



BULLETIN

November/December 2024 | Cheshvan - Kislev 5785

RABBI'S MESSAGE



Rabbi David Wilfond

As we begin the month of Kislev and prepare to celebrate Chanukah, we are reminded of the miracles of our tradition, particularly the lights of the menorah that shine brightly in our homes and hearts.

Chanukah celebrates the triumph of light over darkness, and what better way to spread that light than by sharing our blessings. This holiday invites us to reflect on our abundance and extend our hands and hearts to those in need. We had a meaningful food drive to benefit Bread and Roses over Yom Kippur and I am excited for the winter warm up clothing drive we are currently holding! It's not too late to participate in our toy drive!

The candles we light each night symbolize the power of light to dispel darkness. In our own lives, we encounter moments of challenge, sorrow, and uncertainty. It's easy to feel overwhelmed, to let the darkness seep in. Yet, like the Maccabees, we have the ability to ignite our inner light and choose joy, even in difficult times. Each small act of kindness can create ripples of joy, much like the expanding light of the candles.

As we celebrate Chanukah this year, let us remember that the light we bring into the world is strengthened when shared.

In the Talmud, we learn that "a little bit of light drives away a lot of darkness." Each small act of kindness, every moment of gratitude, contributes to a greater illumination in our lives. As we light our candles, let us also commit to being lights for others. How can we share our happiness? How can we bring joy to those who are struggling? Perhaps it's through a phone call, a shared meal, donating a coat or toy during one of our many donation drives this month or simply a smile.

May the lights of Chanukah inspire us to act with compassion and generosity, spreading joy and hope to all those around us. Together, we can be a beacon of light, just as our ancestors were in their time of need.

May the lights of Chanukah illuminate our paths and guide us toward a future filled with joy, resilience, and love. As Deborah, Isaac, Eli and Rafi and I kindle our lights at Chanukah, we will hold you in our hearts as we bring light into our Temple Emanuel Community and our world.

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The Sisterhood of Temple Emanuel sponsors the mailing of this bi-monthly bulletin.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dana Katz

As a preschool teacher, November means handprint turkeys. I love writing on each carefully painted feather what each child is thankful for. Our three year old students tend to pick their family, friends, favorite food, hobbies or pet. While I share their gratitude for all of those blessings, as Temple president, I have a few additional things on my list.

I'm thankful for our incredible clergy who just led us in deeply inspirational High Holy Day services and continue to tend to our individual and collective spirits. I'm thankful for our dedicated staff who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure every event goes off without a hitch. I'm thankful for our lay leaders who devote countless hours of their busy lives to supporting our Temple, guided by a deep sense of duty, ethics and love. I'm thankful for our volunteers who roll up their sleeves to lead a wide range of programs, including social events, social responsibility and learning opportunities for all ages.

I especially want to recognize those who served as ushers, Torah readers and honorees at our High Holy Day services, Julie Bernstein and Renee Metsch for coordinating our community break fast, the Trachtenberg and Roberts families for hosting our guest musicians, Toby Hodes for organizing our Selichot program, and all those who joined with the Brotherhood in putting up our sukkahs.

And I'm thankful to our congregants who form Temple Emanuel's warm, welcoming community. As a congregation, we are all connected, each unique yet essential to the whole. Following in the path of the generations before us, we are shaping a future we can be proud of, centered on compassion, collaboration and hope. This Thanksgiving, I am grateful to serve this congregation, grateful for the gift that is Temple Emanuel, and grateful for each of you who make up our proud, vibrant home for Jewish life. I hope as you reflect on your blessings, you too will think of Temple Emanuel and the bright future ahead of us all.

Warmly,
Dana

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Michelle Gamliel

This past month, we celebrated an uplifting High Holy Day season, highlighted by an impressive turnout for both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We welcomed over 1,500 community members, and our Yom Kippur break fast brought together more than 250 people, creating a warm and meaningful atmosphere for everyone.

I am thrilled to announce some exciting changes in our office. Please join me in welcoming our new administrative assistant, Kim Cooperstein, to the Temple Emanuel team!

As we transition into November, we look forward to Thanksgiving—a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the many blessings in our lives. Let's take a moment to express our gratitude for our community, our loved ones, and the meaningful connections we share. Wishing everyone a joyous and fulfilling holiday season!

NEWS FROM SISTERHOOD

As the crisp autumn air begins to settle in, we are excited to welcome the season of change and new beginnings. Fall – and the High Holidays – is not only a time for reflection and gratitude, but also an opportunity to come together as a community. We are especially thrilled to welcome our new and returning Sisterhood members, who continue to bring fresh energy and ideas to our group.

We have had a busy season already filled with exciting events for everyone, beginning with our Welcome Back Dinner. It was such a warm, relaxing evening of socializing and provided an opportunity to get to know more about not only each other and but also the wonderful Deborah Wilfond, who was our guest speaker. Many thanks to the team who made this event happen: Lorraine Kalp, Priya Philips, Tara Grossman, Jennifer Strauss, Laura Wilford, Wendy Giblin and Kori Pasternak.

If you are a mah jongg fan, join us each Thursday from 1 to 3 pm in the Social Hall. Find out more information and how to contact Sue Abraham in the weekly e-News. And if you are interested in an evening game, reach out to Judy Matulsky.

Thank you for all of your continued support. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at an upcoming event.

Alyson D'Angelo
Sisterhood President
alysonzdangelo@gmail.com

NEWS FROM BROTHERHOOD

Greetings from the Brotherhood. I hope everyone had a meaningful High Holidays and is enjoying the beautiful start of the fall season. Our early fall efforts included the construction and takedown of the new sukkah, our first Brotherhood Night in the Sukkah, where several of our members hung out with pizza and tried some fall-inspired beer and hard cider, and our annual tailgate event that is always a great time (regardless of how well the Patriots are doing).

Join us on Sunday, November 17, at 9:30 am, when 7News' (and Temple member) Steve Cooper will moderate a panel discussion with two of the most seasoned and respected Boston TV political reporters in New England. Jon Keller of WBZ-TV news and Sharman Sacchetti of WCVB NewsCenter 5 will join us, look back at this year's election and discuss how covering campaigns and the candidates has changed in an era of fast-paced social media. This timely panel discussion is open to all Temple members and guests, and free for all paid-up Brotherhood members. Make sure to sign up now, as space is limited, for this must-see event.

If you have not joined Brotherhood this year, I encourage you to do so on the Temple's website. We are making a concerted effort to get more engaged with our entire membership and welcome any feedback or ideas on ways to provide for the Temple community. Please feel free to reach out to me at the Brotherhood gmail address – TEAndoverBrotherhood@gmail.com. Hope to see everyone soon. Stay safe.

Alex Pawlowski
Brotherhood President

CANTOR'S MESSAGE

Monarch On A Beach

I'd like to tell you that this story is all about me, the monarch on the beach, but despite having French nobility in my blood seven generations back, I am just the witness to this tale. The true protagonist is a monarch butterfly.

A few days ago, I saw a lone, magnificent monarch butterfly flying near me at the beach. It was displaying its bright orange colors in the sunlight, accented by and framed in black and a little bit of white. It was so unusual that I literally did a double take. It's not that I don't see butterflies on the beach, but this was the third week in October! When I got home, I looked up some facts as well as some fascinating symbolism about the monarch butterfly.



Cantor Rachel Reef-Simpson

One interesting thing I learned is that, unlike monarchs the rest of the year who only live two to six weeks, the fall monarchs, or what naturalists call the "last generation of the year" live up to eight or nine months. Honestly, I didn't think they could survive the colder temperatures at night, but apparently it helps them live longer.

The monarch butterfly, in many cultures, symbolizes transformation and resilience; opportunities to shed our old selves and embrace new beginnings. Because the monarch flies thousands of miles as it migrates south away from the cold, it is also a symbol of strength in adversity and perseverance.

In Mexican culture, the monarch butterfly connects the departed with their living loved ones and is a beautiful reminder that death never severs those bonds. Many cultures also believe that the sighting of a monarch butterfly is a good omen, bringing with it a message to embrace change and an opportunity for evolution.

I thought it so very fitting that during this season and during these High Holy Days, the ultimate time for renewal and personal growth, I would see a monarch butterfly. It reminded me of the suggestion I made to all of you, my Temple family, a little while back in a previous article; to always look for the miracles on your journey, whether they are in nature, as this one was, or a human encounter, or something remarkable that happens in your day. And, seeing the monarch butterfly also made me recall something that Rabbi Wilfond shared in his Yom Kippur morning sermon: take the time to be grateful and, if you can, keep a gratitude journal. I have to admit, on the day I saw the butterfly, I was feeling very stressed and not particularly grateful. But that sighting gave me pause, and I stopped what I was doing, acknowledged the miracle in the sighting and my attitude for the remainder of the day changed completely. Instead of being mired by my worries, I felt grateful...and see, I'm writing it down too!

I hope that, as you launch into this new year, your journey of renewal is a positive and fulfilling one, you take the time to look for and find the miracles, great and small, and acknowledge your gratitude. It can be as transformative as a monarch butterfly!

SOCIAL ACTION

"Voting is the expression of our commitment to ourselves, one another, this country, and this world" - Sharon Salzberg

In 2020, the Reform Movement launched Every Voice, Every Vote: The Reform Movement's Civic Engagement Campaign, with a focus on combatting voter suppression that particularly suppresses the votes and voices of communities of color. Thank you to our dedicated team of postcard writers who wrote over 300 postcards to encourage voter registration.

Thank you to everyone who donated warm clothing on October 27 in support of Debbie's Treasure Chest. This annual event supports the mission that all families in the Merrimack Valley will have access to resources to reach their highest potential.

Mark your calendars for a stimulating program on February 3, featuring Attorney Lisa M. Kavanaugh, Director of the Innocence Program for the Private Counsel Division of the Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services. Attorney Kavanaugh will describe her work as an innocence attorney, seeking justice for wrongfully convicted individuals in Massachusetts. She will be accompanied by one of her exonerated clients. Please sign up through the Temple's website or e-News.

Holli Roberts & Amy Sebell

TEMPLE EMANUEL'S CANTOR COFFEE HOUSE

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Record Release Concert and Coffee House

Join Cantor Rachel as she welcomes Double Chai,
the bicoastal duo of her son Ian Simpson and his musical partner Jeremy Sipe,
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NOVEMBER
23 | **7:00**
pm

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DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION'S MESSAGE



Betsy Kachel

What a busy and exciting start to the school year we have had! The best part has been re-connecting as a community. It has been heartwarming to see parents and caregivers walking children into school or participating in school and Temple events together. Make sure to check out the staff photo display in our school wing. This special photo wall will introduce you to the amazing educators and staff in our temple schools.

Here are some exciting events to look forward to:

- **November 5:** Preschool parent-teacher conferences
- **November 17:** Tot Traditions for 3- and 4-year-olds with a caregiver
- **December 15:** Temple Chanukah family celebration during Religious School

We hope to see you at any/all of these wonderful events.

L'Shalom,
Betsy

B'NAI MITZVAH



Parker Winick

Saturday, November 2, 10:30 am

Parker Winick attends Nashoba Learning Group in Bedford, MA. He enjoys swimming, skiing, and time with his cousins.



Owen Obbard

Saturday, November 16, 10:30 am

Owen Obbard is a 7th grader at Doherty Middle School in Andover. He enjoys performing in plays with The Misfit Artist Company, playing bass guitar in two rock bands, singing, traveling, hiking in Maine and spending part of his summer at Eisner Camp in Great Barrington, MA.

ENCOUNTERING GOD TODAY

Join Rabbi Neal Gold for a five-session course, Encountering God Today, on the exploration of modern Jewish theology.

This course meets Thursdays at 7pm via Zoom on the following dates:
November 7, November 14, November 21, December 5, and December 12

Visit the website to sign-up and receive more information.



We understand that everyone's support, through volunteering and philanthropy, is necessary to sustain a synagogue.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

JEFF AND GERRI WEISS

We were raised in families committed to supporting temple life. Gerri's parents were temple board members and religious school teachers, and her family spent social and spiritual time at their temple. Jeff's family demonstrated the importance of committing to their temple, maintaining lifelong support of the congregation through membership and philanthropy. We understand that everyone's support, through volunteering and philanthropy, is necessary to sustain a Jewish community available to all who seek it.

When we moved to Andover with young children, we knew we wanted that commitment to temple life to be central to our family. I (Gerri) quickly became involved in Sisterhood and found fun and fulfillment in supporting Temple Emanuel. As my participation in temple life grew, Jeff provided invaluable support and patience for the time and attention spent on the temple. If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a willing family to support an active volunteer/lay leader at Temple Emanuel! I am lucky to have had the support of Jeff and our sons, Sam and Alec, during my 30-year and counting journey. From my first involvement as a Preschool parent to being Sisterhood President, Temple President, an honored Wertheimer Community Service Award recipient and a Bread & Roses volunteer, I rely on our family's shared understanding of the importance of participating in temple life to create a thriving synagogue and a fulfilling Jewish communal experience. Jeff and I are proud that we can share that commitment with our grandchildren, who will be the fourth generation of our family to know what it means to belong to Temple Emanuel.

Similar to our family before us, we also know that membership dues alone cover only a portion of our temple's operating budget and – like many synagogues – ours relies on supplemental giving for the financial resources necessary to provide the variety of programs and services it offers. By being members of the Benefactors Society, we are sharing the commitment to keep Temple Emanuel vibrant and accessible to all who seek participation so that our neighbors, our children and our grandchildren have the opportunity to be part of our special Jewish community.

SERVICE AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE: NOVEMBER

Friday, November 1

9:30 am Babies, Bagels and Beyond

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, November 2

9:00 am Shabbat Morning Torah Study

10:30 am Bar Mitzvah of Parker Winick

Sunday, November 3

9:30am Adult Ed Series: Exploring Judaism

Thursday, November 7

10:30 am Taste of Torah

1:00 pm Mah Jongg

7:00 pm Adult Ed Series: Encountering God Today with Guest Scholar, Rabbi Neal Gold

Friday, November 8

9:30 am Preschool Coffee Meet and Greet

9:30 am Babies, Bagels and Beyond

5:00 pm Tot Shabbat with Clergy and PJ Library

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, November 9

9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service

Monday, November 11

5:00 pm Cooking for Bread & Roses

Tuesday, November 12

3:15 pm Serving at Bread & Roses

Thursday, November 14

10:30 am Taste of Torah

1:00 pm Mah Jongg

7:00 pm Adult Ed Series: Encountering God Today with Guest Scholar, Rabbi Neal Gold

Friday, November 15

9:30 am Babies, Bagels and Beyond

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, November 16

9:00 am Shabbat Torah Study

10:30 am Bar Mitzvah of Owen Obbard

Sunday, November 17

9:30 am Breakfast and Panel Discussion: Campaign 2024
- The Inside Scoop

Wednesday, November 20

All Day Monthly Food Drive

Thursday, November 21

10:30 am Taste of Torah

1:00 pm Mah Jongg

7:00 pm Adult Ed Series: Encountering God Today with Guest Scholar, Rabbi Neal Gold

Friday, November 22

9:30 am Babies, Bagels and Beyond

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, November 23

9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service

7:00 pm Cantor's Coffee House: Double Chai Concert

Sunday, November 24

9:30 am Adult Ed Series: Exploring Judaism

Tuesday, November 26

12:45 pm Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, November 29

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service with Ian Simpson

Saturday, November 30

9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service

Visit www.templemanuel.net/#calendar for more information.

SERVICE AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE: DECEMBER

Thursday, December 5

10:30 am Taste of Torah

1:00 pm Mah Jongg

7:00 pm Adult Ed Series: Encountering God Today with
Guest Scholar, Rabbi Neal Gold

Friday, December 6

9:30 am Babies, Bagels and Beyond

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, December 7

9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service

Sunday, December 8

9:30 am Adult Ed Series: Exploring Judaism

4:30 pm Hanukkah Lantern Walk with PJ Library

Monday, December 9

5:00 pm Cooking for Bread & Roses

Tuesday, December 10

3:15 pm Serve at Bread & Roses

Thursday, December 12

10:30 am Taste of Torah

1:00 pm Mah Jongg

7:00 pm Adult Ed Series: Encountering God Today with
Guest Scholar, Rabbi Neal Gold

Friday, December 13

9:30 am Babies, Bagels and Beyond

5:00 pm Tot Shabbat with Clergy and PJ Library

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, December 14

9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service

Sunday, December 15

9:30 am Chanukah Celebration

5:00 pm Larry Hodes Movie and Deli

Tuesday, December 17

7:30 pm Book Group

Thursday, December 19

10:30 am Taste of Torah

1:00 pm Mah Jongg

Friday, December 20

9:30 am Babies, Bagels and Beyond

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service with Soul Sisters and
Aliyah Band and Chinese Shabbat Dinner

Saturday, December 21

9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service

Friday, December 27

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, December 28

9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service

Visit www.templemanuel.net/#calendar for more information.



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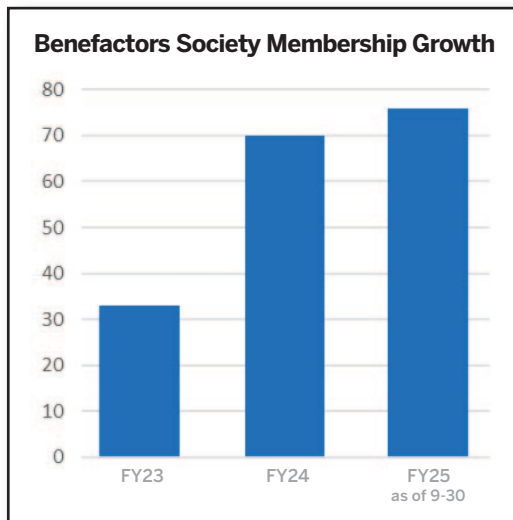
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Any Questions? Email sharethelightemanuel@gmail.com

BENEFACTORS SOCIETY: GROWTH AND IMPACT



Did you know that temple membership dues and fees do not fully cover our annual operating expenses? As many synagogues and most nonprofits do, we turn to our members to help close this gap through the Temple Emanuel Benefactors Society. And our congregants have stepped up to answer the call!



Since our Benefactors Society was re-launched in 2023, the program has experienced steadfast growth due to the extraordinary response from thoughtful and generous congregants who chose to become Benefactors with contributions above their regular dues. As of September 30, 76 Benefactors – including 17 who have joined for the first time – have contributed an additional \$66,500 to the bottom line of our operating budget.

All revenue raised from Benefactors is used to help fund the temple's annual operating expenses, thereby having a direct and immediate impact on nearly every aspect of temple life: making

membership accessible to all; offering innovative, relevant and meaningful programming; and enabling us to be nimble and ready to meet the moment.

Designed to offer access and inclusivity, the entry level donation is \$180. While many congregants make gifts at this level, contributions are made at all levels. The Benefactors Society engages the diversity of our membership and demonstrates that sustaining a strong, vibrant Temple Emanuel is our shared responsibility.

We are grateful to everyone who has made the choice to become a Benefactor. For those interested in joining our circle of Benefactors this year, it's not too late. Learn more about the Benefactors Society and its benefits at templemanuel.net/benefactors. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Jennifer Srivastava (jensrivastava@gmail.com) or Ruth Weiner (ruthweiner1@gmail.com), development committee co-chairs.

TEMPLE COUPLE TIES THE KNOT

The Temple has been the original hub of Jewish life for Rebecca Noymer & Josh Matulsky. Beginning with their baby naming at Temple Emanuel by Rabbi Goldstein, continuing through religious school and TEMTY, and culminating in a bridal shower in the Temple social hall. Although two years apart, they both followed the same track at Temple Emanuel including participating in Hebrew school, confirmation class (Rebecca class of 2009 and Josh, class of 2007), several trips including a weekend in New York City, and Temple Youth Group. This all led them back to one another through their Temple roots!

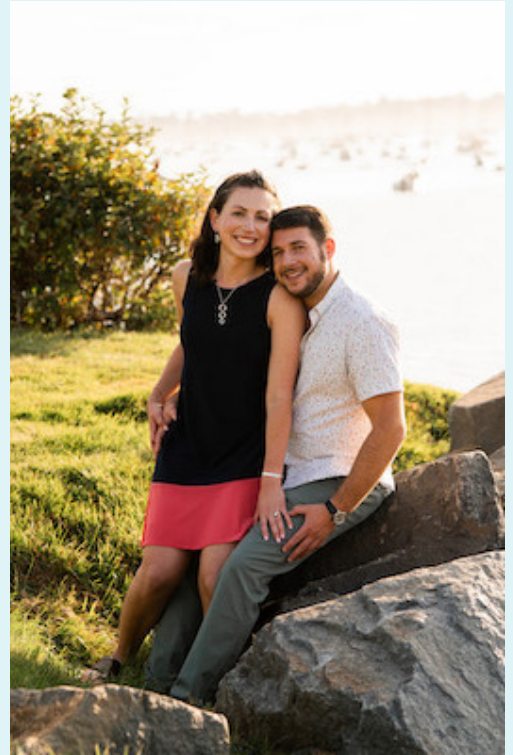
Rebecca and Josh were active in Temple until they left for college. They initially traveled the same paths, but found each other years later. Their Temple roots may have been why they felt so comfortable reconnecting remotely when Rebecca was in graduate school in Atlanta. When Rebecca returned to the Boston-area, she and Josh began their relationship, and the rest, as they say, is history!

This has led to our families worshipping at Temple together, celebrating holidays together and becoming closer in many ways. Rebecca and Josh's experience at Temple Emanuel was the foundation for their continued strong connection to their Judaism. They are very active at their synagogue in Boston, Temple Israel's The Riverway Project. Rebecca is on the Riverway leadership team and is the co-tzedek chair for that group. Josh not only is an active volunteer but is the co-chair of the Kadimah leadership program at CJP. The couple has also traveled to Israel together.

The Noymer's and Matulsky's had the pleasure of officially joining their families together when Rebecca and Josh were married on Sunday, September 15th. They were married under the chuppah on a spectacular fall evening at the Ferncroft Country Club, officiated by Rabbi Andrew Oberstein, their rabbi.

We could not be more thrilled that Rebecca and Josh are now married, and as an added bonus, it has unified the Noymer and Matulsky families.

- Judy Matulsky & Leslie Noymer



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PLEASE JOIN THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL'S COLLECTION OF ITEMS FOR "BLESSING BAGS" THROUGH JANUARY 14

How many times have you stopped at an intersection and seen people begging on the corner? When you do it is heartbreaking. Our 8th and 9th graders are collecting items through January 14 to create blessing bags to distribute to Cor Unum, Bread & Roses and Boston Healthcare for The Homeless Program.



Suggested items to donate (travel size items preferred):

\$5 Dunkin Donuts gift cards, band-aids, cough drops, toothpaste, deodorant, granola bars, snack crackers/cheese and cracker packs, beef jerky, peanuts, juice boxes, gum, mints, toilet paper, candy bars, hand/foot warmers, Neosporin, Chapstick, toothbrush, floss, cereal bars, socks, knit hats, raisins, applesauce cups, trail mix, hard candy, body wash, dried fruit and instant oatmeal

There will be a collection box in front of the Religious School office and in the Temple foyer.