

The Doorpost

Temple Israel

Monthly Newsletter

November 2020, Heshvan - Kislev 5781



Build for Yourself an Ark

In a world that has lost its way, a world in a which a violent storm is about to rage, G-d finds a righteous man and tells him: Make yourself an ark- עֲשֵׂה לְךָ תֵּיבָה (Gen. 6:14). Noa**H** - נֹחַ whose name means “rest,” is told to build an ark, a place of repose within which to weather the oncoming storm. Within this solitary space, he and his family will safeguard all that is precious in this world. They will rest securely as the winds and rain whirl around them. In the end they will emerge into a new world with the promise of security as the rainbow stretches across the sky.

While often thought of as a children’s story, Noah’s Ark offers us several useful and beautiful ideas for how to sail safely through a tumultuous and dangerous storm. And indeed, this Torah teaching

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Please join us via Zoom on Friday, November 20, at 7:00 pm for Kabbalat Shabbat services, including presentation of the JFNH Shem Tov Award to congregants Sandy and Helaine Roberts for their contributions to the community.

Upcoming Events

Outdoor Havdalah Gathering

5:30 pm, Saturday, November 7, TIP parking lot

Education Committee Meeting

12:00 pm, Sunday, November 8

Tikkun Olam Committee Meeting

7:00 pm, Sunday, November 8

Re-imagining Committee Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, November 10

Preschool and office are closed for Veterans Day

Wednesday, November 11

Executive Committee Meeting

7:30 pm, Wednesday, November 11

Marketing Committee Meeting

3:00 pm, Thursday, November 12

TIP Book Club

11:30 am, Tuesday, November 17, TIP courtyard

A Bend in the Stars by Rachel Barenbaum

Board of Directors Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, November 17

JFNH Shem Tov Award Presentation

7:00 pm, Friday, Nov. 20, Kabbalat Shabbat service, including recognition of Sandy & Helaine Roberts

A Time to Embrace: Healing/Reconciliation Ceremony

8:00 pm, Saturday, November 21

How Can We Help Seacoast Immigrants?

4:00 pm, Sunday, November 22

Ritual Committee Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, November 24

Preschool and office are closed for Thanksgiving

Thursday and Friday, November 26 - 27

From Rabba Kaya's desk

(Continued from page 1)

is what we need, as we too are weathering a great storm, a powerful and world-wide upheaval.

Our sages have taught that the challenge and the gift is to build for ourselves an inner ark within which to find meNuHah - a place of **rest** and repose within the storm itself. The Torah's language here is interesting because it does not simply say: Make an ark. Rather, it says: make **for yourself** an ark. This can also be read as: Make **of yourself** an ark.

Many of our great teachers through the ages have taught that the inner ark we need to build is a settled place within the mind, free of destructive thoughts and emotions. To build an inner ark is to create an inner experience of settled thought and buoyant trust. This does not mean we are to seal ourselves off or shut out the world completely. Rather, Torah teaches that the ark must include an opening, a window, that is a place of connection with the outer world while still maintaining an inner place of calm within which to ride out the storm. Our tradition offers many ways to create an inner ark. These include meditation, a regular prayer practice and our weekly observance of Shabbat. Shabbat itself is meant to be an experience of separation from the ills of the world where we can find a settled place of inner peace. Indeed, one of our traditional Sabbath table songs (*z'mirot*) recalls the moment toward the end of the Noah story



Rabba Kaya
Stern-Kaufman

when the wandering dove finally finds a tree on which to rest. The song contains the refrain:

יוֹנָה מְצָאָהּ בּוֹ מְנוּחַ, וְשָׁם יָנוּחוּ יִגְיְעֵי כֹחַ
Yonah matz'ah vo maNOAH v'sham yaNuHu y'giyei kho-ah

The dove found a place to **rest** and there (on Shabbat) will the weary, **rest**.

In our chaotic and disorienting times, may we each begin to build an inner ark, a place of calm in which we can safeguard all that is truly precious and from which we may re-emerge strengthened, renewed, and at peace.

With Blessings,
Rabba Kaya

Rabba Kaya's "Open Office" Hours

On Tuesdays from 2:00 - 4:00 pm, Rabba Kaya is available to meet with community members either outside in the temple courtyard or in the social hall. Make an appointment through the temple office or simply drop in.



Photo above: in a recent class, Rabba Kaya encouraged students to shape themselves into Hebrew letters!

President's Message

Reflections on a New Year

At our recent board meeting, board members and invited guests each reflected on moments from our High Holiday services and offerings that were particularly meaningful. Some of the universally meaningful moments included hearing the *Aveinu Malkeinu* virtual choir, attending in-person Tashlikh services, and opening the gift bags we distributed. People felt comforted by seeing so many familiar faces on the Zoom screen, observing or taking part in the schmoozing that happened during breaks, hearing the varied points of view expressed in the "One Thing I Ask" video segments, and participating in opportunities for interaction like the Yom Kippur Minhah learning session with Rabba Kaya. Still others took their computers/devices outdoors during the services and felt peacefulness in nature and pride in praying in public.

The whole board was so impressed by the community response to the challenges presented to us by COVID-19 and the volunteerism offered by so many congregants and friends of the shul. While some of the necessary alterations made to our traditional practices were "pandemic-only," hopefully not to be repeated, other innovations were so well-received that they may inspire new traditions.

For the Hyett family, the New Year came with something very unexpected: a puppy. Skylar Hyett, a mini-Australian Labradoodle, was brought home on September 29 to three excited girls and dad, and a nervous and wary "dog mom." Those of you who know me or who have seen me interact with other dogs may gather that I am not the biggest dog person. In fact, many jaws fell to the floor upon

hearing about the canine addition to our family.

The pressure of COVID-19 has created all kinds of changes in our lives, but not all changes are bad! Skylar reminds me (frequently) that we can choose to adapt,

grow, and evolve. Three weeks in, my house is a mess and many emails have gone unanswered. Witnessing the joy on my children's faces when they play with Skylar leaves no doubt in my mind that this puppy was the right choice for our family.

I hope that your new year also includes opportunities for change, personal growth, and moments of unexpected joy.

L'shalom,

Amy Hyett



Ritual Committee

Heshvan, the Hebrew month following Tishrei, is often called *MarHeshvan* – bitter Heshvan – because it is the only month without a single holiday. For those of us who were deeply involved in holiday planning for the past three months, Heshvan is not bitter, but rather a pause in which to breathe, rest, reflect, and gather energy for what lies ahead.

That said, we are less busy, but not fully at rest. In October, the Ritual Committee and the High Holiday Steering Committee met to review the myriad components of our High Holiday observances beginning with our series of events during Elul and culminating with Yom Kippur. Under the leadership of webmaster Dinah Berch, we compiled a survey that has been sent to the congregation to solicit feedback about the services and associated programs. Committee members are also collaborating on a document to record feedback, notes, and constructive suggestions for use in evaluating this year's observances and preparing for next year.

Before I turn my attention away from the High Holidays, the following people were inadvertently left out of last month's acknowledgments for their contributions. Our gratitude is no less sincere, for being expressed in this belated manner!

High Holiday Family Services Sponsor, and lulav/etrog transporter, **Ellen Farber**.

Haftarah chanter: **Fran Berman**.

Since the High Holidays, we have also celebrated Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, and Simhat Torah! Thanks to:

Richard Collier and members of Chavurah Piscataqua for erecting the sukkah at Strawberry Banke and warmly collaborating with us to share programming at it.

The **Brotherhood**, under the leadership of **Andrew Share**, for building and taking down our temple sukkah.

Laura & Ron Sher for donating the *schach* for our

temple sukkah, and to **Deborah Hirsch Mayer** for transporting it.

Sisterhood members and others who contributed decorations — you know who you are!

Rachel Dennis and Ben Martindale for coordinating and “staffing” Sukkot services and celebrations at Strawberry Banke and Wagon Hill Farm in Durham.

Rabba Kaya for leading all our services, and for a fun and educational Simhat Torah service and concert.

Hanukkah comes early this year, beginning the evening of December 10. The Ritual Committee is already making plans for fun, joyous, and meaningful Hanukkah celebrations despite the ongoing pandemic. Watch for upcoming announcements and details!

And remember that Shabbat comes each week without fail. Consider joining your fellow congregants on Zoom for Kabbalat Shabbat services, Fridays at 6:15, and Shabbat morning services, Saturdays at 10:00. Both services offer opportunities to pause and reflect, to be nurtured by song and learning, and to enjoy the company of your community. Weekday minyan meets Tuesdays at 5:30. Participating in the short weekday service offers connection with others and the chance to do the particularly important mitzvah of helping to make a minyan for those in our community who are saying Kaddish.

Give services a try — you might be surprised by what you experience!

L'shalom,

Deborah Hirsch Mayer, VP, Ritual



Bulletin Board

Candle Lighting

November	6	4:11 p.m.
November	13	4:03 p.m.
November	20	3:58 p.m.
November	27	3:54 p.m.

Service Times

Tuesday	5:30 p.m.
Friday night	6:15 p.m.
Saturday morning	10:00 a.m.

*** Zoom links to virtual services are in the weekly bulletin**

We want to hear from you!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TIPHighHolidays2020Survey>

Hopefully, you have seen our email inviting you to complete a **survey about Temple Israel's High Holiday offerings**. Many thanks to the 60 members who have already shared thoughtful comments.

If you haven't participated, we'd like to get your feedback on the many services and programs we delivered in a different way this year due to COVID-19 concerns. **The survey closes November 8** so we can tabulate results and share with the planning committees.

We also have questions about whether or not the technology we are using is working for you and how you would like to hear about our programming going forward.

What did you most value? Do you have ideas for changes next year? The survey is detailed and long; please feel free to complete the sections that matter most to you. Your response will help us plan future events and effectively communicate with you about them.

Thank you!



Celebrating Sukkot at Wagon Hill Farm in Durham.

Hebrew School



Elian Tackff
Head of School

Shalom Everyone! Happy November (Heshvan / Kislev)!

I hope you all had a lovely Sukkot and had a chance to enjoy the beautiful fall weather and foliage this past month.

Here are a few Hebrew School

highlights from October:

We started the month with a lovely Sukkot celebration, including a lulav parade, at Wagon Hill Farm in Durham on Sunday, October 4. The weather was gorgeous, many furry friends joined the students and their families, and it was wonderful to celebrate together, socially distanced of course, with members of our congregation. I loved to see that families that hadn't purchased lulavim took my suggestion and brought their own homemade ones!

Good weather also made it possible for most of the classes to meet one more time at the temple, in person, as we started our new ShalomLearning and PrayerTech curriculums on Zoom.

As I am not teaching the fourth grade this year, I have been enjoying visiting each class and



seeing the results of all the work that our teachers put into learning how to use our new programs. I am loving to see the interesting and most of the time, quite deep, discussions on Jewish values at each grade level. The Jewish value we considered this month was *b'tzelem Elohim*, in God's image. Classes talked about what it means to be created *b'tzelem Elohim*, and how knowing that affects how we treat one another.

Coming up in November:

On Sunday, November 8, our Israeli shlichah, Avia Sagron, will be visiting us on Zoom for the first of three visits this year. She will be teaching us about Israel by talking about three famous Israelis.

On Sunday, November 15, after Hebrew School, from 11 am to 4:30 pm, most of our faculty will be attending Limmud Boston- A Jewish Learning Festival of Art and Culture. This year the conference will be on Zoom, but as usual will have excellent speakers and very relevant topics. The fee is quite reasonable and the conference is open to all. <https://limmudboston.org>. Do check it out and consider joining our faculty there! I hope to see some of you on my screen.

Wishing you a happy and meaningful Thanksgiving! Though as Jews we say blessings before meals and all kinds of events every day, I love how Thanksgiving brings our families together and truly helps us see how blessed we are.

As usual, please feel free to call or email me at 603-969-2984 or egt9@aol.com with any comments or questions.

L'shalom,

Elian Tackeff, Head of School

Early Learning Center



Tammy Labonté
Director, ELC

Sukkot is perhaps the Jewish holiday that best suits a pre-schooler's curiosity about the world. It is, like Passover, a reminder of the Exodus; but it also celebrates the very concrete experience of the harvest. At this time of the year, many New Hampshire orchards are open to

the public and most of our students experience apple picking or pumpkin picking firsthand. Sukkot expands this experience and gives it more depth. We celebrated the harvest of fall vegetables by making a soup for families to bring home.

Building and decorating a sukkah is one of the most exciting parts of the holiday. Every child made something to decorate the sukkah, and the process involved much more than creating a craft project. Along the way we explored foods that come from plants, we separated fruits from nuts and seeds, we

tasted and smelled new things, and marveled at the amazing bounty that is offered us.

And, of course, the sukkah itself is a fascinating place. Rabba Kaya brought the lulav and etrog and taught us about it, helping us

better understand the meaning of the holiday. How perfect for this age is a celebration that provides a child with something to shake in every direction? We are lucky to have our playground sukkah!

Tammy Labonté



Photos, clockwise from above: preparing a harvest vegetable soup; volunteer and TIP board member Steve Sacks consults on a project; decorating and enjoying the playground sukkah.



Bat Mitzvah



Ava Siegel

Saturday, November 28, 2020

My name is Ava Siegel. I attend the Cooperative Middle School in Stratham. I enjoy dance, babysitting, and playing with my dog Winston. Judaism is important to me because I like being part of this community and it helps me feel closer to my relatives.

Please join us via Zoom to celebrate Ava's sim_ḥa! The link to Shabbat morning services will be included in the November 27 "This Week" bulletin. The congregation is most cordially invited and we hope you will come.

Annual Fund Campaign Will Focus on Covering Expenses for Covid-19 in 2020

The Temple Israel 2020 Annual Fund drive is underway!

This once-a-year campaign funds special, high-priority projects that are beyond the reach of our regular budget.

Thanks to your generosity, we've already raised \$21,000 towards our goal!

The challenges created by Covid-19 are evident to all of us, both in our personal lives and in our communal experience. Our community is deeply in need of connection and outreach. **We have therefore set an Annual Fund goal of raising \$50,000 to support enhanced synagogue programming and technology to engage and support our Temple Israel community during these unusual times.**

Become a leader! Join the Rabbi's Circle with a gift of \$1,000 or more, or donate \$180+ to be listed as a Friend. Return your Annual Fund donation envelope or go to [templeisraelnh.org/donate](https://www.templeisraelnh.org/donate) to make your gift now. Every gift moves us closer to our goal!

Fran Berman, Chair, Development Committee

Did you catch our Musical Appeal?

Watch at: <https://www.templeisraelnh.org/annual-fund-musical-extravaganza/>



Donations

CULTURAL ENDOWMENT FUND

Naomi Fishbein in honor of Richard Grossman.
Jewel Davis in memory of her father, Bernie Davis.
Bernice Richman in memory of her father, Abraham H. Richman. Naomi Fishbein in memory of Goldie Fink.

DINNERMAN/ROTTENBERG EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND

Ron & Joyce Meenes in memory of Ron's mother, Charlotte Meenes.

FOOD DRIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

Beth & David Salzman. Barbara Levenson. Jeff Pillet -Shore. Rachel Kurshan. Marjorie Raven. Jessica Dawson. Fran Berman. Doug Tilton. Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman. Eric Gilston.

HIGH HOLIDAY CONTRIBUTIONS

Shauna Tannenbaum, "Thank you for having your high holiday services open to the community." Gina & Aaron Kahn, "Thank you for the Zoom Yom Kippur service!" Ken & Holly Grossman. Sharon Panitch, "In honor of Rabba Kaya's first High Holy Days at Temple Israel!" Ari Shaps. Sharon Burak, "I watched some of your live feeds during the high holidays, beautiful."

INSTITUTIONAL OPERATING ENDOWMENT

Paula & Stuart Boxer in memory of Paula's mother, Ruth Rosengard. Robert Chaikin in memory of his father, Oscar Chaikin.

MUSICAL SHABBAT FUND

Fran Berman in memory of Jack Berman.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Sandra Wilson in memory of her parents, Rose and Harry Riback. William Goldberg in memory of his father, David Goldberg. Beth Zinderman. Amy &

Torsten Schmidt in memory of Anne Simonoff. Wayne & Nancy Krieger, "With thanks to Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman and Cantor Kochava Munro for beautiful and inspiring High Holy Day services!" Lisa Krutter in memory of her husband, Forrest N. Krutter. Barry & Claire Siegel in memory of Barry's father, Abraham Siegel.

TZEDAKAH FUND

Cynthia Freedman & the Blacker Family in memory of their dear friend, Alice Sussman.



ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

Rabbi's Circle: Larry & Sheila Cohen. Judy & Fred Schubert. David Cline in memory of Deborah Cline. Randy Spratt & Sharen Eidelberg Spratt. Renee Levy in memory of Robert Levy. Rachel Kurshan. Sally Cohen & Rick Robbins. Michael & Susan Golden in memory of Samuel & Mildred Golden.

Friends: Rich & Patricia Moed. Evelyn Dickson. Sam & Dominique Winebaum. Erica & Joshua Greenspan. Aimée Margolis. David & Betty Efron. Sharon Bottner & Rich Naimark. Doug Tilton in memory of Susan Goldin. Beth & Scot Sakelarios. Bob & Marge Goldberg. Polly & Arnold Slavet. Eric Weinrieb. Arline Koiles in memory of her beloved husband, Al Koiles. Karrie Burnett.

Contributors: Dara Klein, "In honor of Fran Berman and the awesome Annual Fund video!" Ross Moldoff, in honor of Harold Moldoff's birthday. Rachel Dennis. Susan Amchan. Stuart & Elaine Fox. Phil Ginsburg & Carolyn Anderson.

Yahrzeits

November Yahrzeits

1. Anna Borwick, Fred Kaplan, Evelyn Trotsky, Adrienne Saltz, Albert Gordon
2. Ida Levine, Harry Bratter, June Feldman, Isaac Rammer, Bessie Halprin
3. Harry Cutler, Lydia Wills, Frank W. Horovitz
4. Nellie Willar
5. Harold Kellner, Bruce Fox, Martha Wein, Katherine Edelstein, Esther Winer, Leo Liberson
6. Florence Seidner, Rosilyn Steinberg
7. Solomon Bernat, Burton Golub, Hyman L. Pindrus
8. Samuel Weisner, Abraham Baisuck, Frieda Boxer, Bessie Lichten, Ethylene Golub, Herbert Cohen, Jacob Docter, Eudice Raymond
9. Ida Feldman, Tania Moroze, Monroe Scharff, Barbara Kates Comenitz
10. Bessie Porter, Clement Wyle
11. Minnie Kline, Alexander Willens, Morris Fine, Herman Seperson, Abraham Landsman
12. Julia Lesser, Martin Singer, Sarah Emmer
13. Rebecca Freedman, Gussie Wexler, Louis Winebaum, James Bockman, Barney Grossman
14. Ida Black, Solomon Israel, Seymour Osman
15. Harry Abrams, Morris Osher
16. Nana Vero, Dorothy Pollack, Martha Magerer,

14 Heshvan / 14 Kislev 5781

- Aaron Salden, Janette Krasin
17. Mollie Ebb, Leib Haritonov, Alice Berit, Sadie Cook, Gerald Fine, Maurice Dinerman
 18. Rabbi Moshe Poleyeff, Robert Freedman, Eugenia Klarova, Thelma Hooz
 19. Jacklyn Simchik, Renee Goodman, Abraham Fisher, Frances Anderson
 20. Donald Albert, Dorothy Feitelson, Benjamin Gold, Naomi Bluestone, Eileen Platania, Bessie W. Young
 21. Abraham Hooz, Benjamin Fineberg, Gussie Flescher, Julius Weiner
 22. Lewis Hooz, Lawrence Salden
 23. Alex Belostock, Milton Weiner, Baurcard Nesin, Fannie Krasnow, Mary B. Abramson, Richard Rowe
 24. Harry Liberson, Barnett H. Book
 25. Max Resnick, Mildred Golden, Marie Muller, Phyllis Wagner Brill, Pierette Zinck
 26. Robert Goodman, Annie Tober, Faye Shear, Edward Seperson, Lawrence Felsenberg, Edward Wheeler, Audrey Bierhans
 27. Marion Neyer, Lillian Smith
 28. Esther Sharansky, Ruth E. Fain, Sylvia Shoer,

When you are observing a family member's *yahrzeit*, you are welcome to say kaddish at Shabbat services Friday night or Saturday morning, or at Tuesday minyan (5:30 p.m.) in the week preceding the *yahrzeit*. *Yahrzeits* published in the Friday bulletin are for the upcoming week.

Yahrzeits, continued.

Roselyn Goodman

29. Melvin Partoll, Samuel Levy, Jeanne Slass,
Arthur Senter, Mildred Lane

30. Arno Fleisher, Jennie Shoer, Rabbi David Senter,
Newton B. Cohn

Condolences to **Esther Sinovsky, Helene Cohen,**
and Gail Gallante, on the passing of their
mother, congregant **Goldie Fink**.

Hail and Farewell! This month, along with
recognizing members new to the TIP community,
we would also like to spotlight those who are,
sadly for us, moving away from the area. We will
miss you, but remind you that, via the magic of
Zoom, you can always attend a program or
service remotely, from your new home!

Wishing safe travels and a happy landing to:

- **Maggie Jalbert**, in South Carolina.
- **Jan & Jim Bailey**, in Georgia.

And a warm welcome to new members:

- **Liz Kolodney & Barbara Sutton** of
Newmarket
- **Patricia & Richard Moed**, Portsmouth
- **Sandell Morse**, Portsmouth
- **Lisa Shaker**, Durham
- **Dov Yellin & Jessica Schnur**, Portsmouth
- **Beth Zinderman**, Durham

Saying Kaddish during a time of physical isolation:

If you would like to join a “virtual” minyan to say
Kaddish, you can find the schedule for live-
streamed services on the temple website calendar.
A prayer to say a personal Kaddish is also available;
please contact the office to receive a copy via mail
or email.

Re-Imagining Committee

The committee’s plan for reopening the building in
stages, tied to NH state COVID-19 metrics published
on the Covid Act Now website, has been posted on
the temple website and is available for community
review. The committee meets regularly to update
this guidance.

November news: Plans for “hybrid” indoor (limited
attendance) + live-streamed services have been
made, but rely on the state’s Covid-19 metrics
improving from the current “orange” to “yellow”
status before they can be implemented. Access to
the building is available by appointment with the
office, Head of School, VP, House, or Rabba Kaya.
Any mid-month changes will be announced in the
weekly bulletin.

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Committee Reports

Sustainability Snippet: An introduction

We are excited to introduce the members of the TIP Sustainability Committee: Christine Caputo (Chair), Ben Martindale, Courtney Kapral, Ashley Barajas, Judith Rubenstein, and Ellen Farber.

Our main mission is to improve the sustainability of the temple. What does that mean?

We believe that we must be conscious of the impact our choices have on the environment, and thus we must evaluate all TIP processes and programs for their adherence to sustainability principles and practices. Despite the fact that there are currently no in-person events in the building, the Sustainability Committee has been busy brainstorming ideas to improve our practices and to bring awareness to issues of sustainability and the environment to the temple. This includes activities inside and outside the building.

For example, we have acted as consultants as the Preschool considered purchasing new cleaning products that would be highly effective against COVID-19 virus but be the most environmentally friendly. The cleaning products that were ultimately chosen all adhere to the Environmental Protection Agency's Safer Choice program that encourages greener choices but are extremely effective at killing the virus. A win – win!

Our first mission is focused on education – to that end we will be starting a new monthly column in the *Doorpost* called "Sustainability Snippets." We hope these short articles will help inform you about how you can implement more sustainable practices in your own home. We will also be contributing "Sustainability Spotlights" which will feature local businesses, that we feel are doing exemplary work

to embrace sustainable practices or bring sustainable products to market.

Do you have ideas to share about how to make TIP more sustainable? We would love to hear them! OR would you like a consultation about how to make an event you are planning more sustainable? Please email christine.a.caputo@gmail.com with input or to request a consult! We would be happy to help.



Open for Business Committee Launches

Temple members: Do you own a business? Sell a product? Provide a service? If you can answer "yes" to any of those questions, we invite you to sign up for a free listing in the online Temple Israel Open for Business Directory.

It's a win-win for everyone! The goal of the new Temple Israel Open for Business Directory is to create awareness of local, member-owned businesses within our synagogue community and to provide opportunities for our congregants and others to patronize member-owned businesses.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up for this directory, contact OFB@templeisraelnh.org.

Thank you,

Temple Israel Open for Business Committee

Beth Salzman, Amy Lester, Helen Hanan, Alissa Gold

Committee Reports

An Invitation from the new Tikkun Olam Committee

Together with Temple Israel's new spiritual leader, Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman, the Social Action Committee is beginning anew under the name **Tikkun Olam Committee**. Tikkun Olam refers to the Jewish value of repairing the world. This revitalized group wants to expand our focus to encompass local social action, social justice, and environmental issues. According to the biblical principle ***tzedek tzedek tirdof - justice, justice, you shall pursue***, we hope to fulfill our Jewish obligation to reach beyond the temple doors as well as within, to take action toward creating a more just society.

We invite Temple Israel community members to our "envisioning meeting" on Sunday, November 8, 2020 at 7:00 pm on Zoom. We hope you will contribute your voices as we define our goals and aspirations for the coming year.

The Zoom link will be available in the weekly bulletin. To receive it in advance, please register via the meeting link on the temple website calendar. If you can't make this meeting, please send us your ideas. Email Marc Hiller, marc.hiller@unh.edu and Jewel Davis, bugjewel@yahoo.com.

Committee Mission Statement

The Tikkun Olam Committee is devoted to projects that improve the lives of others in our temple, our local community and beyond. This committee provides education, creates and supports social action projects, social justice initiatives, and projects that support the health of our environment. All of our projects are rooted in the Jewish values of ***tzedek***, justice and righteous

action, and ***gemilut hasadim***, acts of loving kindness.



Families, including pets, celebrated Sukkot and paraded with lulav and etrog under a blue, blue sky at Wagon Hill Farm in Durham.



Art Review Team

Outdoor Yoga Returns! Sunday, November 1, at 11:00 am.

Please bring a yoga mat, (if you have one) and wear comfortable clothing. Chairs will be provided, as needed. Class is multi-level, "beginner-friendly," and includes breathwork and guided meditation.

To pre-register, call or email the office or sign up on temple website calendar link. Limited to 10 participants. (Rain date is November 8 at 11:00 am.) Instructor may be contacted at dlevine12@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Call to Artists, Writers, and Photographers

Temple Israel members and friends are invited to submit work created during or in response to the pandemic. The Art Review Team is planning a digital exhibit for December that will also be viewable in the Schmooze and Social Hall by appointment. Please contact Heather in the office to arrange for "drop-off." (Deadline is December 12, 2020).

Virtual Food Drive Closes November 15

If you brought bags of food to previous High Holiday services, and would like to contribute an equivalent amount to this year's "virtual" effort, there's still time to make your donation!

Please send a check to the temple office or contribute via the temple website's "Donate" page. The Tikkun Olam Committee will purchase grocery store gift cards for distribution through area food pantries. Thank you for helping combat hunger on the Seacoast!

Art Review Team - Upcoming Activities:

Organizers have invited our community to contribute artwork to the national virtual program **A Time to Embrace**, on November 21 (see p. 15).

Themes include:

- The hour of dawn when night ends & day begins
- Recognizing our brothers and sisters
- Unity, Cooperation, Generosity, Community

Submissions must be sent to Ramón Tasat (ramon.tasat@gmail.com) as soon as possible, and **no later than 5:00 pm, November 10**. Please indicate that you are part of Temple Israel Portsmouth.

We are planning to do a **Writing Workshop** on Zoom in early December, facilitated by a temple member with a background in writing. During these challenging Covid times, we have all had to adapt to many changes. If there is a memory you would like to preserve with words—a story, poem, or anecdote about something that moved you or changed your perspective during the pandemic, please contact Heather in the office by November 15. The class will be two 1-hour sessions with 6-8 participants, allowing for sharing and feedback. Aspiring and seasoned writers—this is a chance to express yourself with guidance and inspiration.

Another idea on the table is a **virtual play reading**. Our congregation includes a number of thespians, drama instructors, and "drama queens." Are you interested in a Zoom read-aloud play with assigned parts? We will select a play by a Jewish playwright or with a Jewish theme and issue a casting call later this month. Please call or email the office if this sounds like fun to you!

Deborah Levine, Art Review Team Chair

In Our Community

Sisterhood Bake Off

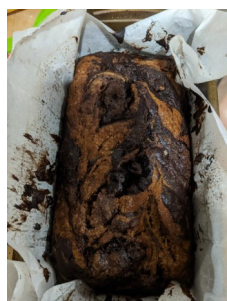
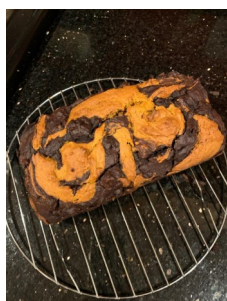
On October 22, Sisterhood member Helen Hanan led a Bake Off Zoom class. The dozen or so attendees were invited to bake a yummy banana (or pumpkin) marble bread.

The interactive class was informative and fun. It was a great idea for a get-together without concerns about masks or social distancing.



Reports are pouring in about the delicious results! Helen hopes Sisterhood or another committee will take the torch and run with the idea of sponsoring a Bake Off/Cook Off once a month. All you need is a kitchen, a computer, and a recipe you'd like to demonstrate and share with Temple Israel members, family, and friends.

Interested? Contact Heather in the office to schedule your Zoom class, or Helen with any questions.



Beth Salzman's Pumpkin Marble Bread and Dinah Berch's Banana Marble Bread. Yum!

A Time to Embrace: A Ceremony Toward a National Healing and Reconciliation

8:00 pm, Saturday, November 21 via Zoom

Using the framework of the havdalah ritual at the end of the Jewish Sabbath, a diverse group of Americans will join together in a ceremony to separate from the divisiveness of the recent past in our country as well as to build bridges of healing, hope, and reconciliation. The program will include ritual and musical elements, artwork and voices of faith leaders from a rich tapestry of faiths, offering prayers from their traditions for our country and its people.

Temple Israel will be one of the sponsors and contributors to this event. See p. 14 for details on how to contribute artwork, and stay tuned for more info. Preregistration required, go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpcuigpzqGdHriwe8es94uXFWNik2NSJO>

How Can We Help Seacoast Immigrants?

4:00 pm, Sunday, November 22, via Zoom

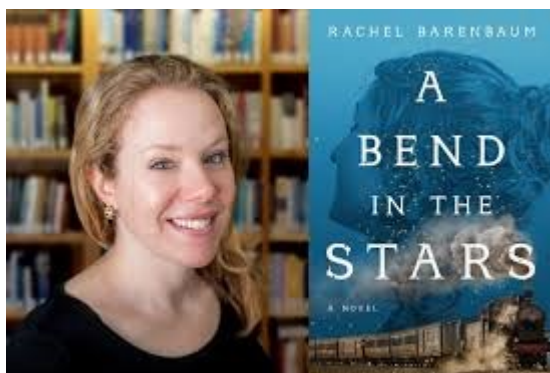
Almost 100 people are detained at the Seacoast-area Strafford County Jail due to their immigration status. Where are they from and why are they detained? How can our community help?



Peggy Kieschnick, a member of the Seacoast Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition (SISC) will speak about immigrant detention on Sunday, November 22, 4 – 5:30 pm. SISC is a coalition of faith communities and individuals working to support our immigrant neighbors who face threats of detention, family separation, and violence. SISC also supports people held in immigration detention at the Strafford County Jail and a network of Temporary Host Homes and Support Teams for those released from jail.

TIP Book Club - November

A Bend in the Stars, by Rachel Barenbaum



Please join us on Tuesday, November 17, at 11:30 am, outside in the temple courtyard, weather permitting, for a lively discussion!

Described by the publisher as *All the Light We Cannot See* meets *The Nightingale*, this literary WWI-era novel tells the love story of a brilliant young doctor who races against Einstein to solve one of the universe's great mysteries. Grounded in real history — and inspired by the solar eclipse of 1914 — it offers a heart-stopping account of modern science's greatest race as epic as the railways crossing Russia.

Temple Israel Portsmouth

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Temple Israel

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OFFICE HOURS

November, 2020: Please call or email to make an appointment for building access.



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Photos above and right:
Celebrating Sukkot at
Wagon Hill Park in
Durham.

