

The Doorpost

Temple Israel

Monthly Newsletter

February 2021, Shvat - Adar 5781



Nu... Why Purim?

This month, we will celebrate the holiday of Purim at which time we read the Megillah of Esther. Connecting with the child in us all, we celebrate this redemption story with costumes, groggers and levity. It is a time of joy when most of the long winter is behind us and springtime beckons. Passover, our great redemption story, is only one month away and it is as if the seeds of salvation begin to stir at Purim.

One of the unique themes of Purim is the hidden aspect of God. Throughout the entire Megillah there is not one mention of God, whereas on Passover, God is the major protagonist in our story of liberation from Egypt.

In our Purim story, **Esther**, whose name in Hebrew means "hidden," conceals her true identity from King Achashveros until just the moment when



Hiding in plain sight.

revealing it will bring salvation to her people. It is through her hiding and then revealing that redemption becomes possible.

Continued on page 2

Upcoming Events

Beginners Introduction to Shulcloud (2 similar sessions)

7:30 pm, Thursday, February 4

12:00 pm, Tuesday, February 9

Rosh Hodesh Group

7:30 pm, Saturday, February 13

TIP Book Club

11:30 am, Tuesday, February 16, via Zoom

The Girl from Berlin by Ronald Balson

Basic Judaism Class for Conversion (p. 3)

6:00 pm, Wednesday, February 17

Israeli Dinner at Home with Shlicha Avia Sagron (p. 13)

6:00 pm, Thursday, February 18

Shabbes Tisch, theme: Joy!

6:15pm, Friday, February 19

Baking with the Sisterhood: Hamantaschen for Purim

11:00 am, Sunday, February 21

Esther to the Rescue: A Purim comedy show for families (p. 3)

5:00 pm, Sunday, February 21

Megillah Madness

5:30 - 6:30 pm, Thursday, February 25

Purim Palooza

1:00 - 2:30 pm and 3:00 - 4:00 pm, Friday, February 26

Book Talk with Fred Feldman (p. 5)

11:00 am, Sunday, February 28

Preschool & Hebrew School closed for winter break

Sunday, February 22 - Sunday, February 28

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Lunch 'N Learn with Rabba Kaya

Thursdays, 12:30 pm

[Complete COMMITTEE MEETING schedule is on page 9](#)

From Rabba Kaya's desk

(Continued from page 1)

Chazal—a Hebrew acronym that refers to our rabbinic sages—teach that the great mystery that lies hidden in this story is the way in which Divine providence seems to unfold, reversing the destiny of the characters. Those destined for destruction are saved and elevated, while those intent on destroying are themselves taken down.

This theme of reversals, of redemption emerging from catastrophe, is alluded to in the Talmud (Megillah 13b). It is taught that when Haman cast lots to determine the time for the massacre of the Jews, he rejoiced when it fell in the month of Adar because that is the month when Moses died. Moses' *yahrzeit* is the 7th of Adar. What Haman did not know, is that this is also the date of Moses' birth. Thus, Adar simultaneously marks the birth of redemption.

The lessons of Purim reveal that things are not necessarily as they appear. Truth can be obscured, especially when a king is derelict. But when truth is revealed, justice can be restored.

Pachad Yitzchak (a Hasidic sage) relates a beautiful teaching in which he explains how the holidays of Purim and Passover are connected. In the Passover story, God's presence is explicit, while in the Purim story, God's presence is not mentioned. These stories present us with two ways of recognizing and connecting with God.



**Rabba Kaya
Stern-Kaufman**

The sage gives this example: When one is searching for a friend in the darkness, the use of a candle will illuminate the friend's presence. This resembles the Passover story when God's presence is obvious, and no personal work is necessary to see and to connect. The Purim story however, expresses a time of darkness in which external light is not available. This demands that we acquire new sensibilities. One can, for instance, listen for the friend's voice in the darkness or develop the sensitivity to sense their presence.

Pachad Yitzchak states that the light of the redemption of Purim depends on us learning to recognize light in the darkness. Modern Bible scholar Aviva Zornberg explains that it is up to us to develop new sensibilities and to become sensitive to the sounds of God in our lives and in our texts. Purim teaches us that it is possible to evolve spiritually, to sense God's presence when the light is obscured, and to partner with God in the process of an unfolding redemption.

Ken yehi ratzon- may it be so!

With blessings,

Rabba Kaya

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

Rabba.Kaya@templeisraelnh.org

Purim is coming!

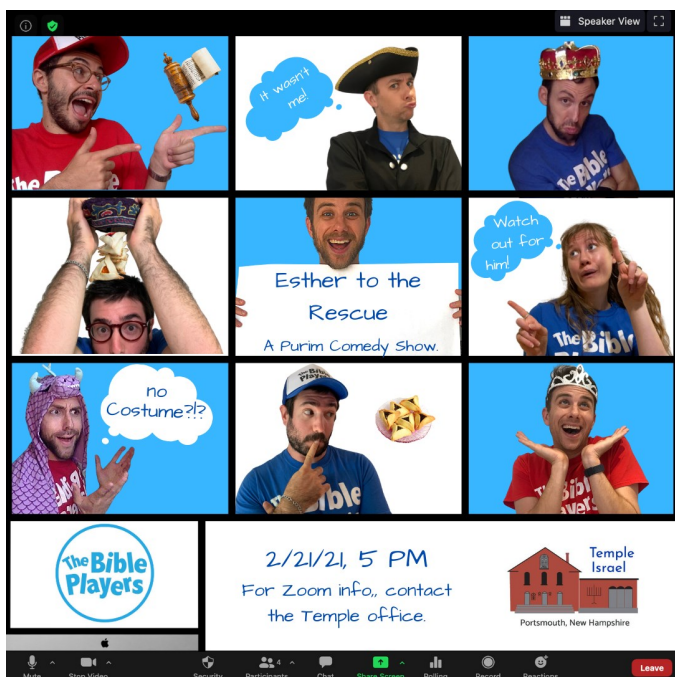
BAKING WITH THE SISTERHOOD: HAMANTASCHEN

Sunday February 21, 11:00 am
Please join us via Zoom! Sign up on the website calendar to receive the recipe and ingredient list.



ESTHER TO THE RESCUE! A Purim comedy show for families

Sunday February 21, 5:00 pm
Professional comedy troupe The Bible Players presents a fun, family-oriented show!



MEGILLAH MADNESS

Thursday February 25, 5:30 pm

A zany Zoom megillah experience. Come in costume, mask, or silly hat. Join in the fun!



PURIM PALOOZA

Friday February 26, 1:00 - 2:30 pm and 3:00 - 4:00 pm in the Temple Israel parking lot

Car Costume Parade, *Shalach Manot* Exchange, and some Purim Surprises!

Share the Joy... Come in costume, masks or silly get-ups. Decorate your car and join the Purim Parade. Bring a *shalach manot* bag to share. Donate some non-perishable foods for the Food Bank.

Two special mitzvot for Purim are giving gifts of delicious treats to one another and gifts to the needy. Suggestions to include in your *shalach manot* bag: home-baked or bought hamantaschen, citrus fruit, individually wrapped candies such as Hershey's Kisses, Sunkist Fruit Gels, bagged dried fruit.

Basic Judaism Class for Conversion with Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman

Next class meets on Wednesday, February 17, at 6:00 pm

This class is required for conversion, but open to everyone interested in learning the basics about Judaism and living a Jewish life. Classes meet Wednesdays at 6:00 pm, via Zoom, on the following dates:

February 17, March 17, April 7, April 21, May 5, May 26, June 16, and June 30

President's Message

Considering Seeds

We are in that quiet part of mid-winter when life slows down and we start to think about our plans for the spring and summer. Gardeners order seeds from catalogs as they dream up their future plantings. Lovers of travel peruse websites, wondering when they might safely book their next vacation. The Board of Directors of Temple Israel is also dreaming of the future while wrestling with the present.



The future:

Board members met recently in a Sunday morning session to revisit a conversation held a couple of years ago about our strengths and weaknesses as a community. Of course, our biggest weakness turned strength was the hiring of Rabba Kaya. Our energies turn now to a visioning exercise in which we dream about the future. Where do we want to be in three to five years? What direction should our community take?

We hope to schedule a wider visioning session soon, but we are already starting to lay out some goals for the temple. In our initial brainstorm, we decided that **our two biggest dreams** are

- growing our sense of community as a congregation, and
- increasing and improving family and community programming.

We'd love to hear from you: What can we do to improve your sense of community as a Temple Israel congregant?

Another small group met recently to discuss family programming and to brainstorm ways we might fill current gaps in our programs. The result of these meetings will be a formal request to the Annual Fund to add additional Youth Programming this spring and summer. Stay tuned!

The present:

The Reimagining Committee has felt a little stuck as the Covid numbers in NH have remained elevated. We have updated our plan slightly both to add *Covid Act Now's* new maroon color and to reflect what we've learned about outdoor events. However, the winter cold and high community transmission rates have limited outdoor events. We plan to meet in early February to discuss how the vaccine rollout might change our opening plan. Any updates will be posted on the temple website.

We are thrilled at the response to this year's Annual Fund campaign, which will help alleviate some financial stresses caused by the pandemic.

So here we are, making plans, dreaming small and big for the future, and hoping that you stay healthy and safe. Thank you for sticking with us through this long winter. I can't wait to see you in person when we are able to do so safely.

L'shalom,

Amy Hyett



Committee Reports

Membership Committee

Practical Learning Series

Parenting During the Pandemic

On Tuesday, January 27, Dr. Laura Rubin, Temple Israel congregant and clinical psychologist/neuropsychologist, discussed how to raise resilient children, including suggestions for ways that parents can model emotional regulation, practice flexibility, maintain a supportive community, and help children to find joy in the moment. She also explained how to identify red flags for children's mental health. The presentation was followed by audience Q&A. Many thanks to Dr. Rubin for sharing her expertise and wisdom!



The next session in the series will be Jewish Bioethics During a Pandemic, on Thursday, March 11 at 7:00 pm, with Dr. Carol Gerson and Rabbi Gary Gerson.

Tzedakah Committee

The Tzedakah Committee recognizes the financial needs of congregants, their businesses, and their employees at this challenging time. We have funds to help take some pressure off of those in need. We can provide help in many forms, including gift cards for food and gas, as well as paying pressing bills. Please contact Rabba Kaya and she will forward the request to the committee. All requests will be held in strict confidentiality.

Candle Lighting

February 5, 4:44 pm

February 12, 4:53 pm

February 19, 5:02 pm

February 26, 5:11 pm

Service Times

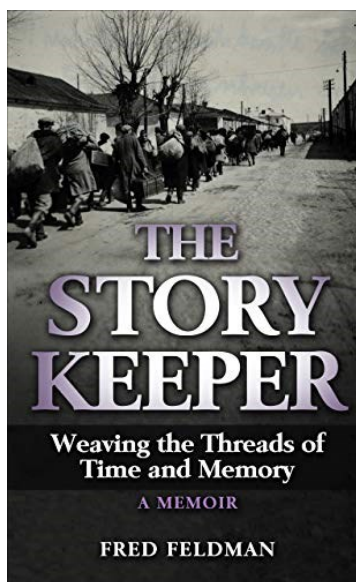
Tuesday 5:30 pm

Friday night 6:15 pm

Saturday morning 10:00 am

** Zoom links to virtual services are in the weekly bulletin, with exceptions to regular times as noted.*

11:00 am Sunday, February 28, Book Talk with Fred Feldman, author of *The Story Keeper*.



In this new memoir, Fred recounts his family's experiences before, during, and after World War II. After fleeing from Azerbaijan, escaping the Soviet Union, and passing through refugee centers in Poland and Austria, the Feldmans eventually arrived in the US. Please join us to hear more about one family's eventful journey.

Hebrew School



Elia Tackeff
Head of School

Shalom Everyone! Happy February, which coincides with the Hebrew months of Shvat and Adar!

After exploring the Jewish value of **gevurah** (strength), the Hebrew School children have started to learn about the value of **acharayut** (taking

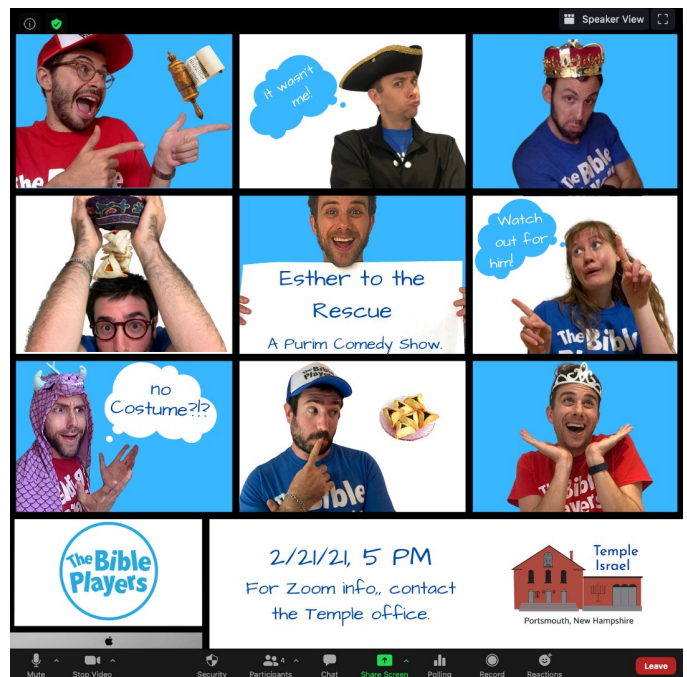
responsibility). How very appropriate then, that two holidays, Tu Bi-Shvat in January, and Purim in February, are both about **acharayut**: On Tu Bi-Shvat, we are reminded about our responsibility to take care of trees and our natural world, that in return give us oxygen, nourishment, medicines, shade and shelter. On Purim, which is in Adar, we recount the story of Queen Esther, who demonstrated **acharayut**, responsibility, as well as **gevurah**, strength, when Mordechai reminded her that as queen, she was responsible for the safety of her people who were about to be destroyed by the evil Haman (BOO!!).

Here are some highlights from January:

- On Sunday, January 10, we had our third and last Zoom session with Avia Sagron, our Israeli *shlichah*. She introduced the students to Golda Meir, the fourth Prime Minister of Israel. *Todah rabah* Avia!
- On Wednesday, January 27, the Hebrew School families joined the TIP community for a lovely Tu Bi-Shvat Seder on Zoom.
- On Sunday, January 31, we had our annual B'nei Mitzvah Informational Meeting.

Coming up in February:

- On Tuesday, February 2 we will hope that Phil the Groundhog does not see his shadow, so that we have a shorter winter! Unless you like *sheleg* (snow)!
- On Sunday, February 7 Rabba Kaya will teach the first of two b'nei mitzvah seminars (an overview of the *Chumash*).



PURIM IS COMING!

Due to Covid we sadly cannot have our usual Purim Carnival, but stay tuned for some fun Purim events including a Purim comedy show for families on Sunday, February 21 and a *mishloach manot* project. 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, Elia Tackeff, Head of School

Early Learning Center



Tammy Roberge
Director, ELC

During the month of January, the students of the ELC learned about Tu Bi-Shvat, affectionately known as the birthday of the trees. The children learned about all the ways trees are valuable to us, the animals, and the world.

We also talked about only using materials and resources that are necessary and recycling whenever possible.

In the classroom, we feed extra bits of snack and lunch to our bin of composting worms. The rich soil the worms are producing will be used in the spring when we plant in our garden boxes located in the playground.

We also enjoyed a visit from Avia Sagron, our Israeli *shlichah*. Avia came and spoke with the children about what Tu Bi-Shvat is like in Israel, with the beautiful blossoms of the almond trees. Avia also brought us kits to make grass heads (chia heads),



which the students had great fun creating. They took their projects home to water and will watch the seeds sprout and grow!

We finished our celebration of Tu Bi-Shvat with a bubble party in the Social Hall.

L'shalom, Tammy Roberge



Annual Fund Appeal

2020 ANNUAL FUND WALL OF HONOR



THE RABBI'S CIRCLE

PLATINUM

William Shoer & Jennie Smidt Shoer Education Trust

GOLD

Marc & Agnes Cabot in memory of those who died from Covid-19. Robert & Cindy Chaikin. Matthew Kamil. Paul Rothman & Emily McEntee. Ira & Jennifer Schwartz

SILVER

Fran Berman

BRONZE

Matthew & Leslie Allen. David Cline in memory of Deborah Cline. Larry & Sheila Cohen. Sally Cohen & Rick Robbins. Peter & Jennie Dinnerman. Roger & Susan Epstein. Ellen Farber. David & Marianne Forman in honor of Dr. Ira Schwartz. Bruce & Kipp Freeman. Jeffrey & Kellie Friedman. Michael & Susan Golden. Renita Gottesman. Brian & Amy Hyett. Michael & Glicka Kaplan in memory of Abbi Michelson. Rachel Kurshan. Richard & Jane LeSavoy in memory of Elizabeth LeSavoy & Martin Leimer. Dana & Shaula Levenson. Stuart & Donna Levenson. Irene (Renee) Levy in memory of Robert Levy. Ann Moskowitz. Jerrold Pollak & Marilyn McGair. Alex Roitman. Howard & Allison Rubin in memory of Marsha Cohen. Steve Sacks & Pam Battin-Sacks. Joanne Samuels. Fred & Judy Schubert. Jennifer Sebeny. Mr. & Mrs. Alan Shapiro. Josh & Carter Siegel. Randy Spratt & Sharen Eidelberg-Spratt in honor of Phyllis Eidelberg. Robert & Marilyn Zimman.

2020 ANNUAL FUND FRIENDS OF TEMPLE ISRAEL

Marjorie Levy Beck. Steven & Amy Borne. Lessa Brill in memory of Leon, Phyllis, and Howard Brill. Karrie

Burnett. Tammie Burns. Cathi Cherry-Liston. Evelyn Dickson. Jim & Elaine Dolph. David & Betty Effron. Kenneth Ernstoff & Katherine Moody in memory of Frank & Estelle Ernstoff. Ellen Fineberg. James & Myra Fishbein. Naomi Fishbein in memory of Arnold Fishbein. Bert & Deborah Freedman in memory of Robert Freedman. Selma Freedman in memory of Robert Freedman. Bob & Marge Goldberg. Faye Goldberg & Jeff Miller in honor of Fran Berman. Joshua & Erica Greenspan. Phyllis Heilbronner. Deborah Hirsch Mayer. Claire Isenstein in memory of Joseph & Mildred Pasternak. Andrew & Nancy Jaffe. Arlene Koiles. Claudia Leblanc. Marvin & Norma Lesser. Barbara Levenson. Aimee Margolis. Bill & Ellen McQueeney. Rich & Patty Moed. Richard Naimark & Sharon Bottner-Naimark. Henri & Marilyn Quintal. Michael & Laura Rubin. Rabbi Peter & Kerry Rubinstein. Beth & Scot Sakalerios. Peter Sharfman. Ron & Laura Sher in memory of Maureen & Jerry Sher, Ronald Gross. Arnold & Polly Slavet. Jeff Steber & Tammy Medanich Steber. Doug Tilton in memory of Susan Goldin. Eric Weinreib & Rachel Hopkins. Sam & Dominique Winebaum. Anonymous.

Additional Contributors

Susan Amchan, Michael & Sara Anderson, Leonard & Rita Benjamin, Rachel Dennis, Mary Dow, Fred & Rhoda Feldman in memory of June Feldman, Phil Ginsburg & Carolyn Anderson, Sue Gurland in honor of Rabba Kaya's Torah teachings, Don & Tobey Harman, Mark & Deb Kaplan, Dara Klein in honor of Fran Berman, Ross Moldoff in honor of Howard Moldoff's birthday, Jeff Salloway & Jennifer Beard, Beth & David Salzman, Julie Serrano, Barry & Claire Siegel in memory of Linda Cook & Leanne Foley, Michael Singer in memory of Sandy Singer, Veta Stone in memory of Ira M. Stone, Stuart & Elaine Fox Family Fund, Margie Wachtel & Morey Stettner, Julie Whitehouse, Seth & Rachael Wizwer, Burt Wolf in memory of Abraham & Sarah Shapiro and Mollie Wolf.

Donations

Received December 29 - January 29

CULTURAL ENDOWMENT FUND

Elizabeth Brotman in memory of Jeannette Goodman.
Barbara Halpern in memory of Jeannette Goodman.
Barbara Levenson in memory of her mother, Shura Levenson, her uncle, L. Allen Levenson, her grandfather, Jacob Levenson, and her grandmother, Sophie Simon Sandler. Elliott & Shirley Fishbein in memory of Neill Williams.

DINNERMAN-ROTTENBERG EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND

Barbara Fox in memory of her father, Eli Borwick.
Barbara Fox in memory of her grandmother, Dora Lena Segal. Peter & Jennie Dinnerman in memory of Beverly Goldberg Driscoll.

DUES ABATEMENT FUND

Nancy & Dennis Roffman in memory of Dennis's father, Nathan Roffman.

HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

Steve Sacks & Pamela Battin-Sacks. Gail Bradbard in honor of the birth of Oliver George Schwartz. Naomi Fishbein in memory of Marilyn Gorman. James & Myra Fishbein in loving memory of Myra's father, Neill Williams.

INSTITUTIONAL OPERATING ENDOWMENT FUND

Elaine & Shel Krasker in memory of their daughter, Kathy Ramras; Shel's mother, Mollie Krasker; and Elaine's grandmother, Ida Shapiro. Gloria Moldoff in memory of her grandmother, Fannie Woolfson, and in memory of her uncle and aunt, Harold & Rose Fisher. Laura & Ron Sher, Alana and Dana, in memory of father and grandfather Ronald Gross.

KIDDUSH FUND

Selma Freedman in memory of Marilyn Gorman.

LANDSCAPE FUND

Ellen & Bill McQueeney in memory of Ellen's father, Burton Kreiswort.

LIBRARY FUND

Stephanie Shaines and the Abraham Burtman Trust. B.R. Fein in memory of Leon S. Fein.

PRESCHOOL FUND

Laura & Ron Sher in memory of Gerald Sher, beloved father, father-in-law, and grandfather. Rick Robbins & Sally Cohen.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Ellen Fineberg in memory of her father, Benjamin Fineberg. Susan & Arthur Amchan in memory of Beverly Goldberg Driscoll. Dana Levenson in memory of his mother, Shura Levenson.

TZEDAKAH FUND

Rachel Dennis in memory of her aunt, Betty Rose Leader. Cathi Cherry-Liston in memory of her father-in-law, Robert Liston, Sr. Roberta Issokson, in honor of Jenn Rockwell, wishing her good health and a full recuperation. Selma Freedman in memory of Beverly Driscoll.

(Continued from page 1)

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

Tikkun Olam Committee

7:00 pm, Wednesday, February 3

Membership Committee

7:00 pm, Monday, February 8

Executive Committee

7:30 pm, Wednesday, February 10

Nominating Committee

7:00 pm, Thursday, February 11 & Wednesday, Feb. 24

Education Committee

11:30 am, Sunday, February 14

Board of Directors

7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 16

Marketing Committee

3:00 pm, Tuesday, February 23

Ritual Committee

7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 23

Yahrzeits

February Yahrzeits

1. Gilda Koeppel, Nathan Klaiman, Vivian Lafargue, Thomas Weinbaum, Carl Wallman
2. Rebecca Schwartz, Harry Gelman, Nordia Kay, Isaac Goodman, Frances Levitt, Frances Davis, Elizabeth Schoonmaker, Harry Goodstein
3. Jennie Cohen, Beatrice Downs, Ruth Shaines, Frances Schultz
4. Jewell Schiffman, Sam Rottenberg, Israel Trubowitz
5. Esther Cohen, Dorothy Katz, Jacob N. Paisner, Leonard Levy
6. Mary Weiss, Irving Bratter, Dr. Max Helman
7. Saul Lepoff, Kate Shaines, Lewis J. Fisher, Laura Ossoff, Abraham Levine, Louis Shapiro
8. Sydney Parker, Natalie Resnick, Ida Siegel, Rosalyn Schwartz, Minnie Senter, Paul Shoer, Jack Cook, Libby Rothstein, Hyman Miller, Shirley Traven
9. Michael Goodman, Milton H. Cooper, Irving Thorner, Ellen Silverman
10. Anna Dinnerman, Elizabeth Stone, Leonard Gordon, Betty Karnefsky, Thomas Brahms, Jennie Kuchinsky
11. Albert Isselbacher, Ann Goodman, Anne Gray, Robert Davis, Jr., Ree Becker, Jacob Potter, Arnold Fishbein

19 Shvat / 16 Adar 5781

12. Selma Schwartz, Lillian Roberts, Theodore Davis, Harry Klein, Sam Leiderman
13. Harry Halprin, Jeanette Black, Werner Loeb, Jack Farber, Roberta Segal Ohlemacher, Charlotte Mackles, Moe Rosenblum, Norman Torf, Lillian Miller
14. David Fishbein, Sophie Sandler, Robert Shaines
15. Louis Taube, Golda Zarrow, Solomon Emmer, Morris Salden, Nancy Medoff, Suzanne Sherman
16. Jacob Segal, Steven Israel, Beatrice Newton, Marjorie Ellen Ryder, Robert Fox, Joanne Solomon, Lena Rosenberg, Hilda Benjamin, Michael Stocklan
17. Clarice Yoken, Bessie Abrams, Daniel Schwartz, Pauline Applebaum, Albert Woolfson, Herbert Greene, Victor Ohayon, Phyllis Klaye, Gerald Goldstein, F. Mark Reinhart, Norman Brill, Louis H. Silverman, Katie Grossman, Sheila Kaplan, Debbie N. Most, Idel Mackles
18. Philip Hornblas, Robert Berman, Rabbi Seymour Siegel, Sima Gagh, Bruce Krassner, Micki Pastor, Joseph Nicole
19. Bernard Frim, Edward Goldman, Sarah Simmons, Ron Sussman, Frances Kniaz, Katie Levy, Rachel Leah Tayyabkhan, Peter L. Hooz, John Selden
20. Peggy Aaby, Bessie Partoll, Joseph Cohen, Marie Mayer, Louis Horwitz, Jerry Slutzky

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

21. Lena Ackerman, Bessie Marcus, Morris Klaiman, William Shoer, Morris (Murray) Marcus, Michael Fox, Charles West
22. William I. Woolfson, Lazar Kantor, Jack Lessow, Louis Baer, Perla Ohayon, Mendel Feldman, Estelle Cooperman, Max David Mendelovitz, Helen Krassner
23. Ann Belinsky, Abraham Levitt, Benjamin Gersh, Sam Rosenfield, Barney Roach, Margaret Levine, Ralph Harrison, Stephen Stocklan, Ida Wenig, Herbert Cohen, Corinne Wiseman, Harry Fleischman
24. Benjamin Cohn, Rose Osher, Jack Shulman, Frances Goodman, Jonathan Brann, David Davidson, Edward Baer, Margaret Levor Gutman, Bessie Stromer, Katie Robbins
25. Henry Greenberg, Louis Forman, Philip Cohen, Ari Legerstee, Fivesh Grossman
26. Minnie Brown, Solomon Levine, Robert Leavitt, Alexander Vero, Richard H. Goldberg, Joseph Fritz, Lillian Greenfield
27. Lena Gorman, Hester Schwartz, Shirley Ginsberg, Bertram Marks
28. Sylvia Kahn Hillson, Louis Boxer, Daniel Newman

Our congregation grieves with the many families who have suffered recent losses.

Condolences to **Lori Leonard** on the passing of her father, **Warren Bennett**.

Condolences to **William Goldberg** on the passing of his mother, **Beverly Driscoll**.

Condolences to **Jan Bailey** on the passing of her father, **Bernard Dansky**.

Condolences to **Myra Fishbein** on the passing of her father, **Neill Williams**.

Condolences to the family of congregant **Marilyn Gorman**.

Condolences to **Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman** on the passing of her aunt, **Joanna Becker**, her cousin, **Haim Shtrum**, and her dear friend, **Ann Klein**.

Condolences to **Nicholas Conley** on the passing of his mother, **Carla Chervin**.

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

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.

Sustainability Snippet

Updating the “3 Rs” of Sustainability

By Judith Rubenstein

In the 1967 movie *The Graduate*, Benjamin Braddock was famously advised that a prosperous future could be found in one word: “Plastics.” Instead of a prosperous future, that word now represents a threat to our environment.

The “3 Rs” of sustainability—Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle—have been around since the 1970s. But many experts on sustainability have recently expanded the idea to 5 Rs, exhorting us to also Refuse and Repurpose.

Among the materials to which the Rs apply, plastic appears as the most clear and present danger. Created from non-renewable oil and gas, new plastic is cheap to manufacture. And recycling, which so many of us have relied on to mitigate plastic’s harm, is expensive.

The myth of recycling

I’ve been a fanatic recycler for years—often feeling embarrassed when seen “rescuing” plastic water bottles from garbage bins at work (only one of my somewhat obsessive recycling habits). But now I’m feeling discouraged. We’re learning that recycling is not only expensive—it’s often impossible.

You’ve probably heard about China rejecting much of the world’s plastic. In fact, according to a report by National Public Radio and Frontline, since the 1970s, only 10% of plastic has ever been recycled. It turns out that only milk jugs and soda bottles are consistently recycled. (Check this out: <https://www.npr.org/2020/09/11/897692090/how-big-oil-misled-the-public-into-believing-plastic-would-be-recycled>.)

What can we do? “Refuse.”

In addition to advocating for our climate locally, nationally, and globally, we can act individually. Certainly, continue to recycle. But I’m a big fan of the first new R: Refuse. Here are a few things you can do.

Stop buying individual bottles of water for your household. Buy each member of the family their own non-toxic water bottle to use both at home and out and about. If you don’t like to drink your tap water, buy the largest water container you can, or get a bubbler that uses glass containers. Or filter your water with a refillable pitcher or a filter on your kitchen faucet.

Avoid unnecessary food packaging. Try to find an alternative to “clamshell” containers. Often there are reasonably-priced options. When you’re buying only one or a few things like eggplants, grapefruits, apples, or lemons, forego the plastic produce bag. Just put the items in your cart and on the check-out belt. I do this all the time and it works fine. You can also bring used produce bags to the store with you.

Find products without plastic packaging. For example, choose olive oil and soy sauce in glass bottles. Look for bar soap wrapped in paper.

Use refillable containers. Buy the largest container of hand soap you can find and refill the individual pump bottles in your home. Better yet, if you can afford slightly higher prices, check out the stores that allow you to refill containers (bring yours or purchase theirs) for household and personal care supplies such as detergents and body and hair cleansers. We Fill Good in Kittery and The Refill Station in Portsmouth offer these and other innovative solutions.

Hope these suggestions are helpful. What other actions are you taking? Let us know.

SISC / Sisterhood

By Ellen Fineberg

SISC, the Seacoast Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition, is an alliance of eight faith organizations plus individuals committed to welcoming and supporting immigrants. SISC members work together to aid individuals and families, ensuring that sanctuary is available in the NH seacoast for those who are facing the threats of detention, deportation, separation and violence. Community synagogues, like Temple Israel, are *mikdash me'at*—a “small sanctuary” modeled after the Beit Ha-Mikdash, the Temple that stood in Jerusalem. They remind us that when we act as allies to immigrants, standing against xenophobia and hate, and for the preservation of families and communities, we can provide sanctuary.



How can members of Temple Israel support SISC and immigrants living locally? Here are a few ideas: Join the weekly car rally at the Strafford County Jail, a federal facility housing immigrants awaiting court dates, to show immigrants your support. If you are fluent in another language, help immigrants by translating documents and conversations. If you have health care expertise, help connect Seacoast area immigrants with services. Donate funds to organizations assisting immigrants at the Strafford County Jail to pay for phone calls, buy extra food or clothing at the commissary, or pay for bond. Also, visit with and assist immigrants in sanctuary here in the Seacoast who need companionship.

For more information and to volunteer, contact Temple Israel SISC Coordinator Ellen Fineberg at efineberg75@gmail.com.

Sisterhood events

On Sunday morning, January 24, Joan Goldwyn demonstrated her recipe for delicious rugelach. At-home bakers followed along, filling their rugelach with creative combinations including raspberry/chocolate chip, apricot/fig, and peanut butter/fluff/chocolate chip/cinnamon.



Save the date!

Saturday, February 13 at 7:00 pm, Rosh Hodesh.

Kerry Hansen and Glicka Kaplan will lead the group in welcoming the month of Adar. Please have on hand a single candle in a candle holder, matches, and a kiddush cup with wine or juice. Looking forward to seeing you then!

Thursday, February 18, 6:00 pm, Israeli Women of Importance. Please join us in welcoming NH *shlichah* Avia Sagron. Avia will speak about Israeli women's contributions to culture and society. Enjoy an Israeli dinner at home—register on the website calendar to receive menu suggestions before the event!

Sunday, February 21, 11:00 am, Baking Class. We will bake hamantaschen for Purim! Register on the website calendar to receive the Zoom link and recipe ingredients.

Ritual Committee

As simple as ABC? Not!

What does Purim have in common with Chanukah? Neither one is mentioned in the Torah! Both holidays commemorate events that occurred long after the biblical period and both were added to the Jewish calendar after the days of Moses and even the prophets. How do the two holidays differ? One way is that it's easy to write Purim in English letters, but not so Chanukah. Or is it Hanukkah? Or Hannuka? Which way is correct?

The correct way is *chet, nun, vav, kaf, hey*, but there's no single correct way to write that in English! People debate over whether a transliteration should correspond letter-for-letter with the Hebrew letters that it represents, or whether a transliteration should enable someone who doesn't read Hebrew to pronounce the words correctly. Should we write *todah*, with an h at the end, because the Hebrew word ends in the letter *hey*, or should we write *toda*, which does the job? Another debate is over consistency. If we choose *toda*, then do we also write *Tora*, even though we are used to seeing *Torah*?

As Temple Israel grows as an institution, we are paying more attention to our communications, including how we transliterate Hebrew. We want to write Hebrew words so that readers will pronounce them correctly; we want to reflect their proper form in Hebrew, and we want to be consistent in our written publications and on our website.

With consistency in mind, we have adopted, for the most part, the transliteration style used in our siddur, *Lev Shalem*, and in our chumash, *Etz Hayim*, so that the transliterations you see in our publications will be the same as the ones you see in our sacred books. Some spellings based on this transliteration system will look strange at first; for example, the first word of blessings is *barukh* rather than *baruch*. We expect that over time, we will all become accustomed to this system.

The goal of the transliteration system is to enable readers to recognize familiar Hebrew words and expressions and to produce a reasonably accurate pronunciation of unfamiliar ones. The system is not completely "reversible;"

that is, the transliterations don't correspond exactly to the letters and vowels of the Hebrew originals. At the same time, they are consistent enough so that if you are learning to read Hebrew, you can match up the transliteration with the Hebrew as part of the transition to reading from the Hebrew letters. (If you are interested in the nitty-gritty, see the summary of the transliteration guidelines on page xv of *Siddur Lev Shalem* or page xi in *Mahzor Lev Shalem*.)

The editors of *Lev Shalem* made some exceptions to their guidelines, and we have, too. Our plan was to spell words the same way in our bulletins and on our website as in our liturgical books, but we were foiled by a technological problem! The issue is how to indicate the eighth letter of the Hebrew alphabet, *chet*, which has a guttural sound that does not exist in English. Our printed books indicate the *chet* with an h with a dot under it. Since computers can't make underdots, people typing documents or emails replace the underdot with an underline; for example, *Pesah*. But as our webmaster extraordinaire, Dinah Berch, informed us, on websites, underlines are used only in hyperlinks.

Some congregations represent *chet* with an h without a dot or underline and assume that people will know or learn how to pronounce common words like Hanukkah even if the English transliteration does not distinguish the guttural sound of the letter *chet* from the sound of the English letter h. We decided that it was important to make the distinction. So, departing from the rules in the siddur and the chumash, we will transliterate the letter *chet* with ch. An h will represent the fifth letter of the alef-bet, *hey*. Following from this decision, in TIP publications, we will write Chanukah instead of Hanukkah, Simchat Torah rather than Simhat Torah, and Pesach rather than Pesah. If you have questions about transliteration, feel free to contact me.

Chag Purim Sameach!

Deborah Hirsch Mayer, VP, Ritual

Arts Review Team

By Deborah Levine, Arts Review Team Chair

The Arts Review Team is pleased to announce that we have added two new members to our group. Tobey Harmon is an amazing artist as well as an art instructor. Shara Zoll has recently joined Temple Israel. She will assist us with hanging artwork, utilizing her experience working backstage on theater productions.

On December 28, 2020, our resident thespians, Jeffrey Salloway, Jennifer Beard, Kerry Hansen, Eric Gilston, Donna Goldfarb, Jewel Davis, and Shelley Brass, did a marathon reading of the play *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, much to the delight of our Zoom audience. Many commented that they were surprised to see how well the humor and intensity of this classic play came through that evening.

We will present another play by Neil Simon, *Lost in Yonkers* on Sunday, March 7, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. Expect some more complex and wacky characters who are part of a Jewish family living in N.Y. in the 1980s. In future months, we will tackle some lighter fare and one-act plays. When the pandemic restrictions ease, perhaps we will be able to meet safely in person! (Please contact Heather in the office if you would like to read a part).

Thanks again to Amy Hyett who facilitated our Writing Workshop on January 5 and 12. Using guidelines from *Writing down the Bones* by Natalie Goldberg along with some sample micro-memoirs, we embarked on our own creative journeys to capture Covid memories. Amy's engaging style and writing prompts enabled us to bypass inhibitions and come up with varied and interesting pieces that participants Cathi Cherry-Liston, Nathaniel Cowen, Janet Insolia, Deborah Levine, and Carol Lincoln shared with one another. Stay tuned for more writing activities in the spring. FYI - we are putting together a literary magazine that will include writings from workshop participants, as well as artwork and photographs from congregants and friends. The completed version will be available for sale, with proceeds going to the Cultural Endowment Fund).

Plans for our pandemic exhibit are well underway - "Works in Response to or Created during Covid Times." We have received submissions from four Seacoast artists: Julie Serrano, Judy Wilbur-Albertson, Brigitte Keller, and Ken Cohen, with four more in process, as well as photographs from Mel Proskoff, Rabbi Ira Korinow, Cathi Cherry-Liston, Walter Rous, and Heather Tomlinson. Included in this exhibit are pictures of Israel, especially treasured now, with travel bans in place, as well as images depicting local settings.

Please drop off your submissions or flash drive to the temple office prior to February 20, 2021. Note: We have some capacity to print photos and to provide help with framing. Please respect our deadline. The committee needs time to complete a video which will include brief segments of exhibitors talking about their work in lieu of in-person viewing. The Zoom presentation of the exhibit (with Q & A) will take place on March 14, 2021 at 2:00 pm. Appointments to see the exhibit in the Schmoose and Social Hall will be possible once the Re-imagining Committee determines it is safe to do so.

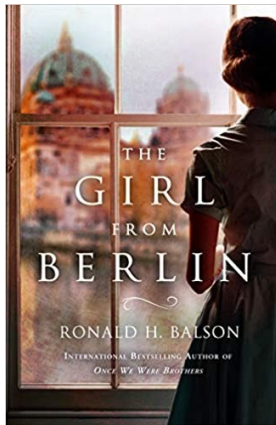


Painting by Kenneth Cohen

It's great to have opportunities to connect with fellow congregants through creative expression— it sure helps to deal with the winter doldrums and isolation of these times. Please let us know if you have ideas for other activities to enjoy together!

TIP Book Club - February

The Girl from Berlin, by Ronald Balson



Please join us on Tuesday, February 19, at 11:30 am, via Zoom, for a lively discussion!

In the newest novel by internationally-bestselling author Ronald H. Balson, Liam and Catherine come to the aid of an old friend and are drawn into a property dispute in Tuscany that unearths long-buried secrets.

Temple Israel Portsmouth

Board of Directors

Amy Hyett, President
David Bachrach, Past President
Bob Zimman, President-Elect
Joanne Samuels, VP House
Seth Wizwer, VP Education
Deborah Hirsch Mayer, VP Ritual
Beth Salzman, Recording Secretary
Steve Sacks, Financial Secretary
Amy Borne, Treasurer
Tobey Harman, Director
Marc Hiller, Director
Rachel Kurshan, Director
Amy Lester, Director
Mel Prostkoff, Director
Ira Schwartz, Director
Julie Serrano, Director



Temple Israel "Classifieds"

FAITH ~ HOPE ~ LOVE

Elissa Kaplan Senter, BS Ed., CPE, APC, SAG/AFTRA

Consultant, Entertainer, Interfaith Chaplain,
Rabbinic Pastor, Wedding Officiant, Pastoral Counseling

Phone: 516-450-5171 or 845-304-3908.



Temple Israel

200 State Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801
603-436-5301

OFFICE HOURS

February, 2021: Please call or email to make an appointment for building access.



Proud member of USCJ

Congregant and artist Aimée Margolis designs custom Zoom backgrounds for your special occasion! To commission a "Zoomagraph" featuring your favorite landscape, flower design, or other motif, email: art1show@verizon.net

