

D'var

TEMPLE SHOLOM

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

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024



Senior Rabbi
**Shoshanah
Conover**

In these darkest of days, I have been holding on to a Chassidic teaching, "A little bit of light dispels a lot of

darkness." Sometimes, it's hard to see any light come through in the news from Israel and Gaza, in the acts of hate in our cities, in polarizing yelling matches among pundits and "peacemakers" alike. But I have heard from many of you that Temple Sholom has been that light. We are a community that embodies the Chanukah song, *Banu Choshech L'gareish*:

We come here to banish darkness...

Each one of us might be just a small light,

But together we shine mightily bright.

You are seeking out this Sholom light like never before in the usual places: thoughtful sermons, musical meditations, study sessions offered nearly every day of the week, comforting messages to you and your children, joy-filled family celebrations, and volunteering with Sholom Justice. And you have begun to find us in places that have been unexpected for many of you: Facebook and Instagram. This has been a welcome light. You have let us know that you wanted to see more of us there and we responded. We have intentionally brought added smiles, more than a little bit of humor, thoughtful discourse, and a lot of loving-kindness to

those spaces. We plan to continue to enhance our digital presence on social media, our website, and the Sholom Weekly and *Shabbat* with Sholom Eblasts.

We will use that same intentionality in our print materials. We will exchange our bimonthly *D'var Sholom Bulletins* with a biannual *Sholom Chicago Magazine*. The updates on our incredible programming will be shared on our website and linked through Sholom Weekly. The magazine will be home to longform thought pieces, spotlights on and from members of our community, features on the Arts, and a focus on issue areas of deep concern. Complementing these magazines, the other two print pieces will spotlight various facets of Temple Sholom, showcasing our vibrant community and activities through thoughtfully crafted printed material. Hence, you can anticipate receiving quarterly compelling print communications from Temple Sholom to your home each year.

A special thank you to Isabel Soble, Communications Manager, for her extraordinary efforts in helping Temple Sholom's voice ring out clearly in our cacophonous world.

We look forward to communicating kindly, walking justly, and shining brightly with all of you in 2024 and beyond!

L'Sholom

Rabbi Shoshanah Conover

rabbiconover@sholomchicago.org

WHAT'S THE RABBI READING?

The Best Place on Earth

by Ayelet Tsabari

These eleven spellbinding stories often focus on Israel's Mizrahi Jews, featuring mothers and children, soldiers and bohemians, lovers and best friends, all searching for their place in the world.



Of Blessed Memory

OCT. 26

Yolanda Saul

Mother of Jason (Nina)
Saul, grandmother of
Jonah, Max and Isadore

OCT. 26

Stanley J. Gross

Father of Jennifer Gross

NOV. 2

Henry Rose

Father of Ben
(Ronit) Rose

NOV. 23

**Shirlee Goldman-
Herzog**

Mother of Marilyn Oskin

DEC. 6

Chanoke Samuel

Brother of Yonah
Dokarker (Pam Bondy)

DEC. 18

**Charles "Corky"
Goodman**

Father of Leonard
Goodman

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.

SEPT. 7

**Noel Steere &
Jaime Angio**

Oliver

SEPT. 8

Lisa Green

SEPT. 11

**Alison & David
Cohen**

Patrick

SEPT. 12

**Jordan Finfer &
Laura Wool**

Sydney, Leo

SEPT. 13

Michele Tucker

SEPT. 13

**Ariel Leifer
& William
Weinberg**

Eleanor, Charlotte

SEPT. 13

**Matthew &
Shallene Gross**

Theodore, Elijah

SEPT. 13

Akram Maradni

SEPT. 16

**Lizabeth &
Michael Loring**

SEPT. 20

**Charlotte &
Michael Berlin**

Sophie, Emma

SEPT. 25

**Cara Eickholt &
Michael Fixler**

SEPT. 26

**Elizabeth
Bolton &
William Kaplan**

SEPT. 28

**Carly & Derek
Beckmann**

Isabella, Ethan

SEPT. 28

**Amy Sider
Samantha**

SEPT. 29

**Alejandra
Guerrero**

**& Nicola
Forasacchi**

Maya

SEPT. 29

Lauren Krause

SEPT. 30

**Carolyn Braff
& Andrew
Herman**

Graham, Emily

OCT. 2

Noa Appelsies

OCT. 3

Marit Sosnoff

OCT. 13

Synde Keywell

OCT. 30

**Hillary August
& Mitchell Suter
Maximillian**

NOV 7

**Dan Lerner
& JulieAnn
Graham**

Nora, Levi

NOV 9

**Hallie Berger
& Matthew
Vishny**

Yahrzeits / First Year

JAN. 10

Jeffrey Shanin

Father of Greg Shanin

JAN. 15

Susan Feldstein

Mother of Rachel Axelrod

JAN. 19

**Frances B.
Reicher**

Grandmother of Kimberly
Strauss

JAN. 28

Dr. Allan Miller

Father of Stacie
Newmark

FEB. 7

Zoralyn Stahl

Cousin of Marc Stahl

FEB. 19

Robert Sheridan

Father of Scott Sheridan

FEB. 20

Mari Cohen

Mother of David Cohen

FEB. 21

Robert Tarnoff

Brother of Ken Tarnoff

FEB. 24

Selma Hoffman

Grandmother of Andria
Winters

FEB. 28

Thelma Spill

Loved one of Cookie
Marks

Mazel Tov

OCT. 14

Sue Fisher

on the marriage of their
daughter, Maggie Fisher-
Yellen to Dale Hoff

DEC. 2

**Tara Howart &
Sam Bookey**

on their marriage



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!

B'nai Mitzvah

JAN. 6
Cameron Sloan

JAN. 20
Ethan Becker

JAN. 20
Miles Wright

JAN. 27
Eliza Matyas

JAN. 27
Morgan Kohn

FEB. 3
Benjamin Yudelovitch

FEB. 10
Lily Wise

FEB. 10
Evyn Lobel

FEB. 24
Ethan Sack

Worship Schedule

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

FRIDAY | JAN. 5, 12, 19, 26
FRIDAY | FEB. 2, 9, 16, 23
6:15 PM Shabbat Service

SATURDAY | JAN. 6, 13, 20, 27
SATURDAY | FEB. 3, 10, 17, 24
9:00 AM Minyan Service
9:45 AM Torah Study

Special Services

FRIDAY | JAN. 5
7:45 PM Or Chadash Shabbat

FRIDAY | FEB. 2
7:45 PM Or Chadash Shabbat

FRIDAY | FEB. 16
6:30 PM Makom Shabbat



Thank You to Our Temple Sholom Donors!

In Memory of Ronnie Ager
In Honor of Sawyer Alexander
In Honor of Cantor Sheera Ben-David

In Memory of Melvin Boruszak
In Honor of Mitchell Brown
In Honor of Rabbi Shoshanah Conover

In Honor of Lori Curtis
In Memory of Allan Domash
In Honor of Noah Estill & Rosalie Graves
In Memory of Morris Fisher
In Honor of Rabbi Scott Gellman
In Memory of Rita Glisker
In Memory of Doris Goldberg
In Memory of Miriam Goodman
In Memory of Carol Sue Gould
In Honor of Evan Gourdji
In Honor of Marla Gross & Jonathan Karmel
In Memory of Dr. Stanley J. Gross

In Memory of Jesse Heyman
In Memory of Jules Katz
In Memory of Martin Kaufman
In Memory of Dr. Alexander Kott
In Memory of Jana Kutzen
In Memory of Susan Levine
In Honor of Mathew MacCumber
In Memory of Joseph Nemirow

Roger & Teri Rudich
Barbara Sherman
Susanne Pinzur
Aaron & Nichole Charfoos
Donald & Nancy Borzak
Mary Ann Marks
Sheryl & Robert Bellick
Wayne & Cheryl Burton
Aaron & Nichole Charfoos
Jordan Matyas
Steven & Karen Meyer
Susanne Pinzur
Dana Pomerantz & Adam Hirsch
Marc & Bonnie Pomerantz
Marc & Debora Willage
Joel & Sherri Nemirow
Helene Domash
Emily Albun
Barbara Snyder
Jill DiFranco
Irwin & Janice Saltz
Ross Goldberg
David Goodman
Steven Gould, M.D. & Ellen Wallace
Martin & Iris Gradman

Roger & Julie Wilen
David Grazman & Eddie Rocha
David & Beth Inlander
Kimberly Ross
Ronald & Susan Nick
Karen Wallerstein
Marc Kaufman & William Healey
Simonne Kott
Mark & Connie Gerber
Jackie Lustig & Chris Hallett
Marcia F. Stoll
Joel & Sherri Nemirow

In Memory of Mollie Oiring
In Honor of Dr. David Orth

In Memory of Grant Pick
In Memory of Raymond Poliakoff
In Memory of Daniel Ragins
In Honor of Linda Remaker

In Memory of Adrienne Rosenberg
In Memory of Anne Salsman
In Memory of Sonya Satanovskaya
In Honor of Saturday Morning Minyan
In Honor of Cliff & Nancy Scott Rudnick
In Memory of Diane Shatz
In Memory of Barney Shoub
In Honor of Juliana Simons
In Honor of Rabbi Rena Singer
In Honor of Temple Sholom Clergy & Staff

In Memory of Ira Sulzer
In Honor of Jan Tranen
In Honor of Barbara Turner
In Memory of Michael Turner
In Memory of Rivian Upin
In Honor of Sloane Weissberger
In Memory of John A. Werhane

Sylvia Lessman
Mathew MacCumber & Judith Weinstein
Kathy Pick
Ann Brownfield Meara
Bonita Marx
Julie Adler
Jonathan & Bonnie Baum
Merritt & Marcy Mamroth
David & Suzanne Shoub
Bela Sirota
Jan Tranen
David & Beth Inlander
Barbara Turner
David & Suzanne Shoub
Michael & Jessica Simons
Kevin Miner

Sheryl & Robert Bellick
Susan Gradman & Jeff Gourdji
Mathew MacCumber & Judith Weinstein
Jan Tranen
Zwick Family
Michael & Dana Treister
Judith Newton
Karel Cool & Anne Ombregt
Barbara Turner
Andrea Deutch
Esther Weissberger
Joan Werhane

Gifts listed represent honorific giving from September to November 15, 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.

Am Yisrael Chai

In the aftermath of the Oct. 7, 2023 attack in Israel, Temple Sholom of Chicago, led by Rabbi Shoshanah Conover, embodied solidarity and resilience. Rabbi Conover's immediate journey to Israel, fueled by the collective ethos of our community, was a profound expression of empathy and support. It reflected our community's deep connection with the global Jewish family, resonating with the shared emotions of rage, dread, uncertainty, and resolve.

Our communal spirit was further demonstrated in the March in Washington, where Rabbi Conover, Elizabeth Samuels, Board President, and countless members of our temple joined thousands in a united stand against antisemitism and in support of Am Yisrael-- the people of Israel.

Rabbi Conover's subsequent return to Israel in December, extending our community's support and solidarity, further emphasized our commitment to being active participants in the global Jewish narrative. This period of response and action reflects not only Rabbi Conover's leadership but more so the strength, empathy, and unity of the Temple Sholom community in facing global challenges.



NOV. 8 | 2023

Rabbi Conover said, "Today is one month and one day after the terror of Oct. 7. For the Jewish people, the world fundamentally changed that day. Yossi Klein Halevi describes the emotional impact in four words: rage, dread, uncertainty, and resolve. Each of these emotions pervaded my experience in Israel last week."

NOV. 14 | 2023

Members of Temple Sholom, embodying the spirit and values of our community, joined in solidarity with thousands of Jews in a significant march against antisemitism. This united front was not just a statement against hate, but a powerful call for the safe return of hostages and a resolute show of support for Israel. Through our collective presence, we affirmed our unwavering commitment to peace and justice, demonstrating the strength and resilience of our community in the face of adversity.

DEC. 3 | 2023

At the beginning of a dark week in which the war resumed and death and dread reigned, Rabbi Conover (shown here with her good friend, Rabbi Michael Schwab) traveled again to Israel. She says, "On a journey to Israel with JUF where we hope to bring healing alongside our prayers for peace. Just finished Tefilat Haderech-The Travelers Prayer that closes: 'May You, God, send blessing in our handiwork, and grant us grace, kindness, and mercy in Your eyes and in the eyes of all who see us. May we do good work on behalf of peace and healing.'"

Stay connected with us through our social media channels or visit our dedicated page at sholomchicago.org/israel-2023 for the latest updates.

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



Talmud: Ta'anit 23a

Once Honi was walking along the road when he saw a person planting a carob tree. Honi asked, "How long before it will bear fruit?" The person answered, "Seventy years."

Honi asked, "Are you sure that you will be alive in seventy years to eat from its fruit?" The person answered, "I found this world filled with carob trees. Just as my ancestor planted for me, so shall I plant for my children."

I often think of this story from the *Talmud*, especially around *Tu B'Shvat*, the New Year of the Trees. This story raises two important questions:

What kind of world are we creating and leaving for our children?

What did our ancestors do for us that we are benefitting from?

In Jewish education, we don't often see the fruits of our labor. It is hard to know what will shape a student into the future, or what they will connect to, and look back on as having made a lasting impact. Think of your own life, what were the critical moments or interactions that helped shape your Jewish life today?

We are busy at Religious School creating moments of deep learning and joyful ways to experience Judaism. Students of all grades have participated in social justice projects, Israeli dance, Jewish cooking, Jewish art, bibliodrama, and more. These specials, in addition to a robust Judaics and Hebrew curriculum, and *tefillah* experience with our magnificent clergy, help to give entry points for each and every student to explore their Judaism. We want to provide a home and a solid foundation for all our students, so they feel confident and competent in the Jewish world, and can help create a rich, meaningful life.

As we look ahead to *Tu B'Shvat*, let us take the opportunity to plant seeds for the next generation. In these dark and challenging times, it is so important to celebrate Jewish joy and honor our traditions. It is a way of staying deeply and fundamentally connected to Jewish people throughout the world.

May you appreciate your roots and cultivate new growth in the coming year.

Lori Kramer

Director of Education

lorikramer@sholomchicago.org





**Early Childhood
Education Center**

The children were very busy celebrating Thanksgiving with an all-school feast, sing-along and being thankful for our wonderful friends and teachers! Chanukah is a very exciting

time at Gan Shalom! We read stories, we lit our *menorah's*, learned lots of new songs and celebrated with class parties and our wonderful Gan Shalom community! The 2024/2025 Gan Shalom registration is now open. We offer part day and extended day programming as well as an array of parent/child classes.

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



Chanukah Shabbat Mishpacha



Baby class enjoying parachute time!



Winter fun on the playground!

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**.

Learn with our Clergy

Prayer & Liturgy 101

with Cantor Ben-David

SUNDAYS | JAN. 14, 21, 28 | 9:30 AM

Deepen your understanding of the main Jewish prayers and Sacred Music within our *Shabbat* services and Jewish Liturgy. Cantor Ben-David will spend time delving into worship, prayer comprehension and the choreography that guides us when we pray.

Three Stories by Sholem Aleichem

with Visiting Scholar, Efrat Bloom

SUNDAYS | FEB. 4, 11, 25 | 9:30 AM

In these Zoom gatherings we will discuss three short monologues written by Sholem Aleichem (Shalom Rabinovitz; 1859–1916), one of the founding fathers of modern Yiddish literature. In their free style, commenting on familial and communal, social and financial affairs, the fictional women carrying out these monologues portray for us a picture of Jewish life in the East-European *Shtetl*. But what are these women really saying? Paying attention to text, we will inquire into subtext—and figure out how we, readers, are involved in the plot.

FEB. 4: "White Bird" (1904)

FEB. 11: "Holiday Tsimes" (1904)

FEB. 25: "Gitl Purishkevitch" (1911)

* English translations will be circulated in advance; please come after reading.

Other Learning Opportunities

Wednesday Morning Study Group

WEDNESDAYS | 10:00 AM

JANUARY **Prayer and Liturgy**
with Cantor Ben-David
FEBRUARY **Exploring Reform Judaism**
with Rabbi Gellman

Talmud Study

with Rabbi Conover

TUESDAYS | 8:30 AM

Short Stories

with Cliff Scott-Rudnick

SUNDAYS | 2:00 PM

Together we are reading: *Favorite Tales* by Sholem Aleichem.

Shakespeare Discussion

with Mitchell Brown

WEDNESDAYS | 6:30 PM

Peaceful Parent Cohort

with Rebecca Minkus-Lieberman

SUNDAYS | 9:30 AM | JAN. 28, FEB. 4, 11, 25

Parenting is hard. As parents, we need to fill up our own well first if we want to show up for our kids and guide them through their challenges with patience, compassion, and love. Particularly during this challenging time, when we are carrying so much anxiety and fear, learning to deal with those challenging emotions is necessary if we hope to model calm and comfort for our children.

Orot Peaceful Parent Project, a national cohort program for parents that integrates Jewish teachings, mindfulness practices, and approaches from Positive Parenting. The program supports our work as parents so that we can meet conflict and turbulence in our families' lives with greater patience, compassion and curiosity.

This class is open to parents with kids of all ages. advance registration is required.

Film Zoom Nights

Mixed-Presence with Cliff Scott-Rudnick



The Jewish Cardinal
MONDAY
JAN. 15
7:00 PM

Selected shorts with Jewish themes
MONDAY
FEB. 4
7:00 PM



Life is Beautiful
MONDAY
FEB. 19
7:00 PM

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Questions regarding Youth Engagement? Contact Noa Appelsies at noa@sholomchicago.org, or visit www.sholomchicago.org/youth-group.

**Stay tuned for youth group events in January for both
Chavrei Sholom and Noar Sholom!**



Chavrei Shalom Magic Show



Orr Shalom Ice Cream Social



Helping with Feed the Hungry



8th Graders helping with "Yes We Can" - Thanksgiving in a Bag
(Hugo & Will Wasserstrom's B'nei Mitzvah Project)

**URJ Camping Enrollment is
open for Summer 2024!**

Visit URJCamps.org or OSRUI.org

Scholarship opportunities include:

- Jewishcamp.org

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

BEIT SEFER SHALOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Questions regarding Religious School? Contact **Lori Kramer** at lorikramer@sholomchicago.org or **773-435-1544**, or visit sholomchicago.org/beit-sefer.




mishpacha
family | community | friends

Shabbat Mishpacha Schedule:

See specific dates below

5:15-5:45 PM Family Shabbat services begin. This service is designed especially for families with children ages 0-12, and includes singing, praying, and celebrating the magic of Shabbat together with our Temple Sholom clergy!

5:45-7:00 PM A kid-friendly dinner is served in Bettie Port Hall, with a kosher option available. There will be an age-appropriate craft and service project for families to participate in. Afterwards, enjoy some sweets together!



Upcoming Family Programs from Mishpacha:

SATURDAY | FEB. 3 | 6:30 PM
Parents Only Israeli Food & Wine Tasting

FRIDAY | MAR. 22 | 5:00 PM
Purim Tot Shabbat

FRIDAY | APR. 5 | 5:15 PM
Shabbat Mishpacha

Families had an amazing time at Shabbat Mishpacha in both November and December. It was a delightful opportunity for community connection and creating memories.



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 for the most up-to-date information.

To learn more about Mishpacha please contact **Noa Appelsies** at 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 **Stacy Charnay** at stacy@sholomchicago.org.

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. Here's to a season filled with community and connection!



Minnie Solomon z"l Book Club

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

THURSDAY | JAN. 4 | 11:00 AM
MIXED-PRESENCE

The Good Left Undone By Adriana Trigiani

THURSDAY | FEB. 1 | 11:00 AM
MIXED-PRESENCE

Good Night, Irene by Luis Alberto Urrea

For more information and the full schedule, visit sholomchicago.org/book-club
To be added to the communications list, Contact **Maxine & Barbara Durst** at 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
JAN. 27 | 1:00 PM
MIXED-PRESENCE

SATURDAY
FEB. 24 | 1:00 PM
MIXED-PRESENCE

For more information, visit sholomchicago.org/mindful-jewish-aging
To be added to the communications list, contact **Andy Simmons** at andrew.b.simmons@gmail.com

Women of Temple Sholom (WTS) Celebrates, Advocates and Educates About Reproductive Justice at Annual Repro Shabbat

FRIDAY | FEB. 9 | 6:15 PM

WTS and the temple's Reproductive Justice team will collaborate to observe Repro Shabbat during the regular Shabbat service, joining congregations all over the country as part of an annual nationwide event created by National Council of Jewish Women. The event will include meaningful

readings and a notable guest speaker.

Reproductive Justice has been a major focus for WTS over the past several years. This focus has included a three-part Sunday morning series with Rabbi Conover exploring the Jewish perspective on the issue, an expert panel program, and the creation of after-abortion care kits for donation to Planned Parenthood Illinois.

Read more below on the recent joint postcard-writing event with WTS and the Reproductive Justice Team.

Our Women's Seder – A Festive Tradition

TUESDAY | APR. 9 | 6:00 PM | IN PERSON

It's time to plan for our always-fabulous Women's Seder. Enjoy a delicious holiday meal featuring salmon or a vegetarian entrée prepared by Hearty Boys Caterers: the Seder led by Rabbi Rena Singer, and singing & dancing led by Cantor Sheera Ben-David. Bring your favorite women in your life to share in this special evening! **The early bird registration ends on Tuesday, Mar. 12 and the final day to register is Tuesday, Mar. 26.**

We Stand With the Banned Was an Amazing Night to Speak Out Against Book Banning

Nearly 200 people — congregants, families, friends and members of the general public — gathered in the Sanctuary in November to learn about the ongoing trend of book banning across the country and ways we can combat it. The program opened with a heartfelt personal story from Illinois State Senator Mike Simmons (D-7th) about what books meant to him growing up as a young, black, gay child of immigrants. His passion about books, libraries and education inspired him to introduce on the State Senate floor the bill that would go on to be signed by Gov. Pritzker in June and make Illinois the first state to outlaw book banning by withholding state funds from libraries and schools that ban books.

Five performers from City Lit Theater Company then performed dramatic readings of excerpts from some of the most frequently banned books.

Highlight of the evening was the appearance of Illinois Secretary of State and State Librarian Alexi Giannoulas, who spearheaded the anti-book banning law. He joined Rabbi Conover and Katy Nielsen, Education Director of City Lit, in a lively conversation about books, banning, representation in books, protecting our First Amendment rights, and even talked about their favorite Chicago libraries.

Over 500 books were collected to donate to Open Books! Attendees generously brought new and gently used books to give to Chicago's top literacy organization.

Want to fight book bans? Here are some ways:

1. Stay informed
2. Support independent bookstores: by buying banned books everyone can encourage diverse authors to
- continue creating, and motivate publishers to publish and market these books.
3. Research where current and prospective political leaders stand on censorship and public libraries
4. Vote in local, state and national elections
5. Attend school board, library board and PTA meetings
6. Run for the school or library board in your area
7. Donate books to libraries experiencing bans
8. Join and support advocacy organizations
9. Join Women of Temple Sholom at sholomchicago.org/wts to help us continue to inform and advocate about book banning.

Secretary of State and State Librarian Alexi Giannoulas talked books, bans and favorite Chicago libraries with Rabbi Conover and Katy Nielsen of City Lit.

(L-R) Eric Johnson, Executive Director of Open Books; Rabbi Singer and Rabbi Conover, with State Senator Mike Simmons, who introduced on the State Senate floor Illinois' anti-book ban law.

BROTHERHOOD

Stay connected with the Brotherhood community this winter season. Your involvement makes us stronger, and we're always here to support one another.

If you would like to get involved with Brotherhood, or for more information, contact **Rabbi Gellman** at rabbigellman@sholomchicago.org.



Brotherhood had an amazing time at the KOVAL Distillery Tour! A big thanks to Jerry Manko for organizing this event.

makom 20s/30s

What a great start to the year! Makom has been prioritizing fun, new themes for our monthly Shabbat gatherings, including an absolutely lovely pasta feast in November. This creativity has trickled over into our Chanukah celebration as well! We teamed up with Trybal Gatherings to have an amazing time at The Pink Squirrel! It was full of amazing lights (of course!), good food, and a friendly, competitive spirit in bowling.

We have also teamed up with our neighbors at Anshe Emet and BASE Logan Square to have a new Torah study group! It's a great time of learning and being together, plus having great soup!

In the secular new year, we have a lot of great things brewing. We'll continue our bimonthly bookclub meetings (let us know if you have any suggestions or want to lead a meeting!), and our fun Shabbats, of course. We're especially looking forward to planning our Purim event, so make sure you keep an eye out to join us!

Written by Robyn Ashbagh
Makom Board Chair



Makom Chanukah Party



Bowling and Schmoozel!

Upcoming Makom Events:

MONDAY | JAN. 29 | 7:00 PM

Two Rabbis Walk Into a Bar with Anshe Emet YAD

FRIDAY | FEB. 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**.

Monday Meal

MONDAYS | 3:30-5PM (PREP), 5-6:45PM (SERVING & CLEAN-UP)

JAN 8, 15, 22, 29 & FEB 5, 12, 19, 26

Feed the Hungry

2ND & 5TH SUNDAYS | 10:30AM

JAN 14, FEB 11, MARCH 10 & 31

Upcoming Events

Restorative Justice Shabbat

DATE TBD

Join us for a discussion with [CLERGY] and [SPEAKER] about the important work being done in Illinois around Restorative Justice, a transformative approach to violence prevention that centers community & relationships as a means to help youth, families, and communities heal. We'll also share how Temple Sholom will be supporting community networks to respond to and prevent acts of harm and violence in restorative and healing ways, and how congregants can join us in this important work.

This year, Temple Sholom is sponsoring an asylum-seeking family from Venezuela, the Guilléns.

When We Are For Ourselves Alone, What Are We? Since August 2022, Chicago has received more than 20,000 asylum seekers with more every day. Local communities have been grappling with how to support this enormous need. Approx. 60% are being housed in temporary city-run shelters, while the rest are sleeping in police stations & airports. After making treacherous journeys in search of better lives, asylum seekers face new challenges accessing food, shelter, & basic needs.

If Not Now, Then When? This summer, Temple Sholom answered the call to help where other organizations could not. The Guillén family urgently needed housing to reunite with their godson, Jhoefre. Because he was not a blood relative, he was separated from the Guilléns at the border, sent to detention in Kentucky, and then placed in foster care in Tennessee. Though we didn't have all the answers, Temple Sholom jumped at the opportunity to step up in this critical moment in our city. Within 48 hours, Temple Sholom committed to sponsoring the Guilléns.

Our Impact Through our quick action, the Guilléns were able to move into their own apartment in Brighton Park. Within 2 weeks, they were reunited with their godson after months apart. Temple Sholom has committed to paying the family's rent, utilities, grocery, and transportation expenses for 12 months, giving the family the security & stability they need to navigate the complex asylum process and adapt to their new home.

The Guillén Family Boeyci (bo-eyt-si) Guillén, Jhoefre (17), her three children - daughter Darianny (16) & sons Yordanny (13) and Dilan (11) - left Venezuela and made the difficult journey through Columbia, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico before finally seeking asylum in the US at the Texas border. Boeyci & family have made huge progress adjusting to their new home. The family has found a supportive Spanish-speaking community in Brighton Park & have begun the legal asylum process. The kids have enrolled in CPS - Boeyci takes every chance to highlight their amazing academic performance! Boeyci has even been volunteering at police stations to support other asylum seekers.



The Guillén family, Temple Sholom volunteers, & Emily Wheeler (program manager, Faith Community Initiative) in November planning 2024 support

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 or visit sholomchicago.org/tikkun-olam for more information. Please watch for additional events as they get added to our Sholom Justice calendar.

IT'S *Our* TURN

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



IOT had so much fun celebrating Chanukah together with some friendly competition at Big Mini Putt!

This fun, new venue in Wrigleyville created a casual and festive atmosphere for our IOT-ers to play a game of putt-putt while enjoying some beverages and snacks. We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday!

Coming Soon...

IOT is hosting its annual *Havdalah*, led by the amazing Cantor Ben-David, on Saturday, Mar. 16 at 6:30 PM! Dinner and drinks will be provided and cost is \$25/person.

We will also participate in a *Shabbat* service in May, and will host a dinner following the service for our IOT community. Stay tuned for more details!

It's Our Turn has many great ideas for future events. Watch for temple and special IOT eBlasts for announcements and more information.

Ideas? Please contact either **Jackie Lustig** at **773-706-9953**, jackielustig@mindspring.com, or **Marc Levine** at **847-274-0598**, mlevine856@gmail.com.

For more information, visit sholomchicago.org/iot

OrChadash

LGBTQ+ Members & Allies

For me, the secular New Year serves as a reminder that, even though the frigid winter winds and five p.m. sunsets might make me think otherwise, spring is

on its way. Already, the days are growing longer, the temperatures are changing, and flickers of radiant sunshine are peeking through the overcast, ashen sky.

Since Judaism is so defined by our communal practices of demarcating and ritualizing time, it shouldn't be a big surprise that our ancestors held that there were four new years: *Rosh Hashanah* (lit. the "head of the year"); *Tu B'Shvat*, the new year of the trees; the first of *Nisan*, honoring the Exodus; and *Rosh Hashanah La'Behemot*, the new year for the animals. Each of these new years is meant to help us recognize our relationships and connections with others, with Jewish tradition, and with the places we call home.

Each of them is meant to be viewed as part of an iterative, repeating flow of seasons. As with the Torah, once we reach the end of a cycle, we begin anew.

I appreciate the perspective this might offer us in thinking about our lives as LGBTQ Jews.

We are constantly in the process of becoming the versions of ourselves that we want to and need to be in the world. We are always learning new things about what it means to live a meaningful & joyous queer life.

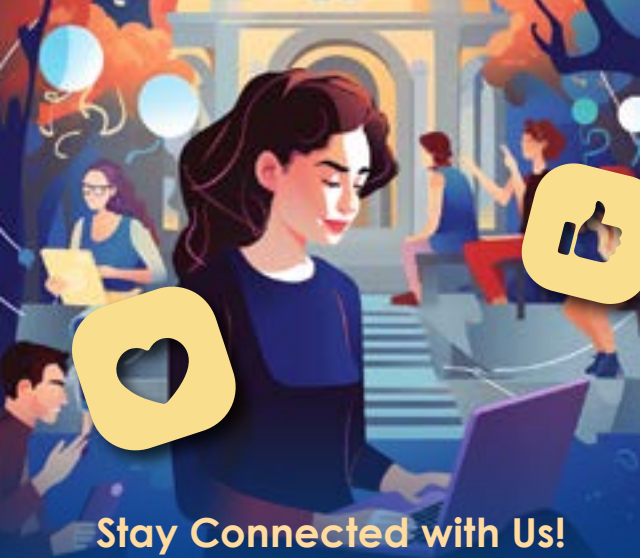
As we celebrate *Tu B'Shvat* (and look forward to the giddy rambunctiousness of *Purim*!), I hope that we can all take the time to reconnect to ourselves, our communities, and the sacred earth on which we dwell, which, as our sages teach us, is suffused with goodness.

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

Upcoming Or Chadash Events:

FRIDAY | JAN. 5 | 7:45 PM **FRIDAY | FEB. 2 | 7:45 PM**
Or Chadash Shabbat Or Chadash Shabbat

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**.



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.
Dive into our regular postings and
be a part of the conversation on our
social media platforms!

Like and follow us on Facebook
Temple Shalom of Chicago

Or follow us on Instagram!
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Temple Shalom of Chicago
11 minutes ago

☕ Rabbis, Refreshments, & Tech Tips: Navigating Social Media
at Temple Shalom 📱

Do you struggle with connecting to Facebook or Instagram? Come by for
coffee and technology with Rabbis Scott Gellman and Rena Singer!

📅 When: Tuesday, February 6th between 12:30-2pm. Bring your phone,
laptop, or tablet, and one of the rabbis will show you all of the different
ways of seeing upcoming events at Temple Shalom.

🖥️ Register: Visit sholomchicago.org/tech to RSVP!



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