

The Doorpost

Temple Israel

Monthly Newsletter

December 2020, Kislev - Tevet 5781



Many Ways to Connect

As our days have grown short and the darkness comes early, I am excited to offer several opportunities for our community to raise light throughout the winter. Two ongoing classes will begin this first week of December.

Come learn Torah with me through the lens of the *Mussar* tradition. This ongoing **Lunch & Learn** class will occur Thursdays, 12:30 - 1:30 pm on Zoom, beginning December 3. We will focus on the weekly Torah portion as a source of guidance for living through our times. Mussar teachings formally arose in the 18th century.

They focus on the development of the inner life, on our personal inner traits, and provide guidance as to how we might manage our responses to the current challenges, so as to better ourselves and our world. Our text, *The Mussar Torah Commentary*, edited by Rabbi

Barry Block, will provide a

roadmap for our studies. To gain the most from the class, please consider purchasing a copy of this book. On Thursday, December 17, I will offer a special Hanukkah teaching.

I hope you will also join me for a mini-series entitled **Talmud of the Heart: The Power of Relationships**. This class will focus on rabbinic stories from the Talmud that touch the heart and reveal fundamental Jewish values. The class will meet Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm on December 3, January 7, and January 21.

Continued on page 2

Upcoming Events

Tikkun Olam Committee Meeting

7:00 pm, Wednesday, December 2

Lunch & Learn with Rabba Kaya (weekly series)

Begins 12:30 pm, Thursday, December 3

Talmud Study with Rabba Kaya

7:00 pm, Thursday, December 3

Executive Committee Meeting

7:30 pm, Wednesday, December 9

For Hanukkah Candle-Lighting Times & Events, see p. 4

6:00 pm, evenings December 10 - 17

Shabbes Tisch, Theme: "Light"

6:00 pm, Friday, December 11

Education Committee Meeting

11:00 am, Sunday, December 13

Membership Committee Meeting

4:30 pm, Monday, December 14

TIP Book Club

11:30 am, Tuesday, December 15, TIP courtyard

What We Will Become by Mimi Lemay

Board of Directors Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, December 15

Rosh Hodesh Group (Sisterhood)

7:00 pm, Wednesday, December 16

Ritual Committee Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, December 22

Outdoor Yoga

11:00 am, Sunday, December 27 (rain date 1/3)

Sisterhood Meeting

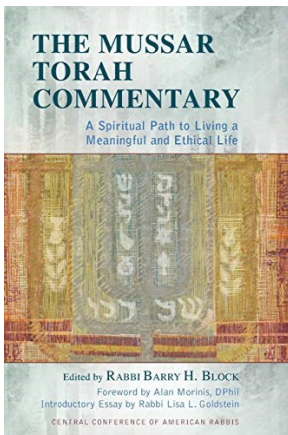
7:00 pm, Sunday, December 27

Preschool is closed for winter break

Wednesday, December 23 - Monday, January 4

Temple office is closed

Friday, December 25 & Friday, January 1



From Rabba Kaya's desk

(Continued from page 1)

This month we continue **Shabbes Tisch**, a Shabbat table experience for all ages. (Tisch is Yiddish for "table.") One Friday evening each month, as a variation on our Kabbalat Shabbat service, we will gather online around our tables. We will welcome Shabbat with kiddush, songs, and some prayer, and then enjoy our meal and schmooze. After the meal, everyone will be invited to contribute an offering on a particular theme. This can be a poem, a piece of music, a story, a joke, or you name it.

We will conclude the evening with a short *Birkat Hamazon* (Grace After Meal) and Shabbat table songs. The key to this event is your participation. **Please come with some kind of offering to share related to the monthly theme.** This month's *Shabbes Tisch* will occur on the Friday night of Hanukkah, December 11 at 6:00 pm. We will light our menorahs first, so have them prepared to be lit.

Our theme for the evening will be: Light.



**Rabba Kaya
Stern-Kaufman**

We have many additional Hanukkah events planned. Please see the Ritual Committee section on page 4 of this issue for details.

Wishing you all an uplifting Hanukkah and light-filled winter season!

With Blessings,

Rabba Kaya



Join us in learning about the *mussar middot*, character traits described within the Jewish school of ethics called *mussar*.

Copies of the class text, *The Mussar Torah Commentary*, edited by Rabbi Barry Block, may be ordered at the CCAR Press website, https://www.ccarpress.org/shopping_product_detail.asp?pid=50475

Rabba Kaya is available to meet with congregants by appointment. Please send her an email to schedule!

Rabba.Kaya@templeisraelnh.org

President's Message

Light in the Darkness

In our house, Hanukkah has always been celebrated like the minor holiday it is. We usually have an extended family Hanukkah party with latkes, and our kids get 1-2 gifts from us on the first night including their “big gift,” which in years past has typically been tickets to a show on Broadway in NYC. We have an electric menorah that we put in the window, though it is hard to see from the street. Our collection of menorahs has grown, and we always love lighting the candles each night. When the kids were in the lower elementary grades, I made jelly doughnuts to distribute in school, which was a treat for all. Finally, I usually make a big tray of latkes for the kids’ dance studio holiday party, which have become a sought-after and requested treat.

However, it always frustrates me when non-Jewish adults or kids assume that the only Jewish holiday is Hanukkah, or that it is on par with Christmas, or when they assume that my kids get a present every night. I feel like this sentiment grows every year. “Hanukkah is a minor holiday,” I always reply, feeling the need to educate those around me. These feelings are more intense on the Seacoast. In North Hampton, our kids are the only Jewish kids in their grades at school, which is very unlike how Brian and I grew up. Plus, as the Christmas season seems to grow longer each year, there seems to be an assumption that Hanukkah grows alongside it. However, this year, we need Hanukkah’s light and merriment more than ever, and I am prepared to make Hanukkah bigger in my house than it has ever been. Though some of the usual celebrations are unlikely to occur, I have been thinking about what I

can do for myself and my family. Here are my 2020 Hanukkah goals:

- Play the Pandora Hanukkah radio station AND the Sirius XM Hanukkah station.
- Find the tiny Hanukkah kiosk at Homegoods and buy it out (and shake off my jealousy of my sister who lives in Newton and has a HUGE Hanukkah assortment at her local store).
- Make it to Trader Joe’s before they sell out of the good “Coins of the world.”
- Bake jelly doughnuts and save the whole batch for the family so we can eat our fill. Same with latkes.
- Play a long and competitive family game of dreidel with M&Ms.
- Buy an extra gift for the kids to make this year’s Hanukkah feel extra special.



In these trying times, we need to dig deep and celebrate what we can, when we can. While our celebrations might be smaller this year, they can be just as bright. We all need as much light as we can muster!

For your consideration, I am including the Temple’s latke recipe (thanks to Ken Kowalchek, see page 4). The jelly doughnut recipe I make each year comes from Smitten Kitchen, available online at <https://smittenkitchen.com/2014/12/jelly-doughnuts/>

Happy Hanukkah to all of you.

L’shalom,

Amy Hyett

Ritual Committee

It's December, the Hebrew month of Kislev began two weeks ago, and so Hanukkah (the 25th of Kislev through the 3rd of Tevet) is coming! The pandemic means that we will celebrate differently this year but celebrate we will! Here is the schedule of Hanukkah events planned in collaboration with Rabba Kaya, the Hebrew School, and community members. **Please note: unless a separate location is given, all events will take place on Zoom.**

- Thursday, December 10, first night of Hanukkah – 6:00 pm **candle lighting**. Join one or more of your fellow congregants to bless and light candles together and if you wish, stay to sing and schmooze.
- Friday, December 11, Shabbat and second night of Hanukkah - 6:00 pm **candle lighting and Shabbes Tisch** with Rabba Kaya (Theme: Light!) and singing led by Fran Berman.
- Saturday, December 12, third night of Hanukkah – several events are planned:

6:00 pm **Havdalah with Rabba Kaya followed by candle lighting hosted by the Hebrew School.**

8:00 pm **A VERY SPECIAL HANUKKAH CONCERT** by acclaimed Jewish bluegrass band Nefesh Mountain

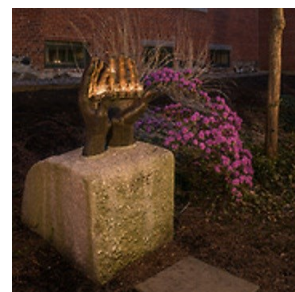
<http://www.nefeshmountain.com/hanukkah2020> The

Nefesh Mountain concert will take place live on Saturday night. A link will be provided to every member household. The link can be used once, either on Saturday night or one time afterwards through December 17.



- Sunday, December 13, fourth night of Hanukkah - 6:00 pm **candle lighting** hosted by congregant(s).
- Monday, December 14, fifth night of Hanukkah – 6:00 pm **candle lighting** hosted by congregant(s).
- Tuesday, December 15, sixth night of Hanukkah – 6:00 pm **candle lighting and singing** with Fran Berman.

Note: If our state's Covid status has reverted back to orange, Fran will light the Hands of Hope menorah in the courtyard and lead a sing along there. Details and reservation protocol will be announced prior to the date.



- Wednesday, December 16, seventh night of Hanukkah – several events are planned:

3:45 pm **Hebrew School Hanukkah celebration and lighting** for children in all grades, their families, and friends

6:00 pm **candle lighting** hosted by congregant(s)

7:00 pm **Sisterhood Rosh Hodesh group** and candle lighting, open to all women in the congregation

- Thursday, December 17, eighth night of Hanukkah- 6:00 pm **Interfaith candle lighting** with Rabba Kaya and guest clergy from the Portsmouth Ministerium

I hope you will join us for one or more of these events! As the days grow shorter and the cold and darkness more enveloping, may the warmth and companionship of family and friends sustain you. May the glowing lights of our *hanukkiot* (menorahs) remind us of the miracles that took place in days of old and those that we can help to bring about now and in the future.

L'shalom,

Deborah Hirsch Mayer, VP, Ritual

Bulletin Board

Candle Lighting

December	4	3:51 pm
December	11	3:51 pm
December	18	3:53 pm
December	25	3:57 pm

Service Times

Tuesday	5:30 pm
Friday night	6:15 pm
Saturday morning	10:00 am

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

Latkes

Legend has it that this recipe was given to the Temple Israel Portsmouth Brotherhood by the chef at the Waldorf Astoria. The below quantities yield ~18 latkes.

INGREDIENTS:

Russet potato	~1.67 lbs
Matzo meal	1/3 Cup
White whole wheat flour	5 T
Eggs	2
Sweet onion (medium)	1/3 ~¼ lb.
Salt	½ t +/-
Pepper	¼ t

METHOD:

Thoroughly wash potatoes, leaving skin; grate using food processor grater disc.

Finely chop onion using food processor blade.

Mix the above with the rest of the ingredients in a large bowl.

For easy cleanup of oil splatter, cover stove top with aluminum foil.

In a large skillet, heat ~1/8 inch corn oil to the point when a wooden toothpick causes bubbles when inserted. Maintain that heat. On an electric range this is between 4 and 5 out of 10 (HI).

Drop ¼ cup batter per latke onto hot oil, flattening with a spatula. Fry until edges brown; then flip and continue until browned as dark as your family likes. Replenish oil as needed.

Drain on paper towels. Enjoy. These freeze well; reheat in a toaster oven.



Community members enjoy latkes prepared by the Brotherhood in December, 2018.

Hebrew School



Elian Tackff
Head of School

Shalom Everyone! Happy December, which coincides with the Hebrew months of Kislev and Tevet!

Thanksgiving, or in Hebrew, *Hag HaHodaya*, was a nice way of concluding the month of November / Heshvan (also known as Marheshvan, bitter

Heshvan, given its lack of Jewish holidays), as it gave us a chance to briefly pause our feelings for 2020 and all its *mishigas* (Yiddish for craziness), and replace them with feelings of gratitude for what we DO have: Health, shelter, food, family, friends, and technology to help us be together, albeit on Zoom!

The Hebrew School Team was also grateful for our wonderful students and their families, and the opportunity to make a difference in their lives. I was grateful for our teachers, who welcome my visits to their classes and give me opportunities that gladden my heart, such as the time I walked into the 4th grade Zoom screen, just in time to hear Zadie Sands exclaim “That was COOL!!” during a discussion about the Jewish value of *Gevurah* (strength).

Here are a few Hebrew School highlights from November:

- On Sunday, November 8th, we had our first session with Avia, our Israeli *shlichah* (emissary). The children were introduced to the Israeli artist Hanoah Piven, who creates collage portraits of leaders such as David Ben Gurion, Israel’s first prime minister, using everyday objects as symbols representing different

aspects of their lives and character. The session then continued with a short scavenger hunt for objects that connected the children to Israel and Judaism, as well as their favorite activities, which they then used to make portraits of themselves. It was truly a fun first visit and we can’t wait for the next one!

- On Sunday, November 15th, some of the teachers attended the LimmudBoston eFestival of Jewish Learning. It was a worthwhile five hours of Zoom, filled with sessions such as: *What Makes This Jew Different from All Other Jews?; Race, Difference, and Safety in Sacred Space; The Heroic Quest to Make Coca Cola Kosher; Healing the Heart of Conflict After the Elections; Not Your Grandmother’s Kugel*, and much more!

Coming up in December:

- On Sunday, December 6th, we will enjoy the second of Shlichah Avia’s three Zoom visits.
- On Saturday, December 12, Rabba Kaya will lead us in a Zoom Havdalah and Hanukkah Lighting.
- On Wednesday, December 16th, Hebrew School (including the younger children) will meet on Zoom at 3:45 as usual, but will enjoy a special Hanukkah program with singing, a Hanukkah scavenger hunt, and, of course, candle lighting.

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 Roberge
Director, ELC

The children in the ELC have been finding ways to practice the Jewish value of *gemilut hasadim*: acts of loving-kindness. In *Pirkei Avot* 1:2 we learn: “The world stands on three things: Torah, worship, and acts of loving-kindness.” These acts include honoring your parents, doing deeds of kindness, making peace, caring for the



Photo above: sisterly love. Below: sharing with friends.



needy, visiting the sick, and comforting others. For the ELC this looks like kindness in ordinary obligations; helping one another willingly and with care, and being a *mensch*.

We also collected nonperishable food items and *tzedakah* money to contribute to a local family.



We have been continuing our music sessions with the Sonatina Center via Zoom and the kids love seeing Miss Cacia on the big screen.

On a personal note, I want to thank Marge Gruzen for her support as a substitute teacher near the end of October.

Marge gave me the time needed for the last of the preparations for my marriage to Rick Roberge on Saturday, October 24, 2020.

Tammy Roberge



Annual Fund Appeal

Still Time to Donate to the Annual Fund

The Temple Israel 2020 Annual Fund drive is in its final month! This year's campaign will cover extra needs created by the Covid-19 pandemic.



ANNUAL FUND CONTRIBUTORS

Rabbi's Circle: Agnes & Marc Cabot in memory of all those who have passed from Covid. Ira & Jennifer Schwartz. Paul Rothman & Emily McEntee. Fran Berman. Peter & Jennie Dinnerman. Ellen Farber in memory of Jack Farber. Donna & Stu Levenson. Ann Moskowitz. Josh & Carter Siegel. Matthew & Leslie Allen. Roger & Susan Epstein. Howard & Allison Rubin in memory of Marsha Cohen. Steve Sacks & Pam Battin-Sacks. David & Marianne Forman in honor of Dr. Ira Schwartz.

Friends: Cathi Cherry-Liston. Tammie Burns. Elaine & Jim Dolph. Claire Isenstein in memory of Joseph & Mildred Pasternak. Andrew & Nancy Jaffe. Henri & Marilyn Quintal. Claudia Leblanc. Michael & Laura Rubin. Laura & Ron Sher in memory of Ron's parents, Maureen & Jerry Sher, and Laura's father, Ronald Gross. Bert & Deborah Freedman. Selma Freedman. James & Myra Fishbein in memory of Arnold Fishbein. Marjorie Levy Beck in memory of Eleanor Levy Packer. Amy & Steven Borne. Phyllis Heilbronner. William & Ellen McQueeney.

Contributors: Sara & Michael Anderson. Don & Tobey Harman. Fred & Rhoda Feldman in memory of Rhoda's mother, June Feldman. Julie Serrano. Veta Stone in memory of Ira M. Stone. Claire & Barry Siegel in memory of Linda Cook and Leanne Foley. Burt Wolf in loving memory of his grandparents, Abraham and Sarah Shapiro, and his mother, Mollie Shapiro Wolf. Remembered always.

Thanks to your
generosity, we've
already raised \$35,000
towards our goal!

So far, we have raised more than \$35,000 toward our goal of \$50,000, a wonderful testament to the generosity of this community! All funds

raised will support enhanced synagogue programming and technology to engage and support our community during this difficult period of isolation brought on by Covid-19. We are already fielding multiple funding requests!

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 to make your gift now. Every gift moves us closer to our goal!

Any temple group wishing to access these funds is invited to apply through the temple office or download the request form on the temple website.

Fran Berman, Chair, Development Committee



Did you catch our
Musical Appeal?

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

Donations

CEMETERY FUND

Lenny Baer in memory of Marion Kepnes. Lenny Baer in memory of Jeannette Goodman.

CULTURAL ENDOWMENT FUND

Naomi Fishbein in memory of Abbe Sher. Alissa & Stephen Holmes in memory of Abbe Sher.

DINNERMAN/ROTTENBERG EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND

Stan & Rita Robbins in memory of Rita's grandparents, Philip & Anna Borwick.

DUES ABATEMENT FUND

Rita Benjamin in memory of her mother, Sara Emmer. Haskell Bernat in memory of his father, Solomon H. Bernat.

FOOD DRIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

Allison Miller. Rachel & James Burdin. Doug Tilton. Nancy & Andrew Jaffe. Laura & Michael Rubin. Cathi Cherry-Liston. Steve & Pam Sacks. Barry Sandberg. Jane & Richard LeSavoy. Paul Schneiderman & Karin Caruso.

HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

Naomi Fishbein in memory of her father, Joseph Partoll, and in memory of her brother, Melvin Partoll. Meryl Wein in memory of her mother, Florence Seidner. Karen Mott in memory of her grandmother, Marie Muller.

INSTITUTIONAL OPERATING ENDOWMENT FUND

Bert & Deborah Freedman in memory of Bert's father, Robert Freedman. Stuart & Paula Boxer in memory of Stuart's mother, Frieda Boxer. Marlene & Al Rubin in memory of Abbe Sher. Marlene & Al Rubin in honor of Sandy & Helaine Roberts receiving the Shem Tov Award. Bert & Deborah Freedman in memory of Abbe Sher. Bert & Deborah Freedman in honor of the birth of Bill & Christine

Goldberg's grandson. Mazel tov! Harold & Gloria Moldoff in memory of Abbe Sher. Harold & Gloria Moldoff in honor of Helaine & Sandy Roberts receiving the Shem Tov Award.

KIDDUSH FUND

Myrna Promer and family in memory of Abbe Sher. Myrna, Tania, Dan, Aaron, and Anna Promer in memory of Howard J. Promer, beloved husband, father, and grandfather. Myrna Promer and family in memory of Marion Kepnes.

PRESCHOOL FUND

Veta Stone in memory of her mother, Alice Berit. Arline Koiles in memory of Abbe Sher. Arline Koiles in memory of Allen Koiles. Marcia Baron in memory of Abbe Sher. Selma Freedman in memory of her husband, Robby, her sister, Ruth Alfond, and her sister-in law, Anita Freedman. Selma Freedman in memory of Abbe Sher.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Amy Feitelson in memory of her mother, Dorothy Feitelson. Cathi Cherry-Liston with appreciation to Rabba Kaya for Gerald Cherry's unveiling service. Bruce Bierhans in memory of his mother, Audrey Bierhans. Irwin Bierhans in memory of his wife, Audrey Bierhans. Mike Steinberg in memory of his mother, Rosilyn Steinberg. Betty Effron in memory of her mother, Jeanne Slass. Sharon Eidelberg Spratt in memory of and with profound gratitude to Rabbi Jonathan Sacks z"l. Janet Fox in memory of her husband, Bruce Fox.

TZEDAKAH FUND

Lisa & Jack Ohayon in memory of Lisa's mother, Renée F. Goodman. Agnes Cabot in memory of her aunt, Emma Frankl. Cynthia Freedman and Marcia Blacker in memory of their mother, Rebecca Freedman.

Yahrzeits

December Yahrzeits

15 Kislev / 16 Tevet 5781

1. Rachel Kushious, Cyril Ball, A. Harold Seidner
2. Harry Yoken, Joseph P. Giffen, Faye Gerstein, Charles Goldberg
3. Harry Cantor, Sarah Zirpolo
4. Jacob Heller, Mary McCrensky, Morris Levy, Statia Nesin, Sidney Zeff, Julius Nasberg
5. George Gelman, Joseph Partoll, Harold Berit, Arnold M. Baer
6. John Alexander, Morris Isacoff
7. Aaron Finkelstein, Harry Gross, Herman Spaen, Jacob Mason, Gerald Sher, Davida Gelfman, Selma J. Nasberg, Ethel Cutler
8. Samuel Levine, Morris Zack, Allen Koiles, Rabbi Louis Finkelstein, Bruce Smith, Frank Weiner, Anne Simonoff
9. Pauline Lisagor, Jacob Goldstein
10. Joseph Sack, Nedra Loeb, Charlotte Olken, Rita Peters, Gert Sternberg, Robert Blumenberg
11. Bess Rammer, Samuel Lederman, Richard Grace, Rose Cohen, James Green
12. Sarah Avergun, Bella Linden, Robert Goren, Abraham Mittelman, Arnold J. Ashline, Ada Blankenberg, Marjorie Simond
13. Anna Glaser, Sam Goldstein, Rose Glick, Rabbi Aaron Ilson, Jean LaFargue
14. Eli Borwick, Lillian Lorde, Florence Slater, Bernard Levitz, Catherine Most, Milton Brody, Jacob H. Cohen, Samuel N. Cook
15. Bernice Gordan, Rabbi Morris Shoulson, Shirley Richman
16. Vernon Byus, Jr., Lee Fruman, Eva Gordon Baer, Minnie Cooper
17. Daniel Cline, Etta Winick, Ralph Noveletsky, Bernard Fine, Edward Samson
18. Henry Willar, Charles Trott, Hans Hirsch, Samuel Mayo
19. Otto Morgenstern, Katrina Bradbury, Floretta Osman, Zelig Applebaum, Benjamin Singer
20. Solomon Gerstein, Gertrude Kaplan, Bessie Cohn, George Brown, Jay Wein, Louis Rome, Janice Glaser, Myrna Siegel, Gloria Rosegarten Adler, Sarah Sherman, A. B. Silverman, Bernard Harris, John Thomas McCarty
21. Rose Coles, Carl Schwartz, Herb Heller, Sayde Harris, Irvin Gorski, Pauline Wilson, Florence Thailer
22. Esther Ruth London, Maurice Ruben, H. Berzow, Hyman Sherman
23. Charlotte Brody
24. Marcia Alexander, Leah Kolikof, Beatrice Book, Benjamin Slome, Edith Prostkoff, Adolph Jacob Baer, Abraham Issokson, Louis J. Magerer, Arthur Filler

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.

25. Alan Schenk, Ethel Fleisher, Mildred Thrope,
Benjamin Radner, Bernard Luloff
26. Abraham Zeidman, Eve Cetlin, Yury Klarov,
Mary Saklad, Jacob Stone, Lena Mines,
Hannah Krinsky
27. Annie Freeman, Lena Fishbein, Saul Sussman,
Herman Cherim, Sharon Roberts
28. Rebecca Lepoff, Ethel Halprin, Phillip Singer,
Isadore Osman, Roman A. Rubinstein,
Daniel Fisher, Howard Livingston
29. D.H. Silverman, Sarah Alpers, Jerome Sorkin
30. Sarah Rottenberg
31. Edith Brown, Joseph Kitrosser, Arther Poster,
Beverly Schneider, Arthur Leblanc,
Eleanor Goldstein, Mildred Cragin

Community Notes

Condolences to **Ron Sher** on the passing of his
sister, **Abbe Sher**.

Condolences to **Laura Spelke** on the passing of
her mother, **Silvana Sonnino**.

Condolences to **Bernard Goodman** on the
passing of his wife, **Jeannette Goodman**.

Condolences to **Arline Koiles** on the passing of
her sister, **Marion Kepnes**.

Mazel tov to **Bill and Christine Goldberg** on the
birth of their grandson.

And a warm welcome to new member **Judy
Mazel** of Portsmouth.

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.

December news: the month began in the red or most restrictive zone. Plans for hybrid indoor (limited attendance) + live-streamed services have been made, but rely on the state’s Covid-19 metrics improving to yellow status before they can be implemented. Access to the building for essential business 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.

Sibson - Hall Monument Co.

Memorials ,Markers, Lettering
Cleaning and Repairs

John A Hall

1950 Lafayette RD.
suite 106 box 6
Portsmouth ,N.H. 03801

603 436 3377
1 800 550 3377
nwgranite@hotmail.com

Committee Reports

Sustainability Snippet

by Ashley Barajas

The TIP Sustainability Committee thought that our members would enjoy learning some ways that they can learn to be more sustainable within their own homes.

Here are a few tips:

- Pasta and sauce glass jars, and even plastic containers are great to keep for storing other food or non-food items.
- Worn-out shirts or clothing can be cut up to use as cleaning rags around the house. It's also a great "helping the earth" project for the kiddos to cut them up to use as napkins for meals instead of disposable paper products.
- Instead of throwing away your plastic toothbrush after 3 months, you can save it for cleaning those hard-to-reach places around the bathroom. A gentle toothbrush is also great for working on stains on clothes.
- Did you know that dryer sheets work well for cleaning soap scum and polishing chrome? Dryer sheets are also great for dusting and collecting animal hair/fur.
- Plastic shopping bags can sometimes be unavoidable, as we discovered with Covid restrictions on reusable shopping bags, but single-use bags can be reused for other purposes. Try using them as liners for small wastebaskets. They are a great replacement for dog waste bags if you haven't already made the switch to biodegradable bags. There are also a lot of DIY projects on Pinterest for using **plarn** ("yarn" made with plastic bags) such as shopping tote bags, small ottomans, and even sleeping mats for the homeless.

Do you have ideas to share on making TIP more sustainable? We would love to hear them! Are you planning an event? Perhaps we could consult with you about how to make it more sustainable?

Please email christine.a.caputo@gmail.com with your 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

Survey / Tikkun Olam

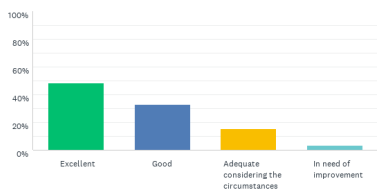
High Holiday Community Survey Report

by Dinah Berch, Webmaster

Thank you to everyone who completed our High Holiday survey! We received a total of 98 responses. We very much appreciate everyone's time and thoughtful comments.

Most people who responded to the survey were satisfied with the High Holiday services and experienced fewer technological barriers than expected. High Holiday and fall festival services and programs engaged members intellectually and spiritually. Sermons were the appropriate length and on meaningful topics. Feedback was especially positive regarding our cantorial soloist Kochava Munro. Feedback for the gift bag program was very positive, as well as for the shofar drive-through and home visits.

Q22 Please rate your overall satisfaction with the High Holidays experience at Temple Israel



Almost all respondents reported feeling very well informed about temple happenings – yay! Weekly emails were listed as the main way people find their information. Feedback about using Facebook Live for events was positive and we hope to continue offering events on that platform.

Improvements will be made to the way information is displayed on the website and the way that we market events. Multimedia contributions need to be made more accessible and easier for people to participate. Some new opportunities may be coming soon!

More detailed survey results have been shared with temple leadership and the appropriate committees. While we all hope that next year will be different, your feedback has empowered us to keep what worked

(outdoor events) while addressing many challenges (prayerbook accessibility). This was a successful High Holiday season and the survey reflects it!

Tikkun Olam Committee

In the spirit of Hanukkah giving, the Tikkun Olam Committee is excited to set up a seasonal collection to benefit Cross Roads House. Since 1982, Cross Roads House has been providing emergency and transitional shelter to homeless men, women, and children in the NH Seacoast area. To connect our giving to the 8 days of Hanukkah, **Tikkun Olam has chosen a list of 8 needs from the Cross Roads Wish List:**

1. Gift cards (gas stations, Target, Rite Aid)
2. Socks (new)
3. Underwear for men and women (new)
4. Personal care products (shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, body wash, soap, hand sanitizer, Kleenex, nail trimmers, files, face moisturizer, deodorant)
5. Diapers and baby wipes
6. Blankets and linens- (new) for twin beds: sheets, blankets, pillow cases, plus bath towels, facecloths
7. Batteries-AA and AAA
8. Reading glasses of various distances

Drop off dates and times during Hanukkah:

- Sunday, December 13, 2:00 - 4:30 pm
- Wednesday, December 16, 5:00 - 7:30 pm
- Thursday, December 17, 5:00 - 7:30 pm
- Friday, December 18, 10:00 am - noon

Drop off location: 170 State Street, the (currently empty) building adjacent to the temple sanctuary and upper parking lot. We thank Joanne Samuels for launching an effort to explore turning this temple-owned property into an ongoing thrift shop.

Anyone wishing to participate remotely can search Amazon.com for the Cross Roads House Wish List, place an order online, and note that the donation is from the congregation of Temple Israel Portsmouth NH. For more information, contact Jewel Davis, 978-239-4500.

Arts Review Team

Outdoor Yoga Returns!

Sunday, December 27, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

Pending Covid restriction level (and weather permitting), we will gather in the temple courtyard with heaters to help keep us warm. Please bring a yoga mat and dress in layers. Chairs are available. Class is multi-level, "beginner-friendly" and includes breathwork and meditation. To pre-register, call or email the office or sign up on the temple website calendar link. Class size is limited to 6 - social distance and masks are required. Please email instructor with questions, dlevine12@yahoo.com. Rain date is January 3, 2021 at 11:00 a.m..

UPCOMING EXHIBITS & ACTIVITIES:

"Getting through the Pandemic" - Temple members and friends are invited to submit work created during or in response to the pandemic for an exhibit slated for late December/ early January: paintings, fabric art, poetry, photographs, short essays are welcome.

"Pre-Covid Israel" - As we express solidarity with the Jewish homeland, congregants share photos from trips taken with Rabbi Korinow and Rabbi Senter or on independent tours. If you have favorite photos taken in Israel, you can drop them off at the office or send them by snail mail by December 12. Also, if you can enlarge photos to 8"x10" (or larger) and/or provide your own frames, black, white, grey, or silver would work best. Hopefully, safety guidelines will enable us to see the exhibit in the Schmooze and Social Hall by the end of December or early January with appointments made in advance. We plan to do a Zoom "walk-through" for viewers at home.

LISTENING: "A Celebration of Leonard Bernstein's 100th Birthday," previously on display at the Jewish Museum in Portland (Nov. 2019 to Jan. 2020). This exhibit by internationally known artist Brigitte Keller is based on listening to a broad selection of works by Leonard Bernstein, resulting in an artistic interpretation of his music on canvas. Keller says, "One of the musical works I learned to sing was Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, a work in three movements, sung in Hebrew. I translated these calm and beautiful voices into a visual language of lines, circles, ovals, and dots." We are looking forward to color and lightness, as the days get shorter and the weather gets colder.



"Read-aloud" Play on Zoom - Brighton Beach Memoirs by Neil Simon. We have cast 5 participants with room for 2 more male readers. The dialogue is clever, a little "racy," and fun - a young man "comes of age" in a crowded house near the beach in NY during the late 1930s. Stay tuned for date and time.

"Writing Workshop" facilitated by Amy Hyett, slated on Zoom for early January, in 2 Monday noontime sessions. What memories of the pandemic would you like to capture and preserve for yourself and your family? Someday soon we will be able to look back on these challenging times with stories reflecting our resilience, patience, resourcefulness, humor, courage and at times even gratitude - qualities that helped us to survive.

Deborah Levine, Arts Review Team Chair

In Our Community

Sisterhood

Rosh Hodesh Group Begins!

TIP Sisterhood is pleased to announce the first Rosh Hodesh group for all women in the congregation who wish to participate. Rosh Hodesh means the new month and occurs when the new moon appears in the sky. In Jewish tradition, this day was assigned as a women's holiday. In recent decades, this ancient new moon festival was reclaimed by Jewish women in the form of a Rosh Hodesh ritual and group gathering in which the themes of the Jewish calendar are explored in the context of the participants' lives.

Our first gathering will be via Zoom at 7:00 pm on December 16, the 7th night of Hanukkah. We will celebrate the Hebrew month of Tevet and create a supportive and confidential sharing circle. We are looking forward to making this a sacred time of connection. The first gathering will be co-led by Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman and Kerry Hansen.



Please have on hand a single candle in a candle holder, a menorah with eight Hanukkah candles (7+1), matches, and a kiddush cup with wine or juice. Looking forward to seeing you then!

Kerry Hansen

Sisterhood Secretary

Adult Education Hebrew Language Classes

New Class Session Begins January 7

Prayerbook Hebrew Grammar Class For adults and post-bnei mitzvah students. Thursdays 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm on Zoom, beginning January 7, 2021.

Learn the vocabulary and meanings of Hebrew words you use frequently at services in prayers such as the *Shema*, the *V'ahavta*, *Adon Olam*, *Ein Keloheinu*, the *Amidah* and more.

Basic knowledge of the alef bet is required, but it doesn't have to be perfect, and extra help will be available. Kathryn Mulhearn and Jennifer Beard are teaming up to lead this course and provide extra help with reading skills. Fees: \$18.00 donation and text: *Prayerbook Hebrew – The Easy Way* (EKS) (cost approximately \$30.00.)

Please contact the office for more information and to preregister, templeoffice@templeisraelnh.org. Purchase a textbook through IsraelBookShop.com, phone 617-566-7113, to be ready for the first class.

Extra recycling mitzvah – if you have a copy of the textbook and don't need it, please drop it off at the temple office for future use by another student.

First Night Portsmouth celebrations have been canceled for this year.

Barbara Massar, Pro Portsmouth's Executive Director, is quoted in *Seacoast Online*, explaining, "As the lone First Night celebration in New Hampshire, canceling is especially difficult for us, but it is the responsible thing to do. We remain hopeful that come spring of next year, we'll be in a better place regarding large gatherings."



TIP Book Club - December

What We Will Become by Mimi Lemay

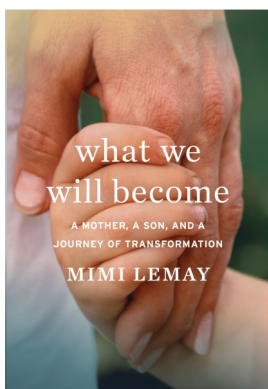


Photo courtesy of the author

Please join us Tuesday, December 15, at 11:30 am, outside in the temple courtyard, weather and Covid status permitting, for a lively discussion!

*A mother's memoir of her transgender child's odyssey, and her journey outside the boundaries of the faith and culture that shaped her. Dual narratives of faith and motherhood weave together in a heartfelt portrait of an unforgettable family. Brimming with love and courage, **What We Will Become** is a powerful testament to how painful events from the past can be redeemed to give us hope for the future.*

Temple Israel Portsmouth

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Temple Israel
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OFFICE HOURS

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



Proud member of USCJ



Bob Chaikin recently found a trove of photos from September 9, 2007, and the mounting of a mezuzah to commemorate the completion of the Centennial Building Project, 2006-2007.

Bob's comment: "It was such an extraordinary time for our TI community." — Thank you for sharing them!