



# BULLETIN

January/February 2026 | Tevet/Adar 5786

## RABBI'S MESSAGE



Rabbi David Wilfond

There is a Jewish saying: "Joy shared is joy multiplied; sorrow shared is half a sorrow." This is the blessing of being part of a Jewish community. Thank you for joining us in our daughter's recent bat mitzvah. It was such a gift to dance together, to celebrate life and hope, and to feel the deep gratitude of a true *Shehechiyanu* moment. Life is short and precious, and the ability to walk life's journey together is at the heart of what it means to be a *kehilah kedoshah*—a sacred community.

On Friday, January 9, we will celebrate *Shabbat Shemot*, the Shabbat of Names. If you have never received a Hebrew name, please let me know. I would be honored to help you choose one that resonates with your story and spirit. During the service, we will hold a special ceremony in which you can receive your Hebrew name and a naming certificate. A Jewish name is a prayer of hope. May we each grow into the blessing of our names. If you want to receive a name during the Jewish Naming Ceremony please contact the Temple office.

On Friday, January 30, we will celebrate *Shabbat Shirah*, the Shabbat of Song, with a musical service and will welcome a special guest, Gilad Skolnik, who will speak about Leket Israel, an inspiring social action organization that rescues surplus food to feed the poor and hungry. Israel is more than "the conflict." It is a vibrant society striving to bring Jewish values to life, including feeding the hungry. Together we will explore how Temple Emanuel can bring this mitzvah to our own community.

During the Shabbat evening service on Friday, February 6, we will host Linda Goodspeed, a leader of the Community Hevra Kadisha North Shore Boston, a Jewish burial society. She will speak about *Tahara*, the sacred ritual that preserves dignity and compassion for our loved ones who have recently passed. This mitzvah is known as *hesed shel emet*, "true and faithful love," because it is done for someone who cannot repay us or even say thank you. Come learn about this holy work and the ways each of us can be a part of it.

(continued on page 2)

## WHAT'S INSIDE

<b>Rabbi's Message</b>	<b>Front Page</b>
<b>Donor Spotlight</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>President's Message</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Executive Director's Message</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Director of Education's Message</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Social Action Update</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Sisterhood</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Brotherhood</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Service and Program Schedule</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Purim Celebration</b>	<b>Back Page</b>

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

(continued from page 1)

In all of these moments—celebrating milestones, honoring our dead, caring for the earth, feeding the hungry, and naming the blessings within us—we are reminded of the power of community. When we show up for one another, our joys truly are multiplied and our burdens truly are lightened. May the weeks ahead bring us many opportunities to share in each other's lives, to lift one another up, and to grow ever stronger as a *kehilah kedoshah*, a holy community.



## INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY



### **If Andover public schools are cancelled**

Temple offices, Preschool and the Religious School will be closed.

### **If Andover public schools have a delayed opening**

No morning Preschool, Full Steam Ahead will begin at noon, and Religious School will be in the afternoon.

### **If the weather becomes inclement during the day and we close the temple and schools**

You will receive an email.

**Also, please check our website, [www.templemanuel.net](http://www.templemanuel.net), for cancellations.**



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

### ERIC AND MAUREEN SCHWARTZ

*Joining the Benefactors Society – and providing support above our annual dues – is a privilege, an honor and a way we've been able to give back to Temple Emanuel.*

We were once asked what makes Temple Emanuel special. Of course, it is hard to boil that answer down to one word or one subject. Since joining in 2010, the temple has been a source of celebration for our family in times of joy, a spiritual home throughout the year and a source of comfort in times of sorrow. Above all else, the people of Temple Emanuel are what give it its strength – a family of families dedicated to enriching the lives of our congregants as well as those in the communities where we live and beyond.

As an interfaith family, we come from different religious backgrounds. However, a common denominator in our upbringing is the importance of caring for others, giving back to the community and treating one another with respect and selflessness.

Having decided to raise our children, Ryan and Maya, in the Jewish faith and upon moving to Andover, we became members of Temple Emanuel and quickly learned that the values we shared as a couple are consistent with the temple's core values of inclusion, tzedakah and repairing the world. Since that time, we've celebrated major milestones in our children's lives, including Ryan's bar mitzvah and confirmation and Maya's baby naming, and we're looking forward to Maya's upcoming bat mitzvah.

Eric is active in temple life including roles on the Brotherhood board, the temple's executive board, on which he currently serves as treasurer, and as the Summer Outing committee chair. Maureen generously supports Eric's volunteer time and, together, we have formed many lasting friendships within our temple family over the years. Temple Emanuel is our home.

Temple Emanuel thrives because of the people who support it, including our amazing clergy and administrative staff, our dedicated lay leaders and volunteers, and all the families that have enriched our time here. We recognize that not everyone is able to contribute equally to the temple, and that membership dues do not cover the full cost of operations and building maintenance. Joining the Benefactors Society – and providing financial support over and above our annual dues – is a privilege, an honor and yet another way in which we've been able to give back to Temple Emanuel. Our hope is that others, at whatever level they are comfortable, will also provide this support to ensure the temple remains a pillar of strength for current and future generations.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Nick Hirth

New Year's is one of those moments when my secular life seems to mirror my religious life. It feels like just yesterday that we were reciting the *Vidui*, reflecting on our choices, and considering how we might grow in the year ahead. And as I counted down the final seconds of 2025 and welcomed in 2026, I found myself doing something very similar once again. Whether you're like me—grateful for the “second chance” feeling the new year brings—or whether you already feel centered and focused, the greatest gift of this season is sharing it with the friends and family who stand with us.

As many of you already know, Cantor Rachel will be spending some time away from us this winter as she recovers from surgery. Please join me in wishing her a *refuah shleimah*, a full and speedy recovery. She is in our thoughts and prayers, and I know we are all looking forward to welcoming her back as soon as she is able.

While Cantor Rachel is healing, we are fortunate to have secured the services of Cantor Caitlin McLaughlin. Cantor Caitlin recently moved to the area from Laurel, MD, where she served as the non-ordained Cantor at Oseh Shalom Synagogue. There, she earned the congregation's love while leading Shabbat, Festival, and High Holiday services and guiding many through lifecycle moments. She conducted their congregational choir and ruach band, taught *tefillah* and Jewish music in the religious school, and tutored their b'nai mitzvah students. She will be ordained shortly before joining us at Temple Emanuel. Cantor Caitlin and Cantor Rachel have already been in communication to ensure continuity in our music programming throughout this transition. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Cantor Caitlin.

As we head into a quieter part of the calendar, I want to extend my warm wishes to each of you. Though the secular new year has begun, our communal rhythm continues—rooted in learning, prayer, celebration, and the everyday acts of kindness that define our congregation.

May the month ahead bring you peace, health, and meaningful connection.

## 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.

**Order your enduring tribute at [templemanuel.net/treeoflife](https://templemanuel.net/treeoflife)  
or call the temple office at 978-470-1356.**

*"A leaf on the Tree of Life was a beautiful way to celebrate our daughter's baby naming. It symbolizes the roots we're building within our temple community and the blessings we hope will surround her as she grows."*

*– Adair and Ricky da Silva*



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Michelle Gamliel

It's officially winter! Snow has begun to fall and the air has that unmistakable seasonal chill. But inside Temple Emanuel, the warmth is in full bloom. We're excited about the months ahead and can't wait to welcome you into our building for an array of wonderful programs. Here are highlights of some of the ongoing programming we offer throughout the year.

For families, our religious school continues to thrive, with more than 125 students joining us on Wednesdays and Sundays. For our youngest learners, we offer Tot Traditions and Geshet for our kindergarteners, as well as our monthly Tot Shabbat in partnership with PJ Library. If your child is under eight and not yet receiving PJ Library books, we encourage you to sign up. It's a fantastic resource!

We also host Bagels, Babies and Beyond every Friday morning, and we're excited to share that we now offer a monthly Sunday morning session as well.

For adults, our learning opportunities are just as robust. Each week we offer several adult education programs, including our weekly Me'ah course in conjunction with Hebrew College. On Sunday mornings, Rabbi Wilfond leads an engaging learning session as well as our ever-popular Taste of Torah each Thursday morning. Stay tuned for additional adult learning programs happening soon.

Looking into the spring we are excited to once again have our Passover seder. Registration will be going out in the next few weeks. Please register for this highly anticipated and attended event!

Last year when the Merrimack Valley Federation closed, Temple Emanuel became part of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP). We are thrilled about the various opportunities and programs this has provided us with. Members of our professional staff have been able to attend trainings and network with other area Jewish professionals.

We are also excited about the various grant opportunities we are now eligible for. We have received a grant to help refresh the lobby with new furniture. Make sure to check it out the next time you are at Temple. We have also received additional grants from CJP to support our building and security needs. We are appreciative and excited about this new partnership with CJP.

## TOT SHABBAT

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. Pizza will be served at 5:00 pm followed by a 30-minute, age-appropriate Shabbat service at 5:30 pm.

- January 9
- February 13
- March 13
- April 10
- May 8

## BREAD & ROSES

With a brand-new oven now installed in the Temple kitchen, our cooking team is back in action and gearing up for the winter menu of macaroni and cheese and chicken! We are also delighted to welcome Lauren Wilford, our new Monday evening cooking coordinator, who will help ensure that the serving team is fully prepared to support Bread & Roses clients each month.

If you're interested in joining either the cooking team or the serving team, please contact Les Satlow (617-816-4098; [lsatlow@gmail.com](mailto:lsatlow@gmail.com)) or Scott Mallory (978-987-1970; [rscottmallory@gmail.com](mailto:rscottmallory@gmail.com)).

We'd love to have you involved.



## DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION'S MESSAGE



Betsy Kachel

Even with the cold winter air settling in, our Temple schools have been anything but chilly. Laughter, learning, and community spirit continue to warm our halls each day. December brought the joyful sounds and scents of Chanukah to our school wing—crispy, delicious latkes sizzling in the kitchen, dreidels spinning across classroom tables, and excited voices filling the rooms as students learned about the lights of the holiday season. Together, we explored the themes of family, tradition, and connection that make this time of year so meaningful.

Our annual Temple Emanuel Chanukah celebration once again brought our community together for an unforgettable morning. Families enjoyed an outstanding magic show, hands-on holiday crafts, more latkes than we could count, and of course, sufganiyot—those beloved jelly-filled treats that disappear almost as soon as they arrive.

As we move into January, we look forward to one of our favorite traditions—the Preschool “Winter Warm Up.” This annual event invites our preschool families to join us for interactive storytelling, food, and plenty of winter-themed fun—a perfect way to brighten the season and strengthen the bonds within our youngest learners.

Enrollment for next year is officially underway, and we are actively touring and welcoming new families. Please help us spread the word to anyone seeking a warm, vibrant, and enriching Jewish early-education experience.

Mark your calendars for an exciting March! The Preschool Purim Carnival will take place on March 4, filled with costumes, games, and lots of festive silliness. Our community-wide Purim celebration will follow on March 8, bringing all ages together to share in the joy of the holiday. Looking ahead, our fourth graders will lead their grade-level Shabbat service on Friday, March 27, joined by special guest vocalist, Mayta Cohen, formerly of the a cappella group BerKalit from Berklee College of Music.

There is so much to celebrate as we begin 2026. We look forward to continuing this season of warmth, learning, and togetherness with all of you.



## SOCIAL ACTION

The past few months have been a vibrant and meaningful period for Temple Emanuel's Social Action Committee, as members engaged in a variety of projects that strengthened both our congregation and the broader community.

Temple Emanuel volunteers joined members of Christ Church, South Church, and North Parish to prepare Thanksgiving meals under the expert leadership of Chef Glen McLeod at the Village Food Hub. This interfaith initiative brought together compassionate hands and hearts in support of local families. If you'd like to get involved, visit [villagefoodhub.org](http://villagefoodhub.org) to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

A group of our Haverhill families has continued a meaningful tradition: cooking for the Emmaus Shelter long after their adult b'nai mitzvot. Their ongoing commitment has become a deeply rooted expression of tikkun olam. To learn how you can support their efforts, please contact the Temple office.

For those interested in monitoring and understanding current trends in antisemitism and extremism, the ADL offers weekly reports and analysis. To subscribe, simply email [adl@adlmail.org](mailto:adl@adlmail.org).

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who supported the Dignity Not Deportations Act (S.1122 / H.1588). This important legislation seeks to ensure that Massachusetts entities do not contribute time or resources to ICE through contracts or agreements that deputize local officials or allow facilities such as county jails to rent beds to ICE voluntarily. The bill reflects a commitment to humane, just treatment of all individuals in our state.

The Social Action Committee meets on the third Tuesday of every month via Zoom. We welcome new participants and fresh ideas. If you would like to get involved, please contact Amy Sebell at [amysebell13@gmail.com](mailto:amysebell13@gmail.com).

## LAZARUS HOUSE MINISTRIES

Supporting the Community with Dignity and Compassion

**Sunday, February 1**  
**3:00 pm**

*Sponsored by the Social Action Committee*



Lazarus House Ministries has been serving people in need in the local community by providing food, clothing, shelter, community resources and advocacy since 1983. Supported by staff members, volunteers and donors, Lazarus House serves the most vulnerable people of Lawrence - those struggling with material poverty, homelessness and food insecurity. Members of the Lazarus House leadership team will explain the various aspects of their work and how interested people can get involved. Sponsored by the Social Action Committee. See the temple website for more information.



## NEWS FROM SISTERHOOD

I hope everyone had a wonderful winter break. Our Mah Jongg program is in full swing. Our learn-to-play sessions were a resounding success, and we have more than 30 new players! Thanks to our instructors Carrie Lavoie, Gail Weisman, and Trudy Zakin, and thank you to the Mah Jonggers whose regular participation has resulted in hundreds of dollars poured back into programming.

The shopping event at Sanctum Style was a fun event for the group, and we enjoyed a delicious dinner afterwards. A percentage of sales was donated back to Sisterhood to support a local toy drive.

Kids and adults alike enjoyed shmoozing and buying holiday items at the enticing Chanukah pop-up shops in the lobby. It was clear that the gelt, dreidels, and games were among the favorites.

The Share the Light holiday gift program was hugely successful, and 83 children were sponsored. Thank you to all who support this annual charitable event.

Our annual Community Chanukah Party was a blast! Everyone enjoyed the magic show, donuts and the delicious latke bar we co-sponsored and managed alongside our Brotherhood. How many did you eat? What's your favorite topping or do you mix toppings? Delish!

If your high school student is planning a trip to Israel, we have several small scholarships available. Please send a note to [sisterhoodtemplemanuelandover@gmail.com](mailto:sisterhoodtemplemanuelandover@gmail.com) for an application. The application submission deadline is March 15th.

We're planning several events and activities for winter/early spring and would love your help. We are currently planning a game night in January and cooking/baking nights in February and March. Save the dates of our annual Sisterhood Shabbat on Friday, March 13, and our Spring Soiree dinner on Sunday, May 3.



Holli Roberts, Sisterhood President





# NEWS FROM BROTHERHOOD

As we wrap up 2025, the Brotherhood extends warm wishes to everyone in the congregation for a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2026.

This year, we proudly surpassed our record of 70 paid new members. Thanks to each of you for your support and commitment to our community. Your dues enable us to enhance Temple programming and fund important unbudgeted improvements within our building.

Our 13th Annual Brotherhood Schmooze was a tremendous success, filled with laughter, great food and wine, and wonderful camaraderie. A heartfelt thank you to the Roberts family for generously opening their home for the event and to the Brotherhood members who provided appetizers and desserts.

In partnership with the Sisterhood, we once again ran the latke station at the annual Chanukah party. Hundreds of delicious latkes were prepared and enjoyed by all, following a captivating performance by Fred the Magician, who delighted attendees of all ages.

We're also excited to share what's ahead through spring 2026. Check our website, e-News and social channels for more information and registration forms as each event approaches.

- **A Night at the Rink** – Join us as the Bentley Falcons close out their regular hockey season against the Air Force Academy in a Division I showdown February 28 in Waltham.
- **Brotherhood Breakfast** – Mark your calendar for March 15 for another breakfast event. Additional details will be shared soon.
- **Annual Comedy Show** – Save the date of April 11 for an evening of comedy at Temple Emanuel. We have secured an exciting headliner who has performed on the world stage and been viewed by over 100 million people across online platforms, television, and live audiences. We'll be announcing the headliner soon and look forward to filling the Social Hall!
- **Brotherhood Nights Out** – Don't miss our casual meetups on January 15, March 26 and May 21. Details to follow.

Thank you again for your participation, enthusiasm, and brotherhood. We look forward to an amazing 2026 together!

Fredric Levine, Brotherhood President



A blue graphic with a grid pattern. At the top left is the Brotherhood Temple Emanuel Andover logo. Below it is a large yellow 'Join' button. To the right of the button is a photo of four men standing together. Below the photo is a large white box with the word 'Brotherhood' in bold black letters. To the left of this box is a list of benefits: 'Build strong connections', 'Make new friends', 'Participate in exciting activities', 'Hear dynamic speakers', 'Build stronger communities', 'Community based programs', and 'Get involved!'. At the bottom right is a QR code and the text 'SCAN > For more information'. At the bottom left is an email address: 'Brotherhood@templemanuel.net'.

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A light blue graphic with a large megaphone icon on the left. To the right of the megaphone is the text 'SAVE THE DATE' in large, bold, black letters. Below this is a large white box with the word 'DATE' in large, bold, black letters. Below the box is the text 'BROTHERHOOD NIGHT OUT' in bold, blue letters. At the bottom are three dates: 'January 15', 'March 26', and 'May 21'.

SAVE THE  
DATE

**BROTHERHOOD  
NIGHT OUT**

January 15  
March 26  
May 21

# SERVICE AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE: JANUARY

## Thursday, January 1

Temple Office Closed for New Year's Day

## Friday, January 2

**6:30 pm** Shabbat Evening Service with  
Rabbi Howard Mandell

## Saturday, January 3

**9:00 am** Shabbat Morning Service  
(Lay-led via Zoom Only)

## Sunday, January 4

No Religious School

## Monday, January 5

**6:45 pm** Monday Night Mah Jongg  
**7:00 pm** Me'ah Classic Course: The Hebrew Bible

## Tuesday, January 6

**7:30 pm** Book Group (Zoom Only)

## Thursday, January 8

**9:30 am** Middle East Discussion Group  
**10:30 am** Taste of Torah  
**1:00 pm** Mah Jongg

## Friday, January 9

**9:30 am** Babies, Bagels and Beyond  
**5:00 pm** Tot Shabbat  
**6:30 pm** Shabbat Evening Service and Jewish Naming  
Ceremony

## Saturday, January 10

**9:00 am** Shabbat Morning Service

## Sunday, January 11

**9:30 am** Adult Education: Exploring Judaism  
**11:00 am** Cupcake Decorating (grades 9-12) with  
Sharon Morgenstern, joined by Rabbinic Intern Jaz  
Twersky and the Teen Group and Rabbi Wilfond and  
**5:00 pm** Larry Hodes Movie and Deli

## Monday, January 12

**5:00 pm** Cook for Bread & Roses  
**6:45 pm** Monday Night Mah Jongg  
**7:00 pm** Me'ah Classic Course: The Hebrew Bible

## Tuesday, January 13

**3:00 pm** Serve at Bread & Roses

## Wednesday, January 14

**7:30 pm** Board of Governor's Meeting

## Thursday, January 15

**9:30 am** Middle East Discussion Group  
**10:30 am** Taste of Torah  
**1:00 pm** Mah Jongg  
**7:00 pm** Brotherhood Night Out (Offsite)

## Friday, January 16

**9:30 am** Babies, Bagels and Beyond  
**6:30 pm** Shabbat Evening Service Honoring  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

## Saturday, January 17

**9:00 am** Shabbat Morning Service ( Zoom Only)

## Sunday, January 18

No Religious School

## Monday, January 19

Temple Office Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

## Thursday, January 22

**9:30 am** Middle East Discussion Group  
**10:30 am** Taste of Torah  
**1:00 pm** Mah Jongg

## Friday, January 23

**9:30 am** Babies, Bagels and Beyond  
**6:30 pm** Shabbat Evening Service and International  
Holocaust Remembrance Day with Rabbi Wilfond and  
Rabbinic Intern Jaz Twersky

## Saturday, January 24

**9:00 am** Shabbat Morning Torah Study

## Sunday, January 25

**9:30 am** Adult Education: Exploring Judaism

## Monday, January 26

**6:45 pm** Monday Night Mah Jongg

## Thursday, January 29

**9:30 am** Middle East Discussion Group  
**10:30 am** Taste of Torah  
**1:00 pm** Mah Jongg

## Friday, January 30

**6:30 pm** Shabbat Shirah Evening Service with Aliyah  
Band and Guest Speaker, Gilad Skolnik

## Saturday, January 31

**9:00 am** Shabbat Morning Service

# SERVICE AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE: FEBRUARY

## **Sunday, February 1**

**9:30 am** Adult Education: Exploring Judaism  
**3:00 pm** Social Action Event: Lazarus House Ministries, Supporting the Community with Dignity and Compassion

## **Monday, February 2**

**6:45 pm** Monday Night Mah Jongg

## **Thursday, February 5**

**9:30 am** Middle East Discussion Group  
**10:30 am** Taste of Torah  
**1:00 pm** Mah Jongg

## **Friday, February 6**

**9:30 am** Babies, Bagels and Beyond  
**6:30 pm** Shabbat Evening Service with Guest Speaker, Linda Goodspeed from Hevra Kadisha North Shore

## **Saturday, February 7**

**9:00 am** Shabbat Morning Service

## **Sunday, February 8**

**9:30 am** Adult Education: Exploring Judaism  
**11:15 am** Teen Group with Rabbinic Intern, Jaz Twersky

## **Monday, February 9**

**5:00 pm** Cook for Bread & Roses  
**6:45 pm** Monday Night Mah Jongg  
**7:00 pm** Me'ah Classic Course: The Hebrew Bible

## **Tuesday, February 10**

**3:00 pm** Serve at Bread & Roses

## **Wednesday, February 11**

**7:30 pm** Board of Governor's Meeting

## **Thursday, February 12**

**9:30 am** Middle East Discussion Group  
**10:30 am** Taste of Torah  
**1:00 pm** Mah Jongg

## **Friday, February 13**

**9:30 am** Babies, Bagels and Beyond  
**5:00 pm** Tot Shabbat  
**6:30 pm** Reproductive Rights Shabbat Evening Service with the Soul Sisters

## **Saturday, February 14**

**9:00 am** Shabbat Morning Service  
(Lay-led via Zoom Only)

## **Sunday, February 15**

No Religious School

## **Monday, February 16**

Temple Office Closed for President's Day

## **Wednesday, February 18**

No Religious School

## **Thursday, February 19**

**9:30 am** Middle East Discussion Group  
**10:30 am** Taste of Torah  
**1:00 pm** Mah Jongg

## **Friday, February 20**

**6:30 pm** Shabbat Evening Service

## **Saturday, February 21**

**9:00 am** Shabbat Morning Service (Zoom Only)

## **Sunday, February 22**

No Religious School  
**5:00 pm** Larry Hodes Movie and Deli

## **Monday, February 23**

**6:45 pm** Monday Night Mah Jongg

## **Thursday, February 26**

**9:30 am** Middle East Discussion Group  
**10:30 am** Taste of Torah  
**1:00 pm** Mah Jongg

## **Friday, February 27**

**9:30 am** Babies, Bagels and Beyond  
**6:30 pm** Seventh of Adar Shabbat Evening Service

## **Saturday, February 28**

**9:00 am** Shabbat Morning Torah Study  
**10:30 am** Bat Mitzvah of Nina Gilman  
**7:00 pm** Brotherhood Night Out at the Rink

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The Temple Emanuel Bulletin, our bi-monthly newsletter, is the hub of information for our community. The full-color newsletter is mailed to over 400 member households, published on the homepage of our web-site and displayed in the lobby of our synagogue.

Advertisements are available in the following sizes:

- Full-page (7.75 x 10.25 inches)
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**To learn more or to secure your ad in the next edition of the Bulletin contact:**

**Michelle Gamliel**  
**978-470-1356**  
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