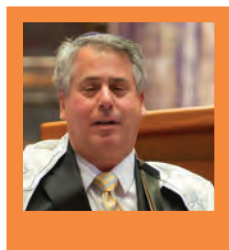


CHAILIGHTS



Rabbi's Corner

By Rabbi Jamie Gibson

There are many cultures and faiths that celebrate a topsy-turvy day. You know, this is a day when the rules of expected behavior are turned on their head.

The Romans had Saturnalia, which allowed for slaves to order their masters around on the winter solstice. Our Christian friends celebrate Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) in which loud colors and louder music rule the day (not to mention a couple of drinks, if not more!).

Our Jewish version precedes these. On Purim we are forbidden to be sad, we are to rejoice at being saved from certain death at the hand of the evil Haman and the unwitting king, Achashverosh (Ahasuerus).

The very story turns what we expect on its head! We expect God to intervene on our behalf, and God is nowhere to be found in the story. We expect a mighty hero or at least a strong man to step in and save the day, but it is a woman who risks her life on our behalf.

We flip our customs, too! We, who are expected to be levelheaded, have rabbinic permission to get schnocked (my words for intoxicated). You are supposed to get SO schnocked you can't tell the difference between the evil Haman and the righteous Mordecai (Esther's uncle).

We at Temple Sinai don't go in for the schnocking too much. But we do celebrate with high jinks and high spirits!

The Saturday night (February 24), before the holiday, we are having an Adult Purim Carnival, for all those who wonder why kids are playing games and having all the fun. The next day is our Next DOR (Religious School) carnival and chug presentations. Every year I enjoy our kids doing contests that involve luck and hand-to-eye skill without looking at a video screen! There is also a wonderful opportunity to bust your diet with Hamantashen (I like poppy-seed, myself)!

Wednesday night (February 28) we are putting on our 23rd Annual Purim Shpiel, and we hope that you will either help us perform it or cheer on our kids and adults. And immediately afterwards, we are holding our 2nd Annual Latke-Hamantash Debate, which got rave reviews last year. This year's debaters include Nancy Polinsky Johnson, David Shribman and, back by popular demand, Lynn Cullen!

Some drinking will take place — I usually dollop out small doses of Slivovitz, the plum brandy of the old country. But you'll probably have the most fun playing games, acting in our shpiel, dressing up (yes, adults dress up!), eating, and roaring out loud in appreciation of the shpiel or the debate.

Purim really means that winter is almost over. And, since spring training starts just a week or so afterwards, you know it's true! There are many reasons to be sad or angry these days. We dare not waste this wonderful opportunity to get happy!

Kol tuv (all good things),
Rabbi Jamie Gibson

WHAT HAS THE CANTOR BEEN LISTENING TO?

On January 13 and 15, Temple Sinai's Intergenerational Choir was represented in two tremendously inspirational "Let Freedom Sing" concerts in celebration of Unity and Diversity through Music, honoring the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Kol hakavod (all the honor) to Mimi Botkin, Florence and Toby Chapman, Jan Fink, Bill Jones, Lynn Naman, Esther Nathanson, Stewart Sadowsky, and Carolyn Schwartz for adding your voices, to Rabbi Gibson who delivered the invocation, to Ellen Keeney, our IG Choir Director, to Lynn Corbett, Executive Assistant to the Director/Receptionist (as a member of the The Heritage Gospel Chorale of Pittsburgh), and to all those who "sang" through their support!



JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY DINNERS

Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month Shabbat Dinner

Friday, Feb. 16, 5:45 PM

We'll provide a delicious meat entrée. Please bring a non-dairy side dish, salad, or dessert (enough for 8–10 people).

Cost: \$5 (Register online in your Temple Sinai account to pay by credit card, or contact Judy Lynn Aiello at judylynn@templesinaipgh.org or (412) 421-9715 ext. 124 to register and charge to your account. Non-members can register by contacting Judy Lynn Aiello.)

Purim Dinner

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 5:30 PM

Join us for pizza and salad before the Purim festivities begin.

Cost: \$8 (Register online in your Temple Sinai account to pay by credit card, or contact Judy Lynn Aiello at judylynn@templesinaipgh.org or (412) 421-9715 ext. 124 to register and charge to your account. Non-members can register by contacting Judy Lynn Aiello.)

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE MEMORY OF RABBI GIBSON?

SO MANY YEARS. SO MANY MEMORIES.

Do you have a favorite memory of how Rabbi Jamie Gibson has made you laugh or smile or touched your heart through the years? Or, do you want to say a few words of thanks?

We'd love to hear from you.

Email Tami Prine, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, tami@templesinaipgh.org. We'll share your memories and photos in social media, weekly emails, monthly ChaiLights, and slideshows. (You can even remain anonymous if you wish.)

From a grateful congregant:

"We always appreciate the rabbi's scholarship and quick wit, but my family experienced another, less obvious trait when our daughter, working in another city, was diagnosed with terminal cancer, and we brought her home to take care of her. Relatively new to Sinai, we were supported and comforted each day by Jamie, whose compassion, sensitivity, and understanding sustained us during that terrible time. He knew when words helped and when silence was solace during his daily hospice visits. Ours is one of many Temple families who found his caring invaluable — we'll always be grateful."





ADULT PURIM CARNIVAL

Saturday, Feb. 24, 6:30 PM

**Purim Carnivals are not just for kids!
Get a preview of the games in store for
the kids, with some special "adult" twists!
Costumes. Prizes. 21 and over. Cost: \$25
(See our website for details.)**

FAMILY PURIM CARNIVAL

Sunday, Feb. 25

**Enjoy games, food (cash or checks only please),
prizes, and MORE FUN! Cost: \$10 (all day pass);
free for children age 3 and under**



GREASE: A PURIM SHPIEL

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 6:30 PM

**"Grease is the word!" "You're the
one that I want." Join Cantor
Berman, clergy, and congregants
of all ages for a silly retelling
of the Book of Esther.**

THE GREAT LATKE-HAMANSTASH DEBATE

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 7:45 PM

**Our esteemed panelists (including Nancy Polinsky
Johnson, David Shribman and, back by popular
demand, Lynn Cullen) will debate the merits of the
latke or hamanstash to determine which is the best.
Hilarity and fun are guaranteed.**



DISABILITY SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE LISA FRIEDMAN

In honor of Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month, Temple Sinai is happy to welcome Lisa Friedman, a national expert in Jewish Inclusion. Lisa will speak from the Bimah on Friday, February 16, at the 7 PM Shabbat Evening Service on the importance of inclusion. On Saturday, February 17, she will facilitate a leadership session for the Board and other lay leaders to help develop a path forward towards our inclusion goals. On Sunday, February 18, Lisa will speak with religious school parents.

Lisa is a Jewish Educator and Inclusion Expert who knows that each of us is created *b'tzelem elohim* (in God's image). She firmly believes that everyone has a right to learn and feel connected to his/her heritage.

Lisa consults with many Jewish and other faith organizations to guide them in the development of inclusive practices for staff, clergy, and families through interactive workshops, dialogue, and awareness training.

She is currently the Education Director at Temple Beth-El in Central New Jersey where she oversees an inclusive synagogue school. Additionally, she is the Project Manager for the UJA Federation of New York's Synagogue Inclusion Project, Cohort 2.

Her writing is regularly featured in such publications as *The NY Jewish Week*, *Reform Judaism.org*, *Kveller*, and *Think Inclusive*. In addition, she works with Behrman House to develop curriculum and techniques for working with students who demonstrate a wide variety of learning needs.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ANNE ALTER

I live with several forms of brain-based mental illness. While the disabilities inclusion policy has only recently been established, in my 22 years of membership many people have known that I have mental illness, but I have never been treated with anything but kindness. The inclusion policy carries this farther and means that I, and others like me, can exist openly as who we are, in an atmosphere of understanding and respect for our dignity. Temple Sinai is a small and progressive part of the world, and gives me a lot of hope that similar changes may occur in the world at large.

Here are some things I have done while living with mental illness: I have been married and widowed, and have had many wonderful relationships with family and friends. I graduated from a good college. I have been a teacher, a speaker, an actress, a model, a dancer, a singer, an athlete, a technician for theater and film, an advocate for the rights of the disabled, and a writer. I am always a mother of cats.

Also, very importantly, I have been a member of Temple Sinai. Despite all of my illnesses, I have been accepted, encouraged, supported, and welcomed. Temple Sinai is a blessing in my life, and I know that this community will continue to help all people with disabilities thrive.



JEWISH DISABILITY AWARENESS & INCLUSION MONTH

At the URJ Biennial in December, Temple Sinai was honored as an Exemplary Congregation for its work on disability inclusion.

"Shaping a more inclusive future for generations to come" is a value central to the Reform Movement's work as we create congregational communities that are open and welcoming to all," said Rabbi Rick Jacobs when announcing the creation of Exemplary Congregations.

"URJ wants to recognize and share the exemplary efforts of our congregations who have made significant effort to become places where people of all abilities can fully participate and belong."

Temple Sinai stands proudly with only 28 other congregations out of 900 in our movement that has been recognized for our efforts. **Below are just a few reasons why we received this recognition.**

1. Our Mostly Musical Shabbats have been reframed as a *Sensory-Friendly* experience with Visual T'fillah, some signing, dancing, and singing, and a quiet room to get away from it all.
2. Our worship services are streamed on-line so elderly, people with disabilities, and others who cannot leave their homes can still participate in our community.
3. Our Next DOR program is designed to differentiate learning making it easier for children of varying abilities to participate. We have a multi-sensory Hebrew curriculum that was designed for children with learning disabilities, and we use it with everyone because it is so great.
4. Our entire building (except the Library and Rose Garden) are accessible. This includes our Bimah and Religious School. We have secured funding to make the Rose Garden accessible. In the meantime, we have figured out how to move the Sukkah up to the front lawn so all might be able to fulfill the mitzvah of sitting in the Sukkah.
5. Our staff, greeters, WoTS steering committee, and Board of Trustees all receive yearly training in inclusion.
6. At our Shabbat onegs, there are always sugar-free and gluten free options. We always clearly mark anything that has nuts in it.
7. For every worship service, large print prayerbooks, magnifying glasses, and fidget toys are available. The Malakoff conference room is available for more quiet worship.
8. We actively participate in Jewish Disability Awareness & Inclusion Month each year in February.

If you would like to see the full list of accomplishments towards full inclusion, please visit the DisAbilities Inclusion page on our website.

Back row (left to right): Ruderman Family Foundation Program Officer Miriam Heyman, Barbara Gibson, Frank Schwarz, George Arnold, Saul Straussman, Drew Barkley, URJ President Rabbi Rick Jacobs, Art Goldberg, Philip Lehman; Middle row (left to right): Carolyn Schwarz, Ronnie Zuhlke, Laura Arnold, Laura Fehl, Lauren Coblenz, Renee Ramo; Front row (left to right): Rabbi Jamie Gibson, Mara Kaplan, Rabbi Keren Gorban



In Recognition of Jewish Disability Awareness & Inclusion Month,
TEMPLE SINAI INVITES YOU TO A SPECIAL SCREENING OF

Enosh Cassel, Yonatan Nir Films, Itamar Peleg
& Hey Jude Productions
Present



Refreshments &
art exhibit of a
dozen artists with
disAbilities after
the Q&A Session

MY HERO BROTHER

78 minutes;
Hebrew with
English subtitles

A **YONATAN NIR** film

Theme song
EHUD BANAI
"It's time to go"

Skype Q&A Session
with the Director

**\$8 in advance/
\$10 at the door**

**Saturday
Feb. 3 • 5 PM**

**Complimentary
babysitting available
for kids 12 & under.**
Reservations required.
Call for details.

SPONSORED BY WOTS

Members can register online in your Temple Sinai account to pay by credit card, or contact Judy Lynn Aiello at judylynn@templesinaipgh.org or (412) 421-9715 ext. 124 to register and charge to your account. Non-members can purchase tickets by contacting Judy Lynn Aiello.

VOLUNTEERS USE THEIR SKILLS TO ORGANIZE THE FALK LIBRARY

Our Falk Library Committee is an impressive group who use their skills to make a positive impact. They are flexible problem-solvers who have the ability to take initiative, and, because they value libraries, they recognized the need to update the Falk Library. Introducing our volunteers...

Susan Cohen worked as a reference librarian in several public libraries, including the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, MD, and as head of Reference at the Westfield, NJ, Public Library. She owned a freelance book indexing business. Susan oversees Falk Library's online catalogue.

Esther Nathanson was a librarian at the Engineering Society Library in NYC. She subsequently was an information specialist at the Westinghouse Energy Center in Monroeville. She also served as a business librarian at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Downtown and Business location.

Cecilia Rothschild worked in the Department of User Services & Marketing at the Defense Technical Information Center. She also served as the Library Director at Carswell and Luke Air Force Base. Cecilia was head of reference at the Institute for Defense Analyses later joining their research staff.

Fran Caplan was Dean of the Robert Morris University Library. In addition to an MLS degree, she holds a doctorate from University of Pittsburgh's Ed.D. program.

Barb Siegel worked in the University of Pittsburgh Libraries before receiving a Master of Library Science. Her life took a different path and she became an owner of Forbes Travel spending the next 43 years in the travel industry. She serves as the Committee's chairperson.

Hanita Kossowsky's vast knowledge of Judaic literature began from working in her parents' bookstore in Israel. She holds a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh and was a school psychologist and had a private psychology practice as well. Hanita was most helpful in organizing the Falk Library collection.

Our newest volunteer, **Barbara Shuman**, is the Institute for Jewish Spirituality on-site Retreat Manager and was a member of the URJ North American board ('93-'16). She was President of Pittsburgh's Agency for Jewish Learning. She is a Jewish Spiritual Director having completed the Morei Derekh Training Program. Barbara has an extensive home Jewish library from which she has donated 70+ volumes to the Falk Library.

If you would like to volunteer in the Falk Library, please email the Committee at templesinailibrarypgh@gmail.com.

FALK LIBRARY

Wish List Books:

Lioness: Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel by Francine Klagsbrun

Moses: A Human Life by Avivah Gottlieb Zomberg


Pioneer Jews by Harriet & Fred Rochlin

ATTENTION BABY BOOMERS

Are you a Baby Boomer? Have your kids flown the nest?
Are you 50–75 years young? Have you retired or thinking about it?

If you answered yes, to any of these questions, then we want to hear from you. We want to know what you want from Temple Sinai. Our goal is to develop an initiative to meet the needs of this generation. We want you to guide us in our thinking. Start looking in your emails by the end of the month for dates and times for us to get together and hear what you are thinking. Contact Mara Kaplan (maratkaplan@gmail.com or 412-661-2567) or Laura Arnold (lsarnold1@gmail.com or 412-241-0385) with your ideas.

FEBRUARY AT TEMPLE SINA

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
<div><p>JDAIM Jewish Disability Awareness & Inclusion Month</p></div> <p>Jewish Disability Awareness & Inclusion Month (JDAIM) is a unified effort among Jewish organizations worldwide to raise awareness and foster inclusion of people with disabilities and those who love them. Established in 2009 by the Jewish Special Education International Consortium, JDAIM is observed each February.</p>				Noon Jewish Christian Dialogue (offsite) 6:30 PM Executive Committee Meeting with Minyan 7 PM Introduction to Judaism	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 5 PM JDAIM Movie Night & Art Exhibit featuring "My Hero Brother" with Havdalah
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9 AM Shir Joy Youth Choir 9:15 AM Hartman Learning 9:30 AM Next DOR 11 AM Bereisheet 12:30 PM Purim Shpiel Rehearsal	6 PM Lay-Led TaNaKh Study 7 PM Teen School		Noon Parsha/Weekly Torah Portion Class 4:30 PM Hebrew School 6 PM Evening Meditation 7:30 PM Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal	7 PM Introduction to Judaism	Noon Downtown Lunch with the Rabbi 7 PM Shabbat Evening Service, followed by an oneg sponsored by WoTS	8:30 AM Torah Study 9:15 AM Informal Shabbat Morning Service 9:15 AM Mini Minyan 4:45 PM Bar/Bat Mitzvah Seminar with Havdalah
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9 AM Shir Joy Youth Choir 9:15 AM Hartman Learning 9:30 AM Next DOR 9:30–11:30 AM Rummage Sale Drop Off 10 AM WoTS Steering Committee Meeting 11 AM Bereisheet 12:30 PM Purim Shpiel Rehearsal 5 PM Primetimers Potluck Dinner	6 PM Lay-Led TaNaKh Study 6:30 PM WoTS Cooking Class 7 PM Teen School 7 PM 11th & 12th Grade Seminar		Noon Parsha/Weekly Torah Portion Class 4:30 PM Hebrew School 6 PM Evening Meditation 7:30 PM Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal	7 PM Introduction to Judaism 7 PM Board of Trustees Meeting with Minyan	5 PM Tot Shabbat Snacks 5:30 PM Tot Shabbat Service 5:45 PM Jewish Disability Awareness & Inclusion Month Shabbat Dinner 7 PM JDAIM Shabbat Evening Service with Birthday Blessing, followed by an oneg sponsored by WoTS 8:30 PM Shabbat After Hours	8:30 AM Torah Study 9:15 AM Informal Shabbat Morning Service 11:30 AM Lunch with disAbility Scholar-in-Residence Lisa Friedman Noon Leadership Inclusion Training with disAbility Scholar-in-Residence Lisa Friedman
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9 AM Shir Joy Youth Choir 9:15 AM Hartman Learning 9:30 AM Next DOR 9:30 AM Men's Discussion Group (offsite) 9:30 AM Next DOR Inclusion Workshop & Discussion with Scholar-in-Residence Lisa Friedman 11 AM Bereisheet 12:30 PM Purim Shpiel Rehearsal	9 AM Great Jewish Thinking: Beauty, Power and Temptation with Rabbi Danny Schiff Noon Brotherhood Weekday Lunch (offsite) 6 PM Lay-Led TaNaKh Study 7 PM Teen School 7 PM 11th & 12th Grade Seminar 7 PM Distracted Driving Program	7:30 PM Rosh Chodesh Group (Adar)	Noon Parsha/Weekly Torah Portion Class 4:30 PM Hebrew School 6 PM Evening Meditation 7:30 PM Intergenerational Choir Rehearsal	7 PM Introduction to Judaism 7 PM Family Night Bowling (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 1:45 PM Charles Morris Sing-Along 6 PM Adult Purim Carnival
25	26	27	28 Erev Purim			
9 AM Shir Joy Youth Choir 9:15 AM Hartman Learning 9:30 AM Next DOR 10:15 AM Chug Presentations for family & friends of Next DOR 11 AM Bereisheet 11 AM Family Purim Carnival	9 AM Great Jewish Thinking: Beauty, Power and Temptation with Rabbi Danny Schiff 6 PM Lay-Led TaNaKh Study 7 PM Teen School 7 PM 11th & 12th Grade Seminar		Noon Parsha/Weekly Torah Portion Class 5:30 PM Purim Congregational Dinner 6 PM Evening Meditation 6:15 PM Megillah & Songs of Purim 6:30 PM Purim Shpiel 7:15 PM Oneg 7:45 PM The Great Latke-Hamantash Debate	Downtown Lunch with the Rabbi, Friday, February 9, Noon Would you like to learn with friends over lunch? Join Rabbi Gorban for an uplifting discussion over lunch at an office downtown. Spend an hour expanding your horizons and making new friends. Location TBD. Contact Nancy Conaway for more information at nancy@templesinaipgh.org . (Please note that Rabbi Jamie Gibson will be on sabbatical during the month of February.)		

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

FRIDAYS

FEBRUARY 2

7 PM MOSTLY MUSICAL SHABBAT: A SENSORY FRIENDLY EXPERIENCE

FEBRUARY 9

7 PM SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

FEBRUARY 16

5:30 PM TOT SHABBAT

7 PM JDAIM SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE WITH BIRTHDAY BLESSING

FEBRUARY 23

7 PM SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

SATURDAYS

8:30 AM TORAH STUDY

9:15 AM INFORMAL SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

FEBRUARY 17

4 PM SHABBAT MEDITATION

Questions? Suggestions? Content for our weekly email or monthly ChaiLights? We want to hear from you! Contact Tami Prine, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, at (412) 421-9715 ext. 120 or tami@templesinaipgh.org. Visit www.templesinaipgh.org for event details and a full calendar listing.

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Allison Gutman
In Memory of Ruthie Davidson
Shirley Goldstein

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Karen, Nathan & Noah Levin

Library Fund

In Memory of Haya Pomeranz
Hanita Kossowsky

Louis S. Frankel Memorial Fund

In Memory of Louis S. Frankel
Alan & Janie Frankel
Special Birthday Dorothy Frankel Melnick
Alan & Janie Frankel

Mann Fund for the Future

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Michael & Andrea Lowenstein
Estelle Mann
In Memory of Sandi Michelle Kronzek
Michael & Andrea Lowenstein

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65th Wedding Anniversary
James & Marcia Kaplan
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James & Marcia Kaplan
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Silbert Moritz
Rachel Spokane
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Stew, Deb, Joey & Naomi Anderson
Silbert Moritz
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[The Rook-Koepsel Family](#)

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Yahrzeit of Stanley Rainka

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Yahrzeit of Stephen Leon

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Yahrzeit of Sylvia Klein

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Yahrzeit of Tamar Rosenfeld

Todd Rosenfeld & Delilah Picart

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Yahrzeit of Willard Weiss

Howard & Beverly Filtz

Yahrzeit of Yetta Weinberg

Marvin & Janice Dash

Yahrzeit of Zell Fein

Marvin Fein & Beatrice Fennimore

Rabbi Gibson's Discretionary

Edward & Rose Berman

Daniele Coen-Pirani & Marla Ripoll

Downtown Lunch Group

Rachel Kudrick

In Appreciation

Stew, Deb, Joey & Naomi Anderson

Joshua Breslau & Elizabeth Miller

Estelle & Steven Cherin

Daniel I. Schwarz

Rosalyn Escovitz

Evan Rosenberg

Lynn Unger

Jon Prince & Jennifer Poller

Ross Family

Ruth Roth

In Appreciation of Rabbi Gibson

Marlene Josowitz

In Appreciation for 30 years!

Karen Nathan & Noah Levin

In Memory of David German

Laurie Moser & Stewart Barmen

In Memory of Ellen Solomon

Patricia Anouchi

In Memory of Kenny Ross

Laurie Moser & Stewart Barmen

In Memory of Leonard Bernstein

Norman & Gail Childs

In Memory of Mr. John Anderson

David Coulson & Wendy Bennett

In Memory of Ruthie Davidson

Richard & Karen Diamondstone

Laurie Moser & Stewart Barmen

In Memory of Sandi Michelle Kronzek

Suzanne (Reidbord) &

Andy Cherenson

Suzanne & Andy Cherenson

Ed & Sylvia Massarsky

Todd & Elaine Miller

Morris & Claire Weinbaum

Rabbi Gorban's Discretionary

In Appreciation

Joshua Breslau & Elizabeth Miller

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Yahrzeit of Freda Rose Gottlieb

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In Memory of Ruthie Davidson

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Marvin & Ruth Reidbord

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Lisa Harinstein

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Dr. Norman Wolmark

WoTS

In Memory of Ellen Solomon

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Sandi & Lloyd Howard & Family

In Memory of Grace Moritz

Robert Kraut & Aya Betensky

Youth Activities Fund

In Memory of Leonard Bernstein

Sally Schweitzer

In Memory of Ruthie Davidson

Esther Schwartz

In Memory of Sandi Michelle Kronzek

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Tabachnick

We apologize in advance for any omissions that may occur.

Corrections of October Donations

(Our sincerest apologies for the inaccuracies.)

Levin Family Memorial Fund

In Honor of Noah & Emily's Engagement

In Honor of the Birth of Maylin June

In Honor of Ross & Alyssa's Engagement

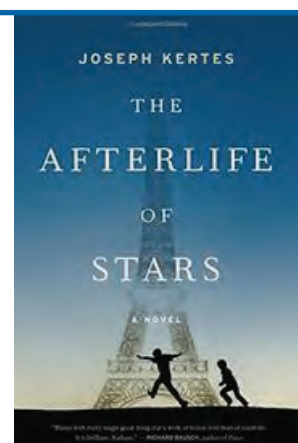
Speedy Recovery of Amy Gale

Karen, Nathan & Noah Levin

Temple Sinai Book Club Wednesday, Mar. 7, 1:15 PM

Our selection for March is *The Afterlife of Stars* by Joseph Kertes. We will meet in the Lockhart Lounge for a lively discussion.

Contact Anne Faigen for more information at (412) 422-9580.



OUR SACRED COMMUNITY

OF BLESSED MEMORY (NOV. & DEC.)

Nathan Josephson, husband of Faye Josephson
David German, father of Gail German (Norman) Childs
Henry Mordoh, husband of Sandra Mordoh
Ronald Rosenberg, uncle of Marcia (Eric) Haberman
Gertrude Bordoff, mother of Robin Ittigson
Sandi Michelle Kronzek, daughter of Marcy and Harvey Kronzek
Kenny Ross, father of James (Ilene) Ross and Tony (Karen) Ross
Ruth Davidson, wife of Harry Davidson, sister of James (Marcia) Kaplan, aunt of Judy (Marc Epstein) Kaplan
Jack Bronston, great-uncle of Rabbi Keren Gorban

NEW MEMBERS

Cary Marchal & Manola Handler
Janet Aronson
Joel Kaufman

SIMCHAHS

Mazal Tov on the engagement of Jan and Edward Korenman's daughter Jamie to Jeff Antunes

Mazal Tov on the baby naming of Estelle and Steven Cherin's grandson, Chase Solomon (son of Steven and Kesha Solomon)

Mazal Tov to Matthew Bolton for receiving the Ira and Nanette Gordon Professional Achievement Award from the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh.

Mazal Tov to parents, Emily and Matthew Glick, and grandmother, Marilee Glick, on the Jan. 10 birth of Simon Gerrad Glick.

Mazal Tov to Susan and Barry Merenstein on the birth of their grandson, Calvin River Williams, born on Dec. 13 to Shannon Merenstein and Cole Williams (and big brother Graham).

Mazal Tov to Susan and Barry Merenstein on the engagement of their son, Hersh, to Hillary.

WANTED: Your Good News!


Please send your good news (awards, graduations, engagements, marriages, births — anything you want to share with your Temple Sinai community) to Tami Prine, Marketing and Communications Coordinator at tami@templesinaipgh.org, and we will include it in the weekly email and in our monthly ChaiLights. *Thank you!*

Thank you to the PNC Charitable Trusts for a most generous grant to support our interfaith and interracial dialogue program, diversity inclusion, and our outreach to the LGBTQ community.

Thank you to the Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust for their second generous annual grant to enhance the spiritual aspects of people with disabilities. We value and appreciate the Trust and their trustees.

PURIM FOR KIDS

Purim is a quintessential holiday for those of us who are fully engaged with the secular culture around us and deeply committed to maintaining our Jewish identities. The heroine of Purim, Esther, a Jew who becomes the queen of the Persian Empire, reminds us that we can be proud Americans and proud Jews at the same time, and that's what we want for our children. In other words, here are a few ways to celebrate Purim with the Jewish community and with your neighborhood and school communities:

- **Have a Purim Party!** Who doesn't love a costume party with treats and games? Dress up and be silly. Serve hamantaschen and other sweets. Play games like Hangman or Pin the Hat on Haman. Part of the celebration of Purim is to make things topsy-turvy, unlike a normal day or even a normal party, so have fun and play! By the way, having a party with food is one of the four *mitzvot* (commandments) for celebrating Purim. Who are we to argue with a commandment to party?!
- 
- **Give out Goodie Bags!** While on Halloween, we go door-to-door collecting candy and treats, on Purim we're supposed to give candy and treats to our neighbors and friends. Surprise your neighbors and friends with an unexpected little goodie bag (called *mishlo-ach manot*) and enjoy spreading warmth and friendship in your community!
 - **Donate to the poor!** To be honest, it's not a Jewish holiday if we're not thinking about those who don't have what they need, but giving gifts to the poor (*matanot la-evyonim*) is also one of the *mitzvot* of Purim. And especially after kids get lots of gifts for Hanukkah, Purim can be an opportunity to clear out clothes or toys in good condition that they no longer want or need. Another good choice is to donate money to a food pantry or soup kitchen. When we help others, we can rejoice more fully in what we have!
 - **Participate in and/or come to the Purim Shpiel at Temple Sinai!** Kick off your celebration of Purim with a silly retelling of the Book of Esther on Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 6:30 PM. How often do we tell Bible stories with costumes, songs, and jokes? When else do you get to boo and make lots of noise in a sanctuary? And for those of you who like to perform, there are plenty of parts for anyone who wants a role! Hearing the story is one of the *mitzvot* of Purim, but you can be part of telling it as well!

SAVE THE DATE!

INTERFAITH AND INTERRACIAL PROGRAM OF DIALOGUE, THURSDAY, MARCH 15

We are committed to drawing together people of faith to act powerfully on local and regional issues of justice, fairness, diversity, and inclusion. Details coming soon!

GALA DINNER, SUNDAY, APRIL 29

Please mark your calendars for a Gala Dinner to honor Rabbi Gibson for his 30 years of service to Temple Sinai.

For more information about the Gala and/or to serve on the 30th Tribute Committee, please contact Barry Rudel at (412) 421-9715 ext. 133 or brudel@templesinaipgh.org.

SENIORS: BE A HELPING HAND

Do you like talking on the phone? Have you been looking for a volunteer opportunity you can do from the comfort of your home? Do you want to connect with other members who are homebound or who may need to hear a friendly voice?

Seniors Calling Seniors

Arlene Smith

(412) 829-9744

sweetn5163@aol.com



TEEN DISTRACTED DRIVING CLASS, MONDAY, FEB. 19

As parents of teens coming of driving age and who are fixated on their mobile phones, distracted driving is a serious concern. At one time, this may have meant fussing with the radio dials or talking with friends in the car; today it is likely to represent texting while driving and causing risk for accidents. Women of Temple Sinai will present this program on Monday, Feb. 19 at 7 PM in conjunction with our senior school. Parents are encouraged to attend with their teens. Featured will be a panel discussion with audience-participation activities and Q & A.

The goal of this session is to make students aware of the dangers and repercussions of distracted driving as well as those elements that create distractions. By involving the teens in simulated situations, we aim to bring a strong awareness of the dangers of distracted driving of which they are often unaware. Speakers, including innocent victims of distracted-driving accidents and a Pittsburgh police officer, will share their stories.



WOMEN OF
TEMPLE
SINAI

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Cooking Classes Through June

Temple Sinai congregants and friends who have participated in the monthly cooking classes sponsored by the Women of Temple Sinai (WOTS) not only learn a new dish or two, they enjoy sitting together and sharing the results of their lesson.

Classes are usually held the second Monday of each month from 6:30–8:30 PM. Each class costs \$10, and anyone age 16 and over is welcome to participate.

DATE	DESCRIPTION
February 12	A Taste of Persia: Mara Kaplan will create a menu for Purim featuring Vashti's Banquet, a Persian great meal. It will include Sweet and Sour Persian Grape Leaves, Chicken Stew with Persian Limes, Jeweled Rice, and a surprise dessert.
March 5	Beyond Matzah: Leon Edelsack will lead us in learning new dishes for Passover.
April 9	Is There An App for That? Maybe not, but Barbara Gibson will "up" our entertaining menus with easy appetizers and tapas.
May 14	Missing Waldorf Bakery's Babkas? Randy Boswell will delight us by showing us how to bake chocolate babka.
June 11	Surprise, Surprise: Drew Barkley will surprise us with a menu that will please our palates.

Unless otherwise updated in our weekly emails, please RSVP to Carolyn Schwarz either by 4CarolynSchwarz@gmail.com or at (412) 421-1268. Questions? Please contact either Carolyn or Laura Arnold at lsarnold1@gmail.com or (412) 401-9016.

BE INSPIRED TO CONNECT

JDAIM Movie Night & Art Exhibit

Saturday, Feb. 3, 5 PM

My Hero Brother tells the story of a group of people with Down Syndrome on a trek through the Indian Himalayas with their siblings. An exhibit will feature artwork by artists with disabilities. Cost: \$8 in advance/\$10 at the door

WoTS Cooking Class

Monday, Feb. 5, 6:30 PM

A Taste of Persia: Mara Kaplan will create a menu for Purim featuring tasty treats. Please RSVP to Carolyn Schwarz, (412) 421-1268 or 4carolynschwarz@gmail.com. Cost is \$10, and anyone age 16 and older is welcome!

JDAIM Shabbat Potluck Dinner

Friday, Feb. 16, 5:45 PM

We will provide a meat entrée. Please bring a non-dairy side, salad, or dessert to share (enough for 8–10 people). Cost: \$5

Adult Purim Carnival

Saturday, Feb. 24, 6:30 PM

Purim Carnivals are not just for kids! Get a preview of the games in store for the kids, with some special “adult” twists! Prizes. Food and drinks. 21 and over. Cost: \$25

Family Purim Carnival

Sunday, Feb. 25, 11 AM–12:30 PM

Join us for our annual Purim Carnival! Enjoy games, food (cash only please), prizes, and MORE FUN! Cost: \$10 (all day pass); free for children ages 3 and under

Grease: A Purim Shpiel

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 6:30 PM

“Grease is the word! You’re the one that I want.” Join Cantor Berman, clergy, and congregants of all ages for a silly retelling of the Book of Esther.

The Great Latke-Hamanstash Debate

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 7:45 PM

Our esteemed panelists will debate the merits of the latke or hamanstash to determine which is the best. Hilarity and fun are guaranteed.

TEMPLE SINAI

5505 FORBES AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15217

**ADULT CARNIVAL • FAMILY CARNIVAL • PIZZA DINNER
MEGILLAH & SONGS • PURIM SHPIEL
THE GREAT LATKE-HAMANSTASH DEBATE**



**Three topsy-turvy
days to rejoice and
have fun this Purim
— Feb. 24, 25 & 28!
Details inside.**

Rabbi James A. Gibson, MAHL, DD

Senior Rabbi

Rabbi Keren Gorban, MAHL

Associate Rabbi

Cantor Laura Berman, MSM, Diploma of Hazzan, MBA

Cantor

Drew Barkley, FTA

Executive Director

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Philip L. Lehman, Ph.D., President

Saul Straussman, 1st Vice President

Alison Yazer, 2nd Vice President

Jerry Katz, 3rd Vice President

Arthur Goldberg, Treasurer

Katie Whitlatch, Secretary

Marc Darling, Assistant Treasurer

George Arnold, Financial Secretary

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 Mahan at (412) 421-9715 ext. 110 or judy@templesinaipgh.org.