

The Doorpost

Temple Israel

Monthly Newsletter

March 2021, Adar - Nisan 5781



True Freedom

Spring is finally on the horizon. With the long winter behind us, we look forward to the unfolding of blossoms, the warm sun on our faces, and the return of green meadows. As life is born anew, we focus on the birth of our people as a nation and the great miracle and responsibility of freedom. Our elaborate Passover rituals celebrate the journey toward freedom not for its own sake but toward the establishment of a new society in a new land, which includes a new relationship with the land itself. The freedom journey includes the experience at Sinai, where our ancestors received the Torah, the guidebook for living a life of holiness in balance with one another, with the earth, and with God. Torah describes numerous rituals and mitzvot that relate directly to our relationship with the Promised Land. Torah speaks the language of reciprocity. Ultimately, and at a great price, we have all come to understand this ancient truth, that our true freedom depends on a healthy relationship with the earth.

Passover celebrates the beginning of freedom. It is not only a physical freedom from slavery, but a freedom of consciousness from a power system based on the subjugation of people, animals, and land for the benefit of a few. To be truly enslaved is to lack the awareness of life as an interconnected

Continued on page 2

Upcoming Events

Play Reading: *Lost in Yonkers*

3:00 pm, Sunday, March 7

Jewish Bioethics During a Pandemic (p. 14)

7:00 pm, Thursday, March 11

Musical Kabbalat Shabbat led by Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman and Cantorial Soloist Kochava Munro

6:15 pm, Friday, March 12

Art Review Team: COVID Exhibit Walk-through & QA

3:00 pm, Sunday, March 14

Ecological Roots of Passover, Rabbi Ellen Bernstein

7:00 pm, Sunday, March 14

TIP Book Club

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

Electric City by Elizabeth Rosner

Basic Judaism Class for Conversion (p. 3)

6:00 pm, Wednesday, March 17

Shabbes Tisch, theme: Freedom

6:15 pm, Friday, March 19

Expert Series: Nutrition During COVID (p. 14)

7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 23

Community Passover Seder

5:30 pm Sunday, March 28

All-Star Musical Passover Seder for Children

5:30 pm, Wednesday, March 31

REGULAR MEETINGS

Weekly Lunch 'N Learn with Rabba Kaya

Thursdays, 12:30 pm (see p. 2 for changes this month)

[Complete COMMITTEE MEETING schedule is on page 11](#)

From Rabba Kaya's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

web of mutual interdependence. True freedom begins with a liberation of the mind that acknowledges our integrated relationship with one another and the entire natural world. The very first mitzvah given to *Adam Ha-rishon*, the first human being, was to work, care for and protect the land, *I'ovdahu'l'shomrah* (Gen.2:15). Without this foundational mitzvah, all our other mitzvot cannot be fulfilled.

Through this lens, the Passover Seder can be seen as an earthy meditation on the deepest meaning of freedom. It is a mindful, embodied ritual, designed to deepen and expand our awareness of our history and renew our sense of responsibility to work for freedom, including the freedom from environmental degradation.

This year I invite you to join me in an Earth Seder on the second night of Passover. We will experience anew the beauty of our seder rituals as we honor our relationship with the earth and draw Torah from our stories, our foods, and the rhythms of nature. Together we will embrace this unique moment, expand our awareness, connect with community, and refresh the spirit.

With blessings for a sweet and kosher Pesach,
Rabba Kaya



**Rabba Kaya
Stern-Kaufman**

March schedule changes for Lunch 'N Learn

Our group has been enjoying a lively discussion on Thursday afternoons! All are welcome.

March 4 and March 11: No Lunch 'N Learn; instead, an opportunity to learn with the Conservative Yeshiva through Scholar Stream. Classes occur at 1:00 pm. Registration required. \$25 for a series of 4 classes. (See link below for more information and to register.) I plan to attend these classes.

<https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/civicrm/event/register?id=1329&reset=1>

March 18, 12:30 - 1:30 pm: Return to Lunch 'N Learn - Topic to be announced.

March 25: No Lunch 'N Learn - *Ta'anit B'chorot*, Fast of the Firstborn, special Passover teaching in the early morning. Details to come.

Basic Judaism Class for Conversion with Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman

The next class meets on Wednesday, March 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: **March 17, April 7, April 21, May 5, May 26, June 16, and June 30.**

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

Rabba.Kaya@templeisraelnh.org

Prayer & Passover

Please join us at 6:15 pm, Friday, March 12

For a special musical Kabbalat Shabbat



led by Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman
And Cantorial Soloist Kochava Munro

Candle Lighting

March 5, 5:20 pm

March 12, 5:29 pm

March 19, 6:37 pm

March 26, 6:45 pm

Service Times

Tuesday 5:30 pm

Friday night (through 3/19) 6:15 pm

Friday (beginning 3/26) 7:00 pm

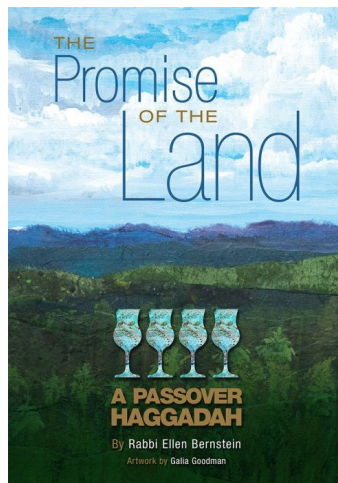
Saturday morning 10:00 am

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

Learn

The Ecological Roots of Passover

Talk by eco-theologian
Rabbi Ellen Bernstein
7:00 - 8:00 pm Sunday,
March 14



Experience

Earth Seder

Virtual Seder led by Rabba Kaya on the second night of Passover, Sunday, March 28

- Part one: 5:30 - 7:00 pm
- Dinner: 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- Part two: 8:00 - 9:00 pm

We will be using the haggadah created by Rabbi Ellen Bernstein, *The Promise of the Land*. Thanks to support from the Cultural Endowment Fund and the Annual Fund, a copy has been purchased for each member household and will be available for pickup/delivery/mailling in advance of Rabbi Bernstein's talk on March 14.

Congregants are invited to participate in the Seder by reading a selection—all ages are welcome! To sign up, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4eada82ca1f4c16-passover>

Dance & Sing!

Temple Israel is a sponsor of the statewide family-friendly program **All-Star Musical Passover Seder** At 5:30 pm Wednesday, March 31.



President's Message

Engaging Kids during the Winter Holidays and Beyond

I have such strong memories from Tu Bi-Shvat seders during my childhood. I was six, adding red grape juice to white grape juice, a few drops at a time, savoring the sweet bite of a date, the tart taste of a pomegranate seed, and the satisfying crunch of an almond. These days, with so many more Middle Eastern cookbooks available, we are buying and cooking with these foods much more often. My kids are lucky enough to eat dates and figs and all kinds of nuts regularly, but it is a different story to savor each bite and really taste each gift of the trees. Last month, our family participated in the Tu Bi-Shvat seder and shared this experience with other TIP members. I asked my daughter Emily to prepare our seder plate with its array of fruits and nuts and she loved putting it together.

Purim is another holiday that is full of family fun. I am so impressed with the offerings that the Ritual Committee designed. Between family-friendly comedy shows, Zoom Megillah readings complete with magic, and the Purim-Palooza event in the parking lot, there was truly something for everyone. However, I was most excited about



the chance for my kids to make *Mishloach Manot* gift bags for some of our older congregants who live nearby. My kids decorated their gift bags with care, and it was fun to fill and then deliver them. We had never made hamantaschen before and we enjoyed every bit of it!

Engaging families with kids of all ages successfully is something that our temple leadership is eager to do better. To that end, we applied to the Annual Fund to support the creation of a part-time Family Programming Coordinator position. We are eager to attract candidates for this position who are Jewish professionals. As we contemplated the best approach to doing that, we

decided to enlarge the scope of the job by combining it with our Head of School position, allowing us to offer a 30 hour/week position and a more attractive salary. The down side of this decision is that effective at the end of this school year, Elian Tackeff will be stepping down from serving as our Head of School. We want to thank her for years of service in that position. Rabbi David, z"l welcomed Elian's leadership role during a fraught transition period in our school; she helped ease the transition and was left to carry on without Rabbi David's assistance and support after his illness and passing. We are delighted that she will return to the classroom where she has always been a popular teacher.

The person we hire will be charged with creating programming for families with kids of all ages, including families with kids 0-5, families whose children are attending our Hebrew School, and families with teens. Our children are our future. We hope that with the help of a trained Jewish professional, we will be more successful in providing family-friendly holiday celebrations, as well as educational and social events that will strengthen ties between our families and within our wider temple community. If you know of anyone with a background in Jewish education, or a rabbinical or cantorial student who might be interested in this position, let us know! (The full job description is available on the website or from the temple office.)

Just as we cherish each gift of the trees during Tu Bi-Shvat, we also value each of our members and the unique gifts they bring to our community. All the Zoom events and parking lot parties in the world cannot come close to the feeling we get when we are together in our building, celebrating a holiday, praying together, or socializing over kiddush. It is startling to realize that we have been living with this pandemic for a full year. We are so very hopeful that we are getting closer to returning to events in person. I can't wait!

L'shalom,
Amy Hyett

Ritual Committee

By Deborah Hirsch Mayer, VP, Ritual

Last week we celebrated Purim, a holiday of merriment and joy, miracles and jubilation. There are two more weeks in Adar, the month in which, our tradition tells us, joy increases. Last year, it didn't feel that way! For many of us, Purim a year ago marked the onset of the pandemic in our lives. For many Jews, Purim 5780 was the last time they were with a group of people in person. I went to our megillah reading but crept up to the balcony where I sat alone, afraid to mingle with the crowd below. That afternoon I tutored a bat mitzvah student in the temple library; since then, I have met students only on Zoom. That night and again a month later, at our sequestered seders, none of us imagined that a year later we would still be apart, seeing each other only in little tiles on our screens or from our cars at drive-through events.

Yet, there is reason to be happy this Adar. Each of us can point to our own silver linings even amid the true hardship and sorrow caused by the pandemic. We have witnessed miracles in the development of vaccines and in the successful landing of a rover on Mars! Daylight Savings Time will begin in a few days, and spring will surely follow with all its unfolding miracles.

Just as surely, Pesach will begin a month after Purim. How can we begin now to prepare for Pesach?

Like most Jewish holidays, Pesach has meaning in a spiritual sphere, a historical sphere, and in one tied to nature. These aspects are reflected in three of the names by which Pesach is known: *Chag Ha-Pesach*, holiday of redemption, *Chag Ha-Matzot*,

holiday of unleavened bread, and *Chag Ha-Aviv*, holiday of spring. At the seder, we celebrate our redemption from slavery, our movement from the narrow straits of *Mitzrayim* (Egypt) to the vast wilderness and possibilities of the desert. We are told not only to read the Haggadah, but to experience our liberation as if we were there. For eight days we eat matzah, "the bread of affliction," to remind us of the suffering we experienced as slaves and the haste in which we fled. Just as spring promises rebirth and new growth, the Exodus was the first step on a forty-year journey to our birth as a nation at Sinai, which we mark seven weeks after Pesach on the holiday of Shavuot. At Pesach we celebrate spring and the start of the planting season, and at Shavuot we mark the first harvest.

As we move through the rest of Adar and into Nisan, let us look forward to our gradual release from COVID confinement and fears. Let us redeem ourselves by cleaning out *hametz* – stale, non-useful ways of being in our personal lives – and by working to repair the world around us. And let us be grateful for the blessings of spring and the new possibilities it brings.

Many voices create more Torah!

Let's learn from one other.

Please email Rabba Kaya with any dates you would be available to lead a Torah discussion or offer a *d'var Torah* during Shabbat morning services. The weekly Torah portion appears on the temple website calendar.

Additional resources are available to support you—see the temple website "Jewish Resources" page for adults.

Hebrew School



Elian Tackeff
Head of School

Shalom Everyone!

Happy March, which coincides with the Jewish, and happy, months of Adar and Nisan!

As my Sephardic family in Istanbul would say in Ladino,

Purim, Purim, Purim lano (Purim, Purim, Purim is over), *Pesah*,

Pesah ala mano (Passover is at hand).

The month of February, usually a very short month due to holidays, snow days and winter break, gave our Hebrew School a good three weeks of uninterrupted learning this year. The value of the month was *achrayut* / responsibility, to our family, our people, ourselves and the earth.

One of the highlights of the month included a seminar for upcoming b'nei mitzvah students taught by Rabba Kaya. On Sunday, February 7, our 7th graders and a couple of 8th graders explored the *Chumash* in depth.

Another highlight was “**Esther to the Rescue**,” an interactive Purim comedy show by the professional troupe, The Bible Players, on Sunday, February 21. It was a fun treat for the families who were able to

attend during our first day of vacation!

Lastly, a **big thank you** to our Hebrew School families who made our **Mishloach Manot**

Project a success. We sent families a kit that they were to decorate and fill with goodies and

then deliver to some of our congregation’s senior members. A lovely way to make Purim meaningful, especially during COVID times when so many of us are not able to celebrate holidays with family. It will surely become a new tradition!

Coming up in March:

On Sunday, March 14, Rabba Kaya will join the 7th graders for a second seminar focusing on the *siddur*, including the order of the prayers, why they are organized a certain way, why we say them, and more.



On Wednesday, March 31, at 5:30 pm, all students, past or present, and their families, are invited to enjoy **JKids Radio All Star Musical Seder**, with many of the top artists in Jewish kids music.

As always, please feel free to call me at 603-969-2984 or email Egt9@aol.com with any questions, comments or suggestions.

Wishing you a Happy Spring (March 20) and *Chag Pesach Sameiach* / Happy Passover (March 27 at sundown)

L’shalom,

Elian Tackeff, Head of School



Teacher Karen Mott helping at the Purim-Palooza

Early Learning Center



Tammy Roberge
Director, ELC

February, what a short but fun month!

In January, NH Shlichia Avia Sagron helped the children plant grass seeds on paper heads. Parents have since shared the growth of their children's projects—one sprouted so luxuriously it needed a haircut!



Avia came back on February 9, with masks for the ELC children

to decorate with colors, stickers, gems, and feathers in anticipation of Purim. Student Mendel Slavaticki's mom shared a gorgeous book about the Megillah of Esther with us and we created Purim puppets to use while she read to us. After the story, Rochey gave the students Purim masks.

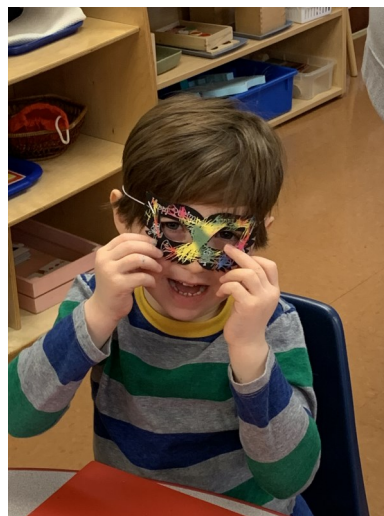
The children performed a Purim play that we recorded for parents since we couldn't have a Purim celebration with an audience. We ate hamantaschen and other sweets. The children created their own *mishloach manot* bags to take home and to share with Rabba Kaya and Heather in the temple office.

We also took full advantage of the winter playground. I love watching students work together to meet a goal, and here they are moving chunks of snow to make a snow fort.



Rabba Kaya has been joining the ELC on Fridays to celebrate Shabbat with us. We have been learning Hebrew songs, enjoying the blessings of Shabbat together, and of course eating challah!

L'shalom, Tammy Roberge



Committee Reports

2020 Annual Fund Closes at a Record Level Thanks to Generous Donors

The 2020 Annual Fund has come to a very successful close! Thanks to the generosity of more than 100 donors, we raised a total of \$89,547, which is 24% more than was raised in 2019. These funds will go toward addressing temple programming needs, technology needs, and budget shortfalls caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

Thus far, a total of \$53,800 has been allocated. These funds will be used to expand temple wi-fi for outdoor events, obtain additional microphones for off-site use, enhance temple marketing, add a Family Programming Coordinator to our staff, and make up some of the shortfall in revenue created by a decrease in Hebrew School registrations. Decisions on the remaining funds will be made as funding requests are received.

Again, thank you to the many generous donors – members and non-members alike – who came through for the 2020 Annual Fund. For a full list of donors, see the February *Doorpost* or consult the framed list of donors hanging in our Court Street lobby.

Fran Berman, Development Committee Chair

“Shop” the New Open for Biz Directory



Did you know that our website now features a directory listing businesses owned by synagogue members? It showcases a range of businesses and

services, from web design and concierge services to realtors and retailers. The web address is:

www.templeisraelnh.org/connect/business-directory/

We hope you consider patronizing these member-owned establishments and professional services. Many of these businesses also donate services and products to our synagogue. Your support can help fellow congregants' businesses to survive and thrive in these challenging times.

If you are a congregant and own a business, please consider a free business listing in our directory. If you would like to learn more, contact the Open for Business Committee at ofb@templeisraelnh.org.

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.



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Donations

Received January 30 - February 26, 2021

CEMETERY FUND

Lenny Baer in memory of his father, Louis Baer, and also in memory of Ronald Meenes.

CULTURAL ENDOWMENT FUND

Jewel Davis in memory of her mother, Frances Lowe Davis. Ira Schwartz in memory of his mother, Selma Schwartz.

DINNERMAN-ROTTENBERG EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND

Stan & Rita Robbins in memory of their daughter, Michelle Robbins, and in memory of Rita's parents, Bessie & Murray Marcus. Joyce Meenes in memory of her beloved father, Sam Rottenberg. Barbara Fox in memory of her grandfather, Jacob Segal.

Contributions received in loving memory of

Ronald Meenes from: Myrna Promer and family. Marlene & Alan Rubin. Roberta Wanyo. Stan & Rita Robbins. Anne & Jerry Schiowitz. Gregory Hankin. Bert & Deborah Freedman. Joanne Samuels. Bonnie & Richard Silver. Peter & Jennie Dinnerman. Tom & Barbara Duff. Selma Freedman.

HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

Ellen Farber-Libowitz in memory of Jack Farber. Naomi Fishbein in memory of Arnold Fishbein, David Fishbein, and Bessie Partoll. Michelle Baer in memory of her father, David Davidson.

INSTITUTIONAL OPERATING ENDOWMENT FUND

Arlene Brewster. David & Marianne Forman in memory of David's father, Louis Forman. Stuart & Paula Boxer in memory of Stuart's father, Louis Boxer. Sue & Steve Tober in memory of Sue's mother, Rosalyn Schwartz, Sue's father, Daniel Schwartz, and Steve's father, Benjamin Tober. Gloria Moldoff in memory of her father, Albert

Woolfson. Nancy & Melvin Alexander in memory of Celia Sroelov.

LIBRARY FUND

Veta Stone in memory of her mother-in-law, Elizabeth Stone. Steven Shulman in memory of his father, Jack Shulman.

MUSIC FUND

Randy Spratt & Sharen Eidelberg Spratt in honor of Rabbi Benjamin Spratt and Cantor Micah Morgovsky Spratt.

PRAYERBOOK FUND

Fran Berman in loving memory of Harry Klein.

PRESCHOOL FUND

Arlene Koiles in memory of her mother, Rose Koiles.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Michael Glick in memory of his brother, Allan Glick. Adina Linden in memory of her sister, Nordia Kay. Donald & Kitty Stoller. Lyn Christian. Mikhail Klarov. Sharen Eidelberg Spratt & Randy Spratt in fulfillment of the mitzvah of *matanot l'evyonim*.

TIKKUN OLAM/ SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Fran Berman in loving memory of Carl Wallman and Harriet Berman.

TZEDAKAH FUND

Glenn Mackles in memory of his mother, Charlotte Mackles. Cynthia Freedman and Marcia Blacker in memory of their dear friend Aaron "Ronnie" Sussman. Cathi Cherry-Liston in memory of her beloved father, Gerald Cherry.

ANNUAL FUND

Friends: Matt & Liz Jacobs, matched by Synopsis.

And a belated acknowledgment to Elizabeth Lieberman, for the kind contribution made in memory of her mother-in-law, Sue Ann Lieberman.

Yahrzeits

March Yahrzeits

1. Morris Greenfield, Dorothy Schwartz, Milfred Kniaz, Helen Ruth Levy, Eli Gaffen
2. Ann G. Schwartz, Elaine Rosenfeld, Lottie Nannis, Louis Samuels, Joseph Greenberg, Gerald "Jerry" Cherry, Carolyn Gaffin
3. Jacob Krasker, Susan Freedman Knussen, Henry Robbins, Pearl Rosenthal, Margie Blanding, Rabbi Norman Geller
4. Sarah Greenberg, Rose Koiles, Harriet Berman, Sophie Feldman, Sondra Rechy, Rose Baumstein, Duy Davis
5. B. Shafran, Sarah Trubowitz, Ilene Levin, Melvin Intriligator, Harry Rosen, Sumner Levy, Barbara F. Silverman, Jacqueline Boibeaux, Bette Aschkenasy, Esther Bavman, Ida Kirzner, Deeda Wharton, Hyman Levy
6. Doris Freedman, Ira Goldberg, Seth Lampert, Henry B. Glick, Paul Rubin, Roslyn Albert, Rosamond Hiller, Frank Anker, Betsey Weiss, Max B. Sanders
7. Gus Cronheim, Megan DuPrie, Arthur Shaver, Reb Aaron Rosenbaum, Sarah Atkins, Frank Birch, Ethel Trubowitz, Celia Pindrus, Ida Isacoff, Jim Goodman
8. Lucille Abelson, Isaac Rottenberg, Peter Dricker, Helen Eskin, Lorraine Kotlus, Francis J. McCarty
9. Morris (Mike) Levy, Ruth Heller, Irving Katz,

17 Adar / 18 Nisan 5781

- Loretta (Lucky) Levy, David Rosengard, Ida Rubin, Libbye Halperin, Katherine Goldberg, Louis Poyourow, George J. Feinberg
10. Nathan Levine, Norman Freedman, William B. Hirshberg, Carol Schultz, Celia Weinberg, Irving Tober, Howard J. Promer, Ruth Dinerman, Joel Perlman, Mary Low, Samuel Rosenberg, William Schoonmaker
11. Bernard Levy, Louis Schopick, Abraham Prostkoff, Eli Oil, Frances Dricker, Patrick Jackson, Ida Barr
12. Abraham Grossman, Charles Johnston, Jack Naparsteck, Alvin Efron, Stephen Bauer, Gertrude Isenstein, Myer Siegel, Arline Lieber, Mary Paisner, Bessie Shapiro, Rose Green
13. Sarah Moldoff, Benjamin Tober, Sidney Cohen, George Freedman, Harvey Ludwig, Rena Levi, Stanley M. Epstein, John McQueeney, Alan Cohen, Alan G. Rudolph
14. Lore Kauffman, Irene Trott, Rae Landgarten, Haskell Kram, Mary Mackles, Abraham Singer
15. Eunice Cohen, Jeffrey Gutin, Helen Hirsch, Jennie Goodman, Eve Jendrock, Ruth H. Toby, David Kushious
16. Nettie Taube, Morris Saitz, Sara Cohen, Abraham Taube, Sara Lewin
17. Leah Fleischman, June Singer, Minnie Zeidman, Sidney Trubowitz

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

18. Ida Grossman, Lee Rosen, Frieda Schramm,
Anna Bezar, Dora Dorf
19. Meyer Sharansky, Anne Baisuck, Herman Slass,
Maurice Friedman, Gussie Landsman,
Mary Mars
20. Annie Cantor, Joseph Schwartz,
Kevin Greenauer
21. Allen Scheff, Herbert Fox, Belle Windt
22. Barnet Freedman, Rose Richman, Abraham
Grossman, Irving Sternberg, Esther Issokson,
Albert Spaen
23. Goldie Selden, Max (Manny) Weisner,
Ronald Brass, Evelyn Berman, Harry Pastor,
Harold McCrensky, Gil Victor Ornelas,
Benjamin Green
24. Rose Cohen
25. Rose Handler, Morris Silverman, Haskel Kram,
Millicent Goodstein, Irving Diamond,
Tillie Shapiro, David Goldstein, Bella Taube
26. Aaron Stanhope, Aaron Warach,
Frederick Gersh, Jean Willens, Gertrude Grant,
Christine L. Kennon, Annie Yoffee
27. Miriam Ackerman, Otto Salzman, Robert Lasky,
Ruth Rome, Alexander Gottesman
28. Lee Harrison, Sylvia Portman, Bertha Fox
29. Sarah Black, Esther Shulman, Rosalie Katz,
Ruth Dennis, Rose B. Kates
30. (no congregational observance)
31. Lawrence Friedman, Davida Roberts,
Jerome Fishbein

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

Tikkun Olam Committee

7:00 pm, Wednesday, March 3

Membership Committee

7:00 pm, Monday, March 8

Marketing Committee

3:00 pm, Tuesday, March 9

Executive Committee

7:30 pm, Wednesday, March 10

Education Committee

11:30 am, Sunday, March 14

Board of Directors

7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 16

Cemetery Committee

10:00 am, Wednesday, March 17

Sustainability Committee

7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 23

Ritual Committee

7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 23

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.

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Sustainability Spotlight

The Spiller Farm

By Ellen Farber, Bill Spiller, and Christine Caputo

This month we spotlight the Spiller Farm in Wells, Maine. Anna and Bill Spiller purchased the farm in 1967, though the family has been farming there since 1894. As an only child, Bill wanted to be near his parents as they became older. The farm had a young orchard and raised free-range turkeys. When Bill and Anna took over, they expanded the orchard to grow 4 acres of strawberries, 4 acres of apples, 1 acre of raspberries, 30 acres of vegetable row crops, and hay fields. Spiller Farm also has a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) initiative that runs from mid-June to mid-October. CSA participants pay for “shares” and receive, in season, a weekly fruit and veggie box. This method allows the farm to pay for startup costs before crops come in. You can sign up for the CSA here: <http://spillerfarm.com>. The farm also has a U-Pick operation so that many people come to enjoy the farm with their children and take home some berries too!

Spiller Farm regularly gives donations of produce to church and community food banks. Bill explains his motivation “to show the connection with the mitzvah of following the teachings in the Book of Ruth as far as providing for the underprivileged by allowing gleaning and giving a portion of the crop to the needy. Also allowing the experience at the farm to allow people a better contact with the land which Ha-Shem has given us.” In 2016, the Spillers placed an Agricultural Conservation Easement on the land with the Great Works Land Trust to protect the farm from future development and ensure that future generations will be able to meet their own farming needs.

Congregant and Sustainability Committee member Ellen Farber, a longtime friend of the Spillers, writes,

“The Spillers are a Jewish family and are avid Zionists. This makes me particularly proud of their heritage and contributions to our community. I have personally experienced feelings of joy hearing the pleasure they get from spending time on the farm. I have learned a lot about agriculture, living off the land, and giving back to the land and the community from Anna and Bill. I have never met a more selfless and good-hearted couple, and it is their focus on social equity, consideration for conservation and their unending spirit of giving that make them excellent ambassadors for sustainable farming practices.”

What is sustainable agriculture and how does Spiller Farm embody this

practice? Practitioners of sustainable agriculture seek to promote environmental stewardship, increase production for human food and fiber needs, and enhance the quality of life for farm families and communities. Small family farms,

like Spiller Farm, are vital to our economy and make up more than 90% of farms in the US. They support and protect natural resources and the environment and expand the resource supply available. It is the spirit of giving back to the community and their protection of the land that makes Spiller Farm ‘sustainable’ in the modern sense, but it is clear that Bill’s motivations are connected to the ancient teachings of Judaism. This is a beautiful intersection between the ancient and modern worlds. The sustainability committee hopes TIP congregants will visit Spiller Farm to enjoy the land and the farm – especially when the snow is gone and the crops are bountiful!



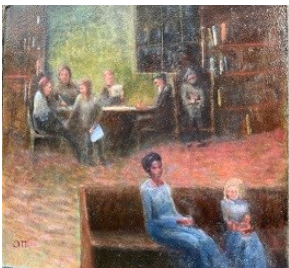
SISC / Sisterhood

By Ellen Fineberg

Please join us on Saturday, March 13, at 7:30 pm, as the Dover Friends host an evening of song, scripture, and reflection on the essence and intention of Sanctuary. The event is free and all are welcome.



Register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/join?pwd=ZkFkdzRlbnVudDQyMjYwLWwKdHJWZWtldUo0QUlnNjUtutdV3g>



The program benefits SISC, the Seacoast Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition, an alliance of eight faith organizations, including Temple Israel, plus individuals committed to

welcoming and supporting immigrants. For more information, contact SISC Coordinator Ellen Fineberg at efineberg75@gmail.com.

Jewish Federation of NH

Are you getting their news?

The Federation sponsors many educational and cultural programs in addition to the work of the shlichah and the Jewish Film Festival!

Please consider subscribing to the email list(s) that match your interests to keep up with their latest offerings!



To sign up online, go to www.jewishnh.org and click the “Connect” button.

By Kerry Hansen

On Sunday morning, February 21, bakers from the TIP community and beyond gathered via Zoom to bake hamantaschen with Helen Hanan and Lorrie Grossman.

The Sisterhood held their second Rosh Hodesh meeting on February 13. The topic of the month of Adar was joy, and what a joyful meeting this was! Many thanks to co-leaders Glicka Kaplan and Kerry Hansen for inviting us to take a journey of joy.



The next Rosh Hodesh meeting will be on Sunday, April 11, at 7:30 pm, and will be co-led by Glicka Kaplan and Cathi Cherry-Liston. See you there!

Our congregation grieves with our families who have recently suffered losses.

Condolences to **Joyce Meenes** on the passing of her beloved husband, **Ronald Meenes**.

Condolences to **Diane and David Levine** on the passing of David's mother, congregant **Celia Levine Sroelov**.

In Our Community

Practical Learning Series

The Membership Committee is pleased to sponsor two programs this month via Zoom (links are found in the weekly bulletin or by registering on the website calendar):

7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 11, Jewish Bioethics During a Pandemic

Dr. Carol Gerson and Rabbi Garry Gerson will review some of the approaches we might use to guide us when faced with crisis decisions. We will debate which of these criteria we think are ethical, and look at how Jewish sources would have us address ethically difficult decisions, with emphasis now on vaccine acceptance and distribution.



7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 23

Nutrition During COVID

Presenter Rhonda Brandes, RD, LDN., registered and licensed dietitian, discusses this timely topic.

Photos at right by Cathi Cherry-Liston show revelers at the parking lot Purim-Palooza event on February 26. Many thanks to our volunteers for organizing, staffing, and clean-up, and also to the Cultural Endowment Fund for generous financial support of all Temple Israel's Purim festivities!

Job opening: Head of School/Family Programming Coordinator

As Amy Hyett mentioned in her column on p. 4 of this issue, Temple Israel is seeking a dynamic, creative educator who is passionate about Jewish learning to direct our Hebrew School (K-7) and to implement family programming to foster ongoing engagement of families with children and teens. Our ideal candidate is a warm and approachable person committed to working collaboratively. We envision this as a 30-hour per week position.

For a complete job description, please see the website or contact the office.

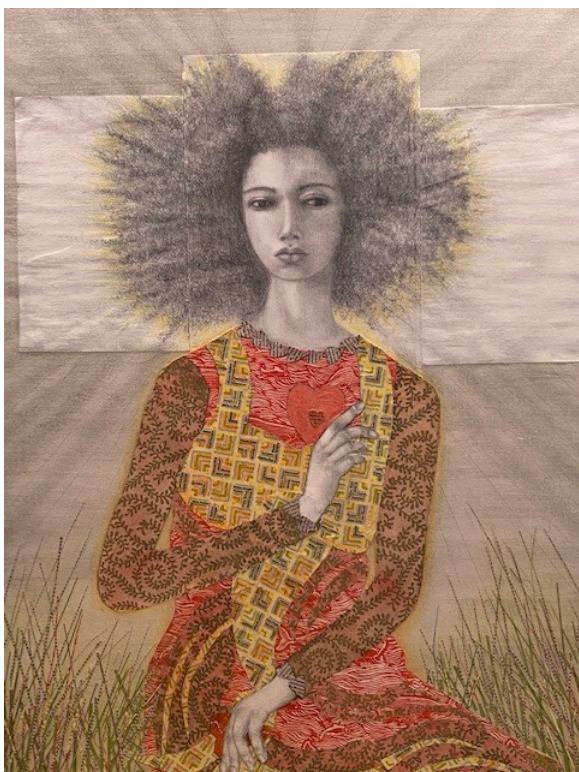


Arts Review Team

By Deborah Levine, Arts Review Team Chair

Our Temple Israel Players' second Read Aloud play, *Lost in Yonkers*, by Neil Simon, is scheduled on Zoom this Sunday, March 7, from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m., including intermission and Q & A. Register on the website calendar to receive the Zoom link, or find it in the Friday bulletin. Anyone interested in virtual theater performed by a cast of fellow congregants is welcome to tune in and be entertained by a wacky Jewish family from a bygone era in New York.

Also coming up on March 14 is a Zoom presentation by participants in the "Works in Response to or Created During COVID Times" exhibit. Enjoy meeting the seacoast artists, photographers, storytellers and writers who have contributed their talents. Photographs from pre-Covid Israel will also be included. The exhibit will be viewable by individuals and small groups, in line with current pandemic restrictions and by appointment. Comments are encouraged in the book provided in the Shmooze.



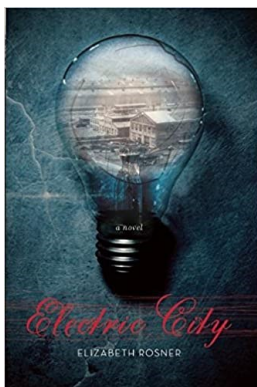
Images: top right, photo of pre-COVID Israel from the congregational trip in 2020.

Bottom right: *Remembrances* by Brigitte Keller.

Left: *Covid Madonna* by Judy Wilbur-Albertson.

TIP Book Club - March

Electric City, by Elizabeth Rosner



Please join us on Tuesday, March 16, at 11:30 am, via Zoom, for a lively discussion!

The publisher's description: *Electric City* is a vital, pulsing, epic novel of America, of its great scientific ingenuity and its emotional ambition; one that frames the birth and evolution of its towns against the struggles of its indigenous tribes, the immigrant experience, a country divided, and the technological advancements that ushered in the modern world.

Temple Israel Portsmouth

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OFFICE HOURS

**March, 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

