

The Doorpost

Temple Israel
Monthly Newsletter
March 2023, Adar - Nisan 5783

From the Rabbi's Desk



Upcoming Events

It has been a remarkable final week of February for our temple. On February 21, our building and property were defaced with hateful graffiti. What followed was truly heartening and strengthening. On Friday, February 24, our temple received dozens upon dozens of flowers from Portsmouth community members through a project organized by Portsmouth Assistant Mayor Joanna Kelley (whose business Cup of Joe's was also targeted) entitled "Love Blooms Here." All that afternoon, individuals unrelated to our temple brought flowers, placed them on our front steps, and shared their sentiments of concern and support for us all.

On Friday night, a group of approximately thirty

Continued on page 2

Temple Israel
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

**PURIM CARNIVAL
&
MEGILLAH READING
(With Surprise Special Guests!)**

Monday, March 6th
4:00 Carnival
5:30 Pizza & Salad
6:00 Purim Shpiel

First Friday Tot Shabbat, p. 3

4:30 pm, Friday, 3/3, Social Hall

Purim Community Celebration, Monday, 3/6, p. 6

4:00 pm, Carnival in the Social Hall

5:30 pm, Pizza & salad, Social Hall

6:00 Megillah Reading & Purim shpiel, Sanctuary

Lunch & Learn with NH *Shaliach* Ra'anana de Haas, p. 11

After Shabbat Services, Saturday, 3/11

Black Heritage Trail Tea Talk

2:00 pm, Sunday, 3/12, Social Hall

TIP Reads! First group meetings are week of 3/13

10:30 am, Tuesday, 3/14, Chapel

6:15 pm (after minyan), Tuesday, 3/14, via Zoom

3:45 pm, Wednesday, 3/15, Shmooze

7:00 pm (after services), Friday, 3/17, Shmooze

2 "Taking the Measure of Nature" talks, p. 10

7:30 pm (after services) Friday, 3/17, Social Hall

11am, Sunday, 3/19, Board Room & via Zoom

Sisterhood Re-Launch Meeting, p. 12

Sunday, 3/19, 9:30 am, Social Hall & via Zoom

Review the upcoming TIP Budget, p. 11

7:00 pm, Thursday, 3/23, Social Hall

Youth Shabbat, p. 6

10:00 am, Saturday, 3/25

Seder Plate Workshop, p. 6

1:30 pm, Sunday, 3/26, offsite venue

Geniza Teaching - Open to the Community

4:00 pm, Wednesday, 3/29, Banfield Rd Cemetery

TIP Book Club Discusses *Thistlefoot*, p. 16

12:00 pm, Monday, 3/27, Shmoozatorium

**Complete CLASS AND COMMITTEE MEETING schedule
continues on page 13.**

From Rabba Kaya's Desk



Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman

Continued from page 1

volunteers organized by CAFA (an advocacy agency based in Kittery) braved the cold and wind to form a human chain outside of our doors as guardians during our services. Friday and Saturday services took place peacefully and without

incident.

On Sunday, February 26, our temple hosted a "Community Gathering for Love." Over 220 people packed into our synagogue social hall for an uplifting, heart-opening experience. Representatives from the Black community, LGBTQ community, Quaker and Christian communities, and others, shared music, poetry, prayers, and messages of support. A representative from the ADL, Rabbi Ron Fish, spoke beautifully along with other local ministers and unaffiliated people of all ages. A gay young man from Russia, currently seeking asylum in the United States, spoke about his experience of oppression in Russia. A mother of a son with Down syndrome spoke about her extremely positive experience of raising her child here in the Seacoast.

There was a great need to process the pain of this recent experience as well as to express support and love for the Jewish community and all who live here in the Seacoast. Participants repeated the clarion call to turn our loving feelings into actions to counter the growing hate in our land.

Rabbi Ron Fish of the ADL reminded us that we are now approaching Purim. This holiday tells the story of Esther, a Jewish woman who has masked her Jewish identity for the sake of survival. However, when the Jews of her land are threatened, she is challenged to reveal her true identity in order to bring salvation to her people. Unique to this Biblical story is that there is absolutely no mention of God. Redemption comes through human intervention. Rabbi Fish challenged us all to remove the masks we may wear and to speak out against hate in all its forms. This is one of the great challenges of our times. May it begin today.

With blessings,

Rabba Kaya

Lunch & Learn Tefilah Classes continue

12:15 pm to 1:30 pm, 3 Thursdays in March (3/9, 3/16, 3/23)

For many of us, our education about Jewish prayer ended when we graduated from



Hebrew School. This class will provide a deeper understanding of the basic components, structure, and rhythms of our services. Come learn!

The class will meet in person in the chapel and remotely using the regular Zoom link for services. Class handouts and Zoom recordings for previous classes are posted on the website calendar event page.

Prayer

Service Times

Weekday Minyan, Tuesday, 5:30 pm, ZOOM ONLY

Kabbalat Shabbat, Friday, 6:00 pm, 3/3 & 3/10

Service time changes to 6:30 pm beginning 3/17

Shabbat Morning, Saturday, 10:00 am, with participation from Hebrew School students and Torah reading

- *Zoom links to virtual services are in the weekly bulletin, with exceptions as noted. Members can also log into their ShulCloud account and find the Zoom links for regular and b'nei mitzvah services on the "Member Resources" page.*

Tot Shabbat, Alternative Services

First Fridays, dates and times below.

With musical guests Lisa Jane Lipkin and Jay Hitt. Kindly register for Tot Shabbat on the website calendar.

Upcoming Tot Shabbat services, 4:30 - 5:00 pm

- March 3, March 31, May 5, June 9

Upcoming Alternative Services

- 6:00 pm: March 3
- 6:30 pm: March 31, May 5, June 9

Traditional Services

Second Fridays; no instruments. Start times:

- 6:00 pm: March 10
- 6:30 pm: April 14, May 12, June 2

Potluck Meals

Third Fridays, after 1-hour service.

- March 17, June 16

Candle Lighting

March 3, 5:18 pm

March 10, 5:26 pm

March 17, 6:35 pm

March 24, 6:43 pm

March 31, 6:51 pm

-
- **Thursday, May 25:** special Tikkun Leil Shavuot "Blintzes and Blini" dairy potluck.

Shabbat Morning Yoga

- In the Social Hall with instructor Allison Miller
- 9:00 am Saturdays, 3/4 via ZOOM, 3/11, 3/18 and 3/25. **Register on the website calendar**

Tikkun Hanefesh Shabbat

- Saturday, 3/18, sponsored by the Tikkun Olam Committee.
- The morning starts with yoga and an Alternative Shabbat Morning Service including contemplative prayer, chanting, and poetry, followed by a kiddush luncheon.

Youth Shabbat

- Saturday, 3/25, followed by kiddush luncheon

Community Passover Seder

- Thursday, April 6, 6:00 pm
- Register via the website calendar by 3/24
- Join your community for a meaningful evening as we journey from slavery to freedom in the company of friends, with traditional seder foods and wine.

President's Message



Robert Zimman
President

Dear Fellow Congregants,
This is not the article I wanted to write this month. Nor is it the article I intended to write this month. This is the article I felt compelled to write after the recent events in Portsmouth. As Rabba Kaya and I wrote in our email immediately after the incidents

of hate occurred, Temple Israel was not the only target of hateful graffiti in the early morning hours of February 21. We know that there has been a significant amount of media coverage including newspaper, radio, and television as well as coverage by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA), which gave the story a national and international presence. I received a phone call from one of my brothers who lives in California, wanting to know how everything was because he had seen the JTA article.

Politicians at both the state and local level including Governor Sununu, the New Hampshire Attorney General, and the Portsmouth City Council have spoken out denouncing the incidents and the perpetrator. And our own Loren Selig, a recently elected member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives, stood on the House floor along with representatives of both parties to denounce the incidents.

The despicable actions on Tuesday were not necessarily isolated from other recent displays of hate in Portsmouth, but as Jews we know the long history of antisemitic hate. We also know that

antisemitism frequently expands to hate directed towards other minority groups, as seems to have happened this time. Our temple, along with fourteen other properties that are owned or associated with people of color, or expressive of inclusivity, were targeted.

The Portsmouth Police Department has identified a person of interest and is working with the New Hampshire Attorney General as well as county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

On the positive side, we have received numerous emails and phone calls of support as well as donations from both members and friends. A group of volunteers organized by Community Advocates for Family and Youth (CAFA) stood guard outside our temple to provide extra support and security while we gathered for Kabbalat Shabbat services. A group of local non-profits banded together to create Love Blooms Here, to deliver donated flowers to our temple and the affected businesses. And we held a Community Gathering for Love at our temple. Although these positive actions cannot take away the hate, they do put hope in our hearts and remind us to continue *tikkun olam*, our efforts to repair the world.

Portsmouth Athenaeum Statement

by the Board of Directors and Executive Director, 2/22/23

The Portsmouth Athenaeum was incorporated by the state in 1817 "to promote learning and diffuse useful knowledge." Now more than ever, the Athenaeum stands firmly opposed to the recent displays of hatred, bigotry, and ignorance throughout our community.

Ritual Committee

Finding Shabbat Peace – and Community

By Fran Berman, VP Ritual

Shabbat is a very special gift that keeps on giving, week after week, if we choose to accept it. Shabbat provides an opportunity to disengage from the pressures of daily life and move into a timeless zone, reaching a higher spiritual plane where we can connect with the wonders and mysteries of our world.

The practices included in Shabbat observance are designed to help us make this shift. On Friday night many of us light candles at home to mark the beginning of the transition from weekday to Shabbat. The blessings over wine and challah reinforce that transition.

Then we have Shabbat services, which start us on a spiritual journey. At Temple Israel, we now offer four different types of Friday night services every month. Each service is followed by an oneg made up of some light snacks (or a potluck meal), giving us time to meet and welcome visitors and to build our connections as a community.

Please note that our Friday night services will make the seasonal shift from starting at 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm beginning on Friday, March 17.

Alternative/Musical Service: On the first Friday of most months, guest musicians Lisa and Jay join Rabba Kaya in leading the Kabbalat Shabbat service. This service uses the *Mishkan T'filah* siddur that was used at Temple Israel Dover. This siddur has many beautiful English readings in addition to the Hebrew blessings and prayers that are traditional when welcoming Shabbat. Whether you are knowledgeable in Hebrew or not, this service is easy to access and spiritually uplifting.

Tot Shabbat: On one Friday each month (usually the first Friday), we offer a short service geared toward children age five and under and their families. This joyous musical introduction to Shabbat led by Rabba Kaya takes place in our Social Hall at 4:30 and is followed by a taste of juice and challah.



Fran Berman
VP, Ritual

Traditional Service: On the second Friday of the month we offer a traditional service with no instrumental accompaniment. Our a cappella voices join in song and prayer using more traditional melodies at this service. The simplicity of the service is part of its appeal. If you have not tried a traditional service, I encourage you to attend, either in person or via Zoom.

Kabbalat Shabbat with Potluck: On the third Friday we hold a “regular” Kabbalat Shabbat service, with drumming and guitar as part of the experience. The musical accompaniment raises our spirits and builds energy as we say and sing the usual prayers to welcome Shabbat. After the service, we head to the Social Hall to enjoy a vegetarian/dairy potluck meal, sitting at tables in community. The sounds of conversation and laughter fill the room. After the meal, we may sing the brief *Birkat hamazon* (prayers after the meal) and we enjoy a few traditional *zemirot* (songs). This is a great way to welcome Shabbat.

I hope you will try one or more of our Friday night services. All are accessible in person or via Zoom using the regular service link found in the temple’s weekly notice.

Hebrew School



Erik Martin
Head of School

Purim Carnival & Shpiel, Monday, March 6

4:00 PM Carnival, Pizza & Salad

6:00 PM Purim Shpiel &
Megillah Reading

Join us for an evening of

merriment: We'll have games,
prizes, music, food, and hear
the megillah. Come for the

carnival and dinner, stay to help drown out
Haman's name during the megillah reading. Don't
forget your costume! Our Purim shpiel will feature
some special surprise guests!



FREE Nefesh Mountain Concert

Thursday, March 16th, 6:00 pm

Clark University, Tilton Hall, Worcester, MA

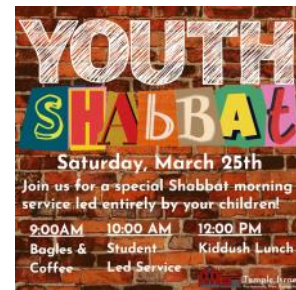
A very special opportunity for anyone willing to
make a short road trip. Nefesh Mountain, one of
the premier bluegrass bands of our time, will be
having a FREE concert at Clark University! Nefesh
Mountain blends the soulful twang of bluegrass
with Jewish prayer and storytelling. Recognized as
"A master class in string music" by Rolling Stone,
and "arguably some of the best bluegrass ever
made" by American Songwriter, this is an exciting
chance to see them live and in person in our region.
No tickets or registration required.

Youth Shabbat

**Saturday, March 25,
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

Join us for a very special
Shabbat service as our
students lead the

prayers! Please come for bagels and coffee
before the service and stay for kiddush lunch
afterwards. Our students are excited to show
you what they've learned!



Seder Plate Workshop

Sunday, March 26, 1:30 - 3:00 pm

A plate like no other, because YOU made it!

Join Temple Israel as we prepare to celebrate
Pesach! Design the Seder plate of your dreams
under the guidance of professional artists who
will help you turn your ideas into a masterpiece
for generations to come. This event is open to
the public so please invite your friends!

Snacks are
provided, so
come nosh
and sip away
the afternoon
with us!
\$18 suggested
donation per
project.



**Registration required by March 20 via the
website calendar.**

This is a family-friendly event, but please,
children aged 10 and under MUST be
accompanied by an adult. Venue address
provided with registration confirmation.

Early Learning Center

Shalom,

The ELC has been learning about the work it takes to be a veterinarian, along with the mitzvah of taking care of animals. The Torah says that animals are part of God's creation. They have sensitivity and the potential for compassion. People are therefore responsible for showing compassion toward them and protecting them. The Jewish value of compassion is called *tz'ar ba'alei chayim* in Hebrew.



Tammy Roberge
Director, ELC

returned to help teach in the classroom and create the special snack with the ELC students. Thank you, Laura!



We also learned about the Jewish holiday of Tu B'Shvat, the "New Year for Trees."

The students worked on related projects in the classroom, enjoyed hearing stories about the holiday, held a Tu B'Shvat seder, and ate a special snack featuring foods that trees provide. Laura Sher

Questions about the ELC? Call me: 603-436-5301, ext. 23, or send me an email at preschooldirector@templeisraelnh.org. Tammy and the ELC team (Elian, Laura, Steve, Amy, and Marge)

Donations

Received January 27 - February 27, 2023.

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Michael and Glicka Kaplan. Wendy Heard.

ANNUAL FUND

Matthew Kleiger writes, "I'm a former New Yorker and member of Temple Beth Jacob. I was disgusted to hear what happened. I hope my contribution helps."

CULTURAL ENDOWMENT FUND

Jim and Myra Fishbein in memory of Jim's father, Arnold Fishbein and in memory of his grandfather, David Fishbein. Jewel Davis in memory of her mother, Frances Lowe Davis.

DINNERMAN-ROTTENBERG EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND

A generous bequest was received from the estate of David Forman. Barbara Fox in memory of her grandfather, Rev. Jacob Segal. Joyce Meenes in loving memory of her father, Sam Rottenberg, her husband, Ronald Meenes, and her grandmother, Bessie Abrams.

HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

Michael and Glicka Kaplan.

INSTITUTIONAL OPERATING ENDOWMENT FUND

Sue and Steve Tober in memory of Sue's parents, Daniel and Rosalyn Schwartz, and in memory of Steve's father, Benjamin Tober. Gloria Moldoff in memory of her father, Albert Woolfson. Bert and Deborah Freedman wish speedy recoveries to Rabba Kaya and to Marcia Baron. Trent Spiner writes, "Sending a small contribution for cleanup."

KIDDUSH FUND

Adina Linden in memory of her sister, Nordia Kay. Donation made in memory of Howard J. Promer, loving husband, father, and grandfather. "We miss you and we love you. Always in our hearts," by Myrna, Dan, Tania, and family.

MUSIC FUND

Fran Berman In loving memory of Harry Klein and Carl Wallman.

PRAYERBOOK FUND

Judy and John Craig in loving memory of David Blank, Judy's maternal great-grandfather.

PRESCHOOL FUND

Veta Stone in memory of her mother-in-law, Elizabeth Stone.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Mikhail Klarov. Paula and Karl Singer in memory of Karl's mother, Anne Singer. Beth Zinderman in memory of her daughter, Lauren Elizabeth Burnham. Linda Cote in memory of her mother, Charlotte Mackle. Patty Diengott in memory of her grandmothers, Jane Wise and Ida Siegel. Anonymous Donor.

TIKKUN OLAM FUND

Gary Epler.

TZEDAKAH FUND

Cynthia Freedman and Marcia Blacker in memory of their friend Aaron "Ron" Sussman. Rebecca Strout wrote a message of support: "Hate has no home here." Ellen Farber in memory of her husband, Jack Farber. Naomi Fishbein in memory of her husband, Arnold Fishbein, and her father-in-law, David Fishbein.

**And THANK YOU to the many congregants, friends,
and neighbors who have donated funds and flowers,
and sent kind cards and letters.**



Tikkun Olam / Nominating

By Shelley Hartz, Tikkun Olam Committee Chair

Purim Food Drive to Benefit Seacoast Food Provider's Network

Monday, March 6, and
Tuesday March 7.

Everyone knows that Purim is a holiday of fun and games and sharing in *Shalach*

Manot, but an important part of the holiday is also giving gifts to those in need. One of the four mitzvot of Purim is *Matanot La-eyyonim*, giving to the poor. Please fulfill this mitzvah by donating one or more items from the list below.

Food and other items will be delivered to Seacoast Food Providers Network, which “works to create a collaborative, sustainable, and efficient charitable food system through a network of food pantries and community kitchens to ensure all community members have dignified access to food.”

Please donate any of the following items: Ready to serve soup/chili, rice (white, brown, or jasmine), peanut butter and jelly, pasta and spaghetti, cereal and oatmeal, canned tuna, shampoo / conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes, granola bars.

Items can be dropped in the designated bins in the main lobby of the Court Street entrance and in the Schmooze by the State Street entrance.

PLEASE make sure the expiration date has not expired on the items donated.

Save the date: Friday, April 28

The New Immigrant/Refugee Shabbat service originally planned for February has been rescheduled. Please join us afterwards for a special Oneg Shabbat!



Seeking to Fill Open Board Positions

By Mel Prostkoff, Nominating Committee Chair

Under the current Temple Israel bylaws, the following officers and directors are to be elected at the time of the May 8, 2023 Annual Meeting: **President, VP-Ritual, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and three Directors.**

Current President-Elect Jared Nabel wishes to move up to be president (2 year term). Incumbents VP - Ritual Fran Berman and Treasurer Rich LeSavoy have both offered to serve an additional 2-year term. Current Director Joanne Samuels has offered to serve an additional 3-year term. The Nominating Committee has endorsed all of the above current board members.

The officer position of recording secretary and two director positions still need to be filled. We are pleased to have qualified candidates for the director positions but **we are still looking for a Recording Secretary nominee.**

The recording secretary (2-year term) is also a member of the Executive Committee and takes notes and publishes the minutes of the monthly board meetings. Loren Selig has offered to train her replacement in her time-saving techniques. Directors (3-year term) attend the monthly board meetings, and act as liaisons with one or more committees.

All temple members in good standing for at least one year are eligible to serve as officers or directors. A nominee for president must have served on the board for at least one previous year. Board membership is a great way to meet people and help ensure the vibrancy of Temple Israel.

Please contact Nominating Committee Chair Mel Prostkoff via email at Nominating@templeIsraelNH.org if you are interested in serving on the board, would like more information about the available positions, or would like to suggest a candidate.

Arts Review Team

By Deborah Levine, Arts Review Team Chair

As we experience the last of winter in New England, climate change is causing glaciers to melt at an alarming rate in Alaska and elsewhere, affecting the survival of the villagers who live there, native wild-life, and the landscape. These same changes have a serious impact on the future of our planet. As Jews, we are encouraged to be good stewards of the earth and to value all of God's creations.

The upcoming presentation by **Walter and Emma Rous** will offer a photographic exploration of Alaska's Glacier Bay National Park and vicinity, documenting changes which are already visible.

Upcoming Exhibits

"Landscape and the Natural World" will be the theme for our next exhibit.

March 17 and 19, "Taking the Measure of Nature: Glacier Bay National Park," a presentation and photo exhibit by Emma and Walter Rous. They will also provide some landscapes from their recent trip to New Zealand. Enjoy the photos on display in the Social Hall during the community potluck after services on Friday, 3/17. Emma and Walter will do a walk-through of their work with opportunities for informal Q&A. Then join us in person and via Zoom at 11:00 am on Sunday, 3/19, as they talk more about their travels and the creation of the works. Refreshments provided.

Steve Russell, president of Friends of Mt. Sunapee, will be exhibiting photos of local forest landscapes.

Fran Berman will also contribute her photographs.



Jill Poyourow's solo art show, "You're Gonna Make It After All!" will be exhibited at the Grant Wahlquist Gallery in



Portland, Maine, from March 3 to April 8. Read more about it in her [press release](#), linked in the Friday bulletin. The bulletin will also include a new date for the rescheduled Artist Reception.

Some of Jill's work will come to Temple Israel later this spring for a portraiture exhibit. Paintings by **Julie Serrano** will also be on display.



Current & Upcoming Classes

Intermediate Marimba with Tchukki Anderson.

Class meets in the social hall on Mondays at 6:00 pm. See the website calendar for details.

Hand Drumming for Beginners. Continues Thursday afternoons at 3:30, March 2, 9, and 16.

The Arts Review Team sponsored **Sandell Morse's** third writing workshop session, which participants greatly enjoyed. (The TIP Book Group will be reading Sandell's memoir and hosting her in April, see page 16 for details.)

Treasurer / Upcoming

Dear fellow congregants,

As we approach the end of our 2023 fiscal year on June 30th, we are already at work creating our fiscal year 2024 budget. The budget serves as an essential tool in analyzing and maintaining the financial security of Temple Israel.

Preparing the budget is an iterative process involving our department heads and many committee chairs. All our members also have an opportunity to review the proposed budget and provide input. To that end, I will hold a public meeting on March 23 at 7:00 pm in the Social Hall at the temple. If you cannot join us in person, please join via Zoom using the regular link for services found in every Friday bulletin.

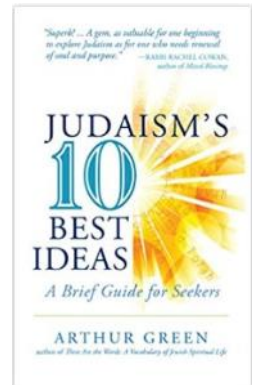
I look forward to your participation, questions, and recommendations.

Richard LeSavoy, Treasurer

treasurer@templeisraelnh.org

TIP Reads!

This winter and spring we are gathering in small groups to read and discuss *Judaism's Ten Best Ideas: A Guide for Seekers* by Arthur Green.



Books have arrived. Groups will meet the week of March

13 and set additional meeting dates. Current time slots & first meeting dates:

- 10:30 am Tuesdays, at the temple, 3/14
- After Tuesday minyan, via Zoom, 3/14
- 4:30 -5:30 pm Wednesdays in the Shmooze, 3/15
- "Shabbat club," after Friday services, 3/17

There's still time to sign up! Contact the temple office or see the website calendar for March.

Lunch & Learn with NH *Shaliach*

Saturday, March 11, after Shabbat Services

What's going on in Israel? What happened in the last election? How does Israel's legal system work? What changes are proposed? Learn about all of this at a Lunch and Learn with Ra'anah de Haas. Sponsored by the Israel Affairs Committee.



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15th Annual New Hampshire Jewish Film Festival

March 16 - March 26

Bonus Weeks 3/ 27 - 4/ 16



Announcing a premier lineup of 11 truly outstanding and diverse feature-length films and a 5-film

shorts program that will excite, enlighten and provoke you, our audience. Presented this year as a multi-access experience, featuring both in-theater and virtual screenings of films from around the globe.

Schedule and tickets online at:

<https://2023nhjff.eventive.org/schedule>

Family Programs

Tu BiShvat Celebration

On February 5, we had a wonderful time in celebration of Tu BiShvat, the Jewish New Year for trees, also known as the Jewish Earth Day. Children learned how we can fight climate change, via fun STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) activities. These included making edible greenhouse gas molecules, plastic bottle gardens, and carbon dioxide balloons.



Later, we enjoyed a seder of delicious fruits, nuts, cocktails, and mocktails, plus singing and dancing with musical guests Lisa Jane Lipkin and Jay Hitt.



Erik offers heartfelt thanks to Joyce Meenes and Ron Sher for their help preparing for and then documenting this very special event!

Havdalah: Laser Tag & Ice Cream Social

Pew, pew! We ended this year's Havdalah programs with a bang on Saturday, February 18, at Hilltop Fun Center.



Photo, above: Laser Tag! Photo, below: ELC students caring for their classroom "pets."



Sisterhood Re-Launch!

Please join us on Sunday, March 19, for a meeting to reestablish the Temple Israel Sisterhood. Come at 9:00 for refreshments; business meeting will start at 9:30. Bring your energy, enthusiasm, and ideas! Register on the website calendar to help us plan for refreshments.

Questions? Please contact Rachel Dennis, Sisterhood@templeisraelnh.org.

"MOMentum" trip / Classes

By Amy Lester

Momentum is a global movement focused on the greatest influencer -- the Jewish mother. Dedicated to inspiring Jewish mothers to live their most meaningful lives, Momentum offers empowering journeys and revitalizing events. Our local group's Israel trip plans have been finalized. We have twelve NH women going, and eight are from the Seacoast! The trip is one week long and begins April 25. Of our twelve participants, only three have previously been to Israel.



We had one welcome Zoom and our first in-person meeting was an Israeli cooking event at my house. Each participant was partnered with someone she didn't know. Together, they planned, shopped, and cooked a dish. We got to know one another and all are very excited for what's to come.



Reminder: Please log into your ShulCloud account to confirm meeting dates on the website calendar.

CLASSES

Intermediate Biblical Hebrew Grammar

4:00 pm Mondays, via Zoom, EXCEPT 3/6

Intermediate Marimba, p. 10

6:00 pm, Mondays, Social Hall EXCEPT 3/6

Beginner Prayerbook Hebrew Grammar

6:30 pm Tuesdays, via Zoom

Intro to Biblical Hebrew Grammar

6:30 pm Tuesdays, via Zoom

Yiddish for Beginners, Shmoozatorium

11:00 am - 12:30 pm, every Wednesday in March

Lunch & Learn Tefilah Class, Chapel & Zoom

12:15 pm - 1:30 pm, Thursdays 3/9, 3/16, 3/23

Advanced Torah Reading & Grammar

10:30 am Thursdays, via Zoom

Hand-Drumming for Beginners, p. 10

3:30 pm Thursdays, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, Chapel

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

House Committee

6:00 pm, Thursday, 3/2, in person at TIP

Executive Committee

7:30 pm, Wednesday, 3/15

Israel Affairs Committee

3:30 pm, Tuesday 3/21

Board of Directors

7:00 pm, Tuesday, 3/21

Education Committee

7:00 pm, Thursday, 3/23

Ritual Committee

7:00 pm, Tuesday 3/28

Note: Committee meetings are being held via Zoom at this time unless otherwise noted.

Yahrzeits

March Yahrzeits

1. Peggy Aaby, Joseph Cohen, Marie Mayer, Louis Horwitz, Bessie Partoll, Jerry Slutzky, Sue Weiskopf, Elliot Allen
2. Morris Klaiman, William Shoer, Michael Fox, Morris (Murray) Marcus, Charles West, Lena Ackerman, Bessie Marcus
3. William I. Woolfson, Lazar Kantor, Jack Lessow, Perla Ohayon, Mendel Feldman, Robert Spratt, Louis Baer, Max David Mendelovitz, Gertrude Salloway, Helen Krassner, Frank Whittemore
4. Ann Belinsky, Abraham Levitt, Benjamin Gersh, Sam Rosenfield, Barney Roach, Ralph Harrison, Stephen Stocklan, Harry Fleischman, Margaret Levine, Herbert Cohen, Ida Wenig, Corinne Wiseman, Max Goldstein
5. Benjamin Cohn, Rose Osher, Jack Shulman, Jonathan Brann, David Davidson, Edward Baer, Margaret Levor Gutman, Bessie Stromer, Frances Goodman, Katie Robbins
6. Henry Greenberg, Louis Forman, Philip Cohen, Ari Legerstee, Fivesh Grossman
7. Minnie Brown, Solomon Levine, Robert Leavitt, Alexander Vero, Lillian Greenfield, Richard Goldberg, Joseph Fritz, Lily Sanders, Howard Silverman
8. Lena Gorman, Shirley Ginsberg, Bertram Marks, Hester Schwartz, Ruth Miller
9. Sylvia Kahn Hillson, Louis Boxer, Daniel Newman
10. Dorothy Schwartz, Milfred Kniaz, Eli Gaffin, Helen Ruth Levy, Morris Greenfield, Gussie Wurm Gross
11. Anne G. Schwartz, Elaine Rosenfeld, Lottie

8 Adar - 9 Nisan 5783

- Nannis, Louis Samuels, Gerald "Jerry" Cherry, Carolyn Gaffin, Joseph Greenberg
12. Jacob Krasker, Henry Robbins, Pearl Rosenthal, Rabbi Norman Geller, Henry B. Glick, Susan Knussen, Margie Blanding, Jackie Eskin
 13. Sarah Greenberg, Rose Koiles, Harriet Berman, Sophie Feldman, Sondra Rechy, Duy Davis, Rose Baumstein
 14. Harry Rosen, Sumner Levy, Barbara F. Silverman, Jacqueline Boibeaux, Bette Aschkenasy, Esther Bravman, Ida Kirzner, Hyman Levy, B. Shafran, Sarah Trubowitz, Ilene Levin, Melvin Intriligator, Deeda Wharton
 15. Doris Freedman, Ira Goldberg, Seth Lampert, Paul Rubin, Roslyn Albert, Frank Anker, Max B. Sanders, Betsey Weiss, Rosamond Hiller
 16. Gus Cronheim, Megan DuPrie, Arthur Shaver, Reb Aaron Rosenbaum, Sarah Atkins, Frank Birch, Ethel Trubowitz, Celia Pindrus, Ida Isacoff, Jim Goodman, Seymour Simmons
 17. Isaac Rottenberg, Lorraine Kotlus, Francis J. McCarty, Lucille Abelson, Peter Dricker, Helen Eskin
 18. Morris (Mike) Levy, Ruth Heller, Irving Katz, Loretta (Lucky) Levy, David Rosengard, Ida Rubin, Katherine Goldberg, Louis Poyourow, George J. Feinberg, Libbye Halperin, David Forman, Laura Fink
 19. Nathan Levine, Norman Freedman, Carol Schultz, Celia Weinberg, Irving Tober, Joel Perlman, Mary Low, Samuel Rosenberg, William Schoonmaker,

Need to recite Mourner's Kaddish? Please join our minyan online or in person on Tuesday, Fridays, and Saturdays. See schedule on page 3. A prayer to say a personal Kaddish without a minyan is also available on our website or contact the office to receive it by mail or email.

Yahrzeits / Guest Essay

William Hirshberg, Howard J. Promer, Ruth Dinerman

20. Louis Schopick, Abraham Prostkoff, Eli Oil, Frances Dricker, Patrick Jackson, Ida Barr, Bernard Levy

21. Charles Johnston, Abraham Grossman, Jack Naparsteck, Alvin Efron, Stephen Bauer, Bessie Shapiro, Rose Green, Gertrude Isenstein, Arline Lieber, Mary Paisner, Myer Siegel, Wendy Drager

22. Rena Levi, Alan Cohen, Dr. Harold Brown, Sarah Moldoff, Benjamin Tober, George Freedman, Harvey Ludwig, Stanley M. Epstein, John (Mac) McQueeney, Sidney Cohen, Alan Rudolph

23. Lore Kauffman, Irene Trott, Rae Landgarten, Haskell Kram, Mary Mackles, Abraham Singer

24. Eunice Cohen, Jeffrey Gutin, Helen Hirsch, Jennie Goodman, Eve Jendrock, Ruth H. Toby, David Kushious

25. Nettie Taube, Morris Saitz, Sara Cohen, Abraham Taube, Sara Lewin

26. Leah Fleischman, June Singer, Minnie Zeidman, Sidney Trubowitz

27. Ida Grossman, Lee Rosen, Frieda Schramm, Anna Bezar, Dora Dorf

28. Meyer Sharansky, Anne Baisuck, Herman Slass, Maurice Friedman, Gussie Landsman, Mary Mars, Sally Mirsky

29. Annie Cantor, Joseph Schwartz, Helen Tussman Manion, Kevin Greenauer

30. Allen Scheff, Herbert Fox, Belle Windt

31. Barnet Freedman, Rose Richman, Abraham Grossman, Irving Sternberg, Esther Issokson, Albert Spaien

First Amendment Museum Publishes Guest Essay by Jeff Cooper

The First Amendment Museum in Augusta, Maine, is a nonpartisan nonprofit “dedicated to promoting the understanding and use of the First Amendment so that all may reap the benefits.” Every year, in honor of National Religious Freedom Day, they invite contributions from people representing a different religious group.

This year, they reached out to the Jewish community, and have published congregant Jeff Cooper’s article, “Separation of Church and State: Our Precious Law” in their online blog. Other articles include “When a religious identity causes the minority to live as strangers in their own land,” by Rabbi Ron Fish, with more to come. Read online at <https://firstamendmentmuseum.org/>.

Life Cycles

Our community mourns with **Sarah and Jared Nabel**. Sarah’s beloved father, **Lloyd Gerbush**, passed away on February 19.



Weekend of Love

Love Blooms Here

From the *Portsmouth Herald*:

Organized by Assistant Mayor Joanna Kelley, Black Lives Matter Seacoast executive director and co-founder Clifton West, Mary Boisse-Barnes of the Loving Health Center and Reproductive Freedom Fund of New Hampshire executive director Josie Pinto, an event titled “Love Blooms Here” was held inside Cup of Joe, Kelley’s business, on Friday. Cup of Joe was one of the businesses targeted by an unidentified person or group in the hateful vandalism, a case actively being investigated by city police.

The premise was for members of the public to stop in, grab a flower stem donated by local florists, and bring them to businesses affected by the hateful graffiti.



Sunday Community Gathering

Rabba Kaya writes: More than 200 people gathered at our synagogue for an uplifting, heart-opening experience in response to last week's hateful graffiti incident. There was music, prayer, poetry, and messages of support.

It was incredibly meaningful to be surrounded by community members and representatives from Portsmouth City Council, Seacoast Outright, numerous Seacoast churches, religious groups, and houses of worship, the ADL, Portsmouth business owners, the Portsmouth Police Chief, among many others!

We also appreciate the Leftist Marching Band for greeting participants upon arrival!



“Love Blooms Here” photos by Dov Yellin. Doug Tilton and Rabba Kaya thank well-wishers.

Community Response



Community gathering photos by Ron Sher

Messages of Support

The temple leadership and office have received many supportive emails, phone calls, offers of technical expertise, letters, cards, and notes accompanying bouquets of flowers and financial contributions. Here is a sampling:

Friday, February 24, 2023

Statement from the Jewish Clergy of NH regarding the recent antisemitic and hate incidents in Portsmouth:

We, Jewish Clergy of New Hampshire, are distressed by recent vandalism against the Jewish

community, people of color and those publicly expressing inclusive and loving values in Portsmouth, following similar acts in Manchester and Concord. We are aware that this Saturday, February 25, has been declared a Day of Hate by some who hide in the shadows of the internet. We pledge to act against such provocation, supporting the Temple Israel community (Portsmouth), and all those in NH's seacoast communities who have suffered from outbreaks of senseless hatred.

In synagogues worldwide this week, the reading from our holiest text, the Torah, describes our ancestors' determination to make a dwelling place suitable in every detail for God's presence in the

Messages Received

world. This project later becomes the blueprint for the building of Solomon's Temple. In that magnificent structure, care was taken that its massive stones were not cut by hammers, axes, or iron tools since these could be used to foment violence and make implements of war. Later rabbis were confident that rock could be cut by other means compatible with the ways of peace, even imagining worm-like creatures with laser-like properties doing the job. This fantastic imagery inspires the compelling proposition that violence can always be surmounted.

Today it is the Jewish community and open-hearted business owners. Tomorrow it could be any other community in our state. May we respond by continuing to build and nurture relationships devoted to peace, not only with great resolve but with great ingenuity. We understand that hatred leads only to destruction and that our world only exists because it was founded on love. We acknowledge that our collective work is to continue to build that place for the Divine to dwell within us.



Dear Neighbor,

It is with love that I reach out to you to express my sorrow over the events not only of this week, but of any event in which you have felt marginalized, experienced hate or exclusion.

WE are a community. Not just here in Portsmouth (which we are and it is BEAUTIFUL), but a community of human beings on this planet. And it is impossible to have an act against one that isn't against all.

We stand together, now and always, to put our efforts into leading with love, leading with example, and righting wrongs.

We are ready, willing, and more importantly perhaps, open to acts that will assist in making wrongs right.

We love you.

We see you.

We hold you.

We are you.

All the love in our hearts,

Stephanie and the entire 3 Bridges Yoga Staff

Community Response

“Yesterday was only my second time in Portsmouth and my first time in your synagogue. I wish the hatred that brought us together didn’t exist, but I feel compelled to tell you how special it was to witness the love and warmth with which you brought the Portsmouth community together. Responding to last week’s cowardly antisemitic vandalism by opening your doors and filling your space with friends and neighbors, music and poetry, was simply right. Kol hakavod!”— Andrew Max, American Jewish Committee (AJC) New England



Dear Rabba Stern-Kaufman and members of Temple Israel,

I read this morning with dismay and sadness of the hate crimes and hateful graffiti placed on Temple Israel and several local businesses in Portsmouth. I am personally so saddened and sorry you all are subject to such bigotry and hatred again. Our congregation up here in Wakefield stands with you and holds you all in our prayers for

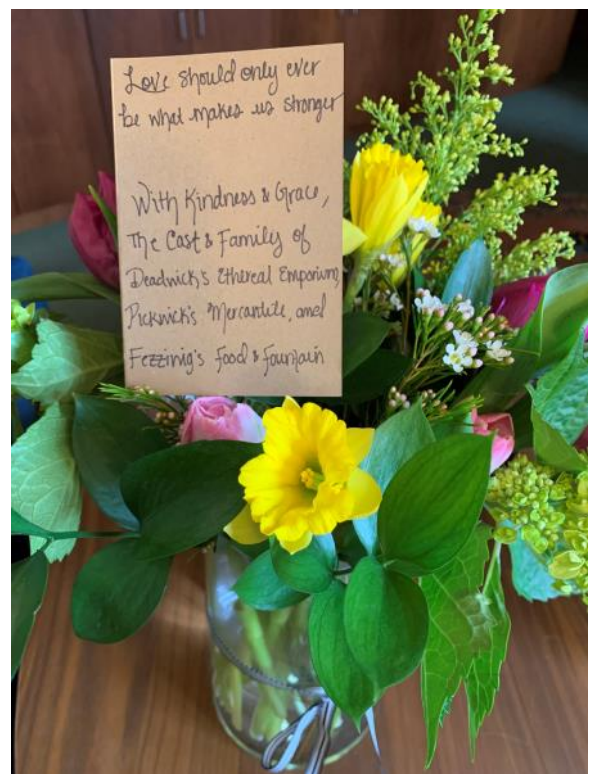
healing and wholeness in the midst of such an attack. We are here to be allies, supporters and partners in witness and justice.

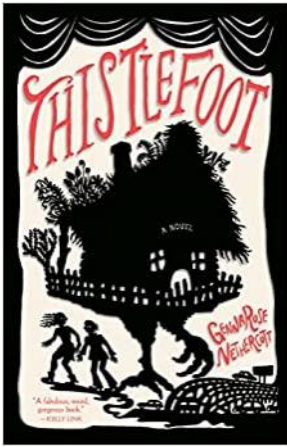
Thank you and Temple Israel for all that you do to bring light and wholeness to our community.

Blessings to you all.

Rev. Larry Brickner-Wood

First Congregational Church of Wakefield, UCC





TIP Book Club discusses
***Thistlefoot: A Novel*, by GennaRose Nethercott**

Monday, March 27, 12:00 pm. Please join us in the Shmooze.

From the publisher's website: In the tradition of modern fairy tales like Neil Gaiman's *American Gods* and Naomi Novik's *Spinning Silver* comes an immersive fantasy saga, a

debut novel about estranged siblings who are reunited after receiving a mysterious inheritance.



Upcoming titles: Monday, April 17, 12:00 pm, ***The Spiral Shell***, by Sandell Morse. We are honored to be joined by the author and TIP congregant at our April meeting!



Monday, May 22, 12:00 pm, ***Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow: A Novel***, by Gabrielle Zevin.

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

Office hours: weekdays, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Except Wednesdays: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm



Proud member of USCJ



Save the Date: Sunday, April 16

Dr. Fredrik Meiton will speak on the topic:
The 22-State Solution: The End of the Arab-Israeli Conflict?

"An Historical Overview of the Arab-Israeli Conflict Leading up to the Abraham Accords."

Please join us for a presentation sponsored by the Israel Affairs Committee, as part of the temple's observation of Yom Ha'atzmaut, the 75th anniversary of the

founding of the state of Israel. Guest speaker Dr. Fredrik Meiton is a UNH Professor of History, College of Liberal Arts. **Bagel brunch starts at 11:00 am, with the presentation from 11:30 - 12:30.**

