

# ShD'var

TEMPLE SHOLOM

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

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023



Senior Rabbi  
**Shoshanah  
Conover**

How do you remember Thanksgiving 2020? I had occasion to reflect on my experience recently as our family began to make plans for Thanksgiving 2023. I remember Thanksgiving 2020 on our back porch with a huge fire pit. Like you, any notion of a "normal" Thanksgiving had been dashed by the pandemic. Not only could we not go to visit family, but we also had friends who were stuck here with their families far away. Damien and I decided to invite one of them to our home... well, outside our home. As a family, we kept some of our old traditions: watching the Macy's Day Parade (but without the crowd), calling family, nibbling on a variety of baked goods, and assembling a jigsaw puzzle. But then we added a new tradition. Once our guest arrived, we relocated our gathering to the back porch. We huddled around the fire pit and ate and laughed and settled into a new way to share this holiday. And wouldn't you know it? On either side of our home, we saw backyards filled with our neighbors doing the same. In that lonely time, we felt heartened by seeing the way our neighbors were adapting and celebrating like we were.

Because of this experience, I began

to see one of our *Chanukah* rituals in a new light. Our tradition teaches that Jews must place the *Chanukah menorah* with its candles outside or in a place where people will see them, to publicize the miracle of *Chanukah*. Before *Chanukah* 2020, I took this to mean that—no matter the level of antisemitism or hate against the Jews—this was a Jewish act of defiance. Publicizing the *Chanukah* miracle in this way was an assertion of our dignity and the permanence of our faith in a fickle and sometimes cruel world. In my mind was the image of the Posner family's *Chanukah menorah* in their window in Kiel, Germany 1931 while a large Nazi banner hung across the street.

Yet, *Chanukah* 2020 felt different. Instead of an act of defiance, it felt like an act of community. For every Jew who felt isolated and lonelier that year, we would put our light in the window to say, "We're home, too. You're not alone." Seeing our neighbors' lights brightened our *Chanukah* celebrations. It helped that each night, we schmoozed and laughed and lit candles online with our Sholom community. Even from a distance, we held our friends close.

This year, as some of our pre-pandemic rituals resume, let's remember those who might be feeling lonely this year. Reach out to Sholom friends and volunteer to connect with fellow congregants through the Juliana Schafer z'l Chesed Circle. Let's bring

each other close with our sweet *Chanukah* greeting—*Chanukah Urim Sameach*-- A Happy *Chanukah* of Lights!

L'Sholom,

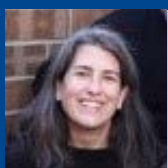
**Rabbi Shoshanah Conover**

[rabbiconover@sholomchicago.org](mailto:rabbiconover@sholomchicago.org)



## WHAT'S THE RABBI READING?

Rabbi Conover is alternating between two books of epic storytelling. **She started *The Golem of Brooklyn* by Adam Mansbach in preparation of the author's visit on Nov. 1 at 7:00 PM.** Described by Penguin House as a "dazzlingly imaginative, ferociously funny story of an art teacher, a bodega clerk, and a five-thousand-year-old clay crisis monster," she looks forward to a quick and fun read. At the recommendation of a favorite rabbi friend, she began *The Books of Jacob* by Olga Togarczuk. It tells a fictionalized version of the life of Jacob Frank-- his rise, fall, and why so many people wanted to see him as the messiah. At 964 pages long, she hopes to be ready to talk to you about it by *Purim*!



President  
**Elizabeth  
Samuels**

During my personal journey with Judaism, embracing existing traditions and creating new ones have helped shape my love and connection to our religion. To this day, I think warmly about one such tradition every time *Chanukah* is near. When my now 20-year-old twins were in kindergarten,

they were two of only a few Jewish children in their grade. I wanted them to share their special traditions and celebrations with classmates. What would be a good holiday to share with 5-year-olds? *Chanukah* of course! I spoke with their teachers and was able to bring *Chanukah* into their classrooms. I shared the story of *Chanukah*, served *latkes*, lit the *menorah* – actually turned on the electronic *menorah* since candles were not allowed in the school – and my twins taught their classmates the dreidel game. There was so much fun and joy that morning, it was very special to me and my children

to share a little of our Jewish traditions with their classmates. Many parents told me how much their children loved our *Chanukah* celebration and wanted to celebrate *Chanukah* and have *latkes* at home. Each year the teachers and students looked forward to our sharing *Chanukah* and it was a highlight for our family. I hope you are able to share the joy and traditions of the *Chanukah* holiday.

Warmly,

Elizabeth Samuels

[president@sholomchicago.org](mailto:president@sholomchicago.org)

## Of Blessed Memory

**AUG. 9**  
**Michael Dean Bade**

Father of Bear Bade

**AUG. 16**  
**Natalie Ross**  
Aunt of Kimberly Ross

**AUG. 16**  
**Steven A. Fistel**  
Father of Maryn (Brett) Robinson, grandfather of Lylah & Oren Robinson.

**AUG. 17**  
**Ivan Kushen**  
Step-father of Ali (Irv) Kagan, grandfather of Sammy, Joey & Benjamin Kagan.

**AUG. 18**  
**Ira Sulzer**  
Brother of Joan Werhane

**AUG. 21**  
**Dr. Lorin Berland**  
Brother of Ava Berland

**AUG. 23**  
**Norman Rosen**  
Father of Randy Rosen

**AUG. 27**  
**Ronald Bernard Charfoos**  
Father of Aaron (Nichole) Charfoos, grandfather of Isabella, Jack, Oliver & Penelope Charfoos

**SEPT. 8**  
**Alice Englander**  
Sister of Dan (Arlene) Swartzman

## Mazel Tov

**AUG. 26**  
**Rachel Davis & Ossian Mendoza**  
on their wedding

**SEPT. 2**  
**Andrew Heber & Danny Trebac**  
on their wedding

**SEPT. 3**  
**Meagan McCarver & Steven Gerchen**  
on their wedding

**SEPT. 10**  
**Madeleine Greenblatt & Cory Mahler**  
on their wedding

**SEPT. 30**  
**Michelle Lorig**  
on the marriage of her son, Jacob Lorig to Deidre O'Donoghue

**OCT. 7**  
**Isabel Soble & Samantha Antczak**  
on their wedding

**OCT. 10**  
**Mollie Berger & Griffin McCarthy**  
on their wedding

**NOV. 4**  
**Delilah Orizaba & Dani Ault**  
on their wedding

**DEC. 2**  
**Tara Howart & Sam Bookey**  
on their wedding

## Yahrzeits / First Year

**NOV. 16**  
**Phoenix Schmidt**  
Temple Sholom member

**NOV. 17**  
**Marge Levine**  
Grandmother of Ari Levine

**NOV. 17**  
**April (Ben) Seeley**  
Child of Jonathan Seeley

**NOV. 18**  
**Howard Galper**  
Husband of Barbara Galper

**NOV. 22**  
**Claudia Sample**  
Loved one of Carol Ungar

**NOV. 22**  
**Ariana Elster**  
Sister of Arthur Elster

**NOV. 24**  
**Joseph Volerman**  
Father of Anna Volerman Beaser

**DEC. 9**  
**Caroline "Catsy" Gantz**  
Mother of Erica King, Grandmother of Rachel Rapoport

**DEC. 10**  
**Ronald Spielman**  
Husband of Sheri Spielman

**DEC. 15**  
**Susan Watson**  
Aunt of Jackie Watson

**DEC. 17**  
**Susan Kaplansky**  
Mother of Mindy Kirsh

**DEC. 25**  
**Stephen Weissberger**  
Father of Eugene Weissberger

**DEC. 25**  
**Walter Hess**  
Father of Kathy Tallering



One person's candle is a light for many.

- The Talmud

Westlawn Cemetery & Mausoleum  
Lakeshore Jewish Funerals

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](mailto:lori@sholomchicago.org) to share the news with us. Thank you!

## 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](mailto:jude@sholomchicago.org).

**JULY 10**

**Madeleine  
Greenblatt & Cory  
Mahler**

**JULY 14**

**Jill & Darren  
Kohlberg**  
Grant

**JULY 14**

**Karen & Lee Lazar**

**JULY 16**

**Wendy & Brian  
Kerschner**  
Judah, Nathan

**JULY 17**

**Lindsey & Jeremy  
Kanefsky**  
Josie, Sasha

**JULY 20**

**Melissa & Adam  
Boyer**  
Jacob, Ethan

**JULY 22**

**Evan & Caroline  
Lieberman**  
Olivia, Zachary

**JULY 22**

**Sarah & David  
Repking**  
Ethan, Jacob

**JULY 25**

**Sonia & Aaron  
Rubens**  
Maya, Luca

**JULY 25**

**Rebecca & Marc  
Sarran**  
Eli, Lucy

**JULY 26**

**Gregory &  
Elizabeth Leyser**  
Francesca

**AUG. 1**

**Stephanie  
Nashban & Bryan  
Campbell**  
Henry

**AUG. 2**

**Jeffrey Kaplan &  
Bonnie Rushin**  
Meadow

**AUG. 4**

**Suzanne Mitchell  
& Richard Zansitis**

**AUG. 11**

**Adrianne Rotfeld**

**AUG. 15**

**Amy & Scott  
Zemnick**  
Samantha, Andrew, Jacob

**AUG. 16**

**Mollie Berger &  
Griffin McCarty**

**AUG. 16**

**Ali & Cameron  
Craig**  
Evelyn

**AUG. 18**

**Robert & Karen  
Cotler**

**AUG. 20**

**Steven Lampert &  
Cori Sloan**

**AUG. 21**

**Robert McCarthy**

**AUG. 22**

**Laura & Zach  
Markin**  
Julian, Jory

**AUG. 22**

**Howard Zar**

**AUG. 24**

**Keren Eckstein**

**AUG. 24**

**Julie & Deji Jimoh**  
Jet, Jade, Rain

**AUG. 25**

**Jonathan Pierce**

**AUG. 25**

**Bonnie Rubin**

**AUG. 25**

**Danielle Zacks**  
Stella, Lily, Mira

**AUG. 27**

**Stacey & Ari Asher**  
Eliot, Micah, Sam

**AUG. 29**

**Sara Fischer**

**AUG. 29**

**Richard & Kathy  
Kaplan**

**SEPT. 3**

**Dana Bulan**

**SEPT. 4**

**Eleonor Korneff**

**SEPT. 4**

**Victoria Polak**  
Olivia

**SEPT. 4**

**Abby & Robert  
Schor**

**SEPT. 5**

**Ava Berland**

## B'nai Mitzvah

**NOV. 4**

**Bella Levick**

**NOV. 18**

**Shale Reeser**

**DEC. 2**

**Jack Fuld**

**DEC. 2**

**Zack Field**

**DEC. 9**

**Sarah Grover**

## Worship Schedule

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

**FRIDAY | NOV. 3, 10, 17, 24**

**FRIDAY | DEC. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

**6:15 PM** Shabbat Service

**SATURDAY | NOV. 4, 11, 18, 25**

**SATURDAY | DEC. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

**9:00 AM** Minyan Service

**9:45 AM** Torah Study

## Special Services

**FRIDAY | NOV. 3**

**7:45 PM** Or Chadash  
Shabbat

**FRIDAY | NOV. 10**

**5:00 PM** Shabbat  
Mishpacha

**FRIDAY | NOV. 17**

**6:30 PM** Makom  
Shabbat

**FRIDAY | DEC. 1**

**7:45 PM** Or Chadash  
Shabbat

**FRIDAY | DEC. 8**

**5:00 PM** Shabbat  
Mishpacha &  
Chanukah  
Celebration

**THURSDAY | DEC. 14**

**6:30 PM** Makom  
Chanukah  
Celebration

**FRIDAY | DEC. 15**

**5:00 PM** Chanukah Tot  
Shabbat



# Thank You to Our Temple Sholom Donors!

In Honor of Cantor Sheera Ben-David  
In Memory of Melvin Boruszak  
In Honor of Lydia Burton-Meyer  
In Memory of Meyer Burton  
In Memory of Peter Conover

In Honor of Rabbi Shoshanah Conover

In Memory of Frances Eaton  
In Memory of James M. Ferber  
In Memory of Howard Green  
In Memory of David Gross  
In Memory of Dr. Alexander Kott  
In Memory of Norman Lasko  
In Memory of Leon Lessack  
In Memory of Susan Levine

**Aaron & Nichole Charfoos**  
**Donald & Nancy Borzak**  
**Wayne & Cheryl Burton**  
**Wayne & Cheryl Burton**  
**Linda Cohen**  
**Benjamin & Julie Kadish**  
**David & Blythe Mendelson**  
**Michael & Dana Treister**  
**Wayne & Cheryl Burton**  
**Aaron & Nichole Charfoos**  
**Steven & Karen Meyer**  
**Kevin Miner**  
**Betsy Peterson**  
**Linda Cohen**  
**Daniel & Julie Zuckerman**  
**Kenneth & Barbara Gore**  
**Jennifer Gross**  
**Simonne Kott**  
**Nettie Lasko**  
**Alan & Edina Lessack**  
**Jacqueline Lustig & Chris Hallett**  
**Marilyn Propp**  
**Marc & Debora Willage**

In Honor of Viviana Mora  
In Memory of Raymond Poliakoff  
In Memory of Adrienne Rosenberg  
In Memory of Anne Salsman  
In Memory of Sonya Satanovskaya  
In Memory of Diane Shatz  
In Memory of Barney Shoub  
In Memory of Arnold Siegel  
In Honor of Juliana Simons  
In Memory of Alexander Smolovsky  
In Memory of Ira Sulzer

In Honor of Mathew MacCumber  
In Honor of Temple Sholom Clergy  
and Staff  
In Memory of Michael Tepper  
In Honor of Barbara Turner  
In Memory of Rivian Upin

**Karen Lepp**  
**Ann Brownfield Meara**  
**Merritt & Marcy Mamroth**  
**David & Suzanne Shoub**  
**Bela Sirota**  
**Barbara Turner**  
**David & Suzanne Shoub**  
**Irwin Siegel**  
**Michael & Jessica Simons**  
**Eleonor Korneff**  
**Barry & Sandi Hartstein**  
**Bonita Marx**  
**David & Faith Russ**  
**Marcia Stoll**  
  
**Marc Levine**  
**Marc & Debora Willage**  
**Karel Cool & Anne Ombregt**  
**Andrea Deutch**

Gifts listed represent honorific giving from August and September 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](http://www.sholomchicago.org/donate). Questions? Contact Patrick Graney-Dolan at [patrick@sholomchicago.org](mailto:patrick@sholomchicago.org) or 773-435-1535.



# Chanukah

Celebrate the Festival of Lights in the heart of our vibrant community at Temple Sholom of Chicago. *Chanukah*, a time of miracles and togetherness, invites us to unite in the warm glow of tradition.

## Chanukah Shabbat Mishpacha

**FRIDAY | DEC. 8 | 5:00 PM | IN PERSON**

Experience the joy of *Chanukah* with your *Mishpacha* (family) at Temple Sholom! Join us for an enchanting service led by our clergy, followed by a glow dance party, a delicious dinner, candle making, and a heartwarming service project – a perfect blend of tradition and family fun. Stay after for the congregational *Oneg*!

## Congregational Chanukah Celebration

**FRIDAY | DEC. 8 | 6:15 PM | MIXED-PRESENCE**

Celebrate the magic of *Chanukah* at our Congregational *Chanukah* Celebration on *Shabbat*! Join us as we light the second candle and then savor a delightful *Oneg* with a *latke* bar, scrumptious desserts, and *sufganiyot*, sharing in the warmth of the season with our Temple Sholom family.

## Makom Chanukah Party

**THURSDAY | DEC. 14 | 6:30 PM | IN PERSON**

Those in their 20s & 30s are invited to come together for an epic *Makom Chanukah* party, featuring a winter glam theme, delectable food and drink, and candle lighting (of course!). You won't want to miss it!

## Chanukah Tot Shabbat

**FRIDAY | DEC. 15 | 5:00 PM | MIXED-PRESENCE**

Families with children under 5 are invited to join us for this special *Chanukah Tot Shabbat*.



2022 Chanukah at Temple Sholom

Visit [sholomchicago.org/chanukah](https://sholomchicago.org/chanukah)  
to celebrate with us!

# Lifelong Learning

In the future,  
A Divine spirit will inspire everything that breathes;  
Our children shall prophesize,

Our elders shall dream dreams,  
And our youth and teens shall see visions.  
*Joel 3:1*



Every year in the Religious School we teach our students about the meaning and traditions of all the Jewish holidays, and the relevance each holiday can have in our lives

today. Kids of all ages know and love *Chanukah*. Families light the *chanukiah* together, enjoy *latkes* and *sufganiyot*, and give gifts and *gelt*.

But *Chanukah* is more than that.

It is a chance to proudly and publicly celebrate our Jewish identity.

To the right are some ideas to enrich your *Chanukah* celebration at home:

Read the Talmudic discussion below about how to light the *Chanukah* candles.

The rabbis taught: The laws of *Chanukah* require one light for a person and household; those who want to go above the requirement may use one light for each member of the household. For those who want to go above and beyond the requirement, the school of Shammai suggested that on the first day of the festival, eight candles are to be lit and we light one fewer each progressive night. Hillel suggested that on the first day, one candle is lit and one candle is added each night. Shammai reasoned that the number of candles corresponds to the number of days to come; Hillel reasoned that the number of candles corresponds to the days already passed. [Babylonian *Talmud*, *Shabbat* 21b]

**Lori Kramer**

*Director of Education*

[lorikramer@sholomchicago.org](mailto:lorikramer@sholomchicago.org)

## Here are some questions to begin a family discussion:

1. Why does our custom of how to light the *Chanukah* candles follow Hillel?
2. Do you like how it feels when our *chanukiah* [a special *menorah* used during *Chanukah*] gets brighter each night?
3. Why do you think Shammai's opinion is recorded even though we don't follow it? What can we learn from our tradition how to treat someone who we disagree with?
4. How many *chanukiot* do you light in your house? Does each person have their own, or is there one for your whole family? Do you go above and beyond the requirement?
5. Part of the *mitzvah* of *Chanukah* is publicizing the miracle. Where do you display your *chanukiah*? Is it somewhere where other people could see it? If not, what are other ways you can think of to publicize the miracle?

There are eight nights of *Chanukah*. Here are some suggestions for family conversations and activities that can help make each night feel special. Each family member can take a turn answering the questions, leading a discussion, or planning an activity. These are just starting points, so jump in!

1. What is your favorite message that *Chanukah* teaches?
2. What is the most challenging part about being Jewish in America?
3. What is your favorite food to eat on *Chanukah*?
4. Is your celebration of *Chanukah* the same now as it has always been? How has it changed over the years?
5. What do you know about the Maccabees? In what ways are you like Judah Maccabee?
6. What is your favorite *Chanukah* song? Sing it!
7. Why do you think *Chanukah* falls on the shortest days of the year (the days when the sky is dark for the longest amount of time)?
8. What do the lights represent to you?
9. Play dreidel together.
10. Make *latkes* and apple sauce together.
11. Read a book about *Chanukah*.
12. Have a wonderful time together!

If you are looking for more ideas to enrich your *Chanukah* celebration, please contact the Religious School office. There are great ideas for people of all ages. Wishing you and your family a *Chanukah* filled with light, warmth, pride, and love.





**Early Childhood  
Education Center**

**It has been  
a wonderful  
start to the  
school year!**

The children at  
Gan Shalom  
have made  
lots of new

friends, adjusted to their new routines  
and they love and adore their teachers!  
They learned how bees make honey,  
celebrated all the Jewish holidays and  
spent lots of time outdoors observing  
the weather changing from summer  
to fall! The children learned all about  
Thanksgiving and being grateful. They  
had an all-school Thanksgiving feast  
and are very excited to celebrate and  
learn the story of *Chanukah*. Gan Shalom  
registration for the 2024/2025 school year  
will be available December 1st. We have  
part day, extended day and a full parent/  
child program.

For more information contact **Heidi Cooper**, Director of  
Early Childhood Education, at [heidi@sholomchicago.org](mailto:heidi@sholomchicago.org)  
or **773-525-4867**.



*Red Room creating special apple  
& honey plates for Rosh Hashanah*



*Apple Stamping in the Purple Room*



*All smiles on the playground!*

## ADULT EDUCATION

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

## Learn with our Clergy

### Hartman Hot Topics

with Rabbi Conover

**SUNDAYS | OCT. 22 - NOV. 12,  
APR. 14 - MAY 12 | 9:30 AM**

Join Rabbi Conover, Senior Rabbinic Fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute, for lively discussions this year on some of the stickiest ethical dilemmas of our time. You'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.

### Prayer & Liturgy 101

with Cantor Ben-David

**SUNDAYS | JAN. 14 - FEB. 4  
11:00 AM**

Deepen your understanding of the main Jewish prayers and sacred music within our *Shabbat* services and Jewish liturgy. Cantor Ben-David will discuss (and help us better understand) the worship, prayer comprehension, and choreography that guides us when we pray.

### Living Reform Judaism

with Rabbi Gellman

**WEDNESDAYS | DEC. 6 - 20  
7:30 PM**

What does it mean to live Reform Judaism? We will explore this question along with delving into history and practices of Reform Judaism.

### Jewish Cooking

with Rabbi Singer

**WEDNESDAYS | JAN. 2024**

Join Rabbi Singer as we cook Jewish dishes from around the world and discuss the history behind our culinary traditions.

## Other Learning Opportunities

### Wednesday Morning Study Group

**WEDNESDAYS | 10:00 AM**

**NOVEMBER Prophets, Ancient and Modern**

with Rabbi Singer

**DECEMBER Hartman Hot Topics**  
with Rabbi Conover

### The Golem of Brooklyn

With Adam Mansbach and Defcee  
**WEDNESDAY | NOV. 1 | 7:00 PM**

Adam Mansbach is a #1 New York Times best-selling author, award-winning novelist and screenwriter, whose newest book, *The Golem of Brooklyn* is an epic romp through Jewish history and the American present that wrestles with the deepest questions of our humanity—the conflicts between faith and skepticism, tribalism and interdependence, and vengeance and healing. Defcee, aka Adam Levin, is a Chicago-based rapper, writer and educator. They have collaborated to create an official soundtrack to the book.

### A Taste of Peaceful Parenting

With Rebecca Minkus Lieberman

**SUNDAY | DEC. 3 | 9:30 AM**

We understand that parents are the central change makers in Jewish families. They are the linchpins in a healthy, thriving community. Day after day, they are doing the most critical and exhausting work: raising and nurturing the next generation of Jewish children. But they are struggling and need support. The Peaceful Parent Project is a program designed to do just that: support and nourish parents from the inside out.

## Israel: Through Dissent and Crisis

With Rachael Korazim

**SUNDAY | DEC. 3 & 10 | 9:30 AM**

We are living days of dissent and crisis; it may feel unprecedented, but in truth it is not. Israel had known dissent and bitter disagreements in its past that brought thousands to the streets calling for justice. In these sessions we will explore some of the most crucial ones; Right and Left wing ideologies, the Mizrahi and Ashkenazi Divide, Arabs and Jews. We will listen to pain and disagreement as expressed in poetry and prose, oftentimes with music.

## Short Stories

**SUNDAYS | 2:00 PM**

Together we are reading: *Favorite Tales* by Sholom Aleichem. This class is online only and led by Cliff Scott-Rudnick,

## Film Zoom Nights

Mixed-Presence with Cliff Scott-Rudnick



**Part two of  
The Natural**  
**MONDAY  
NOV. 20  
7:00 PM**

**JoJo Rabbit**  
**MONDAY  
DEC. 4  
7:00 PM**





## BEIT SEFER SHALOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Questions regarding Religious School? Contact **Rachel Lipson** at [rachel@sholomchicago.org](mailto:rachel@sholomchicago.org) or **773-435-1554**, or visit [sholomchicago.org/beit-sefer](https://sholomchicago.org/beit-sefer).

### A Promising Start: Reflecting on the High Holy Days and Welcoming New Perspectives in Religious School



The year is off to a great start for Religious School. After a meaningful and reflective High Holy Day season, students, *madrichim*, and teachers were excited to be back in the classroom. Seeing old friends and making new ones uplifted our students, and our teachers welcomed them and helped frame the year of learning ahead.

We are excited to welcome many new teachers to our program this year. They have invigorated our faculty with new ideas and areas of expertise, and our veteran

teachers have been hard at work serving as mentors and sharing their wisdom from years of experience with our students.

We value meaningful connections in Religious School, and want to foster open communication between our parents, teachers, and Religious School administration. Lori and I are here to support our students, teachers, and families. We look forward to all the learning, inspiration, connections, and celebrations to come this year.

*Rachel Lipson*  
Religious School Operations Manager

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Questions regarding Youth Engagement? Contact Noa Appelsies at [noa@sholomchicago.org](mailto:noa@sholomchicago.org), or visit [www.sholomchicago.org/youth-group](https://www.sholomchicago.org/youth-group).

**Temple Sholom families came together for a fantastic morning of community and giving back at School Year Kickoff & Shofar in the Park.** With almost 100 participants, the event was a perfect-sized gathering. They kicked off the day with the sound of the *shofar*, setting a festive tone. The highlight was a beach clean-up, where everyone joined forces to make the shoreline even more beautiful. Amidst the fun, art for *Rosh Hashanah* and heartwarming cards for friends at The Self-Help Home were created. It was also a chance to meet some of the Religious School teachers and high school helpers, making new friends along the way. A memorable day of togetherness!



Families at Shofar in the Park, Beach Cleanup!

### URJ Camping Enrollment is open for Summer 2023!

Visit [URJCamps.org](https://URJCamps.org) or [OSRUI.org](https://OSRUI.org)

#### Scholarship opportunities include:

- [Jewishcamp.org](https://Jewishcamp.org)
- [OSRUI.org](https://OSRUI.org) by Dec. 1
- [lorikramer@sholomchicago.org](mailto:lorikramer@sholomchicago.org) by Dec. 31

For new campers, Temple Sholom will split the cost with you for OSRUI's *Kallah Atid* trial sessions for rising 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> graders!



### Shabbat Mishpacha Schedule:

See specific dates below

**5:00-5:45 PM Family Shabbat** services begin. This service is designed especially for families with children ages 6-12, and includes singing, praying, and celebrating the magic of Shabbat together with our Temple Sholom clergy!

**5:45-6:15 PM** Extended **sing-along and Shabbat Dance Party** begins! We'll also feature a service-oriented craft for kids to complete.

**6:15-6:45 PM** A **kid-friendly dinner** is served in Bettie Port Hall, with a kosher option available.

**6:45-7:15 PM** All families are invited to participate in a **craft and service project**. It's never too early to learn about *Tikkun Olam*!

## Upcoming Family Programs from Mishpacha:

**FRIDAY | NOV. 10 | 5:00 PM**

Shabbat Mishpacha

**FRIDAY | DEC. 8 | 5:00 PM**

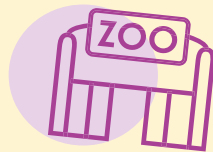
Shabbat Mishpacha & Chanukah Celebration

**FRIDAY | DEC. 15 | 5:00 PM**

Chanukah Tot Shabbat

**SATURDAY | DEC 16 | 5:00 PM**

Mishpacha Zoo Lights & Havdalah



**SATURDAY | FEB. 3 | 6:30 PM**

Parents Only Israeli Food & Wine Tasting

**FRIDAY | MAR. 22 | 5:00 PM**

Purim Tot Shabbat

**FRIDAY | APR. 5 | 5:00 PM**

Shabbat Mishpacha



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

Stay tuned for details about Shabbat Mishpacha in 2023-2024. Visit [sholomchicago.org/mishpacha](http://sholomchicago.org/mishpacha) for the most up-to-date information.

To learn more about Mishpacha please contact **Noa Appelsies** at [noa@sholomchicago.org](mailto:noa@sholomchicago.org).

## GAME DAY

Join us every week for a lively and social afternoon filled with a variety of games and some friendly competition. A few of the games played each week include Canasta and Mah Jongg. All are welcome!

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

If you would like to get involved with Game Day, or for more information, contact **Julie Adler** at [jadler@sholomchicago.org](mailto:jadler@sholomchicago.org) or **773-435-1536**.

## 40s/50s

Stay engaged with our vibrant 40s/50s community as we move through the season. Whether you're new to the group or a long-standing member, your presence enriches us all.

For any questions or to learn more about how you can get involved, don't hesitate to reach out to **Kimberly Ross** at [qbj@comcast.net](mailto:qbj@comcast.net). Here's to a season filled with community and connection!



# SHALEM שָׁלֵם

## EMBRACING RACIAL & ETHNIC DIVERSITY

### Embracing Diversity and Identity: A Clinical Therapist's Journey as an Autistic-Jewish-Trans-Latina

I am a clinical therapist - with a niche in working with children on the autism spectrum. At work, on every piece of marketing information, the top things that I list about myself are the intersections of my identity: "My name is Delilah Orizaba. I am an Autistic-Jewish-Trans-Latina".

I do this for two reasons. One: I have had clients drop me after

the first session after we meet because of some - if not all - parts of my identity. Two: it lets clients know that their potential therapist is reflective of the diverse world we all live in.

I am so grateful and privileged to be able to engage in spaces like *Shalem* and Temple Sholom. *Shalem* is a space where the intersections of my identity are not used to exclude or avoid me, but where these intersections are celebrated and embraced. With *Shalem* and Temple Sholom, I have found a Jewish community I am absolutely a part of.

*Written by Delilah Orizaba, Temple Sholom and Shalem Member*



*Delilah Orizaba and her fiancée, Danielle Ault*

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](mailto:rabbisinger@sholomchicago.org), and visit [sholomchicago.org/ered](https://sholomchicago.org/ered)



## Minnie Solomon z"l Book Club

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

**THURSDAY | NOV. 2 | 11:00 AM**  
**MIXED-PRESENCE**

*Mercury Pictures Presents* By Anthony Marra

**THURSDAY | DEC. 7 | 11:00 AM**  
**MIXED-PRESENCE**

*The Most Fun We Ever Had* By Claire Lombardo

For more information and the full schedule, visit

[sholomchicago.org/book-club](https://sholomchicago.org/book-club)

To be added to the communications list, Contact

**Maxine & Barbara Durst** at [maxineandbarbara@aol.com](mailto:maxineandbarbara@aol.com).

## 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**  
**NOV. 18 | 1:00 PM**  
**MIXED-PRESENCE**

**SATURDAY**  
**DEC. 9 | 1:00 PM**  
**MIXED-PRESENCE**

For more information, visit

[sholomchicago.org/mindful-jewish-aging](https://sholomchicago.org/mindful-jewish-aging)

To be added to the communications list,

contact **Andy Simmons** at [andrew.b.simmons@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.b.simmons@gmail.com)



## Women of Temple Sholom (WTS) to Host Banned Books Event with Alexi Giannoulias and City Lit Theater



**TUESDAY | NOV. 14 | 6:00 PM**

Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias, who is also State Librarian, will headline

Women of Temple Sholom's big Freedom to Read event, along with a performance of "Books on the Chopping Block," dramatic readings of excerpts of some of the most banned books of 2022 by City Lit Theater Company.

Secretary Giannoulias spearheaded the law passed in June that made Illinois the first state to withhold funds from libraries that removed books for political reasons. He will talk about the current state

of book banning and how to combat it in an informal conversation with Rabbi Shoshanah Conover and Katy Nielsen, Educational Program Director of City Lit. The theater company has performed "Books on the Chopping Block" around Chicago for nearly 20 years.

Please bring new or gently used books we will donate to Open Books, Chicago's premiere literacy organization for two decades. Refreshments will be served from 6-6:30 PM.

**This event is free but you must register at [sholomchicago.org/wts](https://sholomchicago.org/wts).**



Women of many generations filled Sugar Blow restaurant in Lakeview to share memories of their teen years as we discussed the new movie *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*.

## BE PART OF OUR AMAZING WOMEN'S GROUP

For only \$36 in annual dues, your WTS membership connects you with women in Temple Sholom as well as women all over the world. With your donation, WTS can continue to offer outstanding programs and events and to support organizations that impact the values we care about. A portion of your commitment will be allocated to the new Reproductive Justice Task Force.

You can become a WTS member by going to [sholomchicago.org/wts](https://sholomchicago.org/wts), or check the Women of Temple Sholom box on your Temple membership renewal.





THE JULIANA  
SCHAFFER Z"l

**CHESED CIRCLE**  
Building Community Through Kindness

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated members of our congregation and

our dedicated staff who generously volunteered their time to make annual High Holy Day check-in calls, as part of our Chesed Circle initiative. Your willingness to reach out and connect with fellow congregants during this sacred season has made a significant impact.

Furthermore, our Meal Train opportunities have proven to be a lifeline for families and congregants who may

require a little extra assistance during this period. The support provided through Meal Train has been instrumental in alleviating some of the additional stress that can arise during these challenging times. Your continued participation in this initiative demonstrates the power of unity within our community.

Thank you for your kindness, compassion, and dedication to Temple Shalom. Together, we strengthen the bonds of our congregation and make a positive impact on the lives of those we serve. We are truly grateful for your support!

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](http://sholomchicago.org/chesed-circle).

# makom

## 20s/30s

Makom has had a very busy start to 5784! The High Holy Days just kicked us off, and we had a great time with a pre-fast meal before Yom Kippur. After our meal, we walked to shul together to attend Kol Nidre services. Since then, we have had a return of Makom Shabbat, which has been so lovely. There is nothing better to do when the weather starts getting colder than to be surrounded by song and others in such a meaningful way.

October saw us resuming the Makom Book Club (though we never truly stopped), and our meeting in December will be our one year anniversary! We'll be reading *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* by Michael Chabon, for anyone that wants to join us (21-39 years old)!

Now, we are getting ready to celebrate Chanukah! It'll be sure to be filled with lights, song, and plenty of fried food! We hope you'll join us!

Makom enjoys a delicious pre-fast meal for Kol Nidre



### Upcoming Makom Events:

**FRIDAY | NOV 17 | 6:30 PM**  
Makom Shabbat

**THURSDAY | DEC 14 | 6:30 PM**  
Makom Chanukah Celebration

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

## Fall Blood Drive

SUNDAY | NOV. 5

## Monday Meal

MONDAY | NOV. 6, 13, 20, 27 & DEC. 4, 11, 18

## Feed the Hungry

SUNDAY | NOV. 12 & DEC. 10, 31

## Chanukah Box Project

SATURDAY & SUNDAY | DEC. 2 & 3

**Sholom Justice is thrilled to announce a compassionate initiative to sponsor a Venezuelan family in dire need of asylum.**

In collaboration with our esteemed partners at the Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church (LPPC), we will be offering comprehensive support to a family of five—a mother and her four children. This support includes not only housing but also covering essential living expenses for an entire year. This endeavor reflects our commitment to social justice and uplifts vulnerable communities who are navigating challenging transitions. In the coming weeks, we will share additional details and various opportunities for community members to get involved. Whether through volunteering, donations, or spreading awareness, everyone can contribute to this noble cause. Stay tuned for exciting updates!



Congregant Brad Gordon and Emily Wheeler, Program Manager with Faith Community Initiative, delivering supplies to the family's new apartment

## Volunteer with Sholom Justice

### Hunger & Homelessness

**Join us on Mondays for our Monday Meal Mitzvah Program (MMM)**, a heartwarming initiative where we prepare, set-up, and serve guests in need of a nourishing meal. Thanks to volunteers like you, our guests can relish a full 4-course meal, bringing them both sustenance and a sense of community. Open to anyone ages 12 and up, this program is especially great for B'nai Mitzvah service projects, fulfilling school volunteer hours, or simply anyone looking for a deeply meaningful volunteer experience. Together, let's make a difference—one meal at a time.

### Migrants and Refugees

Sholom Justice is working hard to **meet the growing needs of refugees & asylum seekers** in Chicago. We have undertaken a multi-pronged approach to offer meaningful assistance. Not only are we sponsoring a Venezuelan family seeking asylum, but we're also actively participating in city-wide supply drives specifically tailored for asylum seekers. Additionally, we're committed to alleviating immediate needs by providing meals to migrants temporarily housed in police stations. Through these targeted actions, we strive to make a tangible, positive impact on the lives of those navigating the complex, often daunting asylum process.

### Advocacy Action Group

If you're passionate about advocacy and policy change, then this group is the perfect fit for you. You will come together with Temple Sholom congregants to discuss **how we can help make systemic change on issues that need immediate attention**, like gun violence in our state and city. Become an active participant in shaping a better future for our community.

Questions about Sholom Justice, contributing items to the Monday Meal, getting involved or being added to our e-blast? Contact **Rabbi Gellman** at [rabbigellman@sholomchicago.org](mailto:rabbigellman@sholomchicago.org) or visit [sholomchicago.org/tikkun-olam](https://sholomchicago.org/tikkun-olam) for more information. Please watch for additional events as they get added to our Sholom Justice calendar.





## Illuminating Identities: The Role of Light and Inclusivity in Or Chadash

In the weekday morning *Shacharit* prayers, before the *Shema*, we thank God for the gift of light: "Blessed are you, Adonai, our God, Ruler of the Universe, who forms the light and creates the darkness." Following this blessing, we ask God to send a "new light [Or Chadash] to shine on Zion." Light plays a major role in Jewish ritual practice. We light candles on Friday night, settling into the sweetness of *Shabbat*. When *Shabbat* ends, we make *Havdalah*, marking the separation between *Shabbat* and the rest of the week. And *Chanukah*, of course, is our eight-day Festival of Lights. Whether we see *Chanukah* as a festival of light or as a celebration of Maccabean resistance against assimilation, both ways of thinking

about the holiday speak to what makes our Or Chadash community so vibrant, vital, and special.

The Maccabees refused to assimilate to the Hellenistic customs of the Seleucid conquerors, violently wresting back the Temple from its desecrators. And while I don't think we should admire the extreme zeal of the Maccabees, their story makes me think about the place Or Chadash plays in Chicago's Jewish community. At Temple Sholom, in large part because of Or Chadash, we are not asked to choose between our Jewish and our gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, or trans identities. We do not have to assimilate our sexuality, gender, or gender expression to an ideal that says "this is how you have to be to be Jewish." We are encouraged to show up in the fullness of our radiant selves, acting as a beacon to those who've felt excluded due to who they are.

On behalf of Or Chadash, I hope you have a winter season filled with laughter, love, warmth, and of course, light. Happy *Chanukah*!

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



Or Chadash Open House

### Upcoming Or Chadash Events:

**FRIDAY | NOV. 3 | 7:45 PM** **FRIDAY | DEC. 1 | 7:45 PM**  
Or Chadash Shabbat Or Chadash Shabbat

For more information, visit [sholomchicago.org/or-chadash](https://sholomchicago.org/or-chadash) To be added to the communications list, contact **Jude Kamler** at [jude@sholomchicago.org](mailto:jude@sholomchicago.org) or **773-435-1542**.



3480 N. Lake Shore Dr.  
Chicago, IL 60657

## Stay Connected with Us!

Hey there, wonderful community!  
We've got exciting updates, stories,  
and insights we can't wait to share.  
But did you know there's a way to  
catch all the action quicker than our  
D'var? Dive into our regular postings  
and be a part of the conversation on  
our social media platforms!

Like and follow us on Facebook  
**Temple Sholom of Chicago**

or follow us on Instagram!  
**@sholomchicago**

## Check out all of our 5784 High Holy Day highlights!

**[SHOLOMCHICAGO.ORG/5784-HIGHLIGHTS](https://sholomchicago.org/5784-highlights)**

During these High Holy Days, we were blessed with inspiring sermons. Rabbi Singer's messages focused on embracing our unique identities and "strangeness," highlighting modern approaches to Jewish life like *Eco-Kashrut* and active *Shabbat* observance. Rabbi Conover captivated us with an evocative sermon on empathy and humility, and guided us to be more understanding and reflective.

On *Kol Nidre*, Rabbi Conover delivered an insightful sermon that focused on how we can better relate to each other, encouraging us to deepen our connections and be more empathetic. Then, during *Yom Kippur*, Rabbi Scott Gellman offered a compelling message on "The Youth Who See Visions for a Better World," urging us to recognize and appreciate the ideas and idealism of our younger generation.

**As we step into the year 5784, let these teachings uplift us and guide our actions towards creating a better world for all.**



From left to right: Rabbi Singer, Rabbi Gellman, Cantor Ben-David, and Rabbi Conover



Rosh Hashanah Family Service