Temple Topics

Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism www.urg.org

February 2024

Shevat/Adar I 5784

February Events

2/4
Volunteer Fair at
Oceanside Library

2/6 Bunco

2/8
TAFI- D'Cocco's

2/19
Presidents Day
Office closed

2/22 TAFI- Grandpa Tony's

2/26 **Defensive Driving**

2/27 Board Meeting





February Service Schedule

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

5:00PM FAMILY KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE 7:00PM SHABBAT SERVICE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

7:45AM MINYAN
8:45AM TORAH STUDY VIA ZOOM & IN PERSON
10:00AM BAR MITZVAH OF DAVID RUKHLIN
5:00PM ASK THE RABBI
6:00PM HAVDALLAH

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

6:00PM SUPER BOWL SHABBAT SERVICE/DINNER **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

7:45AM MINYAN
8:45AM TORAH STUDY VIA ZOOM & IN PERSON
10:00AM BAR MITZVAH OF ALEX MICHAELS
5:00PM ASK THE RABBI
6:00PM HAVDALLAH



February Service Schedule continued

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

7:00PM SHABBAT SERVICE WITH ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS & ADULT CHOIR

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

8:45AM TORAH STUDY VIA ZOOM & IN PERSON

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

7:00PM SHABBAT SERVICE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

7:45AM MINYAN 8:45AM TORAH STUDY VIA ZOOM & IN PERSON 5:00PM ASK THE RABBI 6:00PM HAVDALLAH



There are name badges for all adult Temple members. Please wear them in order to get to know your fellow members. Then return them to the basket for next time

Watch for notices for possible changes to services

Valentine's Day and our obligation to love

February 2024



Avodah אֲבוֹדָה

Shevat-Adar 1, 5784

Dear Chaverim/Chaverot:

Did you know the origins of Valentine's Day has only been found in folklore? It originates in a number of controversial legends written during the 6th and 7th centuries. It was thought the ancient Romans celebrated the feast of Lupercalia from February 13th-15th. The men would make a sacrifice AND women would line up to be whipped by the men with the hides of the slain animals. It was believed to make them fertile. There was a matchmaking lottery where the young men drew names of women from a jar. Another tale was of Emperor Claudius II executing two men both named Valentine. In the fifth century February 14th became a festival with theatrical interpretations but still a day of fertility and love. During the Middle Ages the day of February 14th was romanticized by Chaucer and Shakespeare. In Britain and the rest of Europe it was celebrated with the exchange of handmade cards. In 1913 Hallmark Cards of Kansas City, MO began mass-producing Valentine's cards ultimately changing the way February 14 is celebrated forever.

How many of you think the day is linked to Catholicism about a Catholic saint? Did you know the holiday was removed from the Catholic calendar after finding no proof? In fact there has been no substantiated evidence Valentine's Day has any religious affiliation. SO, what about there being a Jewish holiday dedicated to love? Well, there is one. The holiday is Tu B'Av which falls in mid to late summer. This holiday is not to be mistaken for Tishah B'Av which precedes it. In ancient times women dressed in white and went into the fields to dance. Young men would follow them as it was a time of courtship. Needless to say, this holiday is antiquated and does not reflect strongly on the modern, feminist women of today.

Judaism does offer a number of Halachic rulings answering whether Jewish law allows Jews to celebrate non-Jewish holidays. Rabbi Moshe Isserles (1520-1572) explains four criteria: 1. Does the debated activity have a secular origin or value? 2. Can one rationally explain the behavior or ritual apart from the gentile holiday or event? 3. If there are idolatrous origins, have they disappeared? 4. Are the activities actually consistent with Jewish tradition? AND SO according to these Halachic rules Valentine's Day appears in every way to meet the criteria for Jews to celebrate it. Love is fundamental to Judaism. It's the theme of the "Shema" and we are taught through out the Torah to love our G-d, our neighbor and the stranger. "You shall love" is mentioned 23 times in the Book of Devarim. It isn't only a statement but a command and a mitzvah. It's what defines us as Jews. Love IS meant to be an action to show respect and appreciation. The act of loving comes in many forms. There is spousal love versus love of a stranger. The intensity and how you express that love is different depending on the recipient however the foundation of kindness and compassion is the same. Loving another is such an easy act that gives great impact physically and emotionally. It's been proven to change a person's chemical make up for the better. There is a reason it is a mitzvah. It can lift up a person when they are down. It can give hope during times of despair. A simple acknowledgment through a smile and a handshake can singlehandedly change the trajectory of someone's life. Loving is powerful and the process is something we all can use more practice.

Whether you choose to celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14th or not remember to ALWAYS practice the act of loving often and at every opportunity. Carry it in your **nefesh** (soul). Apply it with **koach** (strength). AND feel it in your **lev** (heart). Together (yachad) we can make the world a better place.

With all of my soul, strength and heart,

Poabbi Shai rabbishai@avodah.org

From the President

February is traditionally a quiet month at Temple due to the school break in the middle. When I was a kid, my grandparents had a condo in Florida that we'd trek down to during the break. It was always the best week of the year. I'm betting we have some members temporarily in Florida who are looking forward to seeing their grandchildren that week!

Now, my Februarys are filled with work, work, a day off for Presidents' Day and work. I still do like that week, though, as there are so many people on vacation that I can catch up on all of my deadlines.

That all being said, coming February 9th is one of the most fun Shabbats of the year with our Super Bowl Shabbat! It's always a great time with football trivia and mini footballs. If you've been in a Zoom meeting with me, you've likely seen me playing with the one I won last year. In a month with two recognized holidays, one about love that you get cards, flowers and candy for, and another celebrating the leaders of our country, it's great that everyone put some of those dead Presidents to use and bought some football boxes! It's the best way to not only follow the game but raise money for Temple at the same time.

Since there isn't a lot going on, I'm going to do a little promotion here for our choirs. As you know from attending or watching services, we have a few of them. The adult choir rehearses on Thursday evenings and is always looking for new members. If you can carry a tune, they can use you! If you don't know Connie Axelson or Cindy Elias, the two chairs of the choir, I can point you in the right direction.

And, of course, we have our children's choirs. Rabbi Shai has taken the junior choir under his wing on Monday evenings and has them performing wonderfully. Our teen/tween choir rehearses on Tuesdays and are now led by Ali Abbey, who took over for Danielle Davoli (with help from Lori Izmirly) last month. My daughters both went through these choirs, and I can tell you that it not only made them more involved with Temple, but it made their Bat Mitzvah lessons and services that much easier because they started lessons with most of the prayers down pat. I cannot stress enough how much being in these choirs helped them through their Hebrew schooling, especially as they got a little older. You can still get your children involved for this year.

Remember to keep checking the website for more information on Temple activities!

Matt Phillips, President



In our tradition, we are encouraged to beautify the objects we use to perform mitzvot (commandments). This act is called hiddur mitzvah. That is why most Torah scrolls have silver crowns (keter) and ornaments. While it is perfectly 'kosher' to make kiddush with a paper cup, we make the experience special with a decorated cup used only for this mitzvah. You can place your Shabbat challah on a plain plate and cover it with a napkin but elevate the recitation of hamotzi with a challah board and decorative cover.

During the school year, our students participate in hiddur mitzvah by creating their own ritual objects to use at home. We have made seder plates and afikomen bags, Shabbat candles and kiddush cups, hanukkiahs and boxes to hold Hanukkah candles.

Our 5th and 6th grade students are currently performing this mitzvah by collecting tzedakah to replace the missing bells on the Torah crown and finials (rimonim) in our sanctuary. Led on a bimah tour by Rabbi Shai, the students had an opportunity to get close to the ark that contains our Torahs as Rabbi identified the different decorations and ornaments. The students were so attentive, and maybe even awed, and were enthusiastic to take on this initiative. We welcome participation from our congregation (please see flyer).

B'Shalom,

Phyllis Pellman



The PTO is always working on fun ways to bring families together. We are currently planning some new activities this year; information will be disseminated when the dates are finalized. Some events we are considering include a Movie Night Shabbat for the children (giving parents time to schmooze), and a Potluck Shabbat (bring your favorite dish).

PTO also wants to give a huge shout-out to Charlie Smulison for his amazing rendition of Adon Olam with Rabbi Shai at the Martin Luther King Commemoration Shabbat! His surprise solo was fabulous! We are all so proud of him.

If you haven't already paid your PTO dues, there's still time. Only \$20 per family helps us provide events and supplies for the children and families. Because of the families who already paid, we were able to provide supplies, decorations and lunch for the sukkah decorating event free to the participating families.

PTO wishes everyone a safe, healthy, and happy New Year!

Danielle Davoli - President Cari Catania - VP Sabrina Cohen - Secretary Lori Izmirly - Treasurer

Social Action In Action

THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE WELCOMES 2024 BY PUTTING OUR FAITH INTO ACTION

When it comes to Tikkun Olam there is no time to waste! The Social Action Committee had a busy January and we look forward to building on our momentum, offering our community opportunities to connect and help out in troubled times.

On January 5th, Rabbi Shai with the able assistance of Social Action mavens Caryle Katz and Lisa Goldberg, presented a Social Justice Shabbat in honor of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We welcomed "The Laymen" – a group of talented singers from The Antioch Baptist Church in Hempstead, and Anissa Moore, Nassau County's Deputy County Executive for Health and Human Services to bring inspiration and connection to our Shabbat. The Laymen sang about the Almighty's glory while Ms. Moore spoke about the important role of Jews in the civil rights movement. Lisa provided additional, beautiful music on her flute. At the oneg following the service, we discussed ways to continue collaborating, using faith to increase understanding.

We followed this service with action: Temple Avodah, along with Oceanside Jewish Center and the Young Israel of Oceanside hosted a successful Tri-Temple Blood Drive, collecting 30 pints of blood – enough to save 90 lives! We thank the volunteers who make the drive possible and the donors and potential donors who through selfless service exemplify the best of our shared values. Our next blood drive will be the first Tuesday in July.

We also thank the many people who put a can of tuna or a box of snacks into our Food of the Month collection cart. The tuna was delivered to the Hatzi Lu Kosher Food Pantry, and the snacks will be enjoyed by clients of the Long Beach Soup Kitchen.

Our attention now turns to the Social Action Committee's signature event: Mitzvah Day, which will be held on May 5, 2024. This is a full day of good deeds with something for every member of our Temple family: the Choir will sing, the Torah Study Group will lead study sessions, and the PTO and Religious School will again run a food drive. We thank Thomas Jacoby and his family for volunteering to lead the Food Drive for a second year in a row. We need your brown paper grocery bags to make the Food Drive a success, so please drop them in the Food of the Month Cart in the Temple vestibule. And we need your ideas and visions for new mitzvah projects to implement to round out the day. Contact the undersigned to get started.

As a prelude to Mitzvah Day, our annual outing to the Ronald McDonald House to bake cookies for families of hospitalized children will take place on April 28, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. We thank Barry Howard for his leadership with this event. Spots are limited and registration is required. Contact the Barry at BarryHoward1@verizon.net if you want to participate.

The Social Action Committee meets on Zoom once a month and we welcome everyone, so contact the undersigned for the schedule and a link. We can't wait to hear your ideas.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Engel

paulmengel@hotmail.com

Lisa Goldberg

lisacarolgold@gmail.com

Betsy Meyerson

tortgirlny@aol.com

Social Justice Shabbat in honor of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King







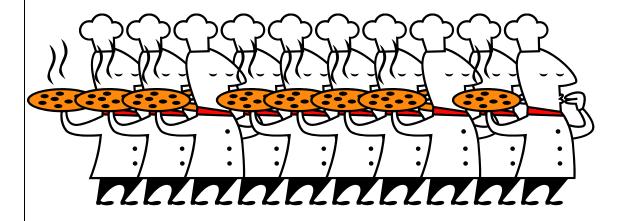






24

Help Wanted, 7 more Bakers



Sunday April 28 9:30 AM-12 Noon

Ronald McDonald House of Long Island.

Bake cookies and brownies for the families of sick children at the nearby Cohen's Pediatric Medical Center.

Included is a 1 hour tour for new visitors.

Note: Baker team is **limited** to adults or children over 12.

Contact Barry Howard (barryhoward1@verizon.net) 516-476-9007 for text, to reserve your place at this event.

Reservations accepted on a first come basis.





Happy February! We hope you are all staying warm and safe!

If you still haven't joined or rejoined Sisterhood, it's not too late. You will stand with our proud members who support our mission and want to make a significant contribution to our congregation. Our goal is 100% membership, so that Sisterhood can truly represent the glorious array of women in Temple Avodah - women of all ages and education levels. Sisterhood embraces all of us Jewish women. We warmly welcome you.

Please look for flyers for Bagels and Bingo, which will be held on March 20th. Dinner and Bingo will be held in the Rabbi Uri and Peppy Goren Garden Room. Dinner will be catered by Delicious Moments. The price is \$20 for Sisterhood members and \$25 for non-Sisterhood members and non-Temple members.

Purim Schmooze, similar to our cookie social! Start thinking of your favorite Purim person and come dressed as her!! Speaking of Purim, we will again be doing our Shaloch Manot baskets. There will be baskets for children and for adults!

Our Sisterhood Book Club for February is Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult. Book Club is the first Wednesday of the month! Please contact Connie Axelson if you would like to join us.

Guess who's coming to visit! Stephen Cole, award winning author of Mary & Ethel... and Mikey Who? Spend the afternoon with Stephen Cole, who will talk about his new hot-off-the-press "historical, theatrical, coming of age novel." Bring your book and get it signed. Don't have a book? You can always purchase one at the event if you'd like.

When: Sunday, March 3, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. in the Rabbi Uri and Peppy Goren Garden Room. It's open to all, but registration is required.

Other events are coming! Watch for upcoming flyers!

As always, don't forget our ongoing participation in the We Care Blanket project! Knit or crochet a baby blanket (any pattern or color in washable acrylic yarn in 36 x36" is acceptable) and it will be donated to a local hospital for pediatric patients. Contact Ellyn Katz (Ellyn143@aol.com) for more information or to make your donation.

Our Judaica Shop has everything you need for your own home or gift giving. We can also order kippot for your simchas. Contact Lisa Goldberg at Lisacarolgold@gmail.com or RobynDrangel@hotmail.com.

Hoping you have a wonderful February!

Wendy Brumberg & Sheila London Sisterhood Co-Presidents

Exclusive Club Formed at Temple Avodah

TABM²

There are lots of clubs, committees and groups at Temple Avodah; just prowl around www.Avodah.Org and you will see them. But when a Temple Member reaches their 83rd birthday (achieving the biblical lifetime of 70 plus 13 years to reach a bar mitzvah) they are entitled to have a second Bar Mitzvah with all the responsibilities and celebrations that go with it. And what a special event that turns out to be!

Given that this special event endows the participants with special blessings, the recent celebrants have decided to form a most exclusive club, a club dedicated to Temple study, reflecting on their preparation for their second Bar Mitzvah.

Club participants are entitled to very special treatment TBA.

Interested in joining? Just ask Rabbi Shai for a membership application.

Temple Avodah "Stream Team"



We are looking for new members to join our "Stream Team".

If anyone is interested in learning about what we are doing and how the Livestreaming works, please join our "Stream Team". We will teach you how to run the show, including switching cameras, adjusting camera angles, zooming in and out and panning. We have professional quality equipment here, and you will learn valuable skills while enjoying the experience. Great for anyone interested in broadcasting, or those who just want to learn! This is really cool stuff and a lot of fun!

We have some special things planned so please let us know if you have anyone in your family who might be interested. We'd like this to be the start of a special club at Temple Avodah, open to all member families.

Contact Elliot Shulman: Elliot.shulman@avodah.org for more details

We Remember With Love, The Following People Whose Yahrzeits Are Observed During The Month of February



Week of February 2

James Accardi Harry Barbash Charles Beberman Margot Blank Michael Cohen Harold Fain Norma Franklin Gerald Friedman Isidore Friedman Reginald Frischling Myron Grabisch Pearl Greenwald Norman M. Horowitz Anna Innerfield Henny Lebowitz Frank McCusker Estelle Meyorah Lillian Rachel Moskowitz Carl Post Harry Saperstein Jeanette Schulster Rose Goldfarb Schwartz Harry Shenkman Jack Stutzel William Treacy Jr. Blanche Weinstein Hardy Wieder

Week of February 9

Morris Bernstein Dorothy Cooper Abraham Epstein **Edythe Galitzer** Anton Gluck Martin Goldberg Bernard M. Herman Paula Imberman Esther Koller Dorothy Lazell Mollie D. Levine Chris LoBuono Nancy Marx Al Newmark Estelle Salviola Freda Schneider Grace M. Seid Sidney Simon Helen Beberman Stein **Betty Steinberg** Harriet Zeigler

Week of February 16

Ross Abbey Joyce Kessler Berman Zelma Busatt Hilda Daniels Murray Gorman Renee Gruber Jose Iorfida Lillian Kaminsky Solly Landau Gussie Levy Laura Manion Kathy Mark Rita Lee Pinsky Adelle Purvin Gary Schoell **Arthur Smithline** Ruth Smithline Max Steinberg

Week of February 23

Hyman Ashkenazy Norman Benjamin Arthur Cooperman Roberta Garuccio Mark Gittler Charles Gross Gertrude Korn Bernard Landau Rebecca Mendelson Marianne Stodel Mok Harold Richter Carol Seemann Martin Steinman Diane Tanenblatt Mark Wagner Rose Yeoman

Sy Plave, a Past President of Temple Avodah, recently passed away. Below is the announcement shared by his Synagogue. Sy, and his late wife, Matty, were the first couple who both served as president of Temple Avodah, Sy from 1979-1981 and Matty from 1990-1992. We will always be grateful for their years of service and devotion to Temple Avodah.

It is with great sadness that we share the death of Seymour Plave, father of Lee (Ilene (z"l)) Plave and Mitchell Plave (Brad Weaber), grandfather of Josh (Kaitlin), Jennifer (Asif), Stephanie (Conor), Aaron, and Leah, great-grandfather of Talia

The funeral and Shiva were held in Maryland.

Gifts of tzedakah in Seymour's memory can be made to the Montgomery County Humane Society or Temple Avodah in Oceanside, NY.

May Seymour's memory be a deep and abiding blessing to his family and friends, and may his soul be bound in the bond of life eternal.

THAT IN 2004 ROSALIE SILBERMAN

ABELLA BECAME THE 1ST JEWISH WOMAN APPOINTED TO THE SUPPEME
COURT OF CANADA. SHE WAS BORN JULY 1,1946 IN A DP CAMP NEAR
STUTTGART, GERMANY, WHERE HER FATHER, A FORMER POUSH ATTORNEY
WAS APPOINTED BY THE UNITED STATES IS ACT AS CONSULTING DISPLACED PERSONS.

THE FAMILY EMIGRATED TO CANADA, WHERE ROBULTA A BRILLIANT STUDENT AND PRODICTY (PIANIST) WAS ONE OF THE YOUNGEST GRADURTES OF THE ROYAL READEMY OF MUSIC. IN 187 SHE RECEIVED HER BA DEGREE, AND 3 YEARS LATER HER LAW DECREE FROM THE UNIV. DF TORONTO. SHE MARRIED IRVING ABELLA, WHO IS JOHN THE PROFESSOR OF CANADIAN-JEWISH HISTORY AT YORK UNIV.

ROSALIE, SUCCESSFULLY PRACTICED CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LAW AND IN 1976, A PREGNANT ROSALIE BECAME THE YOUNGEST AND 15 FEMALE APPOINT

ED TO THE ONTARIO FAMILY COURT ... LATER, RECOGNIZED AS AN EXPERT IN HUMAN RIGHTS, ROSALIE WAS COMMISSIONER ON THE ROYAL COMMISSION OF EQUALITY IN EMPLOYMENT. SHE AUTHORED "EMPLOYMENT EQUITY" WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AND IMPLEMENTED IN THE GOVERNMENTS OF NEW ZEALAND, NORTH IRELAND AND SOUTH AFRICA.

BESIDES HER 1992 APPOINTMENT TO THE ONTARIO COURT OF APPEALS, ROSALIE WAS INVOLVED IN MANY OTHER ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING BEING ON THE BOARD OF HEBREW UNIV., AND SERVING ON THE CONSCIENCE COMMITTE OF THE U.S. HOLDCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM.

HER 2 SONS, ZACHARY AND JACOB ARE BOTH LAWYERS.

AS A JEW, I FEEL THAT THROUGH THE HOLDCAUST I HAVE LOST THE RIGHT TO STAND SILENT IN THE FACE OF INJUSTICE " ROSALIE SILBERMAN ABELLA

FOOTHOTE: THERE ARE 2 OTHER JEWS ON THE 9 MEMBER SUPREME COURT OF CANADA. THEY ARE MARSHALL ROTUSTEIN AND MORRIS FISH. JEWS REPRESENT LESS THAN 1% OF CANADA'S POPULATION.

As a tribute to the late
Art Cooperman's z'l talent and
contributions to Temple Avodah, his
cartoons and commentary will continue
to be run in Temple Topics.

Happy Birthday to Our February Birthdays!

Gerald Kaufman 2/1 David Perkins 2/2 Jarrett Eisenberg 2/2 Robert Katz 2/2 David Rukhlin 2/2 Frank Volpe 2/3 Steven Feigenbaum 2/3 Matthew Phillips 2/4 Jack Chasen 2/4 Susan Sollinger 2/4 Michele Baumann 2/4 Alex Michaels 2/4 Joshua Engel 2/4 Irina Abramova 2/4 Juliette O'Keefe 2/4 David Mandell 2/5 Ruben Quintero 2/5 Lexi Waitzman 2/5 Ben Yomtov 2/5

Cynthia Elias 2/6

Jack Dauber 2/6 Alan Sobel 2/7 Hannah Meyerson 2/7 Ira Katz 2/8 Heath Levine 2/8 Janet Geffner 2/9 Ryan Bickman 2/9 Arlene Fromewick 2/10 Martin Adler 2/10 Abby Gold 2/10 Gertrud Lieberman 2/11 Owen Roth 2/12 Jeffrey Elias 2/12 Rhonda Kugelman 2/12 Steven Elin 2/13 Macie Frankel 2/13 Barbara Snyder 2/13

Danielle Miller 2/14

Evan Moscowitz 2/14

Jacob Levitt 2/14

Marcia Marks 2/15 Michelle Civil 2/15 Morgan Osofs 2/15 Whitney Osofs 2/15 Sandra Mardenfeld 2/15 Mitchell Novick 2/16 Hannah Sadownick 2/16 Benjamin Meyerson 2/16 Ruby Shapiro 2/16 Samuel Fischgrund 2/17 Elizabeth Cohen Stuart 2/17 Peter Stuart 2/17 Danielle Fischgrund 2/17 Gillian Davidoff 2/17 Keith Davidoff 2/18 Robert Schwartz 2/19 Layla Ziff 2/19 Benjamin Mackoff 2/19 Sari Levine 2/21

Edward Millman 2/21

Laurie Klein 2/22 Lori Shapiro 2/22 David Alazraki 2/23 Edward Gutman 2/23 Madison Appleman 2/23 Logan Pitkowsky 2/24 Benjamin Sanchez 2/24 Michael Hertz 2/24 Jaclyn Goldin 2/25 Saul Wiener 2/25 Rachel Kaplan 2/26 Amy DiStefano 2/26 Kenneth Fischgrund 2/26 Hunter Pitkowsky 2/28 Shayla Perkins 2/28 Jacob Klein 2/28 Douglas Crane 2/28 Kim Jacoby 2/28 Drew Bader 2/29 Jeffrey Chesner 2/29

Mazal Tov To Our February Wedding Anniversaries!

Mellissa & David Perkins 2/1 Nicolleta & Alan Grabisch 2/3 Jodi & Mitchell Kessler 2/5 Rebecca & Mark Sparberg 2/8 Melanie & Robert Litt 2/15 Robin & Bruce Phillips 2/18 Barbara & Mark Milch 2/22 Laura Koss & Ira Feder 2/27 Mindy & Mark Goldsmith 2/28

Come Celebrate Birthday & Anniversary Shabbat on Friday, February 16th at 7:00pm!

If your birthday or anniversary is during the month of February and is not listed here, please log into your account to add it, or contact the Temple office so we can update your record.







Mazal Tov to David Rukhlin on becoming a Bar Mitzvah on February 3, 2024

Mazal Tov to Alex Michaels on becoming a Bar Mitzvah on February 10, 2024

Oneg Sponsorships

1/12 Rabbi Shai in memory of his father Benjamin Zave Beloosesky 1/26 Anne & Stew Gubenko in memory of Anne's father, Phil Dinoff

Please let us know if you wish to share any happy news with your fellow congregants (births, graduations, engagements, weddings, awards received, etc.).



AMANDA ROSE KANOWITZ CHILDREN'S LIBRARY FUND

In Memory Of

Jordyn Landau beloved daughter of Aimee & Rick MUSIC FUND

from Norma Harwood

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In Honor Of

Judy & Mark Altman's grandson's Bar Mitzvah

from Anne & Stew Gubenko

Lisa Goldberg's daughter's upcoming wedding

from Anne & Stew Gubenko

Bob Epstein's birthday from Elissa Fried

Bob Epstein from Ellen & Philip Pickus

In Memory Of

Murray Gross from Ellen & Philip Pickus Martin Graham from Irene & Philip Weis

Speedy Recovery

Jerry & Renee Kaufman from Anne & Stew Gubenko

GENERAL DONATION FUND

from Betsy & Michael Meyerson

KOMBERT GARDENS MEMORIAL FUND In Honor Of

Bob Epstein's birthday from Gertrud & Larry Lieberman

Speedy Recovery

Caryle Katz from Gertrud & Larry Lieberman

MORTGAGE PAY DOWN FUND

from Betsy & Michael Meyerson

In Honor Of

the Axelson's new grandson from Anne & Stew

Gubenko

Bob Epstein 65th! birthday from Connie & Ken

Axelson

the birth of Micah Benjamin Axelson from Helena

Shayer

Lisa Goldberg from Lenore Greenberg & Roberta

Treacy

the Axelson's new grandson from Rose & Bob

Epstein

In Memory Of

Marla Gross's father, Murray from Barbara &

David Kirsh

Murray Gross from Caryle Katz

Murray Gross from Florence & Jules Tannen

Rachel Kesselman's father, Philip Goldberg from

Helena Shaver

Marla Gross Mussman's father from Joan

Weinberg

Murray Gross from Robyn Drangel

Speedy Recovery

Caryle Katz from Fran & Stewart Skolnick Caryle Katz from Marilyn Frischling



continued

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

from Linda & Barry Howard

In Honor Of

Connie & Ken Axelson on the birth of their grandson Micah Benjamin from the Torah Study group

Bob Epstein from Jocelyn Weston and Paul Oresky

Connie & Ken Axelson on the birth of their grandson Micah Benjamin from Renee & Jerry Kaufman

Bob Epstein's 96th birthday from the Torah Study group

Bob Epstein's 96th birthday from Renee & Jerry Kaufman

In Memory Of

Philip Goldberg from Illy & Dennis Herman Martin Graham from Illy and Dennis Herman

Speedy Recovery

Ginger Berger from the Torah Study group

SIMCHA/MEMORIAL FUND In Memory Of

Ruth Horowitz from Barbara & Edward Lehman Martin Graham from Maxine & Leslie Dattner Murray Gross from Phyllis Carbone

Donations can be made online, by contacting the office at 516-766-6809, or by email: mgr@avodah.org

Funds: Capital Campaign Fund • Simcha/Memorial Fund, Lillian Klein Adult Education Fund, Alan M. Katz Memorial Library Fund, Amanda Rose Kanowitz Children's Library Fund, Music Fund • Children's Education Fund Anita Berger Campership Fund, Sacred Book Fund • Scholarship Fund, Rabbi Philmore Berger Leadership Development Fund, Rabbi Shai's Discretionary Fund, Joan & Erwin Kombert Gardens Fund, Mortgage Paydown Fund



HAPPY 96th BIRTHDAY

Bob Epstein!











The Reform Jewish Congregation in Oceanside Rabbi Jeshayahu 'Shai' Beloosesky D.Min Rabbi Uri Goren, Rabbi Emeritus Dr. Philmore Berger, Rabbi Emeritus (Z"L)

Dear Congregant,

As your new Rabbi it is my honor and privilege to continue the tradition of the Rabbi's Challenge started by Rabbi Goren. This has become a vital part of our budget each year, enabling us to maintain and update our temple and grounds. In the spirit of adding a little fun, I am renaming this "Shai's Shekels."

Over the years, I understand that your generosity and the participation of many others has provided the resources for the livestreaming equipment, building the Garden Room, replacing the roof, new High Holiday prayer books, eco-friendly LED lighting, and many more necessary projects. And there's a lot more to do.

This year there are two important projects I'd like to focus on.

- New sidewalks leading from the Rabbi Uri and Peppy Goren Garden Room: Sidewalks are badly needed leading to both the driveway and parking lot, so that this emergency exit will be wheelchair accessible and make things easier for anyone using a walker or cane. This will also provide an additional entrance and exit that bypasses the lobby area, opening more opportunities to use this space and raise additional revenue.
- Renewal work on the ark: We have a beautiful ark. I feel strongly that some updates are
 needed to keep our ark and Torah scrolls looking beautiful. We have already added some
 beautiful silver Torah adornments, which were found in our synagogue, and which have been
 cleaned and placed on the Torahs. As part of this renewal, I want to update the insides of the
 ark with some better lighting and other features meant to fully honor our Torahs and
 congregation.

Please help if you can.

Every dollar is important to secure our vitality today and our Temple for future generations.

Continuing a tradition started by Rabbi Goren, for contributions of \$540 or more you will receive an invitation for a special event. I don't know what that will be yet, but I promise it will be fun.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Shai Beloosesky





Shai's Shekels 2024

(formerly Rabbi's Challenge)



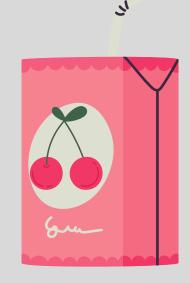
Temple Avodah February Food of the Month





Please drop your donations in the cart located in the vestibule

Food and supplies are delivered to Hatzilu and the Long Beach Soup Kitchen. Donations are used to support the preparation of over 1200 meals/month to people in need.



Sponsored by Temple Avodah Social Action Committee



KABBALAT SHABBAT FAMILY SERVICE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2024 5:00PM

MEET NEW FRIENDS!



CELEBRATE SHABBAT WITH RABBI SHA!!

For parents & children ages 0-10! Music, Stories, Challah & Juice!

3050 Oceanside Road Oceanside, NY 11572 516-766-6809 / avodah.org



Bracelet Fundraiser

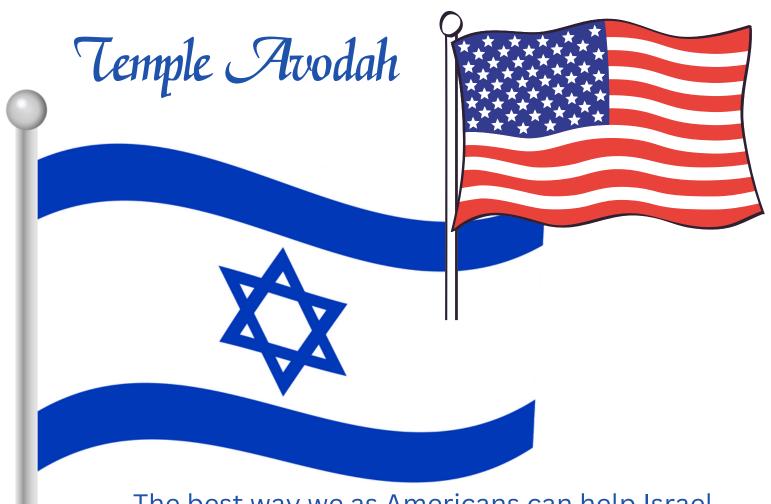


"Am Yisrael Chai" The People of Israel Live

Fundraiser for Israel

American Friends of Magen David Adom \$5.00 per bracelet Youth & Adult sizes Cash or checks to Temple Avodah Available in school or office

3050 Oceanside Road Oceanside, NY 11572 avodah.org



The best way we as Americans can help Israel in its fight against a savage enemy sworn to annihilate all of Israel and, ultimately, Jews around the globe, is to donate money to one of the following organizations:

Friends of IDF https://www.fidf.org/



Magen David Adom https://afmda.org/



United Hatzalah

https://israelrescue.

org/donate/









American Israeli Flag Pins \$5.00 each to Rabbi Shai



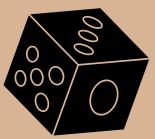
Fundraiser for Israel

All money (100%) goes into Temple Avodah's Israel Fund, which will be fully distributed to Israeli charities at Rabbi Shai's discretion.

3050 Oceanside Road Oceanside, NY 11572



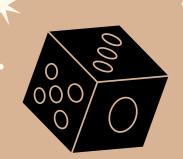
BUNCO



Tuesday, February 6, 2024

7:30PM





ALL INVITED!
Instructions given!
Chance to win \$!

Friends!



\$18.00 pre-registered \$20.00 at the door





Click here to register

Temple Avodah 3050 Oceanside Road Oceanside, NY 11572



Click here for menu

Support Temple Avodah! Authentic Italian Fizzeria & Restaurant

Sands Shopping Center 3573 Long Beach Road Oceanside, NY 11572

516-766-3938

Thursday, February 8, 2024
Dine In or Take Out
12PM - 8PM

For take out - call in orders only

Modern & Classic
Italian Dishes

20% of your check back to Temple!* *No other discounts apply



Just tell them Avodah sent you!



3050 Oceanside Road Oceanside, NY 11572 516.766.6809

FAMILY SHABBAT & DINNER

Trivia & Prizes:
Friday, February 9, 2024 at 6PM

Super Bowl Dinner:

Buffalo Chicken
Wings (if available),
Chili, Hot Dogs,
Plenty of Sides,
Beverages & Dessert





Temple Avodah Members

\$16pp ~ \$40 max family* ~ \$18pp at door

Temple Avodah Guests

\$20pp ~ \$50 max family* ~ \$22pp at the door * Immediate Family Only ~

* Immediate Family Only ~ Spouses & Children

KIDS UNDER 5 YRS ~ ALWAYS FREE

KIDS 5 thru 11 yrs ~ \$8pp ~ \$10 at the door

RSVP by January 31

We're Proud to Offer ~ PJ Library & Brightstar Families,
Temple Avodah Member Pricing

Click here to make your reservation!

NEW TAFI! Temple Avodah

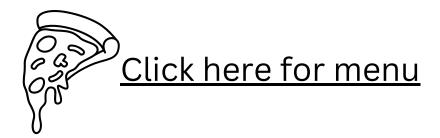


101 Althouse Avenue East Rockaway, NY 11518 516-799-TONY (8669)

Thursday, February 22, 2024

A little bit of Italy brought to Long Island. Our robust and authentic cuisine was brought over by Italian immigrants in the late 1800s. If you're hoping to experience Old World Italian cuisine, there's nothing quite like Grandpa Tony's. We are known for our hearty portions, fresh ingredients. served in all your old-world favorites. Our Chef is inspired by a traditional Italian cuisine and uses his passion for cooking to make every dish perfect.

Eat in, take out or delivery from 4pm - 8pm Free soda with a dinner order- eat in only.



SISTERHOOD PRESENTS...

MARY & ETHEL ... and Mikey Who?

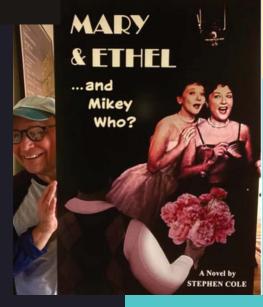
by Award Winning Author

Stephen Cole

Spend the afternoon with Award-Winning Author Stephen Cole who will talk about his new hot off the press "historical-theatrical-time travel-coming of age" novel MARY & ETHEL...and Mikey Who?

Books will be available for sale & Stephen will autograph them!

Open to all.
Registration required. <u>Click here</u>.



Stephen will talk about his friendships with Ethel Merman and Mary Martin and show rare videos.

Sunday, March 3, 2024 2pm Rabbi Uri & Peppy Goren Garden Room



HAVDALAH IN PAJAMAS



Men's Club Presents...

From Hate to Healing: My Journey of Resilience in Overcoming Neo-Nazism, Murder, and Brain Cancer to Find Redemption

MARCH 10, 2024 10am - 11am Zoom Only

SPEAKER

John Daly



A Story To Tell

The story of John Daly is unique. From a high ranking officer in a neo-Nazi organization to Israeli Knesset candidate, this could only happen in Hollywood, but yet, it is the life of John Daly. Not knowing John was Jewish, he was recruited into a national Skinhead organization while in high school.

Click here to register

3050 Oceanside Road Oceanside, NY 11572 / avodah.org



presents...







DATE: WEDNESDAY MARCH 20, 2024

LOCATION: TEMPLE AVODAH

TIME: 6:30 PM

COST: \$20/PER PERSON SISTERHOOD MEMBERS

\$25/PER PERSON NON-SISTERHOOD MEMBERS

RSVP BY MARCH II

CATERED BY DELICIOUS MOMENTS
JOIN US FOR BAGELS, TUNA SALAD, EGG SALAD & TOSSED SALAD

Click here to register



QUESTIONS? CONTACT ELLYN KATZ 516-536-5056 OR ELLYN143@AOL.COM



Outing Honorees
Rita & Dan Henick

Bob Harwood Memorial Golf Classic Hosted by Temple Avodah

Lawrence Yacht & Country Club June 10, 2024

Followed by
Kombert Caterers Awards Dinner Buffet



Person of the Year Caryle Katz

Continental Breakfast 10am Shotgun Start 12pm Lunch, Grill, Range, Beverage Cart Awards Dinner & Raffle 6pm

Not a Golfer?

Join us for a lovely evening & incredible Kombert Buffet at Temple Avodah 6pm 3050 Oceanside Road, Oceanside, NY

\$275 Golf Classic Player (Breakfast,
Lunch, Dinner)
\$250 Early Bird Golf Classic Player
(Registered & paid by March 1st)

CHOOSE YOUR REGISTRATION:

____\$200 Golf Only (includes breakfast & lunch only)

___\$80 Awards Dinner Buffet Only

CHOOSE YOUR SPONSORSHIP LEVEL:

____\$3600 Entire Event Sponsor*

_\$2500 Golf Course Sponsor*

_\$2000 Awards Dinner Sponsor*

___\$1000 Breakfast Sponsor**

_\$1000 Golf Ball Sponsor**

_\$1000 Lunch Grill Sponsor**

__\$750 Beverage Cart Sponsor**

____\$125 Tee/Green Sponsor**

*Includes Foursome, Sponsor Signage, Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner ** Includes Sponsor Signage

Your Name:	
Company:	
Phone:	 _
Email:	

To pay by credit card <u>click here</u> or call the office 516-766-6809

Make all checks payable to Temple Avodah 3050 Oceanside Rd, Oceanside, NY 11572

For additional information, contact Stew Gubenko: 516 766-0954 or Gary Baumann: 516-330-6796

www.avodah.org



TEMPLE AVODAH NEEDS YOU!



Join our team today and become a volunteer!

WE APPRECIATE EVERY HELPING HAND WE CAN GET!

YOUR TIME, EFFORT, AND
PRESENCE AS A VOLUNTEER IS NEEDED

Click here to find out
about opportunities to
volunteer at your
Temple

Temple Avodah

3050 Oceanside Road, Oceanside, NY 11572 516-766-6809 office@avodah.org

Sponsor an Oneg

Honor someone you love or celebrate an upcoming simcha.

We invite you to sponsor a Shabbat or Holiday Oneg as a way to mark a personal lifecycle or a shehecheyanu experience. Sponsor an Oneg in remembrance of a loved one on their yahrzeit, in celebration of a new baby, a loved one's accomplishment, graduation, anniversary or birthday, or for any other reason that holds meaning for you.

It is a wonderful way to honor someone special in your life.

Click here to sponsor an Oneg







3050 OCEANSIDE ROAD

Be Sisterhood Strong

What is the Sisterhood of Temple Avodah?

- Women working together for a purpose
- A bond, caring, friendship
- Learning from multiple generations
- Being a role model for your kids
- The reward of success and the feeling of accomplishment
- Knowing you've done something important
- Doing things that are measureable
- Doing things that have a real impact for all temple members even when it isn't obvious
- A sense of something bigger than one's self

Participate, be heard, make a difference!

Join today!

NEW TEMPLE MEMBERS - FIRST YEAR DUES ARE FREE ANNUAL DUES FOR CURRENT TEMPLE MEMBERS \$36.00

Questions - Contact Fran Skolnick - fran.skolnick@gmail.com or 516-619-6374

Please make checks payable to Temple Avodah Sisterhood or Click on the QR code to join

Name	 	
Phone Number _	 	
Email Address		

Checks can be dropped off at the temple office or mailed to:

Fran Skolnick

Temple Avodah Sisterhood

3912 Carrel Blvd

Oceanside, NY 11572



BRING YOUR INTERESTS & TALENTS

STEP INTO MEN'S CLUB

Membership - just \$36.00

Free for first year members!





Paid up dues dinner Wednesday, November 15, 2023

CLICK HERE
TO JOIN!

MAKE FRIENDS

STRENGTHEN OUR TEMPLE COMMUNITY

SUKKAH BUILD

GOLF OUTING

LECTURES

Questions: Contact Stew @ taxmangubi@aol.com

3050 OCEANSIDE ROAD OCEANSIDE, NY 11572 / AVODAH.ORG



JOIN TEMPLE AVODAH PTO TODAY!

Enhance the Religious School experience for the children and their families!

Your donation of \$20 per family per year will help support: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Chanukah, Purim & Passover activities and programs throughout the year.

Please invest in our children!

PTO Membership is open to ALL Avodah members (with or without children in religious school)



Click here to join!

Volunteers welcomed!



Temple Avodah 3050 Oceanside Road Oceanside, NY 11572 avodah.org avodahpto@avodah.org



Kombert Caterers 516-678-6161

Sunday Wedding Package



KOMBERT CATERERS

Temple Avodah

516-678-6161

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The Sunday Wedding Package

3-HOUR EARLY ARRIVAL FOR BRIDAL PARTY
BRIDAL PARTY: HOT & COLD BUFFET WITH OPEN BAR
CHAMPAGNE & BERRIES AS GUESTS ARRIVE

CAPTAIN'S SEATING

FULL STATION SELECTIONS

HORS D'OEUVRES, BUTLER*STYLE

ROLLING KIOSKS

OP-SHELF OPEN BAR

PERSONALIZED MENU WITH FIVE ENTRÉES PLATED DESSERT

DESSERT SYMPHONY

3-TIER WEDDING CAKE

LADIES ROOM ATTENDANT

COAT ROOM ATTENDANT
LOBBY DECOR: VINTAGE OR CONTEMPORARY

WHITE GLOVE SERVICE EVENT PLANNER - START TO FINISH

\$29,900

Pricing Based on 100 Guests Additional Guests \$149 pp Plus Tax and Gratuity





Full Cocktail Hour includes:

- * Station Selections
- * Choice of Hors d'OEUVRES
- * Top Shelf Liquor
- * Signature Drinks

Dinner & Dancing includes:

- * Printed Menus
- * Choice of Colored Linens
- * Perimeter Lighting
- * Choice of Five Entrees
- * Decadent Dessert
- * Dessert Symphony
- * Top Shelf Open Bar
- * Occasion Cake

Kids Club Lounge includes:

- * Choice of Stations
- * Choice of Entrees
- * Fry Bar
- * DESSERT CREATIONS
- * Pipe & Drape
- * Light Up Cocktail Tables
- * Couches & Ottomans
- * Light Up Kids Beverage Bar

Additional Services Include:

- * Choice of Lobby Furniture
- * Ladies Room Attendant
- * COAT ROOM ATTENDANT
- * WE COORDINATE All YOUR VENDORS
- * Event Planner-Start to Finish
- * Direction Cards

Our Vendors Are Included...



FLORIST:
4-SIDED CHUPPAH
WITH CHANDELIER
10 RAISED CENTERPIECES
BRIDAL PARTY BOUQUETS
CORSACES & BOUTONNIERES

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO: FULL-DAY COVERAGE TWO PHOTOGRAPHERS FULL STUDIO-EDITED VIDEO ENTERTAINMENT:

FUSION PACKAGE
MC, DJ,
VOCALS AND INSTRUMENTS
FOR YOUR CEREMONY
& RECEPTION



Photographer/Video:

- * Full Edited Video Package
- * Full Digital Photography
- * Pre Portrait Session
 (Day of at Temple avodah)

DECORATIONS:

- * 8 Raised Table Center Pieces
- * ONE POSTER Blow Up
- * Sign in Board or Sign in Book

DJ / ENTERTAINMENT:

- * DJ and MC
- * 2 Motivaters/ Dancers
- * Staging
- * High Quality Giveaways
- * Stage LED Lighting

2023 - \$23,969

Price above 100 people \$109 per adult \$84 per child

2024 - \$25,500

Price above 100 people \$114 per adult \$89 per child

2025 - \$26,500

Price above 100 people \$119 per adult \$94 per child

Tax & Gratuity not included Saturday afternoons only

(Additional 5% for Non-Temple Members)

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2ND VICE PRESIDENT Elliot Shulman

3RD VICE PRESIDENT Laura Koss-Feder

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CO-TREASURER Scot Mackoff

FINANCIAL SECRETARIES Larry Lieberman & Beth Friedman Benjamin

SECRETARY Saul Wiener

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT Marian Keilson

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Men's Club President Stewart Gubenko

Sisterhood Co-Presidents Wendy Brumberg & Sheila London Sisterhood Representative Ellyn Katz

PTO President-Danielle Davoli

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Tiffany Balanoff ABR, PSA, RENE, SRES, SRS Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

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