

SD'var

TEMPLE SHOLOM

*A sacred community that
embraces, inspires, and matters*

MAY/JUNE 2023



Senior Rabbi
**Shoshannah
Conover**

It is strange to write an article six weeks before it will be published... especially about Israel. As I write this on March 20, 2023, 260,000 Israelis have shown up to protest their government's proposed judicial overhaul. For the first time, counter-protestors have shown up in numbers as well. As The Israel Democracy Institute explains, "Supporters of the changes justify them as necessary to rein in an unaccountable judiciary, while opponents of the changes fear that the removal of the only effective check on executive power in Israel will jeopardize civil liberties, economic prosperity, and Israel's international standing." If you are interested in a very thoughtful framing of the situation, listen to The Promised Podcast, "A Conflict That Contains Lifetimes of Conflicts."

The anthem of protests (and counter-protests) has been a song written in 1982 by Ehud Manor, *Ein li Acheret Acheret*, I Have No Other Country.

The lyrics include:

*I have no other country
even if my land is aflame
Just a word in Hebrew
pierces my veins and my soul...
I will not stay silent
because my country changed her face.
I will not give up reminding her
And sing in her ears
until she will open her eyes...*

Israel is aflame as her inhabitants decide what country she will be. We watch perplexed and anxious. Will Israel explode in civil war? Or will this be the moment that finally gives birth to compromise and the creation of a constitution?

We as a Temple Sholom community decided to approach Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict this year, we had no idea what would transpire in this year 5783. We had taken to heart Hartman Scholar and Abraham Accords Negotiator, Tal Becker's words: "I sometimes feel like the conversation between Israeli Jews and American Jewry is each of us telling us: 'Put on a jacket, I'm cold.'"

As the Jewish people has gone from a paradigm of exile, homelessness, and wandering to having two permanent homes— Israel and the United States— we have assumed that we understand how the other home of the Jewish people should work.

Continued on page 5

WHAT'S THE RABBI LISTENING TO?



**The "A Conflict That Contains
Lifetimes of Conflicts" Edition
By The Promised Podcast**

The Promised Podcast is hosted by Bar Ilan University professor, Noah Efron. Each week he and his guests discuss the latest in Israeli politics, culture and society. In this very special episode, Noah tries to uncover what this conflict is really about.



President
Sherry Weil

**Change is in the air... we will soon have a
new Board President, Executive Director,
and Director of Education.**

As I look back on the nearly 2 years that I've been Board President, the one thing I know for sure is that nothing is accomplished in our community alone. Our board, our staff, and our clergy all work together to bring programming, service, teaching, learning,

and worship to all of you. It is through their caring and collaboration that we are able to celebrate and support one another together.

I know that under Elizabeth Samuel's leadership we will move forward with many new programs and initiatives and I can't wait to see how they progress. I'd like to thank our board members who will be stepping down after serving three two-year terms: Kimberley Pendo, Michael Radner, Matty Major, Lilli Kornblum and Jed Silberg. We'll feel your presence even though we won't see you at our monthly meetings.

As *Shavuot* is around the corner, we are reminded of the importance of lifelong

learning and how the lessons of the *Torah* can help us to lead more fulfilling and meaningful lives. Serving as your board president has been the job of a lifetime, and one that I'll always remember. Because of you, serving this congregation has been meaningful in ways I never could have imagined. Thank you for your trust, support, kindness, and generosity over these past two years. I'm looking forward to continuing our work together, building our strong and vibrant community, and realizing our vision.

Sherry Weil
sherryweil0304@gmail.com

Of Blessed Memory

FEB. 24

Barbara Dearborn Greenwood

Grandmother of Matt Dicker (Kelsey Hornbach)

FEB. 24

Warren Brand

Son-in-law of Barbara "Cookie" & Sidney Gross

MAR. 24

Karen Reeser

Mother-in-law of Stacey Reeser, grandmother of Shale and Althea Reeser

MAR. 25

Ira Levinson

Husband of Samantha Levinson, father of Maya & Tyler Levinson

MAR. 26

Sandy Schwartz

Mother of David (Jodi Cohen) Schwartz, and Mark (Denise) Schwartz, grandmother of Zach, Sam & Andrew (A.J.) Schwartz and Elena & Ian Schwartz

MAR. 27

Yehuda Morady

Brother of Amnon (Jodi) Morady, uncle of Sammy, Margo & Ethan Morady

APR. 6

Theodor Goldberg

Husband of Margaret Goldberg

APR. 11

Denise Graney

Mother of Patrick Graney-Dolan

APR. 12

Alfred Gourdji

Father of Jeff Gourdji (Susan Gradman), grandfather of Benji, Josh & Evan Gourdji.

APR. 17

Leroy Fadem

Father of Steve Fadem (Laurie Baskin), grandfather of Rachel & Chloe Fadem.

Mazel Tov

MAR. 7

Marilyn & Fred Oskin

on the birth of their granddaughter, Noa Yael. Proud parents are Michael Oskin & Rebecca Meisels.

MAY 18

Joan & Jerry Field

on their daughter Sara Field earning her PhD in Education from George Mason University

APR. 13

Sheryl & Rob Bellick

on the engagement of their daughter, Sara Bellick to Jordan Solomon.

APR. 14

Joan & Jerry Field

Jonathan Siner and Janis Feldman Siner on the birth of their grandson, Edwin ("Eddie") Herschel Groner. The proud parents are Emily Siner & Ben Groner.

New Members

Membership is how our sacred community grows!

Know somebody who is interested in membership?

Connect them with Jude Kamler at jude@sholomchicago.org.

Yahrzeits / First Year

MAY 1

Marla Tilson

Sister of Helene Kohn

MAY 5

Morton Jaffe

Stepfather of Jayne Krulewitch

MAY 5

Jean Rose

Mother of Sara Kaplan

MAY 8

Fuchs Adalbert Nuta

Father of Lia Epshetsky

MAY 14

Mae Buttermann

Aunt of Lilli Kornblum

MAY 14

Jane Ellen Lipman

Mother of Brian Lipman

MAY 17

Hannah Hess

Mother of Kathy Talling

MAY 25

Harvey Lawrence Coustan

Loved one of Elaine Roth

MAY 26

Dr. Evelyn Perloff

Mother of Judy Perloff

MAY 29

Sanford A. "Sandy" Bank

Father of John Bank

MAY 30

Nancy Jane Cohen

Mother of Karen Lewis

JUNE 1

Stephen Glassman

Loved one of Diane Tarshis

JUNE 1

Andrea Mayster-Levin

Daughter of Lynda & Larry Mayster

JUNE 6

Frieda Cohen Kowalsky

Mother of Gary Cohen

JUNE 11

Fern Bomchill Davis

Temple Sholom Member

JUNE 12

Dorothy Nagler

Mother of Nancy Domash

JUNE 15

Marcus Mares

Brother-in-law of David Sheffer

JUNE 22

Norma Adler

Mother of Suzanne Kaplan

JAN. 26

Allan Horwich

FEB. 1

Diana & William Himmelstein

Brody, Austin

FEB. 22

Jennifer & Shawn Fabian

Asher, Joey

MAR. 2

Michael & Nancy Herman

MAR. 6

Erin & Walker Rosenberg

B'nai Mitzvah

MAY 6

Penny Spiegel Charlie Miller

MAY 13

Dylan Flaum Claire Horwitz

MAY 20

Avital Grossman

JUNE 10

Tyson Li Teddy Dickler

JUNE 17

William Strauss Elliot Keske

Worship Schedule

Please watch our weekly eBlast, Sholom Weekly, for information about which services are mixed-presence (in person & virtual).

FRIDAY | MAY 5, 12, 19, 26

FRIDAY | JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

6:15 PM Shabbat Service

SATURDAY | MAY 6, 13, 20, 27

SATURDAY | JUNE 3, 10, 17, 24

9:00 AM Minyan Service

9:45 AM Torah Study

If you have experienced a life-cycle event recently (marriage, birth of a child, etc.) we would like to know about it!

Please email **Lori Curtis** at lori@sholomchicago.org to share the news with us. Thank you!

Special Services

FRIDAY | MAY 5

7:45 PM *Or Chadash Shabbat*

FRIDAY | MAY 19

6:15 PM *Kabbalat Torah Graduation
Shabbat Mishpacha*

THURSDAY | MAY 25

10:00 PM *Community Tikkun Leil
Shavuot at Anshe Emet,
3751 N. Broadway*

FRIDAY | JUNE 2

6:15 PM *Congregational
Pride Shabbat*

FRIDAY | JUNE 16

6:30 PM *Makom Shabbat*

SHAVUOT

Join us for *Shavuot*, the Jewish holiday that celebrates the giving of the *Torah* on Mount Sinai. With its delicious dairy treats and all-night study sessions, *Shavuot* is a time of spiritual awakening and intellectual exploration.

Experience the joy of community as we gather to read the Ten Commandments and recite prayers of gratitude. Engage in thought-provoking discussions and delve deeper into the meaning of the *Torah*'s teachings. Whether you're a lifelong learner or just starting to explore your faith, *Shavuot* is a time to connect with your heritage and discover new insights. So come join the community and let *Shavuot* inspire your mind, heart, and soul!

Tikkun L'Eil Shavuot

**THURSDAY | MAY 25 10:00 PM - 4:00 AM
IN PERSON AT ANSHE EMET**

Join the community at Anshe Emet Synagogue, 3751 N. Broadway, Chicago, to study all night and participate in an opening teaching session! Rabbi Shoshanah Conover will be representing Temple Sholom at this exciting event. Other clergy participating are Rabbi Lizzi Heydemann Cantor Shelley Friedman, Rabbi Sarah Mulhern, Rabbi Michael Siegel, and Rabbi David Wolkenfel.

Shavuot Festival Service with Yizkor

FRIDAY | MAY 26 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Join us at Temple Sholom's joyous *Shavuot* Festival Service, as we celebrate the giving of the *Torah* with prayers, hymns, and readings. During *Yizkor*, we remember our loved ones who have passed away and reflect on their legacy, offering prayers of gratitude and remembrance. All are welcome to share in this meaningful and uplifting experience.

Your Annual Fund gift is key to Temple Sholom of Chicago's evolution and longevity, benefiting the general well-being and future of our community.

Here are tangible examples that reflect the beautiful interdependence that your contribution supports in our community:



\$360 sponsors **200 meals** through the **Feed the Hungry** program.



\$2,500 helps underwrite annual fees for **online video & streaming** for our Friday night *Shabbat* services.



\$10,000 supports **Tot Shabbat & Tot Holiday** experiences for the year.



\$1,800 helps subsidize **Membership** for one family to benefit from dues relief.



\$3,600 provides funding for one **Religious School** learning specialist for the year.



\$25,000 covers the yearly expenses for **our treasured musicians**.

**All costs are estimated*

To participate in Annual Fund giving, please contact Patrick Graney-Dolan at patrick@sholomchicago.org or **773-435-1535**.

Thank You to Our Temple Sholom Donors!

Gifts listed represent honorific giving from Feb. - Mar. 2023

In Memory of Martin Alderman
In Honor of Molly Balson
In Honor of
Cantor Sheera Ben-David

In Memory of Dorothy Zusel Berke
In Memory of Warren Brand
In Honor of Donald & Helen Brown
In Honor of Stacy Charnay
In Honor of Ben Conover
In Honor of
Rabbi Shoshanah Conover

In Honor of Mya Coon

In Memory of Esther Dokarker

In Memory of Esther Friedman
In Memory of Morton Glisker
In Memory of Sandra Granroth
In Memory of Carol Gross
In Honor of Amittai Hershel Gelman

In Memory of Esther Katz
In Memory of Ira Levinson

In Honor of Alan Mints
In Memory of Yehuda Morady

Ruth & Mark Schlossberg
Katie Balson & Michael Carter

Jason & Wendy Heltzer
Marc & Debora Willage
Roger & Eleanor Feldman
Amnon & Jodi Morady
Susan Josephson & Steve Grosky
Rachel & Rush Sturges
Rhoda Frankel

Rachel Berger
Jason & Wendy Heltzer
Linda Schroeder
Nikki Coon
Craig & Lori Stern
Jerry & Joan Field
Mark & Cheryl Kaplan
Roger & Eleanor Feldman
Irwin & Janice Saltz
Ross Goldberg
Jennifer Gross
Linda Cohen
Lori Curtis
Michael Dannhauser
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Jennifer Gross
Elise Jankelow
Jeremy & Stephanie Kleinman
Dave Levinson
Krista Linn
Bryan & Pamela Lookatch
Larry Martin
Art & Amanda Moswin
Amy Narea
Hillary Oestreicher
Theresa Shenk
Jed & Sharon Silberg
R. Walba
Jean Wierzbinski
Jason & Wendy Heltzer
John Bremen & Lara Frohlich
Lauren Reeves
Amy & Joshua Rosenow

In Memory of Gary Nelkin
In Honor of Jeremy Perlin

In Memory of
Adrienne G. Rosenberg

In Memory of Michael Rubinov
In Memory of Albert Saltz
In Memory of Marie Saltz
In Memory of Goldie Shoub
In Memory of Alvin Siess
In Memory of Ron Spielman
In Honor of Eliana Starr
In Memory of Samford P. Stoll
In Memory of Lillian Tuchinsky
In Memory of Maxine Unger
In Memory of Ethan Vinograd
In Memory of
Jacqueline Snyder Willage
In Memory of Mary Willage

Mark & Jodi Savitt
Steve & Erica Attanasio
Michael & Shelley Radner
Marc & Debora Willage

Julie Adler
Linda Cohen
Lori Curtis
Patrick Graney-Dolan
Gale Klein
Andrew & Ellyn Lansing
Joseph & Jennifer Lansing
Marcy & Merritt Mamroth
Amnon & Jodi Morady
Roger & Teri Rudich
Clifford & Nancy Scott-Rudnick
David & Suzanne Shoub
Marc & Debora Willage
Olga Rubinov
Irwin & Janice Saltz
Irwin & Janice Saltz
David & Suzanne Shoub
Joel & Sherri Nemirow
Linda Young
David Starr & Brittany Lakin-Starr
Susan Stoll
Tova M. Winston
Rebecca Unger
Steve & Erica Attanasio

Marc & Debora Willage
Marc & Debora Willage

Gifts listed represent honorific giving from Feb.- Mar., 2023

These thoughtful gifts to Temple Sholom, in addition to membership contributions, enable us to further our sacred mission and support the greatest needs of our community at any given time.

If you would like to make a special honorific gift to Temple Sholom, please visit www.sholomchicago.org/donate. Questions? Contact Patrick Graney-Dolan at patrick@sholomchicago.org or 773-435-1535.

**Front Page Article Written by
Rabbi Shoshanah Conover**

Continued from page 1

This year, Temple Shalom has tried to better understand Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict from a stance of humility and curiosity. We learned from Deputy Consul General of Israel to the Midwest, Daniel Ascheim, on Yom Kippur afternoon. He invited all questions and answered them candidly and openly.

The day after elections in Israel we welcomed Daniel Sokatch, author of *Can We Talk About Israel?: A Guide for the Curious, Confused, and Conflicted* in a frank and somehow hopeful conversation. Rabbi Alona Nir Keren who leads the Mevaseret Zion Community (Kamatatz) of the Reform movement in Israel spent time with adults and our high school students. During her visit to Temple Shalom, she shared about her relationships with young Haredi ("ultra-Orthodox") Jews (who learn Jewish philosophy from her) and mayors in nearby Arab villages (with whom she led peace walks in the midst of the violence in May 2021). In January, we hosted Dima Zagal, a Palestinian-American artist and change-maker who works with Building Together, a US-based NGO that creates connections between Palestinians and Israelis for shared respect and economic benefit.

She shared about harrowing challenges when visiting her Palestinian relatives and the common language of art to bring people together in the region. Later

in February, Gil Hoffman of Honest Reporting demonstrated how watching media helps everyone have a better, nuanced perspective on Israel and the conflict.

By the time you receive this, we will have celebrated *Yom Ha'atzma'ut* (Israeli Independence Day) with thoughtful programming. We will have hosted a workshop with Resetting the Table, an organization that equips leaders of communities to build a culture of trust and learning across deep differences—in this case around the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. And, Orly Erez-Likhovski, Director of Israel Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, will have addressed Temple Shalom about what's at stake in this moment of Israel's history—75 years into its statehood—and what we can do to help shape it.

This year in which we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Israel's statehood, we stake our claim in its future by learning more about its present. We have heard from change-makers whose words have pierced our souls. I pray that by the time you are reading this, our land will no longer be aflame. I pray that she has opened her eyes to a democracy protected by compromise and a constitution. Only then can we truly sing another song of this season, "*Dayeinu*".

L'Sholom,

Rabbi Shoshanah Conover
rabbiconover@sholomchicago.org

Welcome!



We are excited to introduce the newest member of our esteemed team at Temple Shalom -

Lori Kramer - who will be assuming the role of **Director of Education** in July. We are immensely proud to have someone of Lori's caliber and extensive experience join us. With nearly two decades of experience as a Jewish educator, Lori has honed her skills in crafting meaningful and

engaging educational experiences for students of all ages. Lori's impressive achievements in the field of education innovation speak for themselves, and we are thrilled to have her bring her expertise to Temple Shalom. Her unwavering commitment to student-centered learning, coupled with her passion for exploring life's big questions through Jewish education, make her a perfect fit for our vibrant and diverse community.

She looks forward to partnering with all of us to raise *mensches* in our community and increasing our own *menschiness* through Jewish learning. We look forward to the bright future ahead with her at the helm of our educational endeavors!



Gan Shalom Early Childhood Education Center

The Gan Shalom children have been very busy celebrating lots of holidays and traditions with music, art, stories, and lots of experiences.

We celebrated Purim, with a costume parade, a carnival and delicious hamantaschen. For Passover we celebrated with our all-school Passover Seder and the Matzah Factory came to Gan Shalom

for a matzah baking experience! The children planted and grew parsley, made seder plates, enjoyed making delicious matzah pizza and learned the story of Passover! A special shout out to The Cubs Charities All-Star Grant for their generous donation of \$25,000 to the Gan Shalom Community! **Registration is open for summer camp and the 2023/2024 Gan Shalom school year.**

For more information, please contact **Heidi Cooper**, Director of Early Childhood Education, at heidi@sholomchicago.org or 773-525-4867.



Dressing up as Queen Esther for Purim!



Matzah Factory



Children enjoying a Purim Bounce House!

Lifelong Learning

אם אין אני לי, מי לי, וכשאני לעצמי, מה אני, ואם לא עכשיו, אימתי.

If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And, if I am for myself alone, then what am I? And, if not now, when?

Pirkei Avot 1:14



What a year at *Beit Sefer Shalom* Religious School!

The 2022-2023 school year has been fantastic at *Beit Sefer Shalom* Religious School! Our theme permeated throughout the program. **"If not now, when?"** Classes participated in our Feed the Hungry program throughout the year, making sandwiches and assembling lunch bags to feed an

incredible number of people. "If I am for myself alone, then what am I?" Community was in abundance, from Junior Congregation services to Yom Horim family programs. "If I am not for myself, who will be for me?" Our classes help learners develop their sense of being Jewish in our world—how they act, how they think, and how they feel to be engaged Jews connected to others in our community.

Our final session is Sunday, May 21, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone involved in our program. Our faculty and *Madrichim* are dedicated, enthusiastic people who

love spending Sunday mornings with children at *Beit Sefer Shalom*. When you see them or members of our facilities and security teams during the final sessions in May, please join me in expressing our gratitude for everything they do for Temple Shalom and our students!

Temple Shalom's education program is ready for a wonderful new beginning next school year. As the Interim Director of Lifelong Learning, I have had the privilege of being part of this special community during this time. I have enjoyed learning from you and having fun with you. I am moving on to be the Education Director at JRC, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, in Evanston. Temple Shalom's education program is ready for a wonderful new beginning as well!

Lauren Reeves, *Interim Director of Lifelong Learning*
lauren@sholomchicago.org

ADULT EDUCATION

For full class and scholar descriptions, explore our curriculum at www.sholomchicago.org/adult-education and register online via web calendar www.sholomchicago.org/calendar. Questions regarding Adult Education? Contact **Lori Curtis** at lori@sholomchicago.org or **773-435-1531**.

At this time, all Adult Education classes are online unless otherwise noted.

Learn with our Clergy

Wednesday morning study group - Hartman Hot Topics

with Rabbi Conover

**WEDNESDAYS | MAY 10, 17, 24
10:00 AM**

Join Rabbi Conover for lively discussions on some of the stickiest ethical dilemmas of our time. We'll delve into a curriculum exclusively designed by thought leaders at the institute. This class will engender conversations so topical and compelling, you'll find yourself talking about them long after the class is over.

Talmud Study with Rabbi Conover **TUESDAYS | 8:30 AM**

Join Rabbi Conover's *Talmud* course and explore its rich stories and meanings.

Other Learning Opportunities

Shakespeare Discussion

with Mitchell Brown

**WEDNESDAYS | MAY - JUNE
6:30 PM**

Join us as we examine Shakespeare's writings and tie in Jewish ethics and biblical allusions throughout the course. The class started as a seven-week session to discuss *The Merchant of Venice*. After its success, we have continued reading other plays. Previously, we have covered *King Lear*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Tempest*, and the sonnets. It is not necessary to have read any of the previously discussed plays, but please keep in mind that they could be part of the discussion. Any edition of the plays with a good set of footnotes will suffice; we recommend either Arden or Folger.

Guest Scholar Series



**Meir Kahane,
Soviet Jewry, and
the Global Order**
with Rabbi Shaul
Magid

SUNDAY | MAY 7 | 10:45 AM

It is well known that Rabbi Meir Kahane, militant American rabbi and founder of the Jewish Defense League, and later Israeli parliamentarian, was a driving force in the Movement for Soviet Jewry in the 1970s. Most think his interest was enabling Soviet Jews to emigrate to freedom. This talk will argue that the scope of his vision was far broader than Soviet Jewry. Kahane saw Soviet Jewry as part of a larger global conflagration between the US, Soviet Russia, China, the Arab world, Israel, and Vietnam. His activism was an attempt to use Soviet Jewry as a wedge to argue for Jewish support for the Vietnam War, and to raise consciousness about the collusion of China and the Arab world against Israel and the west.

Film Nights with Cliff Scott-Rudnick



Hot Curves
MONDAY
MAY 1
7:00 PM



Paris-Manhattan
MONDAY
MAY 15
7:00 PM

**Fiddler on The
Roof - Part 1**
MONDAY
JUNE 5 | 7:00 PM



**Fiddler on The
Roof - Part 2**
MONDAY
JUNE 19 | 7:00 PM

Mazel Tov to Lauren Reeves on her next chapter!

Join us in honoring and thanking Lauren Reeves, our Interim Director of Lifelong Learning, for her exceptional service to Temple Sholom. With her passion for education, Lauren has brought engaging programs to our community, enriching the lives of our members and enhancing our educational offerings.

During her time with us, Lauren has demonstrated commitment to our congregation, inspiring us with her warmth and creativity. We are incredibly grateful for all that she has done for us and wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

Thank you, Lauren, for your invaluable contributions to Temple Sholom. We will miss you and are excited to see you become the Education Director at JRC, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, in Evanston!



Check out some of our sweetest moments from the *Purim Carnival!*



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Questions regarding Youth Engagement? Contact **Sam Cohen** at sam@sholomchicago.org, or visit www.sholomchicago.org/youth-group.



TEMPLE
SHOLOM

Mazal Tov to Our Graduates!

Senior Madrichim

Josie Stahl
Sydney Curran

Belle Lippitz
Max Fischer

Max Cooper

William Bremen

Senior Seminar Students

Sydney Curran

Daniel Radner

Elijah Preis

Charlotte Geyskens

Thank you to our 5783 Orr Shalom High School Youth Group Executive Board

Sydney Curran
Seb McDermott
Max Silberg

Anna Gelb
Lily Block
Daniel Radner

Eli Conover
Abraham Weiss
Maya Levinson

Maya Henschel
Addison Baker

We are grateful to ALL of our 8th-12th grade teen Madrichim

William Bremen
Max Cooper
Sydney Curran
Max Fischer
Belle Lippitz
Josie Stahl
Addison Baker
Samuel Bayer

Sydney Dombar
Asher Grossman
Maya Henschel
Julia Jasmer
Maya Levinson
Casey Luchs
Rachel Necheles
Ethan Weiss

Rachel Lipsitz
Max Silberg
Abraham Weiss
Yael Cohen
Eli Conover
Eli Curran
Olivia Dorfman
Miriam Gass

Mae goldsmith
Jonah Shankman
Gus Silberg
Hannah Weiss
Maya DeWitt
Naomi Pendo

mishpacha

family | community | friends

The theme of the *Mishpacha* family camp getaway in March was freedom. Where do we experience freedom in our lives? How do we express freedom as children and as adults? What does Judaism say about freedom, from the *Mi Chamocha* prayer to *Passover*? From singing and praying together to playing together, families experienced the fun and community of camp! They sledded, made a Seder plate, talked about their family's symbol of freedom, and deepened friendships during the weekend.



Mishpacha Family Camp Getaway families built community and had fun together at OSRUI!

Mishpacha means "Family" in Hebrew. This year at Temple Shalom we look forward to growing community and relationships for children and their parents.

For the most up-to date information, visit sholomchicago.org/mishpacha

To learn more about *Mishpacha* please contact **Jude Kamler** at jude@sholomchicago.org or 773-435-1542.

GAME DAY

For all game lovers, join a lively and social group that meets weekly for some friendly competition. The group meets each Thursday to play Mah Jongg, Canasta, and other various games.

**THURSDAYS | 1:00 PM
IN PERSON**

If you would like to get involved with Game Day, or for more information, contact **Toby Sanders** at toby@sholomchicago.org or 773-435-1536.

Mindful Jewish Aging

Join us each month to explore the spiritual gifts of life after 50 through ancient and modern texts, poetry, art and music.

SATURDAY	SATURDAY
MAY 6	JUNE 10
1:00 PM	1:00 PM
MIXED- PRESENCE*	MIXED- PRESENCE*

*locations subject to change
For more information, visit sholomchicago.org/mindful-jewish-aging. To be added to the communications list, contact **Toby Sanders** at Toby@sholomchicago.org or 773-435-1536.

Minnie Solomon z"l BOOK CLUB

Join our monthly book club on the first Thursday of each month.

**THURSDAY | MAY 4
11:00 AM | MIXED-PRESENCE**
Defending Britta Stein
By Ronald Balson

**THURSDAY | JUNE 1
11:00 AM | MIXED-PRESENCE**
Trust By Hernan Diaz

*locations subject to change
For more information and the 2023 full schedule, visit sholomchicago.org/book-club. To be added to the communications list, contact **Toby Sanders** at toby@sholomchicago.org or 773-435-1536.



THE JULIANA
SCHAFER z'l

CHESED CIRCLE

Building Community Through Kindness

The Juliana Schafer z'l *Chesed* Circle is about showing up and being present for each other.

One way we do this is by delivering meals to congregants who are going through a period when some extra kindness and support can make a difference.

More volunteers are needed to prepare or purchase meals and deliver them. We make it easy!

You may ask: "Do I need to commit to this multiple times a week or month on an ongoing basis?" The answer is no. The sign-ups are on a "one day at a time" basis using a web page that shows desired

dates, favorite foods, and delivery instructions. If this is something you want to try just once without additional commitment, or can only volunteer every now and then, this is perfect for you! We can even steer you to recipes. Don't like to cook? No problem. Store-bought or restaurant meals work perfectly and we even have a Door Dash gift certificate option. Don't have a car? Not an issue. We can arrange for delivery.

How do you volunteer? Simply contact Toby Sanders at toby@sholomchicago.org or 773-435-1536. Then, when volunteer opportunities arise, you'll be provided with a link which will allow you to sign up for a date, or dates, that work for you. If none of the dates work that's ok. You'll be notified of future volunteer opportunities as they arise.

Meal recipients have told us time and again how meaningful and appreciated the meal deliveries are. There's a good feeling that comes from volunteering for this *Mitzvah*. Give it a try – you'll be glad you did!

For more information on our bi-annual congregational calls, meal trains and other *Chesed* projects, or to sign up to be a *Chesed* Circle volunteer, be sure to visit sholomchicago.org/chesed-circle.



SHALEM שְׁלֵם

EMBRACING RACIAL & ETHNIC DIVERSITY

A few months ago I attended services at a new-to-me synagogue. When I arrived, I watched the rabbi greet those already seated with a hearty "Good Shabbos!" As I took my seat, the rabbi approached me— with a notable change in his demeanor— and asked "Are you lost? Can I help you find something?" **Clear in his words was a message of unwelcomeness. Disheartened**, I quickly left.

Unfortunately, interactions of this nature are deeply familiar to me. As a Black and Puerto Rican Jew, I am hyper aware of the ways these identities are used by others to negate my Jewishness. In Jewish spaces I find myself unconsciously replacing the rituals of the service with rituals of self-preservation. I sit on the outskirts so I can easily scan the crowd and

assess whether I am the only person of color present in the space. I sit close to the door so I can make a swift exit if a racist comment is made in the *D'var Torah*. I unconsciously hold my breath when introducing myself to others, awaiting the all too familiar questions parsing out my connection to the Jewish community "Were you born Jewish? Which of your parents is Jewish?" I self-impose impossible standards of perfection in Jewish spaces to rid any doubt in other's minds of my Jewishness.

This is why I am grateful for spaces like *Shalem*— the racial diversity affinity group at Temple Shalom. It is here that I can slowly let out my breath, loosen my guard, relax my shoulders. It is here that I can be vulnerable and openly admit that I always forget the *hamotzi bracha*. It is here that I sit in the center of the room. It is here that I exist as my fully embodied self.

-Brea Harris, *Shalem* Member

Brea Harris (left) & Marisa Johnson (right)

Look out for more community programs from *Shalem* around culture, food, and community, opportunities to engage in small group discussions around racism and representation, and programs built to connect Jews of color. If you are interested in getting involved in this group in any way, please reach out to **Rabbi Singer** at rabbisinger@sholomchicago.org, and visit sholomchicago.org/ered

SHOLOM JUSTICE

Monday Meal

MONDAY | MAY 1, 8, 15, 22 & JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26

Feed the Hungry

SUNDAY | MAY 14 & JUNE 11

Getting Proximate with ConTextos!

Following an amazing and empowering Sholom Justice *Shabbat* in January of this year, we built upon the excitement with a visit to ConTextos in March for an Authors Circle. We came together for an opportunity to listen, learn, create and garner an understanding of what ConTextos authors do when creating. We spent time socializing, reading and analyzing, and exploring personal connections.

We are so appreciative that ConTextos joined us, shared their experiences, and we're excited for what our future partnership will hold.



Sholom Justice visiting ConTextos

Volunteer with Sholom Justice

Join us on Mondays for our Monday **Meal Mitzvah Program (MMM)**, where we prepare, set-up and serve guests in need of a meal. Our guests enjoy a 4-course meal because of volunteers like you! This program is for anyone ages 12+ and is great for B'nai Mitzvah service projects, school hours and anyone looking for a meaningful volunteer experience.

We also have **Feed the Hungry (FTH)** every 2nd and 5th Sundays or the month. FTH will take place at temple on some Sundays, or you can choose to sponsor a non-temple Sunday and shop and assemble the meals at home and then deliver. FTH supports Another Chance Assembly in the Garfield Park Neighborhood. This program is great for most ages and is another wonderful opportunity for B'nai Mitzvah service projects, school hours or a fun way to volunteer from your own home.

Visit Sholom Justice - Temple Sholom of Chicago (sholomchicago.org) for more information about the above programs and to register to volunteer today!

Questions about Sholom Justice, contributing items to the Monday Meal, getting involved or being added to our e-blast?

Contact **Toby Sanders** at toby@sholomchicago.org or visit sholomchicago.org/tikkun-olam for more information.

Please watch for additional events as they get added to our Sholom Justice calendar.

BROTHERHOOD

Be on the lookout for our spring/summer Brotherhood event! We also want to hear from you. If you have any ideas or interests, you think others would enjoy participating in, please contact rabbigellman@sholomchicago.org.

40s/50s

It's Time to PAR-TEE with Temple Sholom's 40s & 50s-ish!

SUNDAY | JUNE 4 | 1:00-3:30 PM | BIG MINI PUTT

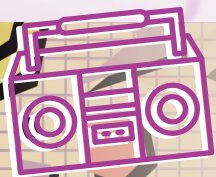
Shoot your mini golf shot with the temple's 40s & 50s-ish group and enjoy an afternoon on the "green", with drinks, food, and great people (golf skills not required). Your \$36 ticket will include mini golf, 2 drink tokens, food, and reserved seating for our group.

The 40s & 50s-ish group is for anyone who falls within this age range. Whether you're single, in a relationship, have kids or are child-free, this group is for you.

For more information about this event & to register, please visit sholomchicago.org/mini-golf. Questions or financial concerns, please contact Toby Sanders.

Be on the lookout as we add events to the calendar. If you are interested in being part of the planning committee or have event ideas, please contact **Toby Sanders** at toby@sholomchicago.org or **773-435-1536**.

Visit sholomchicago.org/wts to join, learn more about Women of Temple Sholom, and to register for any event listed.



Flashback to with Makom & WTS

TUESDAY | MAY 16 | 6:30 PM



Join Makom and Women of Temple Sholom (WTS) for an intergenerational evening to enjoy the best of the 1980's. Whether it's nostalgic or all new for you, it will be a great gathering for fun and the music, games, food and drink of the decade that brought us so much iconic music, TV/Movies, and culture!

Visit sholomchicago.org/80s for more information & to register.

Post-abortion Care Kit Project Culminates in Huge Success!

In a wonderful collaboration between WTS and the Reproductive Justice Task Force, over 200 post-abortion comfort care kits were assembled in April, during an informative program and kit packing event. Rabbi Conover spoke on the Jewish view of reproductive justice, and we welcomed a speaker from National Council of Jewish Women, Chicago North Shore, the organization that designed the care kit project, who spoke on Illinois as an abortion oasis. The kits assembled included supplies such as small heating pads, menstrual hygiene products, snacks, and more. The kits were funded by generous donations from temple members. Finished kits were delivered to a Planned Parenthood location to be disseminated to its clients. Thanks to all who supported this effort!



A Festival Night of Holiday Joy at the Annual WTS Women's Seder

For the first time since 2019, WTS celebrated its annual Women's Seder in person! A delicious dinner, singing, dancing and reading our own WTS-created Haggadah lit up the room with the spirit of togetherness and fun.

Two Stellar Nights to Honor 50 Years of Women in the Rabbinate

Two amazing nights at Temple Sholom in March honored a half-century of women in the rabbinate. Night One featured a virtual presentation by Rabbi Sally Priesand, the first woman ordained as a rabbi in North America in 1972. Her stories were enlightening and inspiring. The next night, the annual WTS Women's Shabbat celebrated our own incredible clergy with readings by WTS leaders and a lively conversation among Rabbis Conover and Singer and Cantors Ben-David and Katzman, facilitated by congregant Eileen Dordek. The Shabbat evening ended with a special oneg where we toasted all female clergy, past and present.

Women of Temple Sholom Shabbat

When you join Women of Temple Sholom, you are part of a community of amazing women who support our new Reproductive Justice programs, many organizations that do work we care about, and Women of Reform Judaism's programs here and around the world. You'll learn, discuss, discover spirituality, make friends and have fun while doing something good and important, plus you will be eligible for members-only prices. All this for only \$36 per year! Join now at sholomchicago.org/wts.

OrChadash members representing Temple Sholom at the 2022 Chicago Pride Parade



OrChadash

LGBTQ+ Members & Allies

In 2015, I attended my first Chicago Pride Parade, two days after the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark *Obergefell v. Hodges* ruling, which legalized same-sex marriage throughout the United States. The energy during that weekend was truly electric and the future seemed so full of promise: the gay rights movement, after decades of struggle, had achieved a major legal victory for the equality of gays & lesbians. The world was changing, the arc of the universe bending toward justice & inclusion. Today, I look back on that moment in time and marvel at how hopeful it all was, how naïve we all were. In 2023, I have much more complicated feelings about Pride and the future seems a little less bright.

In this current era of anti-trans & anti-queer backlash, I'll admit it's often overwhelming to be an openly, visibly queer person.

Reading the national news, as a queer & trans Jew, can be harrowing. The rise in anti-trans legislation, the proliferation of right-wing discourses that cast LGBTQ people as "groomers" and perverts, and the background of ascendant antisemitism in this country is enough to make you never want to get out of bed.

As Chana Pollack, the archivist for the *Forward* notes, "Pride is also a *Yizkor*." Queer & trans life has been (and continues to be) precarious, especially for those of us who are the most on the margins. Pride is not only a time of celebration, but a time for reflection and remembrance. We honor the many heroic figures who've fought for our rights & our lives, putting so much of themselves on the line. We mourn the LGBTQ souls who we lost too soon, those who suffered at the hands of others because of who they are.

But, as Reform Jews, committed to the work of social justice, of *tikkun olam* (the repairing of the

world), we cannot stand idly by. Rabbi Sandra Lawson suggests that if we are to treat Pride as, in part, a memorial to the sacrifices of the early generations of gay, lesbian, and transgender activists, we need to commit to staying at "the edge of the fight," knowing that true equality and liberation are still on the horizon. In his modern interpretation of *Pirkei Avot*, Rabbi Rami Shapiro offers us this beautiful teaching, based on the words of Rabbi Tarfon: "Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it." We are God's partners in creating a more just, loving world. This Pride month, may we grieve and remember and may we act with courage, heart, and righteousness: it's on us.

Written by Nathan J. Lamp (they/she)
Or Chadash Steering Committee

Upcoming Or Chadash Events:

FRIDAY | MAY 5 | 7:45 PM
Or Chadash Shabbat

FRIDAY | JUNE 2 | 6:15 PM
Congregational Pride Shabbat

We are excited to offer mixed-presence Or Chadash late services! Join us in person or online via Zoom (no registration required).

For more information, visit sholomchicago.org/or-chadash To be added to the communications list, contact Jude Kamler at jude@sholomchicago.org or 773-435-1542.

IT'S *Our* TURN

Temple Sholom's community group that creates adult-only events for those who are 50(ish) and over.



Learning about Chicago Elections from Dick Simpson

Shabbat & Schmoozing!

In March, we honored many IOT volunteers in our annual *Shabbat* service featuring IOT. As all our volunteers work to bring programming to the Temple community, it was special for IOT to be honored and recognized. This group is filled with wonderful individuals, and we thank everyone who made this evening and our group special.

We followed the service with a private *oneg* reception, featuring sweet and savory treats, along with a heavy dose of schmoozing.

Don't Miss Out on a Special IOT Havdalah! SATURDAY | MAY 20 | 6:00 PM

Don't miss our special *Havdalah* event in May, as we gather to close out *Shabbat* and get ready for the week to come. Enjoy this special ritual with not only the IOT community, but with one of our favorite cantors, Cantor Sheera Ben-David. And it wouldn't be an IOT event without good food, schmooze, and friends.

Visit Temple Sholom's It's Our Turn webpage - sholomchicago.org/IOT for more information and to register. This event is free to register, but registration is required due to location rules. Registration will close on May 17.

Watch for future IOT emails to stay up to date on upcoming events.

Ideas? Please contact either **Jackie Lustig** at **773-706-9953**, jackielustig@mindspring.com, or **David Goodman** at **708-421-6664**, david@sharikamikow.com. For more information, visit sholomchicago.org/iot

20s/30s makom

Makom kicked off the start of spring a little early with a *Reset Shabbat*. It was focused on meditation and mindfulness as a way to reset our spirits so that we could go into warmer weather with a fresh start. It was so peaceful, and the perfect

way to start looking forward to warmer weather! This was followed up with Bob Ross *Shabbat* in April to channel our creative energy and embrace silliness!

April also saw Makom's third book club meeting! This kept up the trend of a wonderful turnout that facilitated fun conversations about Sacha Lamb's *When the Angels Left the Old Country*.

We've had so much great programming, and we are very much looking forward to next year and all the amazing plans we can come up with!

Written by Robyn Ashbaugh,
Makom Board Chair

Upcoming Makom Events:

SATURDAY | MAY 20 | 6:30 PM
Shuffleboard at the Royal Palms Chicago with Trybal Gatherings & JCC Chicago

FRIDAY | JUNE 16 | 6:30 PM
Makom Shabbat

For more information, visit sholomchicago.org/makom. To be added to the communications list, contact **Jude Kamler** at jude@sholomchicago.org or **773-435-1542**.

The **Tranen Family Distinguished Speakers Series** at Temple Sholom of Chicago was created in 2021 by Bruce Z'l and Jan Tranen to bring speakers on the greatest issues of our day to inspire action. This year, we have been compelled to address gun violence -- both the horrors of mass shootings and the terror of everyday violence (which we know, unfortunately, are not mutually exclusive). Our keynote speakers, Aswad Thomas and Senator Chris Murphy, will speak from our *bimah* as part of a two-day symposium (Mr. Thomas on Sunday at 3:00 PM, Senator Murphy on Monday at 12:00 PM).

On Sunday, May 7, Mr. Thomas will speak at 3:00 PM and will be followed by a panel of powerful change-makers on these issues at 3:45 PM.

These programs are free and open to the public, but registration is required.

To learn more about our speakers and panelists, and to register, visit sholomchicago.org/speaker-series



3480 N. Lake Shore Dr.
Chicago, IL 60657

Tranen Family Distinguished Speaker Series



Healing through Action: The Journey From Gun Violence Victim to National Policy, Expert, Healer of Communities
with **Aswad Thomas**
SUNDAY | MAY 7 | 3:00 PM

Aswad Thomas is the current Vice President of the Alliance for Safety and Justice (ASJ) and National Director of ASJ's flagship project, Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice (CSSJ). He is also the author of the book, "The Stars Represent You and Me." As a surviving victim of violence, Aswad understands the impacts of trauma and loss that many communities across the country have experienced. He helps elevate the voices of victims and their families in policymaking, particularly on gun violence and criminal justice reform.

Panelists

SUNDAY | MAY 7 | 3:45 PM

Mr. Thomas' talk will be followed by a panel of local change-makers on these issues including Teny Gross, the Institute for Nonviolence Chicago; Father Dave Kelly, Restorative Justice Hub PBMR; State Representative Bob Morgan from Highland Park; and Reverend Ciera Bates-Chamberlain, Live Free Illinois.



Every Mass Shooting Is A Moral Failure: The Righteous Actions We Can Take for a Better Future, with **Senator Murphy**
MONDAY | MAY 8 | 12:00 PM

Chris Murphy is a U.S. Senator for Connecticut who has devoted his career to public service and advocating for Connecticut families. Following the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook elementary school in 2012, Senator Murphy became one of the leading proponents of commonsense reforms to reduce gun violence. He has championed a number of bipartisan bills aimed at expanding background checks and keeping guns out of the hands of criminals.

**Healing Through Action:
Two-Day Symposium on Gun
Violence Prevention
MAY 7 & 8**