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Amy Lester

Mel Prostkoff

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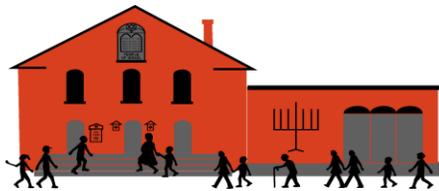
Ira Schwartz

Professional Staff

Tammy Labonté
Director
Early Learning Center

Elian Tackeff, Director
Hebrew School

Heather Tomlinson
Administrative Director



Temple Israel
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Dear Friend,

Shalom! We are delighted to welcome you to our community and to tell you about Temple Israel of Portsmouth.

We are an extended family — 300 member households strong — dedicated to preserving and continuing more than 200 years of Jewish heritage, values and traditions in Portsmouth, which began with the arrival of the Isaac family in 1789. *Come join us.*

Our diverse, egalitarian, Conservative congregation is active religiously, socially, culturally, philanthropically and educationally. We welcome the non-Jewish partners and families of members and encourage their participation in our community. We are young and old, with families and without, married or single. *Come worship with us.*

Our commitment to education is paramount. Starting with preschool, continuing through grade school to Bar and Bat Mitzvah, and fostering new learning with our adult educational programs, we allocate our highest level of financial and resource support to educational programs. *Come learn with us.*

You may have heard that in December 2017, our congregation suffered the loss of our beloved rabbi, David Rafael Senter z”l. We are fortunate to have Rabbi Ira Korinow serving as our interim rabbi while a search committee looks for a new permanent rabbi.

We would be happy to answer any questions you may have about our Temple Israel community. Our website, www.templeisraelnh.org, is full of information. We also invite you to get in touch with us at the email addresses below or through the Temple Israel office at (603) 436-5301 ext. 10.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best personal regards,

Amy Hyett
Board President
amyhyett@comcast.net

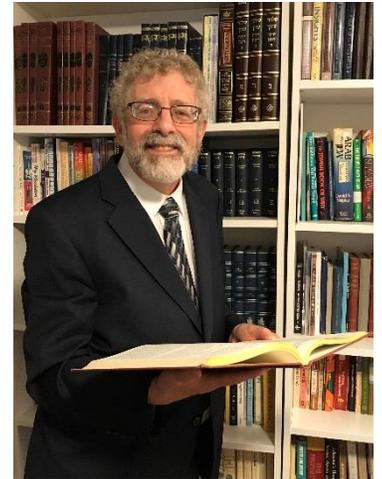
Margie Wachtel
Membership Committee Chair
wachtelm@grinnell.edu

An Engaging, Diverse Jewish Community

Portsmouth, NH 03801 (603) 436-5301 www.templeisraelnh.org

Dear Chaverim,

As a way of introduction, allow me to tell you a little about myself. I grew up in Newton, Massachusetts and attended the public schools there, deciding in high school that I wanted to become a rabbi. I attended Boston University where I received my B.A. in Religion in 1973. I grew up at Temple Israel of Boston, the largest Reform synagogue in New England and was greatly influenced by several rabbis, most especially by Rabbi Roland Gittelsohn. While Rabbi Gittelsohn served as a role model to me, it was my father, of blessed memory, who influenced my decision the most. He was the Bar Mitzvah teacher and private Hebrew tutor at Temple Israel. Each evening he sat at our dining room table preparing the Torah portions for his students using rubber Hebrew letters which he would insert into a long holder which held three or four words at a time, ink it thoroughly by pressing it on an ink pad, and then press the letters onto large manila paper. He would then insert the vowels by hand. Each student's portion took at least two hours to prepare by this meticulous method of printing (before copy machines). My father's devotion to his work, his students, and to Jewish education was without a doubt what influenced me the most in my decision to become a rabbi.



Rabbi Ira Korinow

After graduating from Boston University, I attended Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, the rabbinic seminary of the Reform Jewish Movement. I spent the first year at the HUC-JIR campus in Jerusalem with other first-year students and continued my studies at the school's campus in New York City. Living in New York for four years gave me the opportunity to explore other expressions of Jewish practice. On the Upper West Side of Manhattan, I usually *davened* at more traditional egalitarian *minyanim*, including the Upper West Side Minyan and the egalitarian *minyan* at the Jewish Theological Seminary, the rabbinical *yeshiva* of the Conservative Movement.

While in rabbinical school at HUC-JIR, I served as Principal of the Religious School at Congregation Rodeph Sholom in Manhattan. During my last year of rabbinical school, I was the student rabbi at Temple B'nai Israel in Laconia, New Hampshire. After being ordained a rabbi in 1978, I served North Shore Congregation Israel in Glencoe, Illinois, a congregation of more than 1,500 members, as Assistant Rabbi for three years with specific responsibility to oversee the youth programming in the congregation. In 1981, I assumed the pulpit of Temple Emanu-El in Haverhill, Massachusetts. After thirty-six years of a rewarding and fulfilling tenure, I retired from Temple Emanu-El in June 2017.

I am a member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the umbrella organization of Reform Rabbis which certified me as an Interim Rabbi. For many years I was an Associate Member of the Rabbinical Assembly, the umbrella organization of Conservative Rabbis until they discontinued that level of membership. I have had my feet in both the Reform and Conservative movements throughout my career. Even in practice, I have felt comfortable in both movements. Under my rabbinic leadership, Temple Emanu-El in Haverhill had a Shabbat evening service using *Mishkan Tefilah*, the new Reform prayer book. On Shabbat morning we used *Siddur Sim Shalom*, the same prayer book we use here at Temple Israel. And on the High Holy Days, we used *Mahzor Hadash*, the same High Holy Day prayer book used here in Portsmouth.

It is my hope that I can lead the community with optimism and hope for a bright future as you search for a settled rabbi. Please feel free to e-mail me at RabbiK@TempleIsraelNH.org to share some of your hopes for the future or call me to make an appointment at 603-436-5301. Together with you, I look forward to helping our congregation go from strength to strength!

L'shalom,

Rabbi Ira Korinow

An Engaging, Diverse Jewish Community

200 State Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801 (603) 436-5301 www.templeisraelnh.org

Welcome!

Temple Israel exists as a Jewish home for people interested in Jewish life, culture, and tradition, regardless of their level of observance or knowledge of Judaism. We strive to create a warm, friendly, inclusive religious environment. Our members come from varied backgrounds: Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, Orthodox, secular, and non-Jewish. Our doors are open to all.

Our members come from more than 40 Seacoast towns. We offer religious services, cultural and educational programs for children and adults, preschool and religious school, volunteer opportunities, holiday observances, social gatherings and activities, and more.

What makes Temple Israel special?

Temple Israel maintains a blend of history and modernity. Our congregation, meeting since 1905, is the oldest Jewish congregation in New Hampshire, and it has occupied our beautiful historic sanctuary since 1912. However, our shul is fully engaged in the present. We volunteer together to work on important issues like homelessness, and we hold lectures and movie nights on Israel and other contemporary topics. Our services are a blend of traditional Conservative and contemporary styles. We are an open and diverse community. We welcome your visit!

We think our members best articulate what it means to be part of Temple Israel. Here's what a few of our congregants have to say:

- *It's not like in Brookline or New York City -- we are a small minority in New Hampshire and Temple Israel IS our Jewish affiliation.*
- *I had no Jewish education before I joined Temple Israel. Now I have had my (adult) Bat Mitzvah and have learned so much.*
- *I came to Temple Israel as the non-Jewish spouse in my marriage. I wasn't sure how to feel, but I have been welcomed in this community as a member of a Jewish family. I am not alone in my situation, and I think this makes Temple Israel very unique.*
- *This congregation is really nice -- people are caring and supportive of each other, and very welcoming to visitors and newcomers.*

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Worship at Temple Israel

Temple Israel offers many opportunities to come together in prayer. We are an egalitarian Conservative congregation that celebrates our wealth of holidays, our life cycle events, and our gift of Shabbat.

To make sure everyone feels welcome and able to participate in services, we have a wonderful companion prayerbook, created by Rabbi David Senter, that is “synced” to the official prayerbook and includes translations, transliterations, instructions and explanations.

Friday evening services begin at 6:15. We commence with song and continue with familiar prayers and readings in English and Hebrew and a discussion of the Shabbat morning Torah portion or another topic. At the close of Friday evening service we come together for an Oneg, a delightful taste of challah and dessert and a brief time to visit with friends. About once a month, we have a Friday-night service with live musical accompaniment.

Our **Shabbat morning services** begin at 9:30. We start with Shacharit, morning prayers, and proceed through *Pesukai d'Zimrah*, psalms; Torah service; a brief conversation about the week's Torah portion; Haftorah; and closing prayers. A Kiddush follows, offering a chance for a light lunch and conversation.

Tot Shabbats are held on occasional Saturday mornings. These services offer families with young children an opportunity to celebrate Shabbat with song and become familiar with our prayers. Following the services the families enjoy a family-friendly Kiddush.

Our Bar and Bat Mitzvah students and community lay leaders contribute to our joyful, diverse services on a regular basis. Congregants regularly take part by leading parts of the service, chanting Torah and Haftorah, and sharing their thoughts on the week's Parsha.

We join together to celebrate our **holidays**, including Rosh Hashanah, a sweet beginning; breaking the fast as a community on Yom Kippur; gathering in our sukkah; dancing to a live klezmer band on Simchat Torah; eating latkes together on Hanukkah; greeting Purim with groggers, hamentashen, and a children's Purim carnival; and holding community seders for Pesach and Tu b'Shevat.

Temple Israel welcomes you to join us in song, in prayer, and in celebration of Jewish community.

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Jewish Education Programs at Temple Israel

Our educational programs provide opportunities to discover and expand our Jewish world, explore our rich history and continue to grow as lifelong learners. Temple Israel offers educational programs for all ages.

Early Learning Center

Our New Hampshire licensed preschool, **the Early Learning Center**, promotes creative play, fosters academic growth and invites parental involvement. We provide a nurturing and stimulating environment where children can grow socially, emotionally and spiritually. Jewish values and concepts are integrated into everyday activities and Jewish holidays are woven into the curriculum. We welcome diversity and children of all faiths. Our program is Monday through Friday, 8:45 a.m. – 1 p.m., with an option to attend part-time. It is designed for children ages two years-nine months to five years of age. For information on tuition and fees or to arrange a visit, please contact Tammy Labonté, Director, at 436-5301 x23.

Religious School

Our Religious School strives to instill a strong sense of community and Jewish identity. Our experiential curriculum includes Bible, Hebrew, Judaic studies, prayer and history. Sounds of joy permeate our school as students and teachers engage in learning and experiencing Judaism as a community. Together we study our rich heritage and create lasting memories of Gemilut Chassadim (kindness), Kehila (community) and Ruach (spirit). We are inspired to discover the beauty and depth of the Jewish religion, culture and heritage. For more information, contact the School Office at 436-5301 x14. The school is for children whose families are members of Temple Israel.

Teen Madrichim

Many of our alumni return as madrichim (teacher aides) to continue their Jewish learning in a leadership context. Our Madrichim program offers teens the opportunity to increase confidence, develop leadership skills, model Jewish values, and learn practical skills by assisting in the classroom. The madrichim program also provides participants with a Jewish social context. For more information, contact the School Office at 436-5301 x14.

Adult Education

Our Adult Education programs address a range of interests, from the secular to the sacred, spanning topics from the Holocaust to contemporary ethics, from beginning Hebrew and Basic Judaism to Torah chanting, and from kosher cooking and wine-tasting to Jewish film.

Groups for Families, Children and Teens

PJ Library, for families with children ages six months to eight years, enabling parents and children to connect with each other and with Judaism in fun, exciting and energetic ways.

Toddler Playgroup, for ages birth to 3 and parents, held one morning most weeks while preschool is in session.

Youth Group (grades 4-7) and Teen Group, offering social activities within a Jewish context.

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Community Involvement Opportunities

Adult Education Committee, offering courses to further Jewish education.

Brotherhood, a social and service organization for the men of the congregation that sponsors latke making, bagel and lox breakfasts, Sukkah building, temple beautification projects, card nights, and baseball outings.

Cemetery Committee, showing respect for our departed by maintaining and caring for the cemetery. (Our cemetery has a section for interfaith families.)

Chesed Squad, providing visits, meals, rides and other help to community members in need.

Chevrah Kadisha, our burial society.

Development Committee, coordinating and overseeing fundraising and donor stewardship activities

Docent Team, giving tours of Temple Israel.

Education Committee, overseeing our Early Learning Center and Religious School.

Endowment Committee, managing the endowment fund and allocating interest earned.

House Committee, ensuring the safety, maintenance and continuity of our physical facility.

Library Committee, overseeing the Nancy Mae Shaines Memorial Library's extensive collection of Jewish fiction, nonfiction, movies, DVDs, and reference materials.

Membership Committee, encouraging recruitment and retention of membership in Temple Israel.

Ritual Committee, determining policy and procedures related to Jewish practice within TI.

Seacoast Family Promise, an interfaith hospitality network in which volunteers provide meals and overnight support for families experiencing homelessness.

Sisterhood, connecting women and offering support to the TI community by sponsoring High Holidays childcare, Simchat Torah ice cream party, a women's discussion group, and more.

Spring Event Committee, planning and executing the annual spring fundraiser (decorating, cooking, lining up entertainment, organizing a raffle or auction, etc.)

An Engaging, Diverse Jewish Community

Portsmouth's Jewish Community: 1780 to Today

Adapted from "A Brief History of the Portsmouth Jewish Community" by George Sherman

In 1780, Abraham and Rachel Isaac were the first recorded Jewish family to settle in Portsmouth. The Isaacs were a religious family who observed the Jewish holidays and kept their shop closed on Saturday. After Mr. Isaac's death, his wife moved away to live with her adopted son, leaving Portsmouth with no active Jews for 50 years.

By the late 1880s, a nucleus of 16 Jewish families lived in Portsmouth, trying to maintain their Jewish traditions. In order to conduct religious services, the men would meet at various homes. At the turn of the century, their numbers had increased to 30 families. In 1905, Morris Port moved to Portsmouth from Newburyport, Massachusetts. He came from an established Jewish community and decided that the local Portsmouth Jewish residents should become organized.

The newly organized congregation hired a room where meetings were held and religious services conducted. They called themselves the Temple of Israel. Their first order of business was to find a religious leader: Harry Liberson. Along with his work as religious leader in conducting services, he taught Hebrew school and prepared young boys for Bar Mitzvah. Among his other attributes, Liberson was a *schochet* and a *mohel*. He opened the first kosher butcher shop in Portsmouth.

The second order of business was to establish a Jewish burial ground. A committee representing Temple of Israel purchased an acre of land on Banfield Road in Portsmouth. This became Temple of Israel Cemetery, and the first Jews were buried there in 1908. The area continues to be used as a Jewish cemetery. In 1910 Temple of Israel became a legal religious group recognized by the city, county and state.

The third crucial need was to find a proper building to be used as a synagogue. In 1911, the Methodist Church on State Street offered its building for sale and the Temple of Israel purchased it. They occupied the new synagogue in the fall of 1912. By this time, the community had increased to 38 families and was continuing to grow.

Jewish families settled in an area called "Puddledock" close to the synagogue, where there were two kosher butchers, a Jewish bakery, and three Jewish groceries. Today most of the area has been restored and is known as Strawberry Banke, with historical houses and museums. By the end of World War I, the Portsmouth Jewish community had grown to 50 families, and by World War II the membership had risen to 75 families. The congregation was renamed Temple Israel.

In 1940 an adjacent building was purchased for use as a Hebrew school, and a full-time rabbi was hired. In 1967 Temple Israel, now with a membership of 125 families, expanded the facilities and built a community center. Now, in the 21st century, membership is roughly 300 families (about 800 people), and the religious school has an enrollment of about 75 children.

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200 State Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801 (603) 436-5301 www.templeisraelnh.org

MEMBERSHIP DUES					
	Young adult Age 21-29, single or married, no children	Single Age 30 and over, no spouse, no children	Single with child(ren) Parents who are single, or who have a non-Jewish spouse who is not a member	Couple Two adults with no children under age 21	Family Two adults with children under age 21
First-Year Members ¹	\$368	\$683	\$858	\$1,030	\$1,105
All Other Members ²	\$523	\$1,153	\$1,503	\$1,760	\$1,910
High Holiday Seating Included ³	1 seat	1 seat	1 seat; no charge for children under 21	2 seats	2 seats; no charge for children under 21
Lack of ability to pay the full dues should never be a barrier to becoming a Temple Israel member. To request a dues reduction, please check the appropriate box on the Membership Application on next page. Confidentiality will be honored.					
¹ Reflects half of regular dues, plus fees to support Building, Security and Cemetery funds. Introductory discount available once to any membership unit.					
² Reflects full dues, plus fees to support designated Building, Security, and Cemetery (first 10 years only) funds.					
³ High Holiday Seats for members with guests living outside the Seacoast are \$60 per person per holiday. Seats for non-member Seacoast residents are \$270 per person per holiday.					

Membership privileges include:

- Temple newsletter (the *Doorpost*) and weekly program listings.
- Kindergarten through Bar/Bat Mitzvah education (see rates below).
- Reduced rate for Early Learning Center tuition
- Adult classes/groups (fees may apply)
- Listings on the Memorial Board (fees apply)
- Reduced rates for use of social hall, kitchen and sanctuary
- Parking stickers for Temple lot (available through the TI office)
- Key fob for building entry (available through the TI office)
- High Holiday seating (information packet mailed in August or September)
- Cemetery plots for Jewish and non-Jewish members (fees apply)

Accounts must be up-to-date in order for members to be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting, receive tickets for High Holiday seats, and keep parking sticker and key fob activated.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL TUITION	
Preschool: Early Learning Center (Monday-Friday, 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Part-time options available)	\$6,955
Grades K through 2	\$645
Grades 3 through 8	\$870
Bar/Bat Mitzvah fee	\$1,325
If your needs do not match any of the above categories, please consult the office for the correct fee.	

An Engaging, Diverse Jewish Community

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Please complete this form for our records and return to the Temple office with your dues payment.

Membership Type (please circle): Young Adult - Single - Single with Children - Couple - Family

	You	Your Spouse/Partner
Name		
Year of Birth		
Address		
Phone Number		
Email Address		
Occupation (current or former)		

FOR CHILDREN UNDER 21		
Name	School Grade/College	Year of Birth

I would like to receive information about **Preschool** **Religious School.**

To help you connect with other members, may we publish your family members' names, children's ages, town you live in and town you are from in our temple newsletter?

Yes **No** Town(s) you are from: _____

DUES PAYMENTS

Please consult the Dues and Fees Schedule on previous page to determine which membership category is right for you and what your dues payment should be. Then return this application to the address below, along with your check for the appropriate dues, made payable to Temple Israel. PayPal payment is available with a 3% processing fee. Payment on a monthly/quarterly installment plan is available by arrangement with the office.

Optional: Please add \$25 per category to your payment if you would like to ...:

Join Sisterhood (\$25) Join Brotherhood (\$25) Get newsletter by mail (in addition to email) (\$25)

Please do not let a lack of ability to pay the full dues or tuition be a barrier to becoming a Temple Israel member or sending your children to our school. We offer dues and tuition reductions based on need.

I would like to be contacted confidentially to discuss a dues and/or tuition reduction.

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