



# BULLETIN

July/August 2025 | Tamuz/Av/Elul 5785

## RABBI'S MESSAGE



Rabbi David Wilfond

Dear Friends,

July 1st marks one year since my family and I became part of the Temple Emanuel Family. It's been a truly wonderful year of growth, connection and community for our congregation. Thank you for welcoming us with love. In this spirit, an important mitzvah is to welcome our new members from the Haverhill synagogue and others who are joining our community. Upon meeting a "stranger," please extend an open hand to people you don't know and introduce yourself. I encourage you to invite a new member to meet for coffee or to your home. Abraham and Sarah were famous examples of *Hachnasat Orchim*, opening their homes to welcome new people. I am proud of the wide and open tent that is Temple Emanuel.

This summer, my family and I will be at Camp Eisner for two weeks with many children from our congregation. If you are looking for a wonderful Jewish summer camp experience for your children or grandchildren, I encourage you to consider Camp Eisner, one of the Union of Reform Judaism camps in the area. Betsy Kachel, our director of education, and I can keep an eye on your child while we are there. Camp Eisner has a magical way of transforming lives and helping children grow to be the best version of themselves. Children have fun while learning resilience, problem solving and a love of Judaism, all while making life-long Jewish friends.

This summer at Temple Emanuel, there will be some wonderful social programs designed to deepen relationships within the congregation — Summer Sips and our Summer Outing on August 4.

High Holy Days will be here soon. What do you hope your rabbi will speak about this Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur? I would love to hear from you, so please reach out to me so we can set up a time to meet. I would like to get to know you better

(continued on page 2)

# WHAT'S INSIDE

<b>Rabbi's Message</b>	<b>Front Page</b>
<b>President's Message</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Executive Director's Message</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Cantor's Message</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Eternal Light Society</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Summer Outing</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Social Responsibility Update</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Fundraising Update</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Sisterhood</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Brotherhood</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Service and Program Schedule</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Membership Renewal</b>	<b>Back Page</b>

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

(continued from page 1)

and get your input on how we can make our congregation even more vibrant and relevant in this ever-changing world. My goal is to foster a *heimish schul* that creates *menshes*, creating a sacred space for us to perform deeds of loving kindness.

And finally, I want to thank our outgoing Temple president, Dana Katz, the Executive Board and our Board of Governors for their excellent leadership this past year. Words alone can not fully express my gratitude. As we look to the year ahead, I also want to ask for God's blessings upon our incoming president, Executive Board and Board of Governors. May they be blessed with wisdom, fortitude and patience. May the summer be a time of re-Jew-venation for us all!

With blessings,  
Rabbi David Wilfond

## BREAD & ROSES

The Temple's Bread & Roses Monday evening cooking crew is in need of a new coordinator as Judy Matulsky is stepping down from the position. Thank you, Judy, for your years of leadership and for making a meaningful difference in our community. Training will be provided. The cooking crew works the Monday evening preceding the second Tuesday of the month for 2-3 hours in the temple kitchen for the seven months beginning in October and ending with April.

If you are interested in helping the team in that role, please call or email:

Scott Mallory  
978-987-1970  
rscottmallory@gmail.com

Les Satlow  
617-816-4098  
lsatlow@gmail.com

Scott Mallory and Les Satlow  
Bread & Roses co-chairs



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Nick Hirth

One of the most common questions I have been asked recently is “Am I ready to be President of Temple Emanuel of Andover?” The answer to this question is “Yes.” I feel ready because of the strong foundation that exists within this community, the outstanding clergy who lead us with wisdom and warmth, and the dedicated leadership already in place. It’s the support of everyone at Temple Emanuel that gives me the confidence to take on this role. And it is that same support that makes me honored to lead an institution that means so much to me and my family.

My family joined Temple Emanuel in 2010 when our oldest child started religious school. Since then, Andi and I, along with our three children — Alex, Jonathan and Sarah — have found a home here. Through involvement in the religious school, preschool, Brotherhood, Sisterhood, and various committees, we’ve gained a deep appreciation for what makes this synagogue so vibrant and special. I hope to build on that legacy and help ensure a strong and thriving future for generations to come.

Judaism has always been an important part of my life. I grew up in Westchester, NY, in a family with both Reform and Conservative roots. My mother was a powerful influence on my Jewish identity. One of the greatest lessons she taught me was the responsibility to be involved — to live by my values and support the institutions that embody them. She reminded me that organizations like ours don’t run themselves. If they matter, then we must commit to keeping them vibrant and sustainable. She is a big reason why I felt so strongly about accepting this position.

As I begin my term as president, I want to express deep gratitude to everyone who has poured their heart and soul into Temple Emanuel. Your efforts are the reason we are the community we are today. I especially want to thank our past presidents, clergy, board and committee members, staff, volunteers, and every congregant who has contributed in ways big and small. It truly takes a village to keep a synagogue flourishing.

In particular, I want to thank Dana Katz for her extraordinary leadership. Dana has worked tirelessly and shown me, by example, how to meet both successes and challenges with grace. As we look to our future, I invite each of you to share your ideas, energy and passions. Together, we can shape the future that honors our past and embraces the possibilities ahead.

Warmly,  
Nick Hirth  
President

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Michelle Gamliel

The sun is shining, the days are longer, and school is out. Summer has officially arrived! We’re delighted to share that this year’s Summer Explorers program was another tremendous success, with more than 50 children participating. A heartfelt thank you to Sue Brenner for once again leading the program with such passion and dedication.

We’re also thrilled to welcome Temple Emanu-El of Haverhill to our community! We’re so glad to have you with us and look forward to many meaningful moments together in the months and years ahead.

As we move further into the season, I’m excited for our Temple Emanuel Summer Outing on August 4 at Indian Ridge Country Club. If you haven’t registered yet, you can do so online at our website at [templeemanuel.net](http://templeemanuel.net). Your support in this event, whether as a volunteer, Mah Jongg player, golfer, or participating in another way is greatly appreciated and what makes this event a truly special day. You can get all of the information on the

temple website.

Looking ahead, planning for the 2025 High Holy Days is well underway. Be on the lookout for your High Holy Day packet, which will be arriving in August. Please read it carefully, complete the necessary forms, and don’t hesitate to contact the office if you have any questions.

Wishing you a joyful and meaningful summer!



# CANTOR'S MESSAGE



Cantor Rachel Reef-Simpson

As I write to you on this hot, sunny day in early June, I am already excitedly gearing up for another ambitious year of wonderful liturgical, musical and educational offerings at Temple Emanuel. Plans are underway to continue to offer spiritually moving and hauntingly beautiful High Holy Day music. I am proud that our core group of gifted singers and talented instrumentalists will be back for the 5786 New Year!

## **Save the date of Saturday night, November 1.**

You won't want to miss this year's Cantor's Coffee House with Jacob's Ladder, an internationally touring Jewish Bluegrass band. I saw Jacob's Ladder perform at the Songleader Boot Camp Jewish music conference in February and, they are mesmerizing. They are described as "pushing the boundaries of contemporary Jewish music and traditional American Roots music through Jewish communal singing and prayer. They tell their story through Eastern European Ashkenazic and Sephardic Jewish traditions, but also through their American heritage and its influence on their unique musical style." I am looking forward to sharing a night of fabulous music and delectable desserts. Pencil November 1 in your calendar now!



Together with the Temple Sisterhood and Social Responsibility committee, the Cantor's Cultural Arts series will be taking a trip to see the Tony award-winning musical, "Suffs" currently scheduled during its Boston run on Sunday, March 22. "Suffs," short for Suffragettes, tells the story of the "brilliant, passionate, and funny American women who fought tirelessly for the right to vote." The show brings to life the struggles and triumphs women faced 100 years ago and mirrors the challenges women wrestle with to this day. Please join me for what will be a powerful afternoon of theatre. Tickets will be limited and available on the Temple website soon!

March will be full of musical excitement. On Saturday night, March 28, we will be bringing you "Jews and Blues," a program I first produced in 2017. Our Temple Emanuel Brotherhood and the Cantor's Cultural Arts will offer a three-part event, including a special presentation of "Jews and Blues" with renowned Cantor Jeff Klepper, a Blues infused barbecue dinner and a Cantor's Coffee House, featuring a local Blues band. More details and registration to come.

We are so incredibly fortunate to have the Shack Family Fund sponsoring another exciting communal, musical and educational Artist in Residence weekend May 15-17, 2026. We will welcome Jewish recording artist, composer and performer, Noah Aronson, one of the top touring Jewish performers in the U.S. He has been creating engaging music events that blend musicality, spirituality and creativity. Among his offerings, Noah will be teaching us about his music composed for the "Left Side of the Page," revolutionizing contemporary Jewish communities connect to the liturgy. Among Noah's most well-known songs are "Am I Awake/Barchu" and "Let There Be Love." In the coming months, I'll be introducing you to more of Noah's musical offerings as we prepare to be enlightened and enriched by him.

I look forward to an exciting, entertaining and spiritually fulfilling year ahead!

Happy Summer!  
Cantor Rachel





# INTRODUCING THE ETERNAL LIGHT SOCIETY

We are proud to introduce the Eternal Light Society, Temple Emanuel's new legacy giving program, and a meaningful opportunity to invest in the future of our community.

The eternal light—*ner tamid*—is a timeless symbol of continuity, divine presence and enduring faith. It shines in our synagogue as a reminder of spiritual guidance and our shared responsibility to sustain Jewish life. Inspired by its meaning, the Eternal Light Society honors those who include Temple Emanuel in their estate plans, ensuring the strength and vitality of our Jewish home for generations to come.

As you reflect on the values you hold dear, we invite you to consider leaving a legacy that reflects the role Temple Emanuel has played in your life. Your future gift will help strengthen and preserve Jewish life for years to come.

You can provide for Temple Emanuel's future by including a bequest provision in your will or living trust with simple, straightforward language, or by designating Temple Emanuel as a beneficiary in your retirement plan, insurance policy or donor-advised fund.

If you have already included Temple Emanuel in your estate plans, please let us know so we may welcome you as a founding member of the Eternal Light Society.

**To learn more about the Eternal Light Society and ways to leave your legacy at Temple Emanuel, please visit [templemanuel.net/eternallight](https://templemanuel.net/eternallight); contact our executive director, Michelle Gamliel, at 978-470-1356; or email [plannedgiving@templemanuel.net](mailto:plannedgiving@templemanuel.net).**

**Leave your legacy. Light our way.**

TEMPLE EMANUEL'S

# SUMMER OUTING & RECEPTION

AUGUST 4, 2025

- 11:30AM - Lunch
- 1:00pm - 6:00pm - Enjoy golf, tennis, pickleball and the pool
- 6:30pm - Dinner/ Silent auction



Indian Ridge  
Country Club

Join us for a fun filled family day at Indian Ridge Country Club!

Space is limited so register early to secure your spot!

## Don't play golf or pickleball or tennis?

We invite you to join us for a day at the pool or a round of Mahjong or for a wonderful dinner buffet and silent auction



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



## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**Building Local Interfaith Alliances:** Andover's Fifth Annual Juneteenth Block Party style celebration on Central Street was a great success. Working together again on the planning committee with members of the Andover Baptist Church, Christ Church, South Church, Andover DEI Commission, and Merrimack Valley Black and Brown Voices continues to build bridges within the community. The theme of "Freedom of Expression: Honoring our past, Living in our present, Shaping our future" said it all. There was fun for all ages with food trucks, face painting, a bouncy house and workshops!

**The Religious Action Center of Massachusetts:** Our congregation was represented on RAC-MA's Campaign Committee to determine next year's overarching social justice theme. We interviewed eighteen coalitions striving to impact policy and funding at the state level. Each congregation had the opportunity to rank the top three campaign choices. After much deliberation, we are proud to announce our two campaigns for the 2025-26 cycle: *Dignity Not Deportations* and *Vote Yes for a Safe Massachusetts* (Gun Violence Prevention).

These initiatives reflect our unwavering commitment to justice, compassion and safety for all communities. Through bold advocacy, transformative education and deep coalition-building, we're ready to protect immigrant rights and fight gun violence — together.

Now, it's time to get to work.

Let's raise our voices. Let's take action. Let's launch a movement — together.

**Next fall's Winter Clothing Drive:** As you transition into summer clothing, please save your gently-worn warm clothing for our October Winter Clothing Drive.

The Social Responsibility Committee will resume postcard writing events and our speaker series after the High Holy Days. Please reach out to the Temple office or Amy Sebell at amysebell13@gmail.com if you would like to learn more about this committee and how you can make a positive impact locally.

## FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

### **Tot Shabbat - Friday, July 11, 5:00 pm and Friday, August 8, 5:00 pm**

Join Temple Emanuel clergy and PJ Library for this tot-friendly Shabbat experience combining music, movement and storytelling. Created for children in first grade and under, and open to the community.



Looking for a fun filled playgroup for you and your toddler implemented by the Preschool at Temple Emanuel?

Then come join us for singing, arts and crafts and good conversation. This playgroup is for toddlers starting at the age of 15 months. Our Toddler Time group will meet from 9:15 am – 10:30 am on Friday morning for a 10-week session starting September 12. We will have a Fall, Winter, and Spring session. The cost is \$180 per session.

If you would like a registration form, please call our school office at 978-470-1563.

# CELEBRATING A YEAR OF GENEROSITY AND GROWTH



As we close the books on our fiscal year (July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025), we are filled with deep gratitude for the commitment and generosity our temple community has shown. Thanks to your steadfast financial support, Temple Emanuel continues to thrive as the vibrant center of Jewish life in the Merrimack Valley—a place where spirituality, learning, celebration and connection flourish.

## Together, We Made a Difference

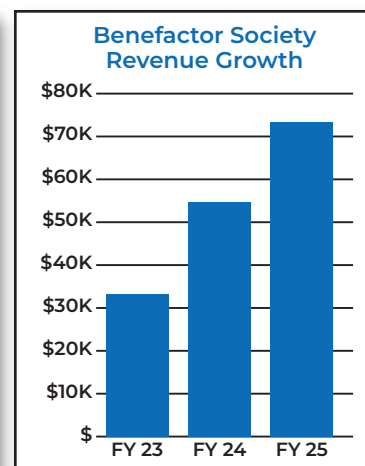
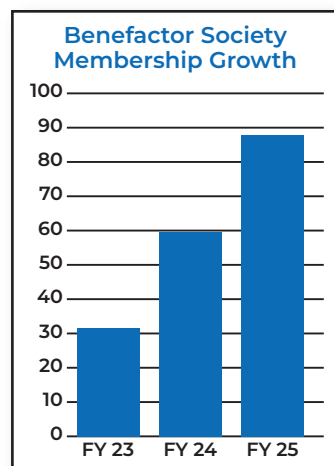
In addition to annual membership dues, Temple Emanuel's financial health is sustained by many sources including your contributions to the temple's operating and discretionary funds; gifts toward Tree of Life inscriptions, yahrzeit plaques and High Holy Day prayer book bookplates; Bulletin advertising; donations to special projects that meet the temple's needs; and fundraising efforts by our Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Summer Outing Committee and Development Committee. Together, we have an impact on daily life at our temple while we continue to build a strong and secure foundation for our future.

Gifts at every level had an impact. They supported:

- Our incomparable clergy and inspirational services
- Festive congregational Shabbat dinners, onegs and holiday celebrations
- Programming for all ages—from enriching adult education classes to engaging youth activities
- Enhanced security measures, ensuring a safe environment for all
- Improvements to our indoor and outdoor spaces, making them more welcoming and accessible
- Social justice experiences and social action initiatives, helping us give back to the broader community
- Vibrant music programs that uplift and inspire us

## Fundraising Highlights

Our Benefactors Society has experienced remarkable growth due to the extraordinary response from thoughtful and generous congregants who chose to become Benefactors with contributions above their regular dues. As of May 30, 2025 revenue from Benefactors, which helps bridge the gap between dues and operating expenses, increased 37% over last fiscal year. A total of 88 Benefactors—including 26 who joined for the first time—contributed an additional \$74,000 to the bottom line of our annual operating budget. Notably, since re-launching the program in 2023, we've grown the number of congregants participating in the Benefactors Society by 166% with corresponding revenue growth of 126%.



Additionally, gifts toward yahrzeit plaques and Tree of Life inscriptions increased by 45% and almost 400% respectively, demonstrating the variety of ways our congregants chose to honor loved ones and acknowledge life cycle events by showing their commitment to our temple.

## A Special Thank You

We extend our heartfelt thanks to every donor: first-time contributors and those whose ongoing support makes so much possible. As we plan for the coming year, we look forward to building on this year's momentum and your continued financial support.

## NEWS FROM SISTERHOOD

Thank you to Alyson D'Angelo for another great year and your thoughtful leadership. I'm excited to receive the baton and for what's to come. We will continue to grow our sisterhood and our tree of life and to pursue new opportunities while remaining rooted in our special traditions and meaningful history.

Our goal is for learning, growth, outreach and support of our Temple community at large. We will work with our Temple partners to evaluate and deliver events and activities to satisfy our social and spiritual needs for the benefit and pleasure of our congregation. Alongside our brotherhood, social responsibility, religious school, clergy, and administration partners, we'll celebrate and cherish the holidays throughout the year with meaningful and engaging events and activities to strengthen our bonds to one another and our community overall.

### Our Sisterhood:

- Jointly funds student Bar and Bat Mitzvah gifts with our Brotherhood.
- Sends holiday care packages to college students.
- Hosts regular Mah Jongg gatherings for the community and promotes learn-to-play sessions for anyone interested. Learning sessions will be in October after the High Holy Days and in January following winter break.
- Sponsors the 4th-grade field trip to the Mayyim Hayyim Mikvah and also provides certificates to women of the congregation to use the Mayyim Hayyim Mikvah.
- Partners with the Social Responsibility Committee to promote a positive culture and support the broader community.
- Grants scholarships for our youth to participate in summer camp and our high school congregants to travel to Israel.
- Hosts regular social seniors' groups.
- Contributes to Temple operations, Religious School programs, and building improvements.
- Spearheads various donation and collection drives, such as the Youth, Education and Special Projects (YES) fund, Pampers for Purim, and Feminine Products for Shelters.

We invite sisterhood members — returning and new — to participate in a planning discussion on August 6 at 6:30 pm. Details and RSVP info will be provided in July. Additional opportunities will be offered throughout the year as well. In July, we're launching a survey to gauge what might be important and of interest to you. To improve communication and increase our accessibility, we have a new email address ([sisterhoodtemplemanuelandover@gmail.com](mailto:sisterhoodtemplemanuelandover@gmail.com)) and we encourage you to share your suggestions and ideas with our board. Please indicate if you are willing and able to help bring those ideas and suggestions to fruition. We are an inclusive, open group and welcome the opportunity to hear from you.

Our membership drive begins this month, and we hope you will join us in all that we are doing and will do.

Please register using the QR code or at [www.templemanuel.net/community/sisterhood](http://www.templemanuel.net/community/sisterhood)

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you at the August planning meeting and at our popular Welcome Back Sisterhood Members Dinner on Sunday, October 26.

Enjoy the summer!  
Holli Roberts  
Sisterhood President

978-494-7283  
[holliroberts3@gmail.com](mailto:holliroberts3@gmail.com)





# NEWS FROM BROTHERHOOD

Greetings from the Brotherhood as we enjoy the summer!

This will be my last message as Brotherhood president. It has been an awesome two years getting to meet a bunch of new people and engage more with our Temple community. I want to thank everyone on the Brotherhood board, especially my executive team of Andy Lazar, Fred Levine and Scott Mallory. A special thank you to executive director Michelle Gamliel for her amazing support of our group and the entire temple membership. I am very excited to be joining the Temple Emanuel Executive Committee and look forward to even more involvement with this wonderful group of people.

This summer, the Brotherhood will be organizing some group golf outings. If interested, please email me at [TEAndoverBrotherhood@gmail.com](mailto:TEAndoverBrotherhood@gmail.com) or Eric Schwartz at [eric.schwartz@pwc.com](mailto:eric.schwartz@pwc.com).

The Brotherhood is currently planning next year's activities and events. If you have suggestions or would like to be more involved, either with events or in joining our board, please feel free to reach out to me at [TEAndoverBrotherhood@gmail.com](mailto:TEAndoverBrotherhood@gmail.com).

Stay tuned for the calendar of events! We'll be kicking things off in September with a tailgate and welcome event!

Hope to see everyone soon. Stay safe.

Alex Pawlowski  
Brotherhood President



## Join Brotherhood

Build strong connections  
Make new friends  
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✉ [Brotherhood@templemanuel.net](mailto:Brotherhood@templemanuel.net)



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# SERVICE AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE: JULY AND AUGUST

## Thursday, July 3

9:30 am Middle East Discussion Group

10:30 am Taste of Torah

1:00 pm Mah Jongg

## Friday, July 4

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service

## Saturday, July 5

9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service (Zoom Only)

## Thursday, July 10

9:30 am Middle East Discussion Group

10:30 am Taste of Torah

1:00 pm Mah Jongg

## Friday, July 11

5:00 pm Tot Shabbat with Clergy and PJ Library

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service

## Saturday, July 12

9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service

## Tuesday, July 15

3:15 pm Serve at Bread & Roses

## Thursday, July 17

9:30 am Middle East Discussion Group

1:00 pm Mah Jongg

## Friday, July 18

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service

## Saturday, July 19

9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service

## Thursday, July 24

9:30 am Middle East Discussion Group

1:00 pm Mah Jongg

## Friday, July 25

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service

## Saturday, July 26

9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service

## Thursday, July 31

9:30 am Middle East Discussion Group

10:30 am Taste of Torah

1:00 pm Mah Jongg

## Friday, August 1

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service

## Saturday, August 2

9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service

## Monday, August 4

1:00 pm Summer Outing

## Thursday, August 7

9:30 am Middle East Discussion Group

10:30 am Taste of Torah

1:00 pm Mah Jongg

## Friday, August 8

5:00 pm Tot Shabbat Tu B'Av with Clergy and PJ Library

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service

## Saturday, August 9

9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service

## Tuesday, August 12

3:15 pm Serve at Bread & Roses

## Thursday, August 14

9:30 am Middle East Discussion Group

10:30 am Taste of Torah

1:00 pm Mah Jongg

## Friday, August 15

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service

## Saturday, August 16

9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service

## Thursday, August 21

9:30 am Middle East Discussion Group

10:30 am Taste of Torah

1:00 pm Mah Jongg

## Friday, August 22

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service

## Saturday, August 23

9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service

## Thursday, August 28

9:30 am Middle East Discussion Group

10:30 am Taste of Torah

1:00 pm Mah Jongg

## Friday, August 29

6:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service

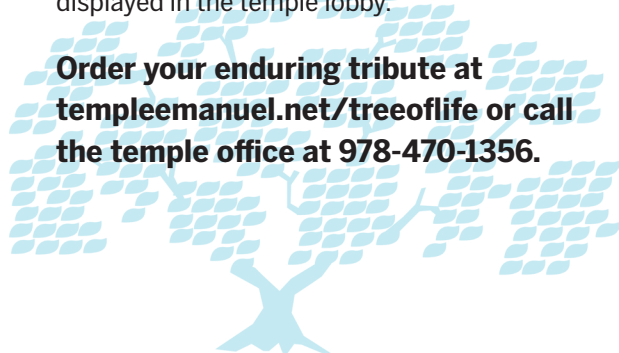
## Saturday, August 30

9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service (Zoom Only)

# HELP OUR TREE OF LIFE GROW

Celebrating a b'nai mitzvah, confirmation, wedding, birth, graduation, special anniversary or birthday? Mark the occasion – or honor loved ones and friends – with a gold, silver or copper leaf on our beautiful Tree of Life displayed in the temple lobby.

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