



“Who lives, who dies, who tells your story?”

These famous lyrics are the title of the closing song of the musical Hamilton. Yet the sentiment speaks to a profoundly human and universal drive to make meaning of our lives. One of the primary ways we do this is through telling stories. We are made of stories, in many ways. Of course, we know this from studying history. Stories of our past can connect us through memory or a sense of shared experience to our ancestors, both of recent generations and long past. But in our present, and as we look to our future, we are also made of stories. The stories we tell about our day, or our week help us build and maintain connection to each other now. And the stories that we imagine for our future help shape our expectations, desires, and actions as we pave our paths forward.

So these questions, “who tells your story,” or “how do we tell our story” are both at the heart of what it means to be human and, I believe, what it means to be Jewish. We retell our sacred story each year in lots of ways. We do so at Passover as we remember that “we were slaves, and now we are free.” We do so at Simchat Torah when we literally start reading our great story, our Torah, over again. We even do so at each and every Shabbat when we make Kiddush, recalling the Exodus from Egypt and the creation of the

world itself—pivotal moments of our shared story.



Rabbi Max Chaiken

Naturally, I have also been thinking quite a lot about how we tell our story as a congregation. Each of us has a story about how you first connected to Temple Emanuel, or why it’s important for you to stay connected, and as an organization, we too have a story that has been evolving for over 100 years.

With all of this in mind, I want to share that we are slowly working to make sure that this bimonthly bulletin is designed to tell our stories. While we certainly want you to know about events, we also send our Thursday e-News, and have a newly redesigned home page of our website

and both serve us well with staying up to date. This bulletin, however, can be a unique vehicle to share our experiences and stories. Did you have a meaningful experience at a recent program, class, service, or life-cycle event? Did your children ask a great question inspired by their time in our religious school? Do you have a longstanding, meaningful connection to Temple Emanuel that you simply want to share? Any of these could become a story in our next bulletin! We are inviting you to submit short stories or articles (250-500 words) by email to our Executive Assistant Elissa Oppenheim, at eoppenheim@templemanuel.net.

While we cannot guarantee that every submission will be included, we hope that this creates an opportunity for us to hear more of the sacred stories that are taking place here at Temple Emanuel every day, and that have been part of the fabric of this community for over 100 years.

For those who I haven’t seen recently, I hope you will connect soon at a service or program or make a time to come by just to chat.

Let us listen to the stories of our congregation, and let us proudly tell the story of who we are, and who we want to become.

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BULLETIN INFORMATION

Summer

Tamuz/Av/Elul 5783

Deadline for story submissions for the next bulletin is June 12.

Please email submissions to

Maureen Chapman at

mchapman@templemanuel.net.

or

Elissa Oppenheim at

Eoppenheim@templemanuel.net

or call 978.470.1356

A Message From Our President



This is my last article as President of Temple Emanuel. I want to start off by saying that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve our Temple as President. While we have had many challenges over the last two years, I feel strongly that Temple Emanuel is in a place of strength. One of my goals was to grow our sense of community and to make Temple Emanuel feel like a place where we all feel like part of a family. I feel we have grown much closer together as a community. I am so proud and thankful for all of our clergy, staff and volunteers who have worked so hard over my time as President. I want to send a special thank you to our current Executive Board and our Board of Governors for all of their leadership and support throughout the last two years! Without your efforts we would not be where we are today. I encourage everyone in our community to continue to get involved with Temple Emanuel and to support our programs whenever possible. We have so much to offer to not only the Jewish community but also to the community of the greater Merrimack Valley.

As we look to future I want to welcome our next President Dana Katz. I am looking forward to continuing to work with her as we move forward. Dana and I have worked very closely together and I can't thank her enough for everything she has done and will do for our Temple.

Over the next couple of months our Temple will be holding our Vision200 sessions. The next two sessions will take place on May 13th and 18th. This is an opportunity to have your voices heard and to share with our leadership what is important to you for our Temple's future. What do you like and want to see continued? What do you want to see changed, and what new ideas do you have that you would want to share? Please take advantage of this opportunity to shape the future and help ensure Temple Emanuel remains vibrant and strong for generations to come.

Finally, I want to thank my family and friends for all their support over the last two years. My wife Meryl has been so supportive and I could not have done this without her love and support. Temple Emanuel means so much to my family and am so proud to say that I am a member of this community. Thank you for letting me have this opportunity to serve this great community!

Warmly,
David Trachtenberg

Vision200: Where We're Going - Strategic Visioning

As part of our strategic visioning initiative, we will hold two communal brainstorming sessions in to find ways to strengthen beloved programs and services while also generating new, innovative ideas to implement for our congregation. **Please visit our website to register to attend and get the creative juices flowing!**

Saturday, May 13, 7:30 p.m., In-person only following Havdalah
Movie showing available for youth during visioning session. Please register children when you register for the event.

Thursday, May 18, 7:30 p.m., Zoom only



Maureen Chapman

Executive Director

“Commencement.” May and June are months we hear this word quite often. From our own preschool to our High School students to our college graduates; at a variety of levels of higher education. And so too is it a time of commencement at Temple Emanuel. While many of us may see this as the end of our year, it is quite the opposite! While our academic year may end, **our fiscal year is just about to start again on July 1.** And this means that there is no shortage of commencing of the plans for next year!

Our staff recently sat down to build out our ritual, educational and programming calendar for the coming year. After a year of inspiring and engaging each other, through a myriad of opportunities, we are poised to let the energy and creativity carry on into our next year. As we look at the calendar on paper, I am struck at just how much our staff, lay leaders and congregants do to create a community that embraces each person as they are. Temple Emanuel is a space for all who wish to seek Jewish connection at any point in their lives.

As the hub of Jewish life in the Merrimack Valley, we want to hear from you. We encourage you to join us on May 13 following Havdalah or on May 18 on Zoom for our **Vision200 Strategic Brainstorming** sessions as we plan for our next 100 years. More information can be found on our website. And we welcome you to share your programming ideas through our Program suggestion box, both online in our E-news and in-person right outside of our main office suite. If you want to get involved, please reach out to me at mchapman@templemanuel.net

SERVICE & PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Friday, May 5

6:30 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service featuring The Fringes and Representative Tram Nguyen (sanctuary, Zoom, Facebook)

Saturday, May 6

9:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service (chapel, Zoom)

10:30 a.m. Bat Mitzvah of **Sarah Segal**, child of Kim and Allan Segal, grandchild of Gayle Gordon and Steven Gordon and Sue and Marty Segal

Sunday, May 7

9:00 a.m. Braverman Brunch and Guest lecturer (multipurpose room/chapel)

11:00 a.m. Family Morning Service (sanctuary)

Thursday, May 11

7:30 p.m. Men’s Night Out (Bobby and Jack’s Memphis Barbecue)

Friday, May 12

5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat

6:30 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service (sanctuary, Zoom, Facebook)

Saturday, May 13

10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service with Bat Mitzvah of **Wren Baden**, child of Jenni and Greg Baden, grandchild of Laura and Bob Hadd, and Jeanne Baden (sanctuary)

6:30 p.m. Benefactors Society Appreciation Reception (multipurpose room)

7:30 p.m. Havdalah & Vision200 Brainstorming session (social hall)

Wednesday, May 17

7:30 p.m. Board of Governors Meeting (multipurpose room, Zoom)

Thursday, May 18

7:30 p.m. Vision200 Brainstorming session (Zoom)

Friday, May 19

6:30 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service and Confirmation (sanctuary, Zoom, Facebook)

7:30 p.m. Congregational Shabbat dinner (multipurpose room)

Saturday, May 20

9:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service (chapel, Zoom)

2:00 p.m. Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat performance

7:00 p.m. Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat performance

Sunday, May 21

9:00 a.m. Family Morning Service (patio)

9:30am Field Day (patio & lawn)

2:00 p.m. Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat performance

7:00 p.m. Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat performance

Wednesday, May 24

6:00 p.m. Sisterhood Spring Soiree (social hall, lobby)

Friday, May 26

6:30 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service and Shavuot Yizkor service (sanctuary, Zoom, Facebook)

Saturday, May 27

9:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service (chapel, Zoom)

Friday, June 2

6:30 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service with participation from Sydney Kitces (sanctuary, Zoom, Facebook)

Saturday, June 3

9:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service (chapel, Zoom)

5:00 p.m. Tot Havdalah (patio)

Friday, June 9

6:30 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service (sanctuary, Zoom, Facebook)

Saturday, June 10

9:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service (chapel, Zoom)

7:00 p.m. Cantor’s Coffeehouse featuring Sue Horowitz (social hall)

Friday, June 16

6:30 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service (sanctuary, Zoom, Facebook)

Saturday, June 17

9:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service (chapel, Zoom)

Friday, June 23

6:00 p.m. Annual meeting and congregational dinner

7:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service with Soul Sisters and Volunteer Recognition (sanctuary, Zoom, Facebook)

Saturday, June 24

9:00a.m. Shabbat Morning Service (chapel, Zoom)

Friday, June 30

6:30 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service (sanctuary, Zoom, Facebook)

Saturday, July 1

9:00am Shabbat Morning Service (Zoom)

Cantor's Column

Stepping into Spirituality

As a Cantor and Cantorial soloist for over 20 years, I have considered myself a very spiritual person. My heart delights in bringing Jewish music, liturgy, and celebrations to my community. I have a sacred purpose. I love sharing the feelings in my soul that connect me to God and my people. Prayer moves me and being part of people's life events brings me joy and gratitude.

Yet, I have found it rather difficult to practice other forms of spirituality; I enjoy yoga, as it involves movement and stretching, but meditation and silence and mindfulness practices can be quite challenging for me. If you know me at all, you know that being silent is incredibly hard for me. I am definitely a chatty, outgoing person and being quiet is not in my DNA. I've also found that, although I strive to be mindful in the company of others, being mindful with myself is also difficult. So, I had my work cut out for me when I was accepted into the newest cohort of the clergy leadership program of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality (IJS).

IJS is an 18-month program consisting of retreats every 6 months as well as weekly practice and study sessions between conferences. During the retreats, we practice meditation, yoga, prayer, study text, sing and chant and other types of embodied practice. I began the program in January of this year, and it continues through July of 2024. My goal is to find practices that resonate with me to bring me balance, calm and clarity in my life and ultimately be able to share these practices with my community.

I can tell you; I was very skeptical at first. When I arrived at the January retreat, I had some trepidation and a lot of self-doubt. Could I really remain silent from the time I got up in the morning through lunch? Are there going to be people like me at this retreat, or am I going to be an outsider or a mindfulness "flunky"? How can I possibly quiet my mind during the meditation sessions? When will the sound of other people chewing during silent meals stop bothering me? Am I the only distracted by just about everything? Do I really want to face my struggles that bubble up to the surface during these periods of reflection?

Well, luckily, most everyone at the first retreat were people just like me; fellow clergy who had their own doubts about aspects of the program and practices that didn't come easily to them. We all practiced and debriefed together and I was grateful to hear that

everyone was struggling with something or multiple things. No one had meditation or yoga down; many people grappled with the silence. Once I realized that I was among friends and colleagues in the same boat, I began to relax into the various modalities. As I got used to the routine, I did feel some sense of calm and relaxation that I know I needed. And I realized I needed more of that in my daily life. That's not to say that everything became easy during the retreat. It didn't and I'm sure it will be a struggle these next 18 months; more likely a lifelong struggle. But the blessing is in the knowing and finding the tools to bringing mindfulness and these aspects of spiritual practice into my life.

Life is a balancing act; it isn't always a steady, straightforward path. But that's why I'm studying at IJS. I'm cultivating a practice and it's intentionally called "a practice". If spirituality and mindfulness are something you'd like to explore, I invite you to reach out. Stepping into spirituality makes the journey that much sweeter.



Cantor Rachel



High Holy Day Choir 5784

Have you ever wanted to sing at services for the High Holy Days?

The Temple Emanuel High Holy Day Choir is seeking some new voices to join us this High Holy Day season for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

A pleasant voice, a desire to learn and an ability to rehearse during the summer months are necessities. Sight reading is not a requirement.

Open to all members in good standing of Temple Emanuel. For more information and to join the choir, please contact Cantor Rachel at rrefsimpson@templemanuel.net or call the Temple office.

Rehearsals begin in July and run through mid September.



Betsy Kachel

As our public-school year winds down, our halls grow quiet and the bulletin boards become bare. However, the school staff continues working to ensure that everything is ready to go when students and teachers return in September.

- Look for symbols on a nature hike that your children feel connect them to Judaism
- Realize on a Friday night by a fire pit that it is Shabbat, and say “Shabbat Shalom” to someone
- Sing Jewish songs on a road trip
- Visit a synagogue or Jewish museum in another city, state or country

We have had an incredible year of learning together. Our students have enjoyed special programming and hands on interactive learning. I want to thank our dedicated faculty for their team work and dedication to providing your children with lessons and experiences that have strengthened their Jewish identities and personal growth. Whichever way you spend your time when your children are not in school with us, I hope you all take the summer months to rest, reflect and renew.

L’Shalom,
Betsy

Summer months are filled with opportunities for families to spend more time together, kids to attend camp, get jobs and many people travel. The morning ritual of packing backpacks and lunches is often replaced by beach bags filled with sunscreen, bug spray and swim suits. Although our daily routines change, there are still plenty of ways to help your children continue their connection to Judaism.

- Eat challah and light candles on Friday as your family eats dinner together



The Preschool
at TEMPLE EMANUEL

The Preschool at Temple Emanuel provides a safe, warm and caring environment that welcomes children and families to our community. We encourage children to explore, experiment, and create while promoting self-confidence, self-expression, independence and a lifelong love of learning.

If you are interested in learning more about our Preschool, please call the school office 978-470-1563 or explore our website at templemanuel.net.

Youth Engagement

Temple Emanuel’s Religious School and Youth Engagement is excited to bring you our final event of the year on May 21st in conjunction with Brotherhood, providing fun for your entire family!

Our Field Day will run from 9am to 11:00am, beginning with T’filah on the patio with Rabbi Chaiken and Cantor Rachel. After the service, families are encouraged to participate in any and all activities! Throughout the morning, there will be coffee and water, donut holes, popcorn and a surprise sweet treat.

There are many options and activities for children and adults of all ages and preferences. We will be jamming out with karaoke, shooting hoops at the basketball net, playing board games or cards, getting tatted with glitter, tripping through an obstacle course, tossing beanbags, racing in potato sacks, and designing your own tie-dye! We do ask that you bring something white to customize and maybe wear darker clothing, anticipating some mess.

Field day is open to whole community and free for temple members! Please RSVP on our website. Not yet a member? We’d love to see you there. We kindly ask for a donation of \$18 per guest family.

Youth Engagement is also thrilled to announce the participation of PJ Library at this event as Temple Emanuel continues to partner with them and the Lappin Foundation, as well as Andover Police Department and Fire Department making appearances with their “touch-a-truck” community program.

Please email hroberts@templemanuel.net with any questions!

Brotherhood

Another summer is fast approaching, and it's a great time to reflect on the past year. Brotherhood has provided many great opportunities, including social events, Men's nights out, coordinating high holiday ushering, working on the Purim carnival and Field Day this spring, plus so much more.

Looking ahead to 2023-24; our summer planning meeting is set for July, and we already have an agenda full of new and popular ideas for programming, including a potential guy's trip to Las Vegas! We're excited to see what the next year brings, and we're grateful for all the support from our members and community.

As my term as president of the Brotherhood of Temple Emanuel comes to an end, I wanted to take a moment to express my deep appreciation for the opportunity to lead and serve this wonderful organization.

Over the past five years, I have had the honor of working alongside dedicated gentlemen, who have always shown unwavering commitment to our shared values and mission. Together, we have accomplished so much, and I am proud of all that we have achieved. We have strengthened our bonds as a community, organized numerous events and programs that have enriched our connection as a Brotherhood, enhanced our social and spiritual lives as well as benefit the Temple Emanuel community at large. None of this

would have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our members.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the members of the Brotherhood and especially our Board of Directors for their support, guidance, and friendship. Your encouragement and dedication meant the world to me, and I will always be grateful for the opportunity to work with such a wonderful group of people. I also want to express my gratitude to the clergy, staff, and leadership of Temple Emanuel for their guidance and support over the years.

I will always look back on my time as President with fondness and pride. I know that the Brotherhood will continue to thrive and make a positive impact in the Temple Emanuel community for years to come. I have full confidence in the leadership of what will be our new Executive Board along with the team of the Board of Directors. I am certain that they will continue to guide the Brotherhood of Temple Emanuel towards even greater achievements in the future.

Thank you again for your support and for the privilege of serving as your president. I will always be a proud member of the Brotherhood of Temple Emanuel and I look forward to staying connected and actively involved in this great community.

Neal Roberts,
Brotherhood President

Join the Temple Emanuel trip to Israel!

Dates: Thursday afternoon, **February 15, 2024** through **Saturday evening, February 24, 2024**

These are "on the ground" dates for our tour throughout Israel.

Full details of our itinerary are still being developed



- ◆ Our trip will start in **Tel Aviv**, and the center of the country, exploring sites related to the modern state of Israel and setting the stage for other locations
- ◆ We will then head north of Israel for a few days, visiting the port city of **Haifa**, the home of mysticism at **Sfat**, other meaningful and beautiful sites in the northern part of the country.
- ◆ We will continue and conclude our trip based in **Jerusalem**, with tours of the Old City, visits to sacred sites not only to our Jewish tradition but to others as well. We will be including sites and opportunities that we would want anybody traveling to Israel for the **first time** to have a chance to experience, including visiting Masada and the Dead Sea, touring Israel's Holocaust museum Yad VaShem, and much more.
- ◆ We also will be working to offer some **"options" for those who have travelled to Israel previously** to diversify their experience.

Registration for the trip will be available soon!

Sisterhood

It is hard to believe that my term as Sisterhood President is almost over! I have been looking back on the last two years remembering some of the things we have done such as: the Sukkot Pizza Party, the Welcome Back Suppers, the Chanukah and Passover packages for the Sisterhood Members college students, the Women's Night Outs, the Thursday Mah Jongg group and last winter's Sunday Mah Jongg Learning Class. The Sisterhood Shabbat Service and last year's Ways and Means with guest speaker Brandeis Professor Lisa Fishbayn Joffe.

Not only did we have social activities, but we also have helped the community. Collecting feminine products for women at a shelter in Lawrence. Collecting children's underwear for CocoTree Kids and collecting warm clothing items at this year's Paid-Up Supper.

Finally, our annual Share the Light project, purchasing presents for children in need in the Merrimack Valley area. Thank you to everyone who donated.

We made sure that we were active in our temple community, by working with the office staff and

religious school and helping with the planning and volunteering with the Chanukah and Purim parties. In the past two years the Sisterhood gave out five scholarships to help send these teenagers of Sisterhood members to Israel.

I want to thank Rabbi Chaiken, Cantor Rachel, Elissa Oppenheim, Beth Shiro and Maureen Chapman for all your support. I also want to say a special thank you to the Sisterhood Executive Board and the Sisterhood Board. I couldn't have done this without you ladies. Thank you for your ideas and taking time from your busy schedule and volunteering.

I want to congratulate Alyson D'Angelo on becoming the next president of the Sisterhood of Temple Emanuel and ladies, please RSVP to the invite to the May 24th Spring Soiree when we will be installing our new Sisterhood Executive Board and Sisterhood Board.

Thank you,

Meryl Trachtenberg
President of The Sisterhood of Temple Emanuel

SAVE THE DATE

SISTERHOOD

SPRING *Soiree*

WEDNESDAY 24 MAY
AT 6 P.M.



Claudia Mintz will share the powerful message of providing the joys of a birthday celebration to children experiencing homelessness through the One Wish Project

Join us for the Sisterhood of Temple Emanuel's Spring Soiree (formerly known as the Ways and Means). This year's Spring Soiree guest speaker will be Claudia Mintz from the One Wish Project.

We will be having a Silent Auction at this event and we are asking our Temple community to help make this event a success, and to please donate a theme basket.

If you would like to donate a theme basket or if you have any questions please contact, Meryl Trachtenberg (mtrachtenberg@templemanuel.net).

Silent Auction Open for Patriots Tickets!

2 Patriots tickets in Sec. 107, Row 29, Seats 5 and 6. The game to be announced later. Thank you to Lew Gack for the donation.

Current bid is \$280. Visit our website to place your bid!

Summer Golf Outing & Reception 2023

July 31, 2023



Members & Non-Members Welcome!

Join us for a fun filled day on the course!
Space is limited so register early to secure your spot!
For more details and to register online
<https://tinyurl.com/yvrd8f7f>
or scan the QR code:



Not a golfer? We invite you to join us for a wonderful
summer dinner buffet and silent auction.

Schedule of Events

11:30am - Registration & Lunch
1:00 pm - Shotgun Start
6:00 pm - Dinner, Awards &
Silent Auction

Golf Packages

Player Registration (per golfer) \$250
Team Registration (four golfers) \$1000
Dinner Reservation Only \$80

All golfer registrations include lunch,
dinner, awards, driving range, greens
fees, golf cart, golf balls and a
tournament gift.

Thank you to our current sponsors!

- Mass General Brigham
- SPEC Process Engineering & Construction, Inc.
- Todd Rogers Eyewear
- Aaron Justin Films
- Brotherhood of Temple Emanuel
- Gerri and Jeff Weiss
- Gervais Imports
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- Sebell Vogt Homes - William Raveis Real Estate
- The Schwartz Family
- The Segal Family
- Sentry Hill Financial Advisors
- The Srivastava Family
- Trachtenberg Transportation
- Winbrook

Contact Eric Schwartz at 617-448-1423 with any questions.

May/June B'nai Mitzvah

Sarah Segal, Saturday, May 6, 10:30am

Child of Kim and Allan Segal, grandchild of Gayle Gordon and Steven Gordon, Sue and Marty Segal

Interests: Sarah enjoys Dancing (hip hop, ballet, jazz and lyrical), spending time with friends and family, social media, and watching T.V shows on Netflix.

For my Bat Mitzvah project, I am partnering with Donate2Dance a charity to help dancers in need and dancers with special needs. I am an official ambassador for Donate2Dance. I will be collecting used dance costumes and dancewear at North Andover School of Dance and will take all the donations to the Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence, Dance Academy.



Wren Baden, Saturday, May 13, 10:30am

Child of Jenni and Greg Baden,
grandchild of Laura and Bob Hadd and Jeanne Baden

Interests: Crochet, bullet journaling, aerial skills, reading/writing

For my Bar Mitzvah project, I am selling assorted handmade art projects, such as tiny paintings, mugs with positive sayings and cute crocheted items. I am raising money for the Eisner Camp scholarship fund, and also for Inflyte Entertainment, where I currently take aerial silks classes.

**Sydney Kitces, Israel December 2022,
and Shabbat services on Friday, June 2, 2023**

Child of Jamie and James Kitces,
grandchild of Audrey and Stuart Rubin and Eileen and Ed Kitces

Interests: Dance, skiing, tennis, spending time with friends, being at camp.

For my Bar Mitzvah project, I collected baby items and assembled "baby boxes" filled with essential baby items for expectant mothers through the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center.



Confirmation Class of 2023

May 19, 2023 at 6:30pm

Noah Aronson, child of Lisa and Marc Aronson

Zachary Aronson, child of Lisa and Marc Aronson

Ethan C. Cooperstein, child of Kim and Marc Cooperstein

Sydney Goldberg, child of Elisa and Peter Goldberg

Austin Kitces, child of Jamie and James Kitces

Abigail Elizabeth Mittelman, child of Beth and Joel Mittelman

Dylan Moses, child of Sara Hinchey and Jeremy Moses

Gabe Polonsky, child of Andrea and Michael Polonsky

Max Polonsky, child of Andrea and Michael Polonsky

Leah Jace Satlow, child of Tara and Les Satlow

Ryan Matthew Schwartz, child of Maureen and Eric Schwartz

Abigail R. Srivastava, child of Jennifer and Sunny Srivastava

Social Justice & Social Action

Bread & Roses: Thank you to our devoted volunteers who continue the Temple's 30+ year tradition of providing delicious meals and conversation to our neighbors in need! Thanks also to all our donors who make this mission possible.

Our **two Social Action-Social Justice Conversations** were very stimulating with roughly 50 attendees at each. Thanks for Judge Kathe M. Tuttmann, Mass. Superior Court (Retired) and Professor Jean Trounstein for their conversation "**Beyond Prison Walls - Finding Hope Through Literature and the Arts**". Atty. Peggy Shukur, Interim Director of the AntiDefamation League shared the latest trends and offered action steps during her presentation - "**Our Collective Fight Against Antisemitism & Hate**".

RAC Research Initiative for 2023-24 Theme for Unifying Congregational Efforts - Each year the RAC provides a thematic platform for social justice activities with suggested literature, speakers and activities. We are excited to participate in the Reform Action Committee's planning group.

Save the Date! Juneteenth 2023 - June 19th: Juneteenth National Independence Day, also known as Jubilee Day, Emancipation and Black Independence Day will again be celebrated by the several local towns. The Andover Town celebration is being organized by local faith-based groups. Volunteers needed the day of the event. To volunteer, please contact: Holli Roberts holliroberts3@gmail.com or Amy Sebell amy@amysebell.com.

Please reach out to Holli (holliroberts3@gmail.com) or Amy (amy@amysebell.com) if you want to join the Social Action-Social Justice Committee.

THANK YOU & NEW MEMBERS

Pulpit Arrangements

March 17—The Stamm Family
March 24—The Stepper Family
April 21—The Kachel Family

Candle Blessing

March 17—The Stamm Family
March 24—The Stepper Family
April 21—The Kachel Family

Onegs

March 17—The Stamm Family
March 24—The Stepper Family
April 14—The Kahan Family
April 21—The Kachel Family

New Members

Muriel Freedman, North Andover
Caroline and Neil Zuk, Dracut

Temple Emanuel Cantor's Coffeehouse featuring Singer/Songwriter Sue Horowitz Saturday, June 10, 7:00 p.m.

A longtime Jewish composer, Sue recently recorded an album of secular folk music which debuted at #3 on the FAI Folk Radio charts. Sue sings "the stories of our own lives with her warm voice, her rich guitar and her genuine heart. Her beautifully crafted lyrics and memorable melodies are woven together with perfection!"

This program, open to the Andover and Merrimack Valley community, is made possible in part by a generous grant from the Andover Cultural Council and Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Dessert and Coffee to be served. RSVP on the Temple website.



“A letter of gratitude and a Jewish Journey”

Submitted by Temple member Priya Phillips

Dear Rabbi, Cantor, Teachers, Leaders, and Our Friends at Temple Emanuel,

Thank you again for your love, support, warmth, acceptance, and help in our desire and sincere efforts to join the Jewish community. Please know that we are cognizant and respectful that becoming Jewish is not a cavalier option. We recognize that Jewish heritage spans millennia and involves more than can be put into words. We are grateful to be with you.

There has been a lot of learning and trying - a few frustrating times, and countless sweet, peaceful, and rich moments. My husband David always despised any holidays he'd experienced for their lack of meaning and/or commercialism. What a counterpoint our Jewish experience has been as I always knew it would be. David recently spoke about what you all know well - how beautiful Judaism is in the way it brings our family closer.

Our kids have been ambassadors in their own joyful ways. They are enthusiastic about sharing Judaism at school; and take every opportunity to ask me to send in representative treats as their teachers tell me that they positively speak up to share what they've learned. Our younger son Kiran has been self advocating since his early preschool days at the Temple. Apparently he spoke with his teacher about wanting to present Passover with matzah that I'd sent in. They each represented Chanukah, and in the course there were blessings - so many learned. Our older son Rohan didn't know one of his classmates was Jewish since he had never spoken up until one day he joined Rohan sharing about Chanukah.

As I write this a few days after the start Passover, I'm reflecting on my first Passover since making the decision to become Jewish and officially joining Temple Emanuel. We are abstaining from chametz. We have never done anything like this before, and it's exciting and meaningful. We cleared everything out, and Kiran aided me in hunting for chametz which was a lot of fun. My shopping included a visit to The Butcherie and Israel Book Shop, which I've been familiar with over the past 20 years in Boston. Manischewitz Blueberry Muffin Mix is tasty! Conversely, I will be eating Lieber's wide noodles alone; but I appreciate their attempt! And, I led us in our very first seder with Simply Seder as our Haggadah, and the crystal we were gifted with at our wedding that hasn't seen the light of day in decades. Our kids were not impressed. Everything didn't go as planned. Kiran fell asleep at the start. We struggled with a few Hebrew songs that take place towards the end. But on the whole, it was a success! Rohan was amazing with singing the blessings, and his beautiful voice and the experience almost brought me to tears. We did it! My soul was filled. The kids keep telling me how much they enjoy Judaism. And David plays Hinei Ma Tov on the piano.

Below please enjoy a few photos of our family as we find our way along this beautiful journey.





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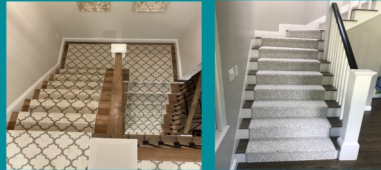
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Friday, June 23, 2023

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