

CHAILIGHTS



Rabbi's Reflections

By Rabbi Jamie Gibson

As the secular year draws to a close, our thoughts turn to Hanukkah and our religious freedom it celebrates. Unlike many other years, the holiday is very late this year. The first night is not until December 22.

Many of you know that the Jewish calendar is based on the cycles of the moon, not the sun. Because of this, we adjust every few years by adding an entire "leap month" into the mix, which makes the holidays very late in those years.

But by this method, we insure that Rosh HaShanah is always in the fall and Pesach in the spring. By contrast, our Muslim friends do not make any changes in their lunar calendar so that Ramadan, their sacred month, always arrives earlier from one year to the next.

When Hanukkah and Christmas come so close to each other in the calendar, many are delighted. Joy in one religion matches the celebration in the other, they think. At the same time, however, it is important to understand what each holiday celebrates.

Christmas is one of the two most important days in the Christian religious calendar. Our friends believe that God became human through the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. This miracle is essential to Christian self-understanding even as belief in it is not accepted by Jews.

Hanukkah, a minor holiday not found in the Bible, celebrates the first recorded fight for religious freedom. The Syrian-Greeks who ruled Jerusalem at the time insisted on forcing Jews to adopt Greek culture and set aside Jewish practice. Some Jews went along, but many did not and rose up in revolt.

We observe Hanukkah to remind us that being true to our faith against a larger culture takes will and effort. For liberal Jews the story of the miracle of the oil is a cherry on the cake of the holiday. The real miracle of Hanukkah is that we stood up for Judaism against those who wanted us to disappear.

I have observed that when the holidays come close to each other in the calendar some want to meld them together. I understand the impulse but can't help but think that the two don't fit well. I respect Christians' strongly held belief in the birth of their savior, Jesus, on Christmas, though we Jews do not accept it.

Being Jewish in America means being different from our larger Christian culture. Our ancestors fought and even died for this right to be different, to be uniquely Jewish, not to blend two faiths together.

I would like for Christmas to be powerfully celebrated by Christians and for Hanukkah, our festival of lights, to be embraced by Jews who want to celebrate the courage it takes to stand for our people, our faith, and Torah.

Something we can all celebrate together is Martin Luther King, Jr., day, celebrated this year on January 19–20. Please look at your Temple Sinai calendar for the various events that will commemorate this brave fighter for the values of the Hebrew prophets we cherish: Justice, Love, Peace, and Equality for All!

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Jamie Gibson

Note: I will be taking Sabbatical leave from Jan. 12–Feb. 21. Please contact Rabbi Keren Gorban or Cantor Laura Berman for personal or pastoral issues that may arise during my time away.

Hanukkah Dinner & Menorah Lighting, Friday, Dec. 20, 5:45 PM

Fresh latkes with all the fixings, homemade vegan old-fashioned tomato soup, and mixed greens salad! Bring your family *Hanukkiot* (Hanukkah menorahs), and we'll practice lighting the first candle so you're prepared for the beginning of Hanukkah on Sunday, Dec. 22.

Cost: \$10 adults 13+; \$5 children 4–12; Free children 3 & under

Register online at www.TempleSinaiPGH.org no later than 5 PM on Tuesday, Dec. 17.

LIFE & LEGACY—ASSURING JEWISH TOMORROWS

LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBERS (as of 11/5/19)

Barbara Allen
Anonymous (6)
George & Laura Arnold
Jan & Drew Barkley
Stewart Barmen & Laurie Moser
Cantor Laura Berman
Ellie & Bob Bernstein
Jennifer H. Bett
Eva Blum
Gloria Bodek
Miriam Botkin
Arlene & Bill Brandeis
Elizabeth & Michael Collura
Richard & Rhoda Dorfzaun
Sally Katzen Dyk
Julian z"l & Rhoda Eligator
Mark z"l & Anne Faigen
Gina Faiola
Leslie H. Fleisher
Rabbi James A. & Barbara S. Gibson
Arthur Goldberg
Ruth Goldman
Shirley Goldstein
Edward Goldston
Rabbi Keren Gorban
David Hauptman & Family
Suzan Hauptman & Family
Adora & Stephen Holstein
The Kander Family
Mara & Richard Kaplan
Carole & Jerry Katz
Robert & Ellen Katzen
Robert Kraut & Aya Betensky
Susan Berman Kress & Douglas Kress
Bernard Latterman
Lynn & Dale Lazar
Philip L. & Jill Fain Lehman
Louise Malakoff
David & Carole Maretsky
Stuart & Linda Miller
Marcia & Thomas Morton
Elliott Oshry
Rosalyn Carol Richman
Richard & Carol Rosenthal
Mayda & Barry Roth
Lynn Rubenson
Selma P. Ryave
John & Denise Schiller
Carolyn & Frank Schwarz
Jay Silberblatt
Edgar Snyder
Saul Straussman
Joseph & Phyllis G. Weinkle
Women of Temple Sinai
H. J. Zoffer
Ronnie Cook Zuhlke

THIS HANUKKAH, LIGHT THE WAY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



PLEASE REMEMBER TEMPLE SINAI WITH
A GIFT IN YOUR WILL, TRUST, RETIRE-
MENT ACCOUNT, OR LIFE INSURANCE
POLICY.

TEMPLE
SINAI



To create your Jewish legacy, contact:

Drew Barkley, Executive Director

Drew@TempleSinaiPGH.org

(412) 421-9715 ext. 111

MANY WAYS TO JOIN IN OUR TORAH PROJECT

In November we kicked off our Sacred Words | Sacred Connections Torah Project to write a new Torah to honor Rabbi Jamie Gibson upon his retirement after 32 years.

There are multiple ways everyone can participate including:

- Support the project by dedicating a letter, word, verse, chapter, biblical name, prayer passage, biblical story, weekly Torah portion, or special passage. By doing this, you will be scheduled to write a letter with our Soferet Linda Coppleson on one of her visits to Temple Sinai. When you write a letter, you are fulfilling the 613th and final commandment in the Torah. Please note: donations are not required to participate. Contact Rebekah Malkin at Rebekah@TempleSinaiPGH.org or (412) 421-9715 ext. 121 with any questions.
- Support our Next DOR and Temple youth as they collect 304,805 pennies (representing the letters in the Torah). Bring your pennies (or other denominations of coin or bills to exchange for pennies) whenever you visit. We'll have penny collectors around the building or drop them off in the white box in the Krieger Entrance foyer.
- Pick up a Random Acts of Torah card and bracelet and participate in our Random Acts of Torah initiative. As we celebrate the writing of our new Torah scroll, we challenge you to perform at least one Random Act of Torah daily. These *mitzvot* are not pre-planned. As you go through your day, keep your eyes open for ways that you can help others and take action. If you need a card or bracelet, just ask a staff member, who will be happy to give you one.
- During the year, we will have special musical events (more information to come) and opportunities for study. Come and participate and enjoy being part of this congregation-wide special year.



Be sure to watch for the February issue of ChaiLights, which will have photos from our Nov. 23 Kick-Off event!

HONORING RABBI JAMIE GIBSON

In Rabbi Gibson's last Kol Nidre sermon, he expressed, "I vow to leave you with my most sincere Torah. I leave my Sinai Torah to you, and I pray you accept it and take it to heart. This Torah is in five parts, just like our scroll."

Excerpts from his sermon:

- "A Torah of Kindness. May the Torah of *Rachnomess*, compassion, guide the Sinai Family for years and years to come."
- A Torah of Authenticity. No more does our Sinai family look to the easiest way to live Jewish lives. Easy is not authentic. Easy is not what our parents and grandparents gave us. They gave us Torah and tradition, Hebrew and people-hood, ethics and faith.
- A Torah of Tikkun Olam. I believe in taking care of our fellow citizens. I believe in taking care of our people, our Jewish family, as well....May this Torah move you in years to come to make this world more peaceful and just.



- A Torah of Caring. Speaking words of caring is important, but it is meaningless without caring acts. Over these last 32 years we have together completed tens of thousands of caring acts. May this Torah guide you and this entire congregation into the future.
- A Torah of Love. I love you for embracing me. I love you for accepting my leadership despite blunders and mistakes too many to count...I love you for every one of you who asked about me and my family when I was trying to care for you...And I pray with all of my heart, may this Torah of love outlast any sign of my physical presence after I take my leave next June."

We have the opportunity to give back to Rabbi Gibson a Torah that will be an everlasting testament to him.



Questions? Contact Debbie Haber at (412) 421-7039 or DHaber@TempleSinaiPGH.org or Marilee Glick at (412) 421-9715 ext. 123 or Marilee@TempleSinaiPGH.org.

Important Dates!

Sunday, December 22

11:30 AM—Next DOR Family Hanukkah Lunch sponsored by WoTS

Monday, December 23—Saturday, January 4

No classes

Sunday, January 5

Classes resume; Teen School “B” Week

9–9:30 AM—Happy New Year & Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast sponsored by WoTS for all Next DOR families

Sunday, January 19

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend—No school

YOUNG ADULT CORNER

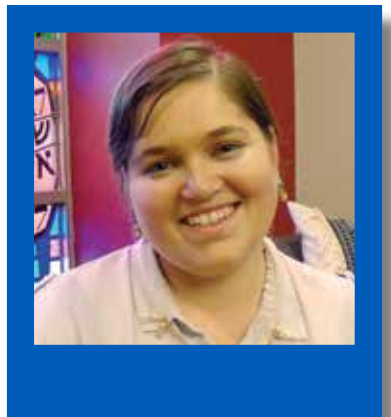
As Hanukkah approaches, we are also approaching the end of my first year as the Young Adult Engagement Director and the beginning of my second. I have met so many amazing people, worked on all kinds of unique events, and have tried some creative approaches to communication to make sure our young adult community is up to date. I am so proud of what we have been able to do this year, but none of that would be possible without the help of each and every community member who attended events, volunteered, served on committees, and helped me bring new folks into our young adult community.

Thank you for one fantastic year! And now in honor of my one year anniversary at Temple Sinai, I need your feedback once again.

- How are Temple Sinai and I doing?
- What cool events would you like to see us do that we haven't yet tried?
- What can we do in this second year to make our Young Adult Program even better?

Send me an email or give me a call and let me know. The future of our Young Adult Community is bright! I am so grateful to be a part of that, and I hope each and every one of you is beaming with pride too.

Rebekah Malkin
Rebekah@TempleSinaiPGH.org
(412) 421-9715, ext. 121



ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKETPLACE SHOPPING LIST 2019

GIFT	AMOUNT	QUANTITY	TOTAL	CODE
Two Meals at a Soup Kitchen East End Cooperative Ministries	\$8.00		\$	A
School Supplies for a Homeless Child Homeless Children's Initiative	\$8.00		\$	B
Strengthen Disaster Response by rescuing and recruiting dogs and partnering them with first responders National Disaster Search Dog Foundation	\$30.00		\$	C
Lunch and Dinner for a needy homebound person Meals on Wheels	\$8.00		\$	D
Provide bedding for one woman seeking safety and shelter Bethlehem Haven	\$25.00		\$	E
Full Bag of Groceries Squirrel Hill Food Pantry	\$25.00		\$	F
One Month of Religious School for a Temple Sinai family in need	\$36.00		\$	G
Provide Emergency Disaster Relief and long term recovery support to hurricane victims in the Bahamas Hurricane Dorian Relief Fund	\$15.00		\$	H
Mosquito Net to save 2 lives in Africa Nothing but Nets	\$10.00		\$	I
Help Vulnerable Children at the border by helping to keep a child healthy despite terrible conditions Save the Children Border Crisis Relief Fund	\$10.00		\$	J
Programs to build a more peaceful and environmentally sustainable future for the Middle East and the World Arava Institute for the Environment	\$18.00		\$	K
Dinner for family of 4 asylum seekers detained in Mexico at US border in Texas. Worth Manifesto	\$20.00		\$	L
Gift cards for you to send/give to recipients	\$1.00		\$	M
TOTALS			\$	

For more information about this program, please contact Carol Woolford at cw2g@andrew.cmu.edu or Louise Mayo lmayo@ccm.edu.

Please make checks payable to Women of Temple Sinai and write AGMP on the memo line. All gifts are tax-deductible (under \$200 your check is your receipt). Mail this form (by December 24, 2019) with your check to: Temple Sinai, 5505 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15217.

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

DECEMBER AT

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
1 Building closed	2 9 AM The Rational Bible: Genesis with Rabbi Danny Schiff 7 PM That's In Torah! (Adult Education Class) 7 PM Band Rehearsal	3 7:30 PM Rosh Chodesh Group—Kislev (offsite)	4 Noon Parsha/Weekly Torah Portion Class 4:30 PM Hebrew School 6 PM Evening Meditation 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal
8 9:30 AM Next DOR 10 AM WoTS Board Meeting & WoTS Talk Guest Speaker Dr. Elizabeth Miller—"Human Trafficking in Southwestern PA" 10:30 AM Bereisheet: The Singing Torah— A survey of Torah text commonly found in our services to increase appreciation, understanding, and participation. All are welcome. Free of charge. RSVP to Cantor Laura Berman at CantorBerman@TempleSinaiPGH.org	9 9 AM The Rational Bible: Genesis with Rabbi Danny Schiff 6:30 PM WoTS Cooking Class—Ethiopian Cooking with Elizabeth Collura (co-winner of The Great Temple Sinai Bake Off) 7 PM That's In Torah! (Adult Education Class)	10	11 Noon Parsha/Weekly Torah Portion Class 4:30 PM Hebrew School 6 PM Evening Meditation 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal
15 URJ Biennial 2019 9:15 AM Hartman Learning 9:30 AM Next DOR 9:30 AM Men's Discussion Group (offsite) 10:30 AM Bereisheet: The Singing Torah	16 7 PM That's In Torah! (Adult Education Class)	17	18 Noon Parsha/Weekly Torah Portion Class 4:30 PM Hebrew School 6 PM Evening Meditation 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal
22 Hanukkah 1st Candle 9:30 AM Next DOR 11:30 AM Next DOR Family Hanukkah Lunch sponsored by WoTS 10:30 AM Bereisheet: The Singing Torah 1 PM Mitzvah Day Sorting & Packing for Worth Manifesto (Details coming soon!)	23 Hanukkah 2nd Candle	24 Hanukkah 3rd Candle Offices and building close at 3 PM	25 Hanukkah 4th Candle Offices and building closed
29 Hanukkah 8th Candle Building closed	30 Offices and building closed	31 Offices and building closed	

TEMPLE SINAI

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5	6	7
6:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting with Minyan	Noon Downtown Lunch with the Rabbi (offsite) 7 PM Mostly Musical Shabbat: A Sensory Friendly Experience, followed by an oneg, sponsored by WoTS	8:30 AM Torah Study 9:15 AM Informal Shabbat Morning Service
12	13 URJ Biennial 2019	14 URJ Biennial 2019
6:15 PM Dinner at East End Cooperative Ministry 7 PM Band Rehearsal	7 PM Shabbat Evening Service with Rabbi Sara Perman, followed by an oneg, sponsored by WoTS	8:30 AM Torah Study with Rabbi Sara Perman 9:15 AM Informal Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Sara Perman
19	20	21
7 PM Board of Trustees Meeting	5 PM Tot Shabbat Snacks & Schmooze 5:15 PM Tot Shabbat Service (Note NEW time this week only.) 5:45 PM Hanukkah Dinner 7 PM Shabbat Hanukkah Evening Service with Birthday Blessings 8:10 PM The Great Latke-Hamantash Debate 9:15 PM Oneg, sponsored by WoTS	8:30 AM Torah Study 9:15 AM Informal Shabbat Morning Service 1:45 PM Charles Morris Sing-Along (offsite) 4 PM Interfaith Couples & Families Potluck
26 Hanukkah 5th Candle	27 Hanukkah 6th Candle	28 Hanukkah 7th Candle
Offices and building closed	Offices closed 7 PM Shabbat Evening Service, followed by an oneg sponsored by WoTS	8:30 AM Torah Study 9:15 AM Informal Shabbat Morning Service

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

FRIDAYS

DEC. 6
7 PM MOSTLY MUSICAL SHABBAT: A SENSORY FRIENDLY EXPERIENCE

DEC. 13
7 PM SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE WITH RABBI SARA PERMAN

DEC. 20
7 PM SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE WITH BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

DEC. 27
7 PM SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

SATURDAYS

8:30 AM TORAH STUDY

9:15 AM INFORMAL SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

Upcoming WoTS Cooking Classes

- **December 9, 2019:** Elizabeth Collura will teach Ethiopian cooking, which will include vegetarian and non-spicy hot options.
- **January 13, 2020:** Mara Kaplan will teach Cooking in Biblical Times.
- **February 10, 2020:** Carolyn Schwarz will teach a class in Vegetarian Creations.

Cost of each class is \$10, payable at the door (please reserve you space by emailing Carolyn Schwarz at 4CarolynSchwarz@gmail.com) OR register online at www.TempleSinaiPGH.org.

JANUARY AT

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
			1 New Year's Day
 <p>Temple Sinai Book Group Wednesday, Jan. 22, 1:15 PM Join us to discuss "The Muralist" by B.A. Shapiro. Contact Anne Faigen at (412) 422-9580 for more information.</p>			Offices and building closed
5	6	7	8
9 AM Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast for Next DOR sponsored by WoTS 9:15 AM Hartman Learning 9:30 AM Next DOR 10:30 AM Bereisheet: The Singing Torah		7:30 PM Rosh Chodesh Group—Tevet (offsite)	Noon Parsha/Weekly Torah Portion Class 4:30 PM Hebrew School 6 PM Evening Meditation 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal
12	13	14	15
9:30 AM Next DOR 10 AM WoTS Board Meeting with WoTS Talk Guest Speaker Sloane Davidson, Executive Director of Hello Neighbor, an organization that works to improve the lives of recently resettled refugee families 10:30 AM Bereisheet: The Singing Torah	6:30 PM WoTS Cooking Class: Mara Kaplan "Cooking in Biblical Times"—As Temple Sinai embarks on our year-long Torah Project, Mara has researched recipes based on food in the scroll.		Noon Parsha/Weekly Torah Portion Class 4:30 PM Hebrew School 6 PM Evening Meditation 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal
19	20 Martin Luther King, Jr Day	21	22
9:15 AM Hartman Learning 9:30 AM Men's Discussion Group (offsite)	Offices and building closed		Noon Parsha/Weekly Torah Portion Class 1:15 PM Temple Sinai Book Group 4:30 PM Hebrew School 6 PM Evening Meditation 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal
26	27	28	29
9:15 AM Hartman Learning 9:30 AM Next DOR 10:30 AM Bereisheet: The Singing Torah		7:30 PM Rosh Chodesh Group—Sh'vat (offsite)	Noon Parsha/Weekly Torah Portion Class 4:30 PM Hebrew School 6 PM Evening Meditation 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal

TEMPLE SINAI

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2	3	4
	7 PM Mostly Musical Shabbat: A Sensory Friendly Experience, followed by an oneg, sponsored by WoTS! 7 PM Shabbat BaBayit (offsite)—Shabbat BaBayit is a home-based Shabbat experience. One of our clergy will lead the session with music, poetry, discussion, and sharing.	8:30 AM Torah Study 9:15 AM Informal Shabbat Morning Service
9	10	11
6:15 PM Dinner at East End Cooperative Ministry	Noon Downtown Lunch with the Rabbi (offsite) 7 PM Shabbat Evening Service, followed by an oneg, sponsored by WoTS	8:30 AM Torah Study 9:15 AM Informal Shabbat Morning Service 10:30 AM Bat Mitzvah of Sahara Kinderlehrer and Shabbat Morning Service
16	17	18
7 PM Board of Trustees Meeting	5 PM Tot Shabbat Snacks & Schmooze 5:30 PM Tot Shabbat Service 7 PM Shabbat Evening Service with Birthday Blessings, followed by an oneg, sponsored by WoTS 8:30 PM Young Adult Shabbat After Hours	8:30 AM Torah Study 9:15 AM Informal Shabbat Morning Service 1 PM Young Families at the Children's Museum & Havdalah 1:45 PM Charles Morris Sing-Along (offsite)
23	24	25
	7 PM Shabbat Evening Service, followed by an oneg sponsored by WoTS	8:30 AM Torah Study 9:15 AM Informal Shabbat Morning Service 1 PM Family Matinée at Temple Sinai
30	31	
7 PM Melton Jewish Medical Ethics Class with Rabbi Danny Schiff	7 PM Shabbat Evening Service, followed by an oneg, sponsored by WoTS	

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

FRIDAYS

JAN. 3
7 PM MOSTLY MUSICAL SHABBAT: A SENSORY FRIENDLY EXPERIENCE

JAN. 10
7 PM SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

JAN. 17
7 PM SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE WITH BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

JAN. 24
7 PM SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

JAN. 31
7 PM SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

SATURDAYS

8:30 AM TORAH STUDY

9:15 AM INFORMAL SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

JAN. 11
10:30 AM BAT MITZVAH OF SAHARA KINDERLEHRER & SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

DONORS OCTOBER 2019

High Holidays Pulpit Flowers

In Memory of Myra & Sam Drotman
Micki Chatkin

Building Fund

Yahrzeit of Irving Epstein
Barry & Jeanne Tenenouser

Cantor Berman's Discretionary

In Appreciation of High Holiday Services
Dale & Lynn Lazar

Caring Connection Fund

In Memory of Pearl Brostoff
Lynn Naman

Fund for the Future

In Appreciation of the Baby Naming for Our Daughter,
Joey Amelia Rothfeld
Stevey Weiss & Jason Rothfeld
In Memory of Mark Faigen
Anne Faigen

Garden Beautification Fund

In Appreciation of Streaming of the Holiday Services
Brett & Marilyn Kranich
In Memory of Pearl Brostoff
Barry & Susan Merenstein
In Memory of Phillip Smith
Brett & Marilyn Kranich
In Memory of Marion Byer
Brett & Marilyn Kranich
In Memory of Lois Gibson
Brett & Marilyn Kranich
In Memory of Herb Kordish
Ruth & Marvin Reidbord
In Honor of the 90th Birthday of Dr. Louis A. Waldman
The Waldman Family

Jewish Learning Scholarship Fund

In Honor of Debbie Haber & Marilee Glick
William Padnos & Sharon Back

Katzen Holocaust Trip Fund

In Memory of Pearl Brostoff
Robert & Ellen Katzen
In Memory of David Feingold
Robert & Ellen Katzen
In Memory of Phillip Smith
Robert & Ellen Katzen
In Memory of Jim Polachek
Robert & Ellen Katzen

Lazar Leadership Fund

In Memory of Pearl Brostoff
Lynn & Dale Lazar

Library Fund

In Memory of Joel Merenstein
Anne Faigen
Special 90th Birthday Dr. Lou Waldman
Judy Roseman

Moving Forward Fund

In Honor of The Marriage of Ann Yahr & David Hirsch
Michael & Andrea Lowenstein
In Memory of Mark Faigen
Phyllis Baskin

Music Fund

In Appreciation of Cantor Berman
Judith Grossman Watman
Speedy Recovery of Harry Back
James & Marcia Kaplan

Oneg Shabbat Sponsor

In Honor of Adina Rosen
Melvyn Kaufhold

Pulpit Flower Fund

In Honor of the Marriage of Laurie & Adam Citron
Rosaly Escovitz
In Memory of Harry Levin
Karen Levin
In Memory of Robert Moser
Laurie Moser
In Memory of Belle & James Cook
Ronnie Cook Zuhlke
In Memory of Rose R. Ehrenpreis
Stanley & Lin Ehrenpreis
Speedy Recovery of Dora Goldstein
Hollis Wiggins
Yahrzeit of Leslie C. Marcus
Adam & Allison Grodin
Yahrzeit of Bertha Kellman
Amy Kellman
Yahrzeit of Marjorie Krasne
Ann Geggel
Yahrzeit of Michael C. Allen
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Yahrzeit of Erna Bauer
Bernard & Eva Bauer
Yahrzeit of Samuel Kranich
Brett & Marilyn Kranich
Yahrzeit of Leah Solomon Weinstein
Carl & Roselle Solomon
Yahrzeit of Marvin L. Falk
Charles Falk
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Constance Rapp
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Yahrzeit of Allen Berman
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Yahrzeit of Esther Gordon
David & Tracey Palmieri
Yahrzeit of LaVerne Paris
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Yahrzeit of Shirley Gordon
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Yahrzeit of Sam Bordoff

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Yahrzeit of Harry & Dorothy S. Keane

Gillian Meieran

Yahrzeit of Gerald C. Davidson

Harry Davidson

Yahrzeit of Alvin Goldstein

Herbert & Marlene Goldstein

Yahrzeit of Esther Filtz Zallis

Howard & Beverly Filtz

Yahrzeit of Aaron Mitchell Zytnick

Jay & Kimberly Zytnick

Yahrzeit of Allen Lebovitz

Jeff, Robin, & Sean Lebovitz

Yahrzeit of Yetta Kaufman

Joel M. Kaufman

Yahrzeit of Abraham Moses Weinkle

Joseph & Phyllis Weinkle

Yahrzeit of Robert & Manuel Frank

Karyn Frank

Yahrzeit of Jean Zerelstein

Kerry Gettys

Yahrzeit of Ida "Bubie" Maretski

Leah & Jim Maretsky

Yahrzeit of Richard Sablowsky

Lee & Marsha Sablowsky

Yahrzeit of Doris Bernstein & Leonard Bernstein

Linda Bernstein

Yahrzeit of Louis Kaufman & Sara S. Kaufman

Lois S. Kaufman & Burton Kaufman

Yahrzeit of Bertha Weiss

Louis & Amy Weiss

Yahrzeit of Carl J. Lefkowitz

Louis & Ann Jean Waldman

Yahrzeit of Esther R. Waldman

Louis & Ann Jean Waldman

Yahrzeit of Joseph Garfinkel

Marc Garfinkel & Karen Gold

Yahrzeit of Gail Hanna

Mark & Cynthia Goodman

Yahrzeit of Mark Beck & Samuel Lubovsky

Mark Beck

Yahrzeit of Paul Butters & Nelson Butters

Meryl Butters

Yahrzeit of Erika Reiber

Michael & Louise Malakoff

Yahrzeit of Lawrence B. Gordon

Michael Gordon & Dorothy Hunter Gordon

Yahrzeit of William Stutz

Morry & Sondra Blummer

Yahrzeit of Gerald "Jerry" Roth

Nat & Diane Cohen

Yahrzeit of Joseph Vine

Peter & Susan Tanzer

Yahrzeit of Larry Gibson

Rabbi James & Barbara Gibson

Yahrzeit of Abraham Pomeranz

Ram & Hanita Kossowsky

Yahrzeit of Anna Gelman

Robert Gelman

Yahrzeit of Barbara, Scott, & Melvin Penner

Roy Penner

Yahrzeit of Jack Katz

Sandra Katz

Yahrzeit of Rose Schanfarber

Sandra Schanfarber

Yahrzeit of Dorothy Lando

Sharon Weisberg

Yahrzeit of Esther Shapiro

Tila Cohen

Yahrzeit of Isidore Krouse

Todd & Elaine Miller & Family

Rabbi Gibson's Discretionary

In Appreciation of Officiating at My Mother's Unveiling
Jan & Ed Korenman
In Appreciation of High Holiday Services

Lynn & Dale Lazar

In Appreciation of Baby Naming

Todd & Emmanuelle Yecies

In Appreciation of Elana's Bat Mitzvah

William Padnos & Sharon Back

In Memory of Walter Rudov

Andrew & Sherry Klein

In Memory of Mark Faigen

Andrew & Sherry Klein

Yahrzeit of Muriel Ritblat

Alan & Elizabeth Cookson

Yahrzeit of Shauna Childs

Martin Childs

Yahrzeit of Lester Dreyfuss

Phyllis Dreyfuss

Rabbi Gorban's Discretionary

In Appreciation of High Holiday Services

Lynn & Dale Lazar

In Appreciation of Elana's Bat Mitzvah

William Padnos & Sharon Back

Security Fund

In Memory of Pearl Brostoff
Jan & Ed Korenman

Vegetable Garden Fund

In Memory of Pearl Brostoff
Stanley Levine & Barbara Weschler

In Memory of Pearl Brostoff
Stanley Levine & Barbara Weschler

Weinkle Fund for the Future

In Memory of Pearl Brostoff
Joseph & Phyllis Weinkle

We apologize in advance for any omissions that may occur.

Correction from November:

High Holy Day's Pulpit Flower Fund

In Memory of Jay Howard Horne & Morris Edelman
Susan & Seth Horne

TRUTH, JUSTICE, & RECONCILIATION – A CCAR PRE-HIGH HOLY DAY SEMINAR

By Rabbi Jamie Gibson
August 20, 2019/20 Av 5779

DAY 1

Montgomery, Alabama is a clean, glistening city. Sunlight dances off the white, marble dome of the Capitol building. There are posters for an African-American candidate for mayor this year. You might think that its terrifying past of racial terror is in the rear view mirror.

But then you talk to Pastor Ed Nettles, lifelong resident of Montgomery. After sharing his memories of terrifying Ku Klux Klan marches he admits that his white neighbor living next to him turns his back on him every time they are near each other. After recalling the childhood abuse he suffered from a white man stepping on his hand so he wouldn't pick up a Mardi Gras necklace, he shakes his head slowly when we ask if things really are better.

He says that it will take several generations of young people who won't tolerate the legacy of hate, who will then finally throw off the yoke of this city's racist legacy. This is a legacy which still honors Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America, which fought to defend white peoples' right to own other human beings, specifically because of their color.

That racist legacy is brilliantly brought to life by the Equal Justice Initiative, the work of Bryan Stevenson, the author of the best-seller, *Just Mercy*. The initiative is publicly shared in two parts.

First, there is The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration, which chronicles the history of slavery and degradation of people of color over the centuries in America. We walk the exhibits in silent awe and shame.

But the museum is filled with more than eye-catching pictures and powerful video re-enactments and timelines. In one room there are hundreds of large jars, 24 inches tall and six inches wide, filled with dirt. These soil samples are from where each of thousands of African-American women, children and men were lynched, murdered on the merest pretext, often in front of enthusiastic, blood-thirsty crowds. Shelf after shelf neatly stacked with row after row of jar after jar—each one containing the DNA remains of a lynching victim listed by name. We walk by the jars and read the names of the dead in silent awe and shame.

From there we take a shuttle from the Museum to The National Memorial for Peace and Justice. The Memorial is composed of large, ten-foot slabs of metal with the name of more than 800 counties in the US in which lynching took place for the better part of 90 years. Each slab has the names of the victims listed. They are suspended from the ceiling of the outdoor exhibit. We enter and walk the grounds in silent awe and shame.

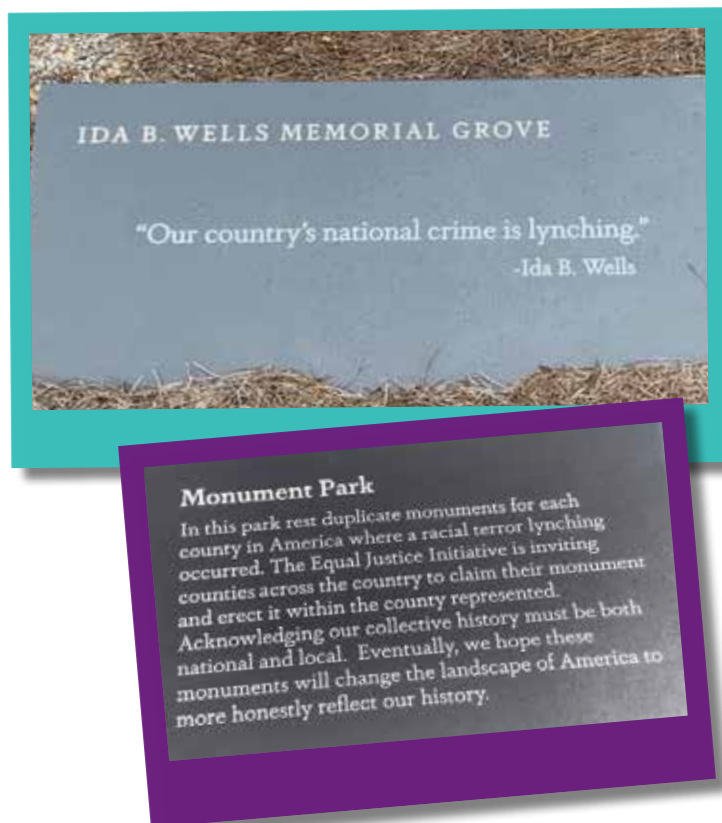
There is a plaque on the grounds that reads as follows:

**For the hanged and beaten.
For the shot, drowned and burned.
For the tormented, tortured and terrorized,
For those abandoned by the rule of law
We will remember.
With hope because hopelessness is the enemy of justice,
With courage because peace requires bravery,
With persistence because justice is a constant struggle,
With faith because we shall overcome**

Yizkor—We will remember. It feels like visiting Yad Vashem, but with no end of this story...We walk from the grounds in silent awe and shame.

I pound my head with my hand, trying to comprehend—fellow Americans did these atrocities. And past has been prologue—fellow Americans still perpetrate violence against people of color because they are deemed to be of less value than white people. The past was slavery and lynching. The present is mass incarceration and violence, even death at the hands of the police and other white people.

At the end of the evening, back at the hotel, I walk slowly back to my lovely hotel room. In silence and in shame. And this is just day one. (Continued on page 12.)



DAY 2

Today started with us learning text, the lifeblood of our rabbinic life, the source of our authority. It is essential that we not be seen merely as liberals, or worse, “do-gooders,” who can be dispensed with as those who lead with soft hearts instead of sharp minds.

Our teacher was our colleague, the incomparable Rabbi Rachel Mikva, Associate Professor of Jewish Studies at Chicago Theological Seminary. We started with the classic text from Pirkei Avot 1.18: R. Shimon ben Gamaliel says: “The world stands on three things, on justice, on truth, and on shalom.” In Montgomery, Alabama, these words strike directly to the heart. They seem more compelling and urgent than Shimon the Righteous’ claim that the world stands on Torah, Avodah, and Acts of Loving Kindness.

She introduced the notion of “A Torah of Race,” building upon Rabbi Ellen Lippmann’s framing of authentic Teshuva upon core values of confession, regret, restitution, and resolution. The supporting texts from tractates Ta’anit and Sanhedrin forced us to confront what we are required to do publicly to acknowledge our wrongdoing as leaders. We learned once again how a stolen beam of wood fashioned into a palace might render the entire structure illegitimate.

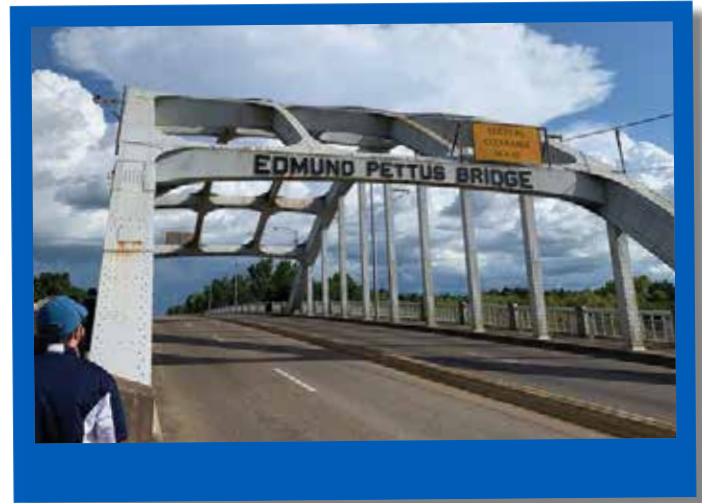
We could not look away from our own responsibility regarding the illegitimate structures of the society whose benefits we enjoy, often richly. We could not evade the debt we owe to those persons who were owned, degraded, and denied dignity and opportunity even as our country was enriched by their forced labor.

After our shiur ended, we visited the PowerHouse, where women are cared for and protected when they seek abortions in the state of Alabama. In the midst of unrelenting harassment, Executive Director Mia Raven and her fearless clinic escorts protect women who need abortions because of their life situations.

Anti-abortion protesters try to thwart poor, needy women, mostly of color, who choose not to bring their pregnancies to term. They may need money, a bed to wait for 48 hours before the state will allow a simple D&C procedure. They receive a soothing voice and strong arms to guide them through hostile crowds of men and women who hurl curses and abuse as they walk the 30 feet from PowerHouse to the clinic.

“They have weaponized Jesus,” Mia declared to us. The irony was not lost on us. The Prince of Peace in Christianity was being employed as a vehicle of shame, hatred, and violence. The stories we heard literally took our breath away and underlined that these extraordinary efforts were being taken in the name of reproductive justice, not merely rights.

We went to Selma in the afternoon—Selma of legend and dark fame. The real Selma is down to only 20,000 people, mostly African-Americans now. There we spent time with Joanne Bland, a fierce woman of color who demands respect and attention.



She walked us through the events of Bloody Sunday, took us to the church where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke to the crowds to motivate them and steel their will. She told us of her own personal experience and that of her family during those fateful days. She showed us the concrete slab where John Lewis and the other marchers stood, and we each picked up a stone from that sacred place to remind us to be strong and courageous when standing up for justice, as she and all the rest of the marchers had done, even when threatened with death.

Joanne had us drive on our bus slowly, no more than 15 miles per hour, so she could point out all of the significant places of her Selma, a place of so much pain and resilience it took my breath away. After sharing with us the story of the heroes of the march and its martyrs, we finally began our walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, tracing the footsteps of the heroes from 54 years ago.

Though the bridge is enormous in my imagination, the actual structure is quite modest. The walk across it is positively placid. Walking slowly over the span I had to listen silently for the police sirens, the bullhorns, the anguished cries of the beaten from a half century ago. On the other side is a park and shrine and a chance to speak to another witness who was there, who gives his vivid testimony to anyone who will stand and listen.

Finally we went to the Selma synagogue, Mishkan Israel. Once a place of thriving Jewish life, it now serves four living members. The structure is from 1899 and was built in only six months. Its style is Romanesque, and it is filled with rich wood and lovely stained glass. The president (the youngest of the four remaining members) shared the story of the community and his love for the building. For the 50th anniversary of the Selma march, the sanctuary was filled like it had not been for years. But the footfalls have faded and such was the uniqueness of our rabbinic visit that the local television news was there to report on it.

We prayed in the social hall and my silent *b'rachot* were for mercy, compassion, and justice for all who had suffered as well as for the will to respond to the urgent call to combat racism that still haunts our country, North and South, today.

And I pray now—God, may our hearts and minds stiffen our backs, gird our loins, and guide our hands to combat all those who harm Your beloved creatures with their hatred, all who refuse to accept the simplest of our spiritual truths, that we are all one people, all from one God. We Jews declare that God is One and we are one. Could any truth be more clear or pressing today?

DAY 3

The last day of any mission, trip, or conference leads one to think about travel and arriving safely at home. I mean, what could this last morning offer us that could possibly match the power and intensity of the previous two?

The answer was not long in coming. We began, as we had done the previous day, in study. Instead of text, we were guided in history by our esteemed colleague, Rabbi Bernard Mehlman, Emeritus Rabbi of Temple Israel in Boston. With the aid of video materials prepared by Rabbi Gary Zola of the American Jewish Archives, we learned the stories of senior colleagues who served in the South, rabbis whose names we recognized but whose stories were unknown to us.

For we had reached the moral crossroads of our journey to Montgomery and Selma. What had the Jewish community done in the face of rigid segregation and the violence employed to maintain it? We like to bring out the names of Reform rabbis who traveled South to stand with Dr. King. We mention Jews who were jailed, beaten, and even killed during the tumultuous fight for civil and voting rights for African-Americans. But most of them came from the North. They played their valiant part and returned home, singed but not burned. The Reform rabbis who lived in the communities of the South, who served Jews whose lives and livelihoods were at stake, had to balance a tightrope taut with fear and danger.

Rabbi Perry Nussbaum of Jackson, Mississippi, Rabbi Milton Grafman of Birmingham, Alabama and Rabbi Charles Mantiband of Florence, Alabama and Hattiesburg, Mississippi were on the front lines as much as the more famous Rabbi Jacob Rothschild of

Atlanta, if not more. In a big city like Atlanta, you could find allies for equality. In small cities like those mentioned above, one's capacity to serve, one's ability to survive, was much more tenuous.

They were in physical danger from racists, but often without support in their own congregations. Jews were afraid of losing their jobs, having their businesses torched and their homes fire-bombed. Their fear was real and legitimate. But from gradualists like Rabbi Grafman to those who took public stands against racism like Rabbi Mantiband, they stood and withstood pressures that I cannot imagine in my own rabbinate (despite once coming face to face with the notorious James Wickstrom of the Posse Comitatus in northern Wisconsin in 1987).

We then visited a holy place, the parsonage of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he served in Montgomery. Dr. Shirley Cherry guided us from the visitors' center and told the story of the street we were on, how the neighbors opened their homes to the Freedom Riders from the North and hid them from the Klan. She told us of Vera Harris, who lived four doors down from the parsonage where we stood and how she had personally fed and cared for those brave activists. She told us that Vera is now in her mid-90's and is in hospice care at home. All of us, 48 rabbis strong, would go that morning to her house and pray for her body and soul, that her passing from this world to the next might be without pain and in peace.

Dr. Cherry took us from room to room in Dr. King's house, starting with the front room that had been bombed while he was preaching at church. Coretta and her baby were there, but in a back room and miraculously emerged unhurt. From there we looked into the bedrooms and saw the simple way the King family lived. I was fascinated, as were my colleagues by the small study packed floor to ceiling with books and a writing desk. She showed us the lovely dining room table where Dr. King would sit with his family for dinner and eat with guests, the simple and the high and mighty.

But the real sacred space in that home was the kitchen. Dr. Cherry told us of Dr. King's long, *(Continued on page 14.)*



sleepless night after the bombing, when he was receiving 30–40 calls with hate and death threats each day. He went into the kitchen, heated up some coffee, and paced the floor to think of what to do. He sat down and had his epiphany. His enemies had hatred, guns, and bombs. He had faith, but felt despair.

Dr. King pleaded with God, saying, “I think the cause we are fighting for is right, but I’m losing my courage...” And he heard his inner voice call him by name and say, “Martin Luther, stand up for justice, stand up for righteousness, and lo, I will be with you always, even unto the end of the world.” And all of the fears left him, Dr. Cherry said. He went on standing for justice and righteousness until the moment he was struck down by the assassin’s bullet in Memphis on April 4, 1968.

Into Dr. King’s kitchen chair Dr. Cherry had placed Rabbi Jonah Pesner. I don’t think she knew that he is the extraordinary, inspirational head of our Religious Action Center in Washington, DC, which has placed fighting racism at the top of Reform Judaism’s agenda. As she described the divine experience of Dr. King during his long, lonely night of the soul, Rabbi Pesner, sitting in that simple chair, wept freely, as did many of us with him.

She led us out to the Peace Garden behind the house where we gathered for the final time. Dr. Cherry repeated what she had declared to us over and over again that morning. She said with all of her passion and inner fire that, “love is the ultimate security in the time of ultimate vulnerability.” She concluded by saying that

there are things in this world that will break your heart, but you must not let them break your spirit.”

These three days have wrenched my soul. I have been touched by colleagues, scholars, and heroes I had never known. I have re-learned the lesson of our age, that radical hatred must be met head on with radical love. Violence may win for a moment but faith and love and justice will prevail in the end, even if that is only be achieved beyond my lifespan. This I believe with every fiber of my being. By this ideal I will live the rest of my life. For this I commit my head, hand, and heart.

This is the prayer of my life. All from three days in Alabama’s furious past and thorny present. Just three days to kindle within a spirit of fire, the fire of memory and justice.



Dr. Shirley Cherry

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKETPLACE

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON GIVE THE GIFT OF TIKKUN OLAM (The gift that never wears out!)

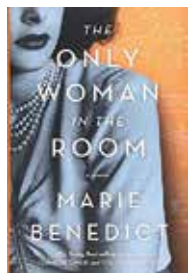
The Alternative Gift Marketplace, sponsored by Women of Temple Sinai and the Tikkun Olam Center for more than eight years, is a way to give meaningful holiday gifts that make a difference in the world. We hope you will join in and contribute to make our world a better place. Designated charities will include local ones, timely charities, and global designees.

The form is on page 5 of this issue or you can pick up one in our lobby or download it at www.TempleSinaiPGH.org.



FALK LIBRARY NEWS

The Falk Library recently received a donation of *The Only Woman In The Room*, a historical novel by Marie Benedict. This NYT bestseller is the story of Hedwig Kiesler, better known as Hedy Lamarr, Hollywood icon. She was a beautiful Austrian-born Jew who narrowly escaped the Nazis. Behind her stunning appearance, however, was a complicated and intelligent woman whose scientific knowledge was often overlooked. Her groundbreaking invention eventually revolutionized modern communication. This must-read is intriguing and captivating.



Wish List books:

American Values, Religious Voices: 100 Days, 100 Voices edited by Andrea Weis
The Last Watchman of Old Cairo by Michael Lukas
Rise and Kill First by Ronan Bergman

OUR SACRED COMMUNITY

OF BLESSED MEMORY (OCTOBER)

Pearl Brostoff, mother of Janet (Lee) Beerman; grandmother of Michael and Elizabeth; great grandmother of Atticus and Cecelia

James "Jim" Polacheck, husband of Terri Polacheck

Jay Joseph, husband of Annabelle Joseph

Alex Kushkin, brother of Alayne Harris; brother-in-law of Jerry Harris

Noah Kinderlehrer, son of David Kinderlehrer

Herb Kordish, brother of Beverly Lebovitz; uncle of Jeff (Robin) Lebovitz and Paul Lebovitz (Mark Caldane)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

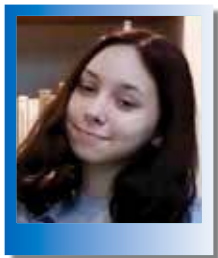
Nicole Brynes & Samuel Hoffman

Lauri Davidson

Gidon & Dana Blitstein

Bruce & Barbara Goldstein

BAT MITZVAH ~ MAZAL TOV!



Saturday, Jan. 11
Bat Mitzvah of Sahara Kinderlehrer
Daughter of David Kinderlehrer & Colleen Davidson

Send your GOOD NEWS

(marriages, births, B'nei Mitzvah, awards, engagements, graduations, etc.)

to Tami Prine, Marketing & Communications Director,
at Tami@TempleSinaiPGH.org.

SIMCHAH

Valerie Kramer and Tom Brooks and Larry and Annie Weidman, both of Squirrel Hill, are thrilled to announce the engagement of their son Aaron Weidman to Jennifer Judge, daughter of Bev and Marty Judge of Rochester, NY. Aaron's Pittsburgh-based grandparents are Madeline and the late Fred Kramer.



CALLING ALL BAKERS! SAVE THE DATE!

THE GREAT TEMPLE SINAI BAKE OFF

The Second Annual Great Temple Sinai Bake Off
Saturday, March 28, 2020, 6 PM

Do you consider yourself to be a stellar baker? Do you think you can unseat last year's winners? Then watch for upcoming announcements on how to apply to compete in the Second Annual Great Temple Sinai Bake Off.

Patterned after the popular *The Great British Baking Show* on Netflix, bakers will compete with their favorite challah recipe, be tasked with a technical challenge, and then wow the crowd with their grand showstopper.



Last year, our eight competitors (including co-winners Elizabeth Collura and Annie Weidman) worked hard, created fabulous entrants, and entertained our 150+ attendees.

New this year! We are excited to offer a Children's Division! Watch for upcoming announcements with all the delicious details.

BE INSPIRED TO CONNECT

Mostly Musical Shabbat: A Sensory Friendly Experience, Friday, Dec. 6 & Jan. 3, 7 PM

The music is informal and lively. Come prepared to sing along, and maybe even dance a bit.

Shabbat in the Home (*Shabbat Babayit*), Friday, Jan. 3, 7 PM

Shabbat BaBayit is a home-based Shabbat experience that is not a service, although it does provide the opportunity to say Mourners' Kaddish. RSVP is required as space is limited. Please contact Nancy Conaway at (412) 421-9715 ext. 115 or Nancy@TempleSinaiPGH.org by Wed., Sept. 4.

Rosh Chodesh Group (Kislev), Tues., Dec. 3 (Kislev), Jan. 7 (Tevet), & Jan. 28 (Sh'vat), 7:30 PM

Please join us for learning, community, and inspiration. All Temple Sinai women are welcome! For more information, contact Lynn Magid Lazar at lynn.magid.lazar@gmail.com.

Dinner at East End Cooperative Ministry, Thursday, Dec. 12 & Jan. 9, 6:15 PM

We prepare and serve dinner once a month at EECM and would love to have you join us. Contact Sharon Dilworth at sd20@andrew.cmu.edu.

Men's Discussion Group (offsite), Sunday, Dec. 15 & Jan. 19, 9:30 AM

Brotherhood invites you to a discussion about the weekly Torah portion and current social/political concerns. Contact Dave Hirsh at dhirsch@porterwright.com. Location: Panera Bread, 3401 Boulevard of the Allies, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Tot Shabbat, Friday, Dec. 20 & Jan. 17, 5 PM Snacks & Schmooze, 5:30 PM Service

Are you looking for an informal, inviting way to teach your little ones about Shabbat and connect with other families? Join Rabbi Keren Gorban for this exciting service.

Young Adult Shabbat After Hours, Friday, Jan. 17, 8:30 PM

Wine and cheese mix and mingle with young adults (22–45) following Shabbat Evening Service. Contact Rebekah Malkin at (412) 421-9715 ext. 121 or Rebekah@TempleSinaiPGH.org.

TEMPLE SINAI

5505 FORBES AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15217

SAVE THE DATE! Starting mid-February

From Planning to Canning (Adult Education Class), Wednesdays, 9–11 AM or 6:30–8:30 PM

Gardener extraordinaire Rachel Kudrick has created a special class covering everything you need to know to plant a home garden. Rachel will walk us through the entire process of growing and harvesting a variety of vegetables. She'll start in February with planning and end in October with preparing your garden for the winter. Each week's session is \$20. More details coming soon!

Rabbi James A. Gibson, MAHL, DD

Senior Rabbi

Rabbi Keren Gorban, RJE

Associate Rabbi

Cantor Laura Berman, MBA, MSM, MJE, Diploma of Hazzan

Cantor

Drew Barkley, FTA

Executive Director

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Temple Sinai is an inclusive community that embraces, supports, and values all people, regardless of ability or needs, to participate in every aspect of our Reform Jewish synagogue life. For more information or to request an accommodation, contact Judy Rulin Mahan at (412) 421-9715 ext. 110 or Judy@TempleSinaiPGH.org.