

CHAILIGHTS

A SPECIAL RABBI JAMIE GIBSON EDITION

The earliest collection of rabbinic teaching about the Torah, the Mekhilta, is a commentary on the book of Exodus. In it we find one of the great truisms of all time. It teaches: "All beginnings are hard."

On that, I think we can all agree. But it leaves another question unanswered. If beginnings are hard, what are endings? Only one answer makes sense: Harder.

Beginnings are filled with excitement, possibility and hope. Endings are suffused with sadness at parting, regrets over what we did and didn't do, said and didn't say. Endings are wry smiles and mingled tears, tokens of affection, and lingering touches.

But endings can also be feelings of fulfillment and accomplishment, satisfaction, and some pride. Endings can be triumphant, like the last chords of a brilliant song or symphony. They can be hearts bursting with love and caring as well as promises to stay in touch and to keep personal bonds alive.

With all of this, I want to say that as I move from Senior to Emeritus Rabbi, this ending is not a cessation or cutting off. It is a transition to a new phase of my life and the life of our incredible congregational family. Barbara and I will remain in Pittsburgh as she continues her wonderful work in the Operating Room at UPMC Shadyside Hospital. I will be teaching part-time at St. Vincent's College in Latrobe and have been asked to continue some of my inter-faith activities as a volunteer.

I hope and pray that the Temple Sinai family will warmly greet Rabbi Darryl Crystal when he comes to town at the end of June. I have known him since our days together at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati and have respected him for his integrity, his calm, caring manner, and his ability to keep congregations focused and together as they go through transitions. He is excited to meet everyone at Sinai—I hope you are excited to meet him as well!

How can I end these words without sharing my bottomless gratitude to you, to all of you? I thank God we found each other. I thank each of the talented professionals I have been privileged to work with in sacred tasks. I thank every person who served on the Temple Sinai staff, from bookkeeper to maintenance personnel and everyone in between. I thank every one of our extraordinary leaders and volunteers, from our officers and trustees to the heads of our auxiliaries and centers, to all who came to my classes or programs, to all who worked tirelessly for the good of our congregants and community.

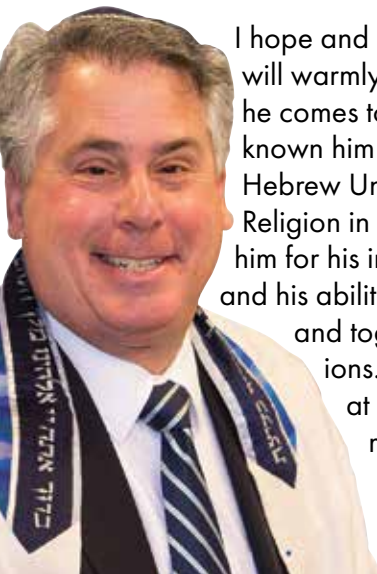
I am in awe of what you have done and what we have accomplished together. It takes my breath away and renders me speechless (well, almost). And although endings are hard, they give us an opportunity for blessing. So, with your permission, let me bless all of you in this forum, one last time:

May you live to see your world fulfilled
 May your destiny be for worlds still to come
 And may you trust in generations past and yet to be
 May your eyes shine with the light of holy words
 And your face reflect the brightness of the heavens
 May your heart be filled with intuition
 And your words be filled with insight
 May songs of praise ever be upon your tongue
 And your vision be on a straight path before you
 May your lives be rich with spirit
 May you be shielded from hatred and be blessed with courage and joy
 May you be a blessing to all who know you
(fashioned after Tractate B'rachot, 17a, Babylonian Talmud)

May you be a blessing to all who know you, as you all have been an immeasurable blessing to me and my family. What can soften endings, which are harder than beginnings?

Blessings. Blessings of love. Blessings upon blessings for you and for me. Thank you from my soul for all of your blessings.

Love,
 Rabbi Jamie Gibson



WE WILL MISS YOU, RABBI GIBSON!

"I first came to a Temple Sinai service twenty five years ago. I had not been raised in the Temple, and I came there looking for answers during a very difficult time of my life. The first time I attended, I spent the hour crying. As if this was nothing out of the ordinary, Rabbi Jamie introduced himself and welcomed me to Temple. While I can't remember what he said during the service, it made sense to me, so I stayed. Although my actual conversion would not happen until 2019, the Rabbi made a 'convert' of me that very first evening." ~**Anne Alter**

"I have many fond memories of Rabbi Jamie. He has made my family feel welcome in Temple Sinai every time we see him.

This year he has been my older sons' confirmation teacher and has made the year meaningful to him. Brett is glad that he has been able to have the many discussions with Rabbi even if some have been over Zoom.

My son Ryan was suppose to be one of Rabbi Jamie's last B'nei Mitzvah, however due to the Pandemic we had to postpone the service. Even though we know it is not possible, Ryan has asked us to see if Rabbi would come out of retirement so that he can be at Ryan's Bar Mitzvah on the bima with him.

I would have to say my favorite memory of Rabbi Jamie was at my father-in-law's funeral. I know it seems strange to have a favorite memory during such a sad occasion. However, Rabbi Jamie made it a special memory for me. As I was trying to provide comfort to my husband, mother-in-law, and brother-in-law while trying to keep three small children quiet and occupied, Rabbi Jamie saw me struggling. He stepped in and started to do magic tricks to engage the three boys so that I could provide my full attention to comforting those that needed it most. This small gesture meant the world to me. My sons who were young at the time still remember this and talk about it when we as a family remember that day. Without Rabbi Jamie that day, I am not sure I would have made it through. Thank you, Rabbi Jamie, for all you have done to comfort, inspire, and create a family at Temple Sinai. You will be missed." ~**Marcy Kaufman**



"In 1993 Rabbi Gibson lead his first congregational trip to Israel. My husband and I went on that trip. It was our first trip to Israel and it was a life-changing experience." ~**Shirley Goldstein**

*(Top photo) Members of the trip at the Sea of Galilee;
(Bottom photo) Our group at Temple Sinai the Friday night after our return.*

"This photo was taken during a fund raising event for Temple at Steak & Shake at the Waterfront. He offered to wash our car for the right price. Well, we took him up on it." ~**Sheila & Michael Sittig**

"P.S. He did a super job!"



THANK YOU FOR 32 YEARS OF SERVICE!

"This is one of my favorite photos from my daughter Casey's Bat Mitzvah last January. It shows my older daughter, Jordyn, on the bima reading a Torah portion. Rabbi Gibson always knew how to make the students feel comfortable and how to calm their nerves. He'd whisper something silly or use one of his famous jokes to make them feel at ease.

I will always be grateful to Rabbi Gibson for everything he has done for my family over the years!" ~**Alona Bloom**



Gloria Silberblatt Bodek and Dr. Alvin M. Bodek signing our ketuba with Rabbi Jamie on May 22, 1999.

"Both Al and I had been widowed, so this was a second marriage for both of us. Jamie didn't know Al, but I had been a member of Temple Sinai since my move to Pittsburgh in 1986. Our wedding was in Temple's Bodek Garden followed by a reception inside.

Of course, Al joined me in appreciation of our congregation and our spiritual leader for the 20 plus years we were together. Al died this past December. Jamie had a wonderful visit with him just four days before his death."
~**Gloria Bodek**

"There is a saying that a synagogue Executive Director is only as good as his relationship with the Senior Rabbi. Our relationship is special. I am forever grateful for how Rabbi Gibson has facilitated and supported me at Temple Sinai." ~**Drew Barkley**

Rabbi Gibson,

Thank you for everything you have done for me for the past few years. My welcome to Pittsburgh and my integration into the Temple Sinai family and community would not have been the same without you. I laughed the first time I heard you make the joke about L'cha dodi being a young prayer, and I laughed the fiftieth as well. You have truly allowed me to continue my Jewish learning and worship over the last four years and helped me to find joy and comfort in doing so. I appreciate who you are as a person and as a Rabbi. I respect what you stand for, what you preach, and how you carry yourself. I am grateful to have gotten to know you and even more grateful to have had the opportunity to stand on the bimah beside you during a service. It's been an honor. I wish you nothing but the best in your retirement.

All my love,
Samantha Skobel



BEST WISHES ON YOUR RETIREMENT!

"During a trip to Israel, I suffered a major accident in Petra, Jordan. Rabbi Gibson stayed with me during my trip by ambulance to a Jordanian hospital, and stayed with me the entire time I was being examined. I will never forget this kind act of his. Forever grateful." ~**Mel Hackman**

"Most memories of Jamie are special from the time he and Barbara first came to Pittsburgh. They brought a special four-year-old Micah with them who became an instant nephew to Phyllis and me. If any one thing stands out it is finally being able to study Torah and much more with someone who accepted any and all attempts on the part of those around him to learn and understand. There is certainly much more that could be shared, but that would take a week of all day conversations." ~**Joe Weinkle**

"My most powerful memories of Rabbi Jamie are first, the readings during Yizkor every year of the names of French children convoyed to their deaths by the Nazis as well as the children's ages. This never failed to bring tears to my eyes. Second are the High Holidays sermons each year with their very powerful messages that never fail to strike a strong chord in me. Third, and perhaps most powerful of all, was his bedside visit to see me in the hospital in 2015. I was not doing so well. His visit and especially the Mi Shebeirach that he and my wife, Susan, chanted left me in tears (yes, again!) but also tremendously buoyed and cared for. I want to thank Jamie for all the hard work and devotion to his responsibilities for so many years now. I also want to wish him, Barbara, and the rest of his family the best of health and strength in the future. I have never met a rabbi like Jamie before and I am quite certain I will not in the future either." ~**Bob Gluckman**

Dear Rabbi Gibson,

Thank you for officiating at our wedding, one of the happiest days of our lives. Looking at this picture we are awestruck by how young we all are! As we approach our 15th anniversary we feel blessed to have had your guidance at so many significant family events.

With love and gratitude,
Saul Straussman & Kellee Van Aken



Our entire group that went to Israel with the Rabbi a few years ago." ~**Dan Edelstone**

"I respect Rabbi Gibson for being a genuine, kind, and supportive human being while ably handling the many challenges of running a diverse organization and successfully meeting the spiritual needs of its members. To me, his calling up different groups of congregants (volunteers, birthday celebrants, people who have suffered a setback, etc.) during the High Holiday services embodied his efforts to make everyone feel welcome at Temple Sinai. On a personal note, Jamie has consistently gone out of his way to acknowledge, and be sensitive to, my needs and those of my family. I am grateful that he has been my rabbi for the past 28 years and will truly miss him." ~**Mimi Herwald**

WE WILL MISS YOU, RABBI GIBSON!



"In June of 2004 I made my first visit to Israel as part of a Temple Sinai group led by Rabbi Gibson. It was a life-changing experience. I was told by friends to expect an extremely emotional reaction when I step off the airplane and set foot for the first time in the land of Israel. So I was very disappointed when I felt nothing as we disembarked from the plane. Jamie said, 'Don't worry. It will come.'

Some days later as we walked up to the Western Wall I was unexpectedly overcome by emotion. Almost paralyzed. And I was standing there alone, I thought. Then Jamie was with me. He took my hand and together we touched the wall. And we stood there, together, as I tried to regain some sense of composure. Jamie was there for me then, 16 years ago. And he's been there for me ever since." ~**Elliott S. Oshry**

"Below are three photos of our children at their individual B'nei Mitzvah with Rabbi Gibson. We had the honor of being his first family where he officiated at three in one family! We have had many wonderful and meaning moments with our Rabbi over the years but this one was so special and joyful!" ~**Jan & Ed Korenman**



THANK YOU FOR INSPIRING US!

"Jamie is good at so many things—pastoral empathy, teaching, preaching, social action, music, and more.

He showed heartfelt empathy and concern when we had family losses. By listening intently and asking us good questions he elicited memories of our parents and wove them into beautiful eulogies.

He's a great teacher. Our son Dan says, 'I still remember how meaningful I found his description of God as 'the eternal possibility of being' in confirmation class.' Our son Joel says he's always appreciated how patient and open Jamie was in dealing with teenagers. Bob and Aya have experienced what a superbly prepared and enthusiastic teacher he has been in Torah study, parasha class, and adult education classes, and at the Shabbaton.

With his musical skill Jamie has brought services to life, especially our favorite, the Saturday morning minyan, starting in the Rogaliner, and its offshoot, the Shabbaton. In younger years we stayed up into the morning to be part of the Friday evening sing-along. Who could forget Irene and Harry Louik dancing to 'Good Night, Irene?' He created Aya's favorite Temple group, the IG Choir, and helped it thrive, and supported the band. What Debbie Friedman had been to him—song leader, teacher, friend—Jamie has been to the congregation. What a legacy!" ~**Aya Betensky & Bob Kraut**

"Although I was a Temple Sinai member before moving to San Diego in 2001 where I was a member of a Reform synagogue, I was never as connected or active as I have been at Sinai since moving back to Pittsburgh seven years ago. As I eased into becoming a part of the Sinai family, Jamie most certainly inspired me to want to participate more in services and volunteer my time.

Thank you Jamie for re-connecting me, for being such an avid supporter of WoTS and helping me find the joy in prayer and song. I'm grateful for the opportunity to have attended this last Biennial with you and singing with you on Friday night after services until I lost my voice! ~**Lynn Rubenson**

"Twenty-one years ago this month my first grandchild was born in California. I was there, as was my husband, Marvin, prior to, during the delivery (in a waiting room) and afterwards for the Brit Milah. The day before the Brit my son-in-law, Andrew Cherenon, asked me to give a short talk on the biblical Daniel, since they decided to name their son Daniel. Here I was in their home in California without my sources and no way to get to a library or temple. So I called my rabbi, James Gibson. In about two minutes he gave me the direction I needed. He told me to consult (online) the first few chapters of the book of Daniel when he chooses not to eat food forbidden to Jews and yet also chooses to serve the king. Jamie said that this is a good prescription for a person who wants to live a Jewish life and yet wants to be part of the total community in whatever country he lives in. I would like to think that my Daniel is doing just what Jamie laid out 21 years ago." ~**Ruth Reidbord**

"I remember clearly Rabbi Jamie's first informal 'meet the congregation' gathering in the Chapel. He gave us several assurances: In spite of the fact that his name was Gibson, he was Jewish, and he had had a Bar Mitzvah; in spite of his youthful appearance, he was old enough to serve as our Rabbi. After the meeting, Harvey and I agreed; we were quite pleased with the selection of the Search Committee."

And I remember Rabbi Gibson's support of Temple Sinai's PIIN (Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact Network) involvement." ~**Esther Nathanson**



WE WILL MISS YOU, RABBI GIBSON!

"Here are a set of 'full circle' pictures that Rabbi Gibson conducted...our daughter, Jessie's, naming (the first life cycle event that Jamie did) on August 8, 1988; Jamie conducting Jessie's Bat Mitzvah in 2001; Jamie married Jessie and Dave in 2016; and finally Jamie naming Jessie's baby, Frances Bea, in January 2020. THAT's full circle."

~John & Denise Schiller



"I have so many memories of Rabbi Gibson, but the one that started my love of this exceptional mensch was his sermon for his first Rosh HaShanah service. He was aware that we had been having a revolving door of rabbis coming and going. In that sermon he told of his taking his oldest son, Micah (about four years old at the time), to Taylor Alderdice High School and telling him that he would graduate from that high school in due time. How true!...And then there was the time when a relative of mine from out of town was having serious difficulties. I called the rabbi expressing my great concerns. Rabbi Gibson said in a sincere voice, 'Selma, would you want me to go and see what I can do?' Of course, I would not have him do so but the fact that he offered makes him so very special.

I remember when Rabbi Gibson gave the eulogy at my late husband, Sam's, funeral in March 1995. He explained that Sam had a severe hearing loss from his Air Force service in WWII. As a result, Sam really could not hear others when singing the songs and reading the prayers. Sam and I used to sit in the second row on the aisle. Rabbi said he made a point of waiting for Sam to finish (always late) because when Sam was finished that portion was finally finished." ~Selma Ryave

Dear Jamie,

Just a short note to thank you for all of the kind and thoughtful phone calls, letters, and visits you have made to me and my family all of these many years.

The contributions you have made to the temple, Squirrel Hill, and Pittsburgh have been tremendous. I, for one, have always admired you as a person and community leader. I wish you and lovely Barbara all good things in your future journey.

Bravo, well done,

Rosa Averbach

"I came to my first Friday evening service at Temple Sinai in 2011. I remember Jamie standing up and saying, 'I used to think it was fine for a same gender couple to be able to have a civil service. But I don't agree with that any longer.' I gulped and thought that maybe I'd made a mistake by coming to Temple Sinai. He continued, 'Now I think that a same gender couple should be able to get married the same way as any other couple. Full marriage equality.' I'm sure he said more, but by that time I was just sitting there quietly weeping. I knew I was home."

~Susan Blackman

"Thirty-two years of love, care, wisdom, music, and connection—Rabbi Jamie Gibson's imprint on Temple Sinai Pittsburgh is simply indelible. Kindness, authenticity, vision, devotion, and wisdom are just some of the words that describe your senior rabbi. Over the past 32 years, these qualities have been implanted within Temple Sinai as a community but also within each and every one of you, and, I would dare say, in the wider Pittsburgh community. Anyone who's had the privilege of learning with—and joy of being in the presence of—has had been able to internalize some of those remarkable gifts." ~Rabbi Rick Jacobs

WE WILL MISS YOU, RABBI GIBSON!

"Here is one of my all-time favorite photos of Jamie. It is also a very rare photo! How often can you find Jamie in the middle of the pews? He is indeed 'a man for all seatings.'"

"For so many of life's milestones, the Magid and Lazar family says, "THANK YOU Rabbi Jamie!"

~Lynn Magid Lazar & Dale Lazar



"It was 1988, and I had just gotten engaged. My parents told me about the new rabbi, who just started at Temple Sinai. 'He'll officiate an interfaith wedding,' my mom told me. And so began my long and ever-changing relationship with Rabbi Gibson. He has been with my family of four generations through good times and sad. He married Chuck and me; helped us all grieve through the funerals of my grandmother and mom; taught my son, Matt, through his Bar Mitzvah and Confirmation; and has been a true supporter of my work. He is my rabbi, my colleague, and my friend. ~Judy Rulin Mahan

"There are literally too many stories to share, but let's start at the beginning.

I grew up going to Young People's Synagogue (YPS), a modern Orthodox congregation in Squirrel Hill. We had no rabbi, we were lay-led and for the most part, Shabbos (Saturday) services was all we did. I had no concept of what a spiritual home was.

My sister, Mimi Botkin, had been a member of Temple Sinai and was very happy and involved there. I attended services at special occasions for her daughters, so I had met Jamie Gibson and had gotten to know both he and Barbara through my sister.

In June 1995, Jamie did a Temple Sinai Family Trip to Israel. At the same time, my late husband Mark got very ill and was hospitalized in Shadyside Hospital for an extended length of time (30 days total). I'd had an unpleasant interaction with the hospital rabbi and was very upset. I called Mimi who asked Jamie, who was JUST home from the Israel trip, to visit us at Shadyside Hospital.

That's when it all began. Jamie waked in, sat on the edge of Mark's bed and just started to chat. He repeated that for several more times before Mark was discharged.

Several months later, Temple announced the New Member Orientation. I had decided to join, although I did not expect Mark to participate as he called Temple (particularly Saturday morning minyan) "my thing." He read the invitation and said "I want to go." I was surprised but, of course, did not question.

We arrived at Temple, entered through the mansion and walked up the steps. Jamie was about 30 feet away, saw us, spread his arms out and exclaimed (loudly) "Mark, you have clothes on!"

This was the affection and love that Jamie and Mark had for each other. Through so many illnesses, hospitalizations, and Mark's eventual death in January 2014, Jamie was ALWAYS there. Numerous visits to the hospital, rehab or nursing home. Burials, simchas, and other family occasions, he has always been there.

I thank Jamie for all of that, PLUS leading me to a true love and understanding of Judaism, which I had never had before. As I stood on the bimah at age 40, chanting my Torah portion, he had given my parents, my siblings, and me an incredible gift that will live on forever." ~Joan Stein

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE & SUPPORT!

My parents were life members at another synagogue when I convinced them to make the jump to Sinai. My dad was often in the hospital, and he was disappointed that the rabbi at the other synagogue wasn't visiting. My parents joined Sinai. Within about a month, my dad was in the hospital and within hours Rabbi Jamie came to visit. That made my dad so happy. Unfortunately, prior to his death, my dad was in the hospital a lot, and Rabbi Jamie visited every time. When my father passed away, Rabbi Jamie was there for me, my mom, and my brother; giving us each our own time.

When my husband (David) and I got married, Rabbi Jamie and Barbara made the trip to New Jersey to co-officiate with, now retired, Rabbi Miller. That was incredibly special for us still today. Interestingly, the world is so tiny. When we told Rabbi Jamie we were engaged and would be getting married at Anche Emeth in New Brunswick, NJ, he immediately beamed with a story about Rabbi Miller and how Rabbi Miller's daughter spent time in Pittsburgh with Rabbi Jamie staying at the Weinkles' house. The tiny world we live in got much brighter with this wonderful connection.

My son has always had a special bond with Rabbi Jamie. I remember when I was younger thinking the rabbi was someone who you don't talk to and certainly don't joke around with, but not Rabbi Jamie. From birth, Dillon loved coming to Sinai. In fact, he was always calmer at Sinai than at home when he was an infant. I think that laid the groundwork for how he would come to befriend, love, and respect the rabbis of Temple Sinai. There is a picture in the glass case of Rabbi Jamie and my son that speaks volumes for how he has always felt about Rabbi Jamie. They are both smiling and sharing a thumbs up and the genuineness of this photo is so very dear to all of our hearts."

~**Suzan Hauptman**

"I have lots of memories of 30 years of sharing Rosh Hashanah lunch at our home with the Gibsons, but my most special memory follows. The day my husband died was cold and snowy. Jamie came over when he heard and proceeded to shovel my walk. I don't know many Rabbi's who would do that. It was 18 years ago, but I've never forgotten his kindness and concern during that very difficult period of my life." ~**Amy Kellman**

"I've known Jamie Gibson for 32 years, as both my rabbi and my friend. Here, in no particular order, because memory doesn't follow chronology, are my thoughts as his time with us is measured in weeks, not years.

When Jamie first arrived at Temple Sinai, we had experienced a carousel of rabbis, none staying longer than a few years. Then came this 'youngin,' and we had no idea what to expect.

He trod lightly at first. After all, many of his new congregants had children older than he was. But music was his first language, ahead of English and Hebrew. He led with his guitar and his heart. We sang new melodies from someone new, Debbie Friedman, unknown to most of us. We had services on Saturday mornings, not just for a bar or bat mitzvah, but because he wanted us to pray in a small, intimate group so we could get to know each other.

The Talmud says, 'Find yourself a teacher.' In Jamie's case, the teacher found us. He teaches with every word he says, sometimes formally and sometimes informally. He can link a piece of Torah to an incident in *The Hobbit* or *Star Wars*. He can recite the parshat without a text in front of him. He has given me the greatest gift of all: how to learn from Torah, to question Torah, to find my life and my questions in Torah.

He brought his deep love of family, his ability to make a mistake and turn it into a lesson, his wacky puns, his profound knowledge of the books, the mysteries and the traditions of Judaism.

He brought about the creation of my beloved Intergenerational Choir so I and all my choir buds could sing, laugh, pray, and love each other.

Jamie's 32 years at Temple Sinai have been transformative in so many ways. He will never be forgotten."

~**Mimi Botkin**

"My first and most memorable thoughts are when Marvin Adelson and I met Jamie for breakfast at the biennial. As we waited in line we spotted him and both of us thought he looks so young. But that was quickly dismissed as we talked over the meal and realized that he would be a perfect match for Sinai. What a prophetic breakfast!"

~**Rhoda Dorfzaun**

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Frank & Carolyn Schwarz

We apologize in advance for any mistakes.

OUR SACRED COMMUNITY

OF BLESSED MEMORY (APRIL 2020)

Margalit Kompano, mother of Etty (Barb Milch) Reut; grandmother of Li, Maya, and Dalia

Arlene and Gerald Polinsky, mother and father of Nancy (David) Polinsky Johnson; grandparents of Michael and Eric

Bert Horwitz, father of Mara Rodosky

Robert Rosenberg, father of Rebecca (Roy) Jacobson

SIMCHAH

Mazal Tov to Rabbi Keren Gorban on the birth of her son, Yuval Shalev Gorban, on April 29.

Mazal Tov to Cathy and Dan Droz on the birth of their grandson, Sholem Raphael Leib Gamliel, born to daughter Lani and Michael in Montreal, Canada on April 25. He's the little brother of Shoshi and Maayan.

Mazal Tov to Stephanie Cohen on the April 9 birth of her son, Lex Morley Cohen, brother of Bodhi Lev. Lex is named in memory of his great grandmothers, Leona Levin and Mollie Cohen. The proud grandparents are Terri and Alan Cohen of Pompano Beach, Florida.

Mazal Tov to David May-Stein, who graduated with his EdD of Education from the University of Pittsburgh on April 26.

Mazal Tov to Jesse May-Stein, who will graduate from the School of the Institute of Art of Chicago with a Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing on May 11. Jesse recently won the Luminarts Fellowship for Creative Writing.

Mazal Tov to Dale Lazar, whose photo of Next DOR students at Simchat Torah won second place in a photo contest conducted by the Department of Diaspora Affairs of the World Zionist Organization.

Mazal Tov to Arthur Goldberg, Katie Whitlach, Laura Arnold, Laurie Mulvey, Mimi Botkin, Renee Ramo Goldberg, and Ronnie Cook Zuhlke on their graduation from the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Bethany Fruman

TORAH UPDATE FROM OUR SOFET

Linda Coppleson's Update on our NEW Torah Honoring Rabbi Jamie Gibson's 32 Years at Temple Sinai

"I just completed column 88 and am on track to be at column 100 by the end of May.

This is the column in which the Israelites agree to the brit at Sinai by saying עֲמַשְׁנוּ הַשְׁעָנָה ("We will do, and we will hear").

The order of the verbs is important to show that the Israelites were willing to actively follow the rules of the brit, perhaps even without first understanding why. That the "doing" precedes the "hearing/understanding" is often used to point out that the act of doing mitzvot can bring one to the recognition of the importance and meaning of those mitzvot. In other words, Judaism is based on action and doing, not on blind faith and fatalism. Maybe that's a lesson and a call to action for us all in these days. "

Learn more and make a dedication on our website at www.TempleSinaiPGH.org.

RANDOM ACTS OF TORAH

Add your leaves to the Random Acts of Torah tree! Whether it's helping those in need or lighting Shabbat candles, we want to hear from you! Email Tami Prine at Tami@TempleSinaiPGH.org.

"We donated a lot of our stimulus checks to many needy organizations, including our two food pantries right here in Swissvale." ~ Reesa & Joel Rosenthal

"I gave blood." ~ Lynn Rubenson

"Thank you, Mailman, for delivering mail to us."
~ Leo Hattenbach, Next DOR student and son of Brian Hattenbach and Tina Goldstein

"As a Tastefully Simple rep, I donated some product from my inventory to a family with a son with autism. They cannot leave their house because of their health." ~ From Anonymous

"Following up on the family in need (they have a son with autism and health issues, along with a dead battery in their car), I arranged for a local restaurant to donate and deliver Easter dinner to her FREE OF CHARGE." ~ From Anonymous

**Do you have a special memory
of Rabbi Jamie Gibson or a
retirement message for him?
We want to hear from you!**



Email written memories,
photos, or videos to
Tami@TempleSinaiPGH.org
or leave them in the white
drop box in the Krieger
entrance no later than
Friday, June 12.

TEMPLE SINAI

5505 FORBES AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15217

COVID-19 UPDATE WHAT DOES YELLOW MEAN FOR TEMPLE SINAI?

As Allegheny County moves to the "yellow" phase, you may have questions about Temple Sinai. Remember, this still means to continue to limit public gatherings, even in small numbers.

Both the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) and the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) have issued guidelines to continue to avoid in-person rituals, services, and ceremonies as much as possible. Exceptions have been made with graveside funerals, conducted with only a couple family members and with social distancing. Locally, and working as a community, the Rabbis of the Reform and Conservative congregations will be acting in concert to determine reopening plans.

The Temple Sinai reopening committee, co-chaired by Josh Lederer and Bill Taxay, has been formed to create a road map and policy recommendations for when Temple Sinai reopens and are addressing the issues and challenges to be considered.

We will continue to be closed to all in-person gatherings until June 8 (at least) while offering services, classes, and meetings with clergy online and via teleconferencing. As the situation evolves, we will continue to update the congregation.

And, remember, **WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!** Please reach out to us if you have any spiritual, physical, or financial needs during this challenging time.

SAVE THE DATE!

**Friday, June 19, Rabbi Jamie Gibson's Farewell
Shabbat Evening Service** *(details to be announced soon)*

**Friday, July 3, Rabbi Darryl Crystal's First Shabbat
Evening Service at Temple Sinai**

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

Saul Straussman, President

Alison Yazer, 1st Vice President

Stephen Jurman, 2nd Vice President

Elizabeth Collura, 3rd Vice President

Jerry Katz, Treasurer

Mara Kaplan, Assistant Treasurer

Lynn Rubenson, Secretary

Josh Lederer, Financial Secretary

Philip L. Lehman, PhD, Past President

Nancy Gale, Past President

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.