better – fat is where the flavor is.”

Next to weigh in, Todd Levine of Larry Levine's Kosher Meats and Deli in Peabody. Being a fourth-generation kosher deli guy, he has been working in the deli for close to 40 years. He proudly boasts his business, started by his father Larry almost 50 years ago, is the only kosher deli north of Boston and south of Montreal.

Todd had a different list of his 5 All-Star items – he included his famous Larry burgers, knishes, chopped liver, boneless chicken breast and all his kosher meats. He did say corned beef was still his biggest-selling sandwich.

When asked to bring their expertise and years of experience to our list of Jewish food choices, they agreed on many items. Both felt strongly that corned beef, half sour pickles, plain challah, matzah balls that float, red horseradish, lox, rye bread, tuna salad, chocolate rugelach and bulkie rolls were the more often requested items.

But differences did surface on a few. Levine said age determined the flavor choice of hamantaschen (older taste buds preferred apricot, poppy or prune, but youngsters leaned toward chocolate or raspberry). Both did comment that the round yellow meat knish we are accustomed to seeing is actually only found in Boston and that in New York, spinach or potato would be the winning knish. And they split on the choices of macaroons with Evan voting coconut and Levine picking almond as the more popular.

In the end, there are no right or wrong answers. But find out for yourself! Take our list of Jewish food choices and sit with your family and friends – see how many differences you discover in your circle of Jewish taste buds. Just leave yourself plenty of time for...ummm, discussion.

Both Evan and Todd wrapped up the disparity in food choices with simple, yet profound statements. According to Evan, “Deli food is comfort food, and what brings smiles to our faces and our stomachs are the smells and the flavors that we grew up with.”

Todd Levine summed it all up by pointing to a sign he has hanging on his deli wall:

“The Secret Ingredient is always Love.”



# Honey Cakes!

The sweet smell of honey cakes baking in the kitchen is a strong Temple Emanu-El memory. This year, circumstances prevent us from doing the large-scale baking production of the past, but here is the recipe so you can enjoy making them in your home!



- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 1/4 cups flour
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 3/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 3/4 tsp. allspice
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 cup coffee
- 3/4 cup veg. oil
- 3/4 cup honey
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts (optional)
- 1/4 cup creme de cacao (optional)

## Directions

Beat eggs; add sugar and continue beating. Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, allspice, and salt. Add this to egg mixture, then add liquids. (Add nuts last)

Bake in large greased (or little) loaf pans at 325 degrees until batter is set, about 40 minutes until cake is a nice brown color.

## What exactly went into baking 550 honey cakes?

- 108 lbs of flour**  
 ...about the average weight of a bar/bat mitzvah student!  

- 125 lbs of sugar**  
 ...about the total weight of our 4 Torah scrolls!  

- 816 oz of honey**  
 ...about the lifetime honey production of 1662 bees!  


- 113 cups of oil**  
 ...about the amount of oil necessary to fry 1,400 latkes!  

- 408 eggs**  
 ...about two years of egg production from one hen!  







## Neighborhood Spotlight: Holidays Together

No matter what the holiday is, many of our vivid Jewish holiday memories are centered around a meal with family and friends. This need to enrich a holiday with a festive meal, joining with old and new friends, was the impetus for Claire and David Helfman when they suggested a Holidays Together Neighborhood.

This Temple Neighborhood is an informal group of members, family and friends looking to share holiday meals together either before or after attending services. Under the leadership of Claire and David, they plan traditional holiday meals, gather to meet, greet, eat and share traditional holiday songs, prayers and personal stories. The number of attendees varies with each holiday, but is always made up of folks wanting to share a holiday meal with others observing a holiday.

In its early days, about a dozen or so members and friends met to share a Shabbat meal at the Helfman's condominium. But in recent years, the meals have moved to the Temple and the group has grown to serve up to 30 people on some holidays. In the past, this Neighborhood has gotten together before/after Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, during Hanukkah, for a first night Passover seder, at Shavuot and Sukkot.

The Holidays Together Neighborhood turned into a perfect fit for Ron and Janet Lamkin after their previous temple closed. Three years ago, they were invited to a Holidays Together gathering during Hanukkah where they met and became friends with several welcoming Emanu-El members including Claire and David. "We were awestruck and truly learned to appreciate Claire's great abilities as a task-oriented organizer to bring members together for a fun holiday event, especially in today's world of

geographically-separated families. Now that we had made some friends and were not complete strangers, we're delighted to say Temple Emanu-El is our new home."

Betty Dyer also has been part of the Holidays Together Neighborhood since its inception. "I live alone and my children live out-of-state. When holidays roll around, we are often not able to get together. If not for the Holidays Together Neighborhood, I would spend these holidays by myself. For those who can't share a meal with others on a holiday, the Holidays Together Neighborhood is absolutely essential - I love it!"

There are very few ground rules. All ages are welcome. Meals might be pot luck, purchased food or a combination of both and food accommodations are made when possible, including vegetarian or allergy-free entrees. All meals are Kosher-style and served at the Temple. Costs can vary from \$8-\$13 per person to cover expenses and no one is ever excluded.

If you are new to our Temple community and would like to meet others, or if you find yourself without someone with whom to share a holiday meal, this Neighborhood could be perfect for you! The cut-off for signing up is usually two weeks before a holiday, call the Temple office 781-631-9300 to register. Our deepest thanks go out to Claire and David Helfman for starting and continuing to operate this Temple Neighborhood and making such a difference for so many.

For more information, be part of and/or help with the Holidays Together Neighborhood, call or text Claire Helfman at 603.321.0222.

# Spring B'nai Mitzvah



## Sadie and Jared Halpern

Daughter and Son of Ali and Zack Halpern  
March 6, 2021

We are so grateful that Sadie and Jared could have their B'nai Mitzvah on the day we originally planned. We were disappointed we couldn't all be in person, but were thrilled and so incredibly thankful that our family and friends could take part remotely. We felt the love and warmth of everyone around us. We were so focused on each other and proud of the way Jared and Sadie read their Torah portions. This was no easy task studying and learning over Zoom calls. Thank you to Rabbi Meyer, Rabbi Allison, Jon Nelson, Shelby Chapper, Beth Tassinari and all their Hebrew school teachers for making this day so special and meaningful for us all.

-Ali and Zack Halpern

## Quinn Harris

Daughter of Lisa and Daniel Harris  
March 13, 2021



A global pandemic could not stop our daughter Quinn's Bat Mitzvah from being the absolute highlight of our family's lives this past March 2021. Due to the worst circumstances of having to plan this wonderful occasion during an unprecedented time where food, dancing, and a large in-person gathering was not allowed, I had my doubts that her Bat Mitzvah could produce such a sense of accomplishment and joy, but it did! Cancelling the catering, entertainment, florist, etc. that had been hired a year prior to the event left a singular focus on Quinn's Bat Mitzvah service. This was the silver lining of a COVID Bat Mitzvah. She worked weekly with her Hebrew tutor, Beth Tassinari, so that she would flawlessly chant her Torah portion, lead the allowed 20 in-person audience members in prayer, and compose thirteen individually heartfelt messages to honor those in a candle-lighting ceremony on her big day. I give Beth a lot of credit in preparing Quinn so well for this day. Many more thanks go out to Rabbi Meyer and the whole temple staff, along with my Zoom coordinator, Shari Gondelman, for executing a magical Bat Mitzvah service. I bet more friends and family attended than possibly would in person because of the technologies implemented by them all. We are so grateful to you Temple Emanu-El.

- Lisa, Danny and Quinn Harris

## Owen Newburg

Day and Richard Newburg  
March 20, 2021

The pandemic sort of forced us to reflect on what was really critical. After cancelling and rescheduling a few times we were relieved to be able to make it happen, albeit in a way we had not originally imagined. The small group gave us a chance to really focus on the ceremony and appreciate the moment. When we looked out from the Bima we saw all our closest people who love us the best. Everyone at Temple Emanu-El made it so warm and joyful and we felt so grateful to be able to be together and celebrate Owen. We loved every minute.

- Day Newburg



## Cora Gerson

Daughter of Molly and Mike Gerson  
April 10, 2021

When we reflect on Cora's Bat Mitzvah, we find ourselves full of pride and joy. Grateful to be healthy and able to participate in the ceremony. It was a highlight during a year of such uncertainty and we have come to fully understand the importance of tradition, celebration and family. We are so appreciative of the guidance and support from Beth, Shelby, Rabbi Allison, Jon and Rabbi Meyer.

- Molly Gerson

Photo: Taylor Eliana

## Andrew Pica

Son of Halie and Al Pica  
April 17, 2021

On April 17, 2021 we celebrated the Bar Mitzvah of our son, Andy. Throughout the last year as we faced the fears and uncertainties from COVID-19, experiencing Andy's Bar Mitzvah was a bright spot. Despite not being able to "pack the house" due to the pandemic, we were thrilled that our family and friends were able to enjoy the service from the comfort of their homes. With the support of his family, Morah Beth, and Rabbi Meyer, Andy rose to the occasion and shined on the Bima. We're so proud of him and thankful for our amazing Temple Emanu-El community!

- Halie Pica



Photo: Lucica with Gold Feather photography

## Ryan Freed

Son of Meredith and Andrew Freed  
April 24, 2021



Rethinking Ryan's Bar Mitzvah during COVID was a challenge, but it allowed us to focus on what a Bar Mitzvah really means. Ryan chose a mitzvah project that aligned with his Torah portion while making a difference in people's lives, the Boston to Bar Harbor Challenge, raising over \$4500. Everything was special - the small gathering of friends and family, the service, the day. It was a different special than it would have been in 2018 or 2019, but special it was. We are so happy to have been able to do this at Temple Emanu-El.

- Meredith and Andy Freed

## Jacob Hershfield

Son of Rafe Hershfield  
May 15, 2021

In one word, Perseverance. This is how I would describe Jacob's amazing Bar Mitzvah. Through the pandemic and other unfortunate delays, Jacob and the entire staff at Temple Emanu-El persevered through it all to make his Bar Mitzvah an unforgettable moment in all our lives. Jacob worked tirelessly studying and learning his Torah portion with his tutor Stephanie. He was committed from the start and the results of all his hard work and help from Stephanie and Rabbi Meyer were nothing short of perfect. It was a unique time in our world for Jacob and others who celebrated their Bar and Bat Mitzvah and this special group will always share this distinctive bond together. We are extremely grateful & appreciative for all the effort and time everyone involved put into making Jacob's day so special and thankful for all those who were able to attend the service via Zoom and help us create a lifelong memory.

- Rafe Hershfield



Photo: Nate Fontes-Fried

Photo: Robert Castagna



### Taylor Aikman

Daughter of Kate and Dennis Aikman  
May 22, 2021

We definitely had pictured celebrating in person with close family and friends as we had for our first daughter's Bat Mitzvah. However, in the end we had an equally memorable day celebrating Taylor. The pandemic definitely presented some unique challenges; however, the Temple staff and Rabbi Meyer were truly amazing and guided the entire process. We are so grateful to Beth for working with Taylor over Zoom to help her prepare. We could not have been more proud of Taylor. The live stream was fantastic. Our family and friends watched from all over the world and have even watched some or all of the Bat Mitzvah several times since. Many commented how much they enjoyed not only the service, but the music performed by Jon and Rabbi Meyer, as always it was amazing and made it so memorable. We feel so blessed to be a part of the Temple Emanu-El community.

- Kate Aikman

### Noah Xenios

Son of Jennifer Shore  
June 5, 2021



Noah turned 12 a week before the pandemic was official and his birthday, on March 2, 2020, was the last time our entire family was together inside for a year. We knew the coming year was supposed to be planning for Noah's Bar Mitzvah, but we were unsure it would be a possibility! The wonderful Temple staff and educators reached out and kept us connected. Having a Bar/Bat Mitzvah during COVID was a reminder of how the Temple fosters community, in spite of, or especially when, we are not able to be together. Noah's tutor was calm, patient and so encouraging. She helped him learn his Torah passage over Zoom and he did a beautiful job on the day of his Bar Mitzvah. Only our immediate family was in attendance but in some ways that made the Service more intimate. With the Service live over Facebook, family and friends from all over the country could be there. Rabbi Meyer and Jon were so helpful throughout and we were so proud of Noah!

- Jennifer Shore



Photo: Jared Charney

### Jeffrey Kucharsky

Son of Mira and David Kucharsky  
June 19, 2021

Jeffrey's Bar Mitzvah was a special and wonderful experience for our whole family, full of joy and emotion. We were grateful to Rabbi Meyer and Stefanie for preparing Jeffrey so beautifully. We were so proud of Jeffrey. As health guidelines were updated, Rabbi Meyer, Shelby, and the entire Temple staff were so communicative and helpful. We were also so appreciative of our fellow B'nai Mitzvah parents who streamed services before us, as they were so generous to share their experiences and tips. It was such a moving day and will be a treasured memory.

- Mira Kucharsky

### Jamison Moore

Daughter of Anne and Scott Moore  
June 26, 2021

As we planned Jamison's Bat Mitzvah, we had no idea what the day would look like. Rabbi Meyer, Stephanie, Shelby, and the entire office staff helped us navigate through ever-changing pandemic rules. We were able to have all of our immediate family at the service, which made it special. Those family and friends on Zoom told us that they felt as though they were actually in the Sanctuary. As we watched Jamison be called to the Torah and share her thoughts on her Parsha, we were in awe of her poise and accomplishments. The day was perfect in every way. Our whole family will cherish these special memories forever.

- Roz and Brian Moore, Grandparents of Jamison



Photo: Mark Karlsberg Studio Eleven, Inc.

# Always a lot going on at Temple Emanu-El!



Confirmation



Toiletry drive for the homeless in partnership with My Brother's Table



Graduation



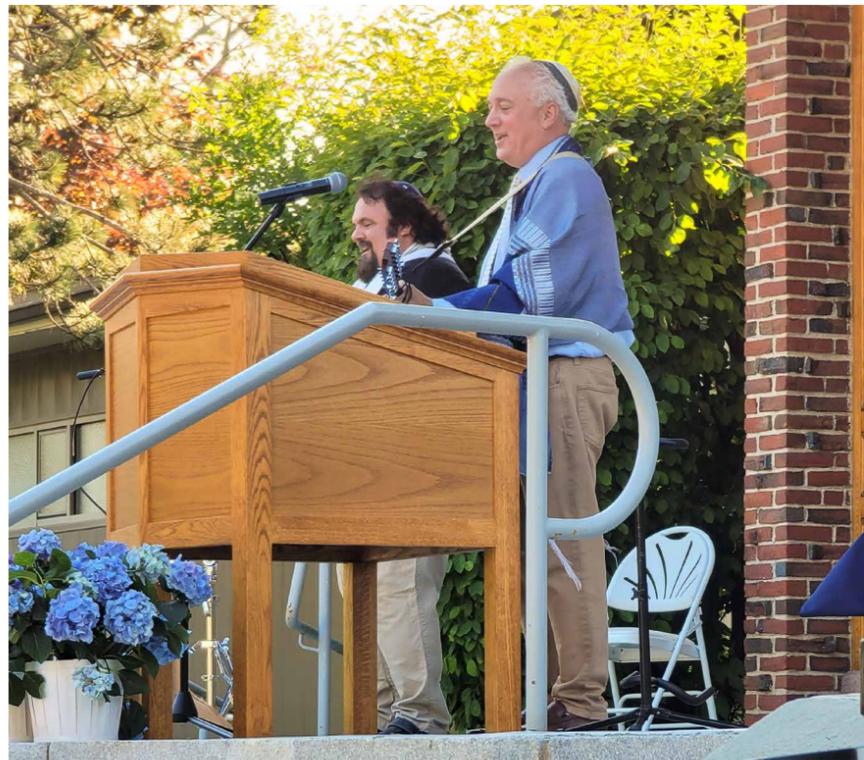
Families with Children Outdoor Picnic



Currents | 23



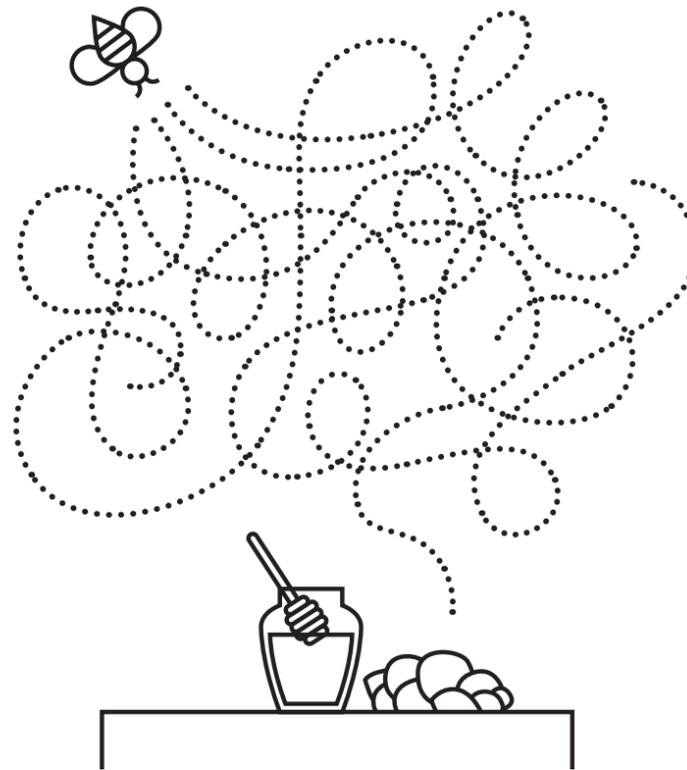
Passover Haggadah/ Goodie Bags



Re-opening:  
Outside and Inside!

### HELP THE BUZZY BEE

Help! The bee needs to get to the Rosh Hashanah table!  
Which path will get him there?



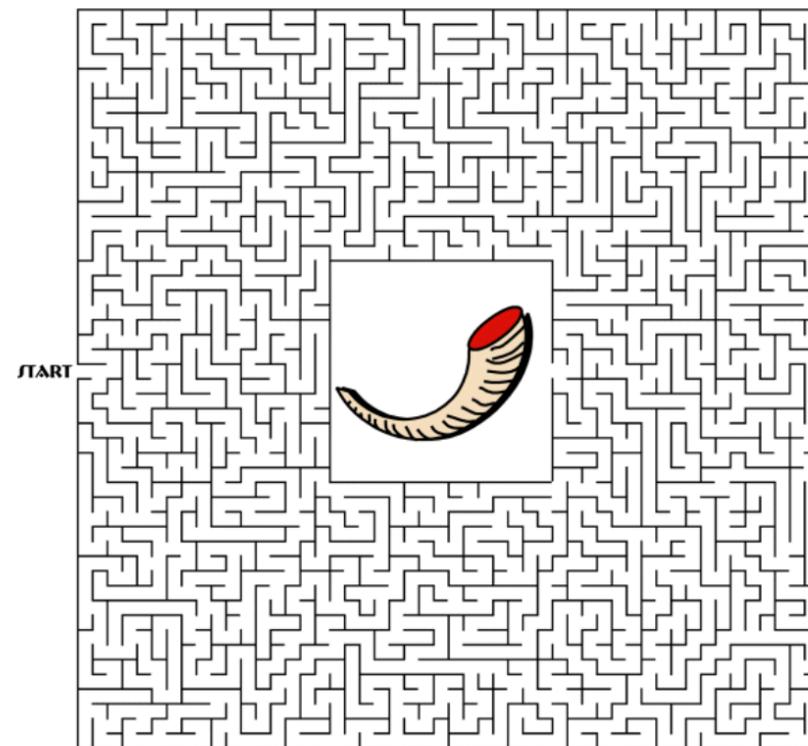
### Rosh Hashana & Yom Kippur Word Find



S	H	O	F	A	R	O	D	L	T	R	H	Y	J	U
J	J	E	U	R	Z	H	E	R	O	O	S	A	E	P
H	C	I	L	H	S	A	T	Z	N	V	Y	D	W	J
W	A	R	T	J	R	I	H	E	R	F	N	I	O	
O	E	N	O	T	A	C	Y	Q	M	L	A	L	S	E
J	Y	M	A	S	A	K	S	Z	J	U	G	O	H	J
S	M	Y	P	M	H	C	D	Y	Q	Y	O	H	G	M
I	S	R	J	A	U	H	O	J	N	K	G	Z	A	E
Y	A	C	R	U	P	M	A	V	N	M	U	I	M	F
S	S	I	W	A	K	P	M	S	J	M	E	E	N	W
Q	I	E	K	I	E	U	L	D	H	V	B	E	L	Y
B	R	B	P	S	Z	Y	N	E	N	A	S	T	D	G
A	Q	P	B	J	C	G	W	S	S	X	N	I	Y	P
R	U	B	F	A	Y	N	Z	E	Z	Y	U	A	X	M
R	C	P	W	S	R	L	T	A	N	K	T	S	H	R

- |         |          |              |
|---------|----------|--------------|
| APPLES  | JEWISH   | ROSH HASHANA |
| ATONE   | MACHZOR  | SHOFAR       |
| HOLIDAY | NEW YEAR | SYNAGOGUE    |
| HONEY   | RABBI    | TASHLICH     |
|         |          | YOM KIPPUR   |

### FIND YOUR WAY TO THE SHOFAR



High  
Holyday  
Fun!



David J. Meyer, Rabbi  
Jaime Meyers, Executive Director  
Allison Peiser, Temple Educator  
Jon Nelson, Music Director  
Lisa Nagel, President

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# Don't Forget!

## Three easy ways to make your Membership Pledge!

1. Send in the Membership Pledge form mailed to you this summer
2. Online at [emanu-el.org](http://emanu-el.org) (on the home page)
3. Call or visit the Temple office: 781.631.9300

## High Holyday dates and service times:

*(In Person and on Facebook Live)*

### Monday, September 6th

Erev Rosh Hashanah – 8pm

### Tuesday, September 7th

Rosh Hashanah Morning - 10am

Family Service – 2:30pm

Tashlich – 3:15pm

### Wednesday, September 15th

Kol Nidre – 8pm

### Thursday, September 16th

Yom Kippur Morning – 10am

Yom Kippur Afternoon – 1pm

Family Service – 2:30pm

Yizkor – 4pm

Neilah – 5pm

## Religious School registration is now open!

*Enrollment is now open for Pre-K through  
12th Grade!*

- Free tuition for Pre-K through 2nd grade for first time students!
- 10% Early Bird Rate through the end of our Open House on August 22nd!
- Sibling Discount: 5% off each child!