

December 2016
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Covenant

Jeremiah

Chanukah and Christmas: Spreading light

By RABBI PAUL F. COHEN, D.Min, D.D.
Senior Rabbi
rabbi@templejeremiah.org

Dear Friends,

I write this message on the day after the third presidential debate held in Las Vegas, Nevada. You will be reading it after the election of our new president. We can all agree that this has been a devastating election cycle. It has gone on too long and it has generated more heat than light. But, I am hopeful and ever optimistic that in the aftermath, a new light will shine through this darkness. Light is, indeed, what we truly need. Light that helps us see the beautiful differences that make our lives so rich and the wonderful points of commonality that foster warmth and well being.

The shadows grow longer this time of year as the days grow shorter. It is no accident that our Festival of Light, Chanukah, falls at this time. The unique wobble of the Jewish calendar places Erev Chanukah on the same night as Erev Christmas. I do not believe in coincidence. As I have said countless times before, "Coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous."

Chanukah and Christmas are two very different holidays with very different theological messages for the people of each faith community. Chanukah is part of the

Jewish festival calendar and Christmas is part of the Christian worship cycle. For Jews, all appearances to the contrary, Chanukah is a minor festival, while Christmas is one of the big two for Christianity. In the unique frame of the American experience, the fact that these two celebrations often fall within the same period has helped us to focus on what they have in common rather than the distinct, real and important differences. The reality is that we do not have to ignore the differences to embrace the similarities. In fact, we risk overlooking an important opportunity to show how diversity can be embraced in the light of what we share in common.



"The message of each celebration is that it is our responsibility to help spread the light we celebrate into the world through concrete action."

Assyrian Empire and prevailed with God's miraculous presence. Christmas is founded upon the story of Jesus coming into the world bringing the light of forgiveness through God's miraculous presence. The message of each celebration is that it is our responsibility to help spread the light we celebrate into the world through concrete action. We are to open our homes to family and friends, as well as the stranger. We use light to both advertise this message and to remind us of this message.

continued on page 7

In this Covenant, you'll learn...

... why our temple president feels that the clock is ticking. *page 3*

... why one of our volunteers feels that people care about each other at Temple Jeremiah. *page 6*

... about the Feed the Homeless "miracle" that happened on Erev Rosh HaShanah morning. *page 9*

Lately around Temple Jeremiah



1: Having a blast at Tot Shabbat (Oct. 7, 2016). 2: The TJ staff wishes everyone a Happy New Year. 3: Rosh HaShanah Worship for Families with Special Needs (Oct. 3, 2016). 4: Third graders hang out in the Youth Lounge during Sunday school (Oct. 9, 2016). 5: JK at Funtopia (Oct. 9, 2016)

Leadership Connection: A Message from the President

The year 5777 is already flying by

By **JOEL AFRICK**

President

jafrick@lungchicago.org

It cannot just be me. No sooner do we close our prayer books for the end of High Holy Day-Palooza (the non-biblical description of the holidays from Rosh HaShanah through Simchat Torah) than do we begin thinking about the year — and holidays — ahead.

No wonder we make promises to ourselves during the first of the High Holy Days that we find too easy to put off as soon as we resume our hectic schedules. It's not as though we didn't intend to volunteer for something at the Temple Jeremiah this year (does anyone remember the postcard listing at least 18 such opportunities?). We fully intended to do so and it seemed like such a good idea during the High Holy Days. But life has a way of taking over. Believe me, I get it. But the temple still needs volunteers.

I spoke about Inclusion and Social Justice activities on Rosh HaShanah, but there are many more opportunities than that to make a difference at Temple Jeremiah. Help out with a youth program. Join the Israel Action Committee. Some of the activities at Temple Jeremiah that have made the greatest differences in the lives of others have been activities that were led by our congregational community — and not by our clergy or senior staff. If you want to make a difference, I encourage you to get involved. "Someone else" is not

the name of a member of the congregation. "Someone else" cannot take an idea and transform it into an act of tikkun olam (repairing the world). Someone else is you, someone else is me, someone else is a member stepping forth and saying "I will do it." Find something that speaks to you. And if you want help identifying something, please reach out to any of our senior staff. They are there to help you connect to our temple community.



Along the same lines, if we enjoy the High Holy Day experience and resolve to pray more often with our Jeremiah community, why is it so challenging to attend one of our Friday evening 6:30 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat services? The new schedule (pre-oneg at 6 p.m. services at 6:30 p.m. all Fridays except the first Friday) allows for a nice transition to Shabbat and our many local restaurants take 8 p.m. reservations as easily as they do earlier ones. I continue to be impressed by the warm feeling that is generated at our Shabbat worship.

None of this is intended to add to our 5,700+ years of Jewish guilt. But I hope it will remind us that we need to carve out time for the things that matter to us, and we need to do so deliberately and before it is too

late to make a difference (in the case of volunteering) or to make a lifestyle change (in the case of Shabbat worship).

The clock is ticking. ■

"I hope it will remind us that we need to carve out time for the things that matter to us, and we need to do so deliberately and before it is too late to make a difference."

WORSHIP SCHEDULE: December 2016

Friday, Dec. 2, 2016

6 p.m. Tot Shabbat

8 p.m. Erev Shabbat Worship

Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016

8:30 a.m. Tefilah

9:15 a.m. Torah Study

11 a.m. Shabbat Morning Worship

Friday, Dec. 9, 2016

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Reception

6:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Worship, featuring Human Rights Shabbat

Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016

8:30 a.m. Tefilah

9:15 a.m. Torah Study

11 a.m. Shabbat Morning Worship

Friday, Dec. 16, 2016

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Reception

6:30 p.m. H(OUR) Shabbat Worship

Saturday, Dec. 17, 2016

8:30 a.m. Tefilah

9:15 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, Dec. 23, 2016

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Reception

6:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Worship

Saturday, Dec. 24, 2016

8:30 a.m. Tefilah

9:15 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, Dec. 30, 2016

6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Reception

6:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Worship

Saturday, Dec. 31, 2016

8:30 a.m. Tefilah

9:15 a.m. Torah Study

A holiday service 'groupie'

By **DR. ANNE LIDSKY**
Director of Religious Education
anne@templejeremiah.org

Although this article will be in your hands just before the month of December, at this very moment, it is Oct. 24 as I compose this piece. I just arrived home from the Monday morning Simchat Torah and Yizkor service, and I am filled with such meaningful emotion. Three times a year, on Sukkot, Simchat Torah, and Pesach, we have the opportunity to gather for what is truly, a moving, spiritual experience, far different than High Holy Day services or even Shabbat worship. We are usually a "small, but mighty" group and would warmly welcome any or all of you.

Perhaps people hear that we're gathering on the "second day" of a holiday and make the assumption that it's for a specific, more observant group. Not true, my friends.

"I'll take that risk and promise you a most beautiful experience – and you will become a 'groupie' like myself."

prayer, his fingers moving over the guitar strings with a passion and a depth that took each one of us on a journey rarely experienced. I loved every minute of that morning, feeling blessed to be there and thrilled that I made the decision to attend.

This observance, this wonderful service takes place in the chapel, with the clergy relaxed in three chairs, close enough to touch, facing the congregation.

The music, ah, the music. I wish I could properly describe the sense of spirituality in the chapel as Adam led us in heartfelt

I know it is a risk to make a bold comment and emphatically state that EVERY INDIVIDUAL would love this service as much as I did, and would also be moved both emotionally and spiritually. But I'll take that risk and promise you a most beautiful experience – and you will become a "groupie" like myself.

Before you know it, winter will come and go. In the blink of an eye, it will be spring — mark your calendar and join us for Passover services when the time comes. You'll engage in a bit of study with our rabbis. You'll enjoy a sense of community on the bimah as we gather close to experience beautiful Torah chanting. And you will sing, sing from the depths of your soul, and you will feel something memorable. I promise it will be worth your time and energy. Mark my word — I look forward to sharing this opportunity with you. ■



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Ever wanted to write for the Covenant?

You can share your thoughts on being part of the Jeremiah community for all to see. Contact Lia at 847.441.5760 or lia@templejeremiah.org for more information.

Tell and Kvell

Congrats to our congregants who are doing great things!

Louis B. Marks Award

Bill Brown (pictured at right) has been presented with the Louis B. Marks Award by the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) in recognition of exceptional service to the Society of a non-technical nature. He joined IES in 1961 and has enthusiastically served as a leader, mentor, ambassador, promoter, and friend to many. The award ceremonies were held at the annual Illumination Awards Dinner held on Oct. 23, 2016, in Orlando, Florida.



Copyright Lawyer of the Year

Andy Goldstein has been named Copyright Lawyer of the Year for Chicagoland for 2017 by Best Lawyers. This makes two out of the past three years he has had this honor.



High Holy Day Food Drive

Emma Pinsky (left), who will become a Bat Mitzvah this spring, along with her cousin Sophie Ezrol and grandma **Sue Pinsky-Gardner** enjoyed shopping at the “Jewish Jewel” in Highland Park for food for The ARK’s High Holy Day food drive. “We had so much fun doing it, it was a good exercise for them,” Sue said. “It was a nice, easy, fun activity.”

Volunteer Finalist

Congrats to **Judi Goldman**, who was a finalist in the Illinois 10th District Leadership Awards in the category of Community Service. This is sponsored by Congressman Bob Dold and recognizes the everyday heroes that make our community an amazing place to live and work. Judi has been the heart and

center of the North & Central Chicagoland Illinois Project Linus Chapter over the past 20 years. Project Linus provides handmade blankets to seriously ill and traumatized children in local area hospitals and trauma centers. The 20-year-old chapter has grown from a small group of ladies meeting at Judi’s house to a membership of 600 individuals, and has donated more than 127,419 blankets. ■

Not getting our e-mails?

We send out a weekly e-newsletter, Good and Welfare notices, and other announcements via e-mail.

If you’re not getting our e-mail, or if you want to change your e-mail preferences, please contact Lia at lia@templejeremiah.org.

Volunteer Spotlight: Deborah Weinfuss

By LIA GOLDFARB

Membership and Communications Director
lia@templejeremiah.org

Deborah Weinfuss is a familiar face at Temple Jeremiah, helping out with Inclusion Committee events, ushering for the High Holy Days, and singing along at Shabbat services. We sat down with Deborah to learn about why she's involved at Jeremiah.

How long have you been at Jeremiah?

At least 10 years. My mom (Patricia) was a member before me. I had my Bat Mitzvah here in 2008.

What do you like about Jeremiah?

I like the music, the people. I've made a lot of friends since I've been here.

When do you come here?

I come every Friday or every other Friday, whenever it's convenient for my mom to drive me.

Why do you like coming on Fridays?

I like the songs – I like Sim Shalom, I like Mi Shebeirach, the prayer for people who want to help others who are sick. I've met a lot of people by coming to Shabbat services.

“People care about each other here – people care about me, and it makes me feel good, so I want to help however I can.”

What have you been involved with in terms of volunteering?
I helped with our Rosh HaShanah Worship for Families with Special Needs – I closed the Ark. I've helped with the Inclusion Committee's Chanukah celebration last year and the year before – I got to light the candles, which made me feel good. I've been involved in other aspects of the Inclusion Committee with Caren

Brown. I really enjoyed helping pack lunches for Feed the Homeless with the Inclusion Committee. I also help with ushering for the High Holy Days every year.

Why is it important to help at Temple Jeremiah?

People care about each other here – people care about me, and it makes me feel good, so I want to help however I can. It's something I always look forward to doing. Temple Jeremiah is a place where you



can come and pray, sing songs, meet new people, and have a good time.

What would you tell someone thinking about getting involved at Temple Jeremiah?

If you're not sure how to get involved, you should ask someone. Social Justice is a good way to get involved, as well as the Inclusion Committee – those are my personal recommendations! And I just want to say to everyone, thank you for always making me feel welcome and allowing me to be a member of Temple Jeremiah! ■



Volunteer in the temple office

Volunteer in the temple office: Do you have a few extra hours each week? Help out the office staff with mailings, answering phones, and other tasks during the week or during school hours. If interested, please contact Sheila at sheila@templejeremiah.org. Check www.templejeremiah.org for more volunteer opportunities.

Thank you to our October office volunteers: Diane Albert, Aileen Blum, Eileen Brottman, Drew Davis, Arnie Fishbain, Evelyn Neu, and Barbara Schwarz

Save the date

Mark your calendar for these big events coming up later this year ...

JUF Brunch: Sunday, Feb. 19, 2017

Adult Purim Party: Saturday, March 11, 2017

Purim Carnival: Sunday, March 12, 2017

Women's Seder: Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Passover Day I Worship: Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Last Day of Passover Worship: Monday, April 17, 2017

Last Day of Religious School / Brotherhood BBQ:

Sunday, May 21, 2017

Shavuot Worship and Apple Pancakes: Wednesday, May 31, 2017

Thank You Shabbat: Friday, June 2, 2017



Watch your e-mail and mail for more information about these events!

Wish Tags

Women of Jeremiah's Chanukah Mitzvah Project "Wish Tags" available through Dec. 4, 2016

Each year, Jewish Child and Family Services and The ARK provide us with a list of "wishes" from their clients — needy children and adults in the Chicago area. Our Women of Jeremiah group displays these holiday wishes in the temple lobby. Please take a tag, purchase the item indicated, attach the tag, and return the gift unwrapped to the temple no later than Dec. 4. Please limit your spending to \$50, even if that means the child may not get everything on the list. For more information, contact Melissa Celnik at mrsclcnik@yahoo.com or 847.296.6461.

RABBI COHEN, *continued from page 1*

The days begin to lengthen again as the shadows grow shorter. Light fills more and more of each day. It is up to us to reflect this in our lives. Now, more than ever before, we need to act and speak in ways that generate light, love and kindness. It is in this way that we can highlight and embrace our differences as gifts, even as we relish

what we have in common with our fellow human beings. May God's light shine upon us all and may we reflect this light into the world.

Chag Chanukah Sameach,
Rabbi Paul F. Cohen, D.Min., D.D. ■

Family Promise needs volunteers during Christmas week

By MICHELLE FELLMAN
Family Promise Co-Chair
mich@wirthfellman.com

Looking for a meaningful family activity to help others during their holiday season this year? Consider signing up to volunteer for Family Promise.

Temple Jeremiah will open its doors to several families Dec. 25 to Dec. 31, 2016, through Family Promise, an organization that helps families stay together while getting back on their feet and into their own homes. For that week, eligible families will live in Temple Jeremiah's classrooms as they receive job placement help and assistance in finding affordable housing.

Volunteers — both individuals and families — may bring nutritious meals, dine with guests, and entertain the guest children. An additional volunteer also will be needed each night to sleep over, arriving at 8:30 p.m. and leaving the next morning at 7 a.m.

Sleepover volunteers need to bring only a pillow and sleeping bag.

Past volunteers have expressed enthusiasm for Family Promise, saying they believe that their efforts have made a lasting impression on themselves and their kids because they had a chance to meet and interact with the people they helped. Volunteers have included individuals, families with kids, and couples.



To volunteer, please select the day and task via Sign-Up Genius at templejeremiah.org/familypromise to schedule the opportunity that works for you. In the meantime, feel free to contact us for more information:

Michelle Fellman at mich@wirthfellman.com, Jon Fellman at jonfellman@hotmail.com, Amy Rubinstein at arubinstein5@comcast.net, or Sybil Stern at sybilstern@att.net. ■

“Volunteers — both individuals and families — may bring nutritious meals, dine with guests, and entertain the guest children.”

1 in 6 people in Chicago face hunger. 5 out of 6 can help.

By JULIE BECKER
Social Justice Committee
jbecker1718@gmail.com

The statistics around hunger can be staggering — more than 46 million Americans turning to food banks each year for extra support, over 800,000 people in Cook County alone frequenting local pantries. These numbers are so large that it's easy to become overwhelmed by the size of the problem. But it only takes one person to make a difference in someone's life.

At Temple Jeremiah, the Backpack Blessings program is one way you can help food insecure children living in our own community. For the fifth year, we are providing 50 Highland Park students on free and/or reduced-priced lunch with meals for over the weekend.

One Sunday a month, bags are packed at temple with enough non-perishable food for two breakfasts, two lunches/dinners and two snacks. Backpacks are delivered and stored at NSSD and distributed every Friday at Red Oak and Sherwood schools. Students then return the empty backpacks to school on Monday and they're refilled for next week's use.

“It's very gratifying to participate in Backpack Blessings knowing your efforts are directly helping feed a child living with food insecurity.”

It's very gratifying to participate in Backpack Blessings knowing your efforts are directly helping feed a child living with food insecurity. We hope you'll join us as we try ending hunger in our own community ... one backpack at a time.

Visit www.templejeremiah.org/backpack to sign up for Backpack Blessings. ■

SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE: December 2016 / January 2017

Sunday, Dec. 4, 2016: Feed the Homeless
Tuesdays, Dec. 6 and 20, 2016: Eat and Be Well
Dec. 25-31, 2016: Family Promise
Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017: Feed the Homeless

Tuesdays, Jan. 3 and 17, 2017: Eat and Be Well
Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017: Backpack Blessings
Sunday, Jan. 29, 2017: Backpack Blessings

A Feed the Homeless Rosh HaShanah miracle

By **BARB MILLER**

Executive Vice President

bmiller54@comcast.net

On the first Sunday of the month, we complete the Feed the Homeless project, where we provide lunches to two shelters in Lake County and to hundreds of homeless individuals on Chicago's near west side.

On the first Sunday of October we realized we had a problem. We have been running this program for more than 20 years and never had this happen. A perfect storm! First, Sunday, Oct. 2, 2016 was the day before Rosh HaShanah. The temple was closed. No lunches from the congregation. Sunday school was closed, so no lunches from them. And finally, we have one loyal family that always makes 100 lunches and they were out of town. So, three strikes equaled ZERO lunches.

What did we do? We got busy. We e-mailed all of our previous volunteer families asking for immediate help. And, on the day of Feed the Homeless, Stephen and I arrived at temple early to see if anyone had answered the call. At first, we only saw a few lunches, but not enough to meet our needs. Just then, around 10:15 a.m., an amazing thing happened. First, one car drove up and a little boy and his mom got out with three shopping bags filled with lunches. Then, another. Then another. The cars just kept coming, one after another, until there was a backup in the driveway. Adults, children, families and even friends of temple members took up the cause and gave of themselves. One family brought 20 lunches with every bag hand decorated by their children. And the little boy who delivered his lunches proudly showed me each bag he had decorated.

By the time it was over, we had almost 500 lunches. What a proud



From left: Barb Miller, Stephen Miller, Brad Buchanan, and Mindy Kurtz stand proudly with nearly 500 lunches on Sunday, Oct. 2, 2016.

moment for Stephen, Mindy, and me. Look at what our congregation did! We gave hundreds of people food who were in need.

What a way to start the new year. Let the spirit of this day carry you through the year and thanks to all of you who answered the call and gave of yourself. ■

Proximate: What does it mean?

By **BARB MILLER**

Executive Vice President

bmiller54@comcast.net

What does it mean to “get proximate”? This is a phrase we in Social Justice have been throwing around lately. Bryan Stevenson, a civil rights lawyer, speaks about making change. He says, “You cannot make change from a distance. You have to get proximate.”

I was trying to understand what that meant when I had a moment of clarity. Temple Jeremiah's Social Justice Committee has started a new program called Eat and Be Well. This is a food pantry inside of a hospital that gives out healthy food to those patients who are food insecure and have an illness that requires a change in diet. Think of the pantry as a healthy food pharmacy that fills the patients' prescription for healthy food.

We have been struggling to fill the volunteer spots. The pantry is in West Suburban Hospital in Oak Park, a long way away from our congregation. And the work is during the day.

Here is my moment of proximity. Another Chance Assembly is a

church on the west side of Chicago that the Social Justice Committee has helped many times. We have donated bikes, turkeys at Thanksgiving, and warm winter clothes.

Another Chance Assembly is literally around the corner from West Suburban Hospital. A fact I did not realize until I mentioned this program to the pastor at the church. He said that West Suburban Hospital is their hospital – it's where their congregants go. He asked how he could help with the program.

Recently he sent three volunteers from his church to help us with our project. Not only did they help assemble the food bags, they made suggestions on how to improve our process to make it more efficient.

At the end of the day, all three volunteers said thank you to me for allowing them to give back. “When your life circumstances require you to need help all the time it does something to your self-esteem. Thank you for allowing us to be on the giving side, not just the receiving side.”

Proximate – understanding who is standing in front of you. ■

Simchat Torah Photos

What a joyous celebration we had on Sunday, Oct. 23, 2016, celebrating our First Grade Consecration and dancing with the Torah. Thanks to everyone who attended!





Please join us as we gather to create unique menorahs and memories at Temple Jeremiah's

Many Menorahs One Bright Light

Seniors, teens, empty nesters, families, individuals with special needs, and singles can enjoy this event together as we prepare for our celebration of Chanukah.

Sunday, Dec. 11, 2016 at Temple Jeremiah

4:30 p.m. Create your own menorah (supplies provided)

5:15 p.m. Songs and menorah lighting

5:30 p.m. Dinner (including our famous "Latke Bar") and dreidel extravaganza

This event costs \$10 per person. Please RSVP by Dec. 4 to Donna at 847.441.5760 or donna@templejeremiah.org.

More details to follow.



Brotherhood News

By **RUSTY COLMAN**
Brotherhood Publicity Chair
 wcolman435@comcast.net

As 2016 draws to an end, Brotherhood is switching into high gear with a large number of activities.

About a month ago, we held our annual Big Screen Football Night featuring the Bears and Vikings. As is our custom, we served soft drinks and snacks and the large number of brothers who attended had a great time. Many thanks to Brother David Abrahams for hosting this event.

Coming up on Dec. 4 will be Family Bingo, year in and year out our most popular program. We will have drinks, pizza and snacks along with a huge array of incredible presents for the kids. If you'd like to attend, make your reservations now by sending an email to Joel Rovner (jrovner@comcast.net) or Bill Brown (WilliamBrown@alplighting.com). There is a rumor afoot that no child leaves empty-handed. Not a rumor: everyone will have a great time!

Brotherhood is proud to announce it is now accepting essays for its third annual Al Brottman Scholarship Competition. Two \$1,000

scholarships to the Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute 2017 summer camp will be awarded. All Sunday school students are eligible. To enter, write a short essay – about three paragraphs – telling why you want to attend camp this summer. E-mail the essays to Rusty Colman at wcolman435@comcast.net. The winners will be announced in February.

“Brotherhood is proud to announce it is now accepting essays for its third annual Al Brottman Scholarship Competition.”

Brother Brad Ross is currently gathering medical professionals for our Men's Health Programs and is planning to have a urologist who specializes in sexual matters on Jan. 15, 2017. It's certain to be an interesting and informative presentation, so mark it on your calendar!

In other Brotherhood news, Brother Joel Rovner is looking into our participation in Anixter's "Adopt A Home Program," and will report soon on what our organization can do to help this worthy charity. And Brother Charles Laurito is looking into the possibility of obtaining tickets for members who would like to attend the popular NPR program, "Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me," taped at the Chase Bank auditorium downtown.

Finally, Brotherhood's tzedakah offerings last month went to Haitian victims of Hurricane Matthew and to the North Shore Food Pantry. ■

Women of Jeremiah Gift Shop

All Chanukah items are 25% off this month! Come to our gift shop for all kinds of gifts and items to make your Chanukah the best one yet.

Regular shop hours are during Sunday school from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and during Hebrew school on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30-6 p.m. We are also available by appointment.

Contact Lynne Amos at 847.571.8707 or lynne.jolles@yahoo.com or Melissa Celnik at 847.296.6461 or mrsclcnik@yahoo.com.

Volunteers are always welcome!

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Rosh HaShanah Service for Families with Special Needs

By **CAREN BROWN**

Inclusion Committee Chair

ceb994@gmail.com

On Rosh HaShanah afternoon, as congregants were spilling out of the children and youth services, another crowd of people was filing into the service for families with special needs. More than 80 people attended, including 13 families from Temple Jeremiah and 10 families from the community, as well as three residents of a JUF group home.

It was a beautiful, meaningful, and fun service led by our rabbis and Adam, with enthusiastic participation by 17 of our guests. The participants did everything from registering guests as they arrived to leading prayers during the service to handing out gifts at the end. Adam led the group in the ever-popular “Shofar Song” while people noisily played tambourines and shakers. Rabbi Cohen was especially entertaining when he demonstrated what a ram looks like, using two shofars on his head!

After the service, everyone enjoyed eating snacks and making tzedakah boxes to take home. Parents enjoyed the chance to socialize with new and familiar families. Several parents commented on how important it was for their families to worship together and for their loved ones with special needs to be involved in the service.

The Inclusion Committee members did another amazing job creating and producing this program. They truly deserve our thanks for their efforts.

The next program for families with special needs will be our Chanukah event on Sunday, Dec. 11, 2016. See page 12 for more information. ■



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UPCOMING EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Chat and Chew: Walking the Bible (Part 3)

Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016, 11 a.m.

Back by popular demand — part 3 of our “Walking the Bible” series! Bruce Feiler continues his journey through the greatest stories ever told, in “Part 3: Toward the Promised Land: Forty Years in the Desert.” We’ll watch the movie beginning at 11 a.m., and then continue chatting over lunch with a discussion led by our executive director, Danny Glassman. \$10 per person. RSVP to Donna at donna@templejeremiah.org or 847.441.5760.

Human Rights Shabbat 2016

Friday, Dec. 9, 2016, during Kabbalat Shabbat Worship at 6:30 p.m.

Join Temple Jeremiah as we join more than 150 other communities in the U.S. and Canada to celebrate Human Rights Shabbat, a project of T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights. During our Kabbalat Shabbat Worship, we will explore the issue of human rights in our community and beyond. Human Rights Shabbat is an opportunity to study human rights in Judaism, to learn about contemporary human rights issues in the United States and Israel, and to commit ourselves to action.

Indiana University Jewish Studies Scholarships

The Borns Jewish Studies Program at Indiana University Bloomington will be awarding multiple \$40,000 (\$10,000 per year) scholarships to Fall 2017 incoming freshmen who are committed to pursuing the Jewish Studies major.

In addition, one scholarship of up to \$20,000 (\$5,000 per year) is intended for an incoming freshman who is committed to pursuing the Jewish sacred music (pre-cantorial) curriculum, the only program of its kind in the U.S.

For more information and to apply, visit http://www.indiana.edu/~jsp/undergraduates/funding_freshmen.shtml.

Application deadline is Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017.

Our P.O. box no longer exists!

A few years ago, we used to have a P.O. Box as part of Temple Jeremiah’s address. Please make sure you update your records and do not send us mail to that P.O. Box — we won’t receive it, even if our street address is listed, too.

Our address should read:

Temple Jeremiah
937 Happ Road
Northfield, IL 60093

Tot Shabbat

Friday, Dec. 2, 2016
6 p.m.

We welcome all tots and their families for this fun evening.

We begin at 6 p.m. with a complimentary pizza dinner, then continue at 6:30 p.m. with songs and Shabbat worship and then at 7 p.m. we have crafts and a snack.



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SUNDAY DEC. 4, 5-7 PM

THIS YEAR EVERYONE ADMITTED FREE!!!

RSVP BY DEC. 1ST TO JOEL ROVNER

JROVNER@COMCAST.NET OR 847-331-9837



JeTY: Jeremiah Temple Youth (9th-12th Grade)

Chanukah Party

**Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016
6-8:30 p.m.**

Come join JeTY for a Chanukah get together! We will be making latkes and all kinds of treats, and exchanging "white elephant" gifts. Come hang out and feel free to bring a friend!

Jr. JeTY: Junior Jeremiah Temple Youth (6th-8th Grade)

Laser Quest

**Sunday, Dec. 11, 2016
1-3 p.m.**

Join us for a great afternoon of laser tag and pre-Chanukah celebrations! We will have lunch and jelly-filled donuts in the youth lounge before we head out to Laser Quest.

Club 345: Jeremiah's Intro to Youth Group (3rd-5th Grade)

Maccabiah Games

**Friday, Dec. 9, 2016
5:45-9 p.m.**


Let the games begin! We will kick the night off with a kids-only Shabbat dinner and community service. Then we will have an incredible night of sports, mind games, and other competitions! There will be a variety of games, so all skill levels can participate.

JK: Jeremiah Kids (K-2nd Grade)

There are so many great family events taking place this month that are perfect for JK kids! Join us for the Brotherhood Bingo on Dec. 4 (pg. 16) and the congregational Chanukah Celebration on Dec. 11 (pg. 12).

NOSH & Mingle
is back and better than ever!

WHAT: Hang out before Hebrew school with games, friends, snacks, and relaxation
WHO: All Hebrew school students
WHEN: Mondays and Wednesdays (when school is in session)
TIME: 3:45-4:25 p.m.
WHERE: Temple Jeremiah Youth Lounge
FOOD: Free healthy snacks, plus treats and pop for purchase
RSVP: No need to RSVP, just come on in!



For more information on our youth group programming, contact Naomi Segal, our new Director of Youth and Family Engagement, at naomi@templejeremiah.org.

December programs: Pulse, New Israel Fund

By **RICHARD GELINE**
Adult Learning Chair
rgeline@sbcglobal.net

Our December Adult Learning program brings us two exciting discussions.

Pulse of Our World **Sunday, Dec. 4, 2016, 10 a.m.**

On Dec. 4, Rabbi Cohen will lead the Pulse of the World discussion of current events. The United States presidential election results will no longer be a mystery. Discussion will turn to how the new administration will address the multiple complicated foreign and domestic issues facing the United States. Uppermost in the minds of many will be the assessment of the ongoing relationship between United States and Israel. After a somewhat cool eight years, what direction will the historical connection take? What role will the new administration take in the Syrian conflict? And what position will the new administration take regarding ISIS? All of these questions and more will be on the table and should provide a very informative session.

New Israel Fund **Sunday, Dec. 11, 2016, 10 a.m.**

On Dec. 11 a representative from the New Israel Fund will address our group. Some of you may ask, "What is the New Israel Fund?"

The fund describes itself as an organization seeking a liberal pluralistic and just society by building progressive change in Israel to bring democracy and equality to all Israelis.

More specifically the NIF board of directors in 2010 adopted the following set of principles to define their worldview and mission.

- Achieve equality for all citizens of the state regardless of religion, national origin, race, gender or sexual orientation;
- Realize the civil and human rights of all individuals and groups through the protection of Palestinian citizens and other marginalized minorities including the advancement of collective rights and opposition to all forms of discrimination and bigotry;
- Recognize and reinforce the essential pluralism of Israeli society and tolerance for diversity;
- Protect the access of minorities to democratic channels for the expression of their interests and identities in the promotion of their rights;
- Empower civil society in Israel is the fundamental vehicle of an open society;
- Build and maintain a just society at peace with itself and its neighbors

Needless to say, the group is not without controversy within and outside of Israel. Come and attend the session to get a first-hand view to help form your own opinion. ■

“[New Israel Fund] is not without controversy within and outside of Israel.”

Downtown Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Cohen: **“Talmud for Today: Applying Ancient Jewish Text to the 21st Century”** 12-1 p.m. at various locations downtown (RSVP for address)

Join us for these informative sessions at downtown office buildings. At each meeting Rabbi Cohen will bring in a text from the Talmud for us to study together and then apply to our time. Absolutely no experience or knowledge of Hebrew is needed. Participate as much or as little as you wish. Each meeting stands alone, so it's no problem if you can only make one or two. Yes, you can bring a friend, whether or not they are a member of Temple Jeremiah, although please remember to include the names of all attendees in your RSVP.

Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016 – Robbins, Salomon & Patt, Ltd., 180 N. LaSalle St., Chicago
Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2017 – location TBD
Wednesday, April 12, 2017 – location TBD
Wednesday, May 17, 2017 – location TBD

Please RSVP to Art Gunther at agunther@gunthergroup.com.

Weekly Torah Portions

For our Torah Study blog, which will be updated weekly with information and discussions on the weekly Torah portion, visit templejeremiahtorahstudyblog.edublogs.org. For a breakdown of chapters and verses, visit www.reformjudaism.org/learning/torah-study.

Dec. 3 Toldot | **Dec. 10** Vayetzei | **Dec. 17** Vayishlach | **Dec. 24** Vayeshev | **Dec. 31** Miketz

OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES ON THE LOSS OF*:

Rochelle Benjamin, mother of Neil Benjamin

Stanley Carr, father of Barry Carr

Allen Lohn, father of Joey Orloff

Shirley Rockoff, mother of Gary Rockoff

Jacqueline Sabbath, mother of Marla London

Bernard Schaner, husband of Carol Schaner, father of Cindy Manhoff

Reuben Shore, remembered by Temple Jeremiah

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Caroline and Dmitry Murokh

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

Anniversaries are listed on the decade (30th, etc.). This month's honorees are:

30 Years

Brad and Susan Ross

20 Years

Michael and Adriana Capone



MAZEL TOV TO*:

Bonnie Sorkin and Peter Alexander, on the marriage of his son, Nick, to Maggie Roth

Cathy and Edward Atkins, on the engagement of their son, David, to Faith Botica. Mazel tov to David's grandparents, **Darlene and Lawrence Gilford**, and David's aunt and uncle, **Elizabeth Keno and Jim Gilford**.

Dee and Richard Bittman, on the marriage of her son, Eric Rappin, to Mary Burke

Gregg Kaplan and Lindsay Avner, on the birth of their daughter, Lucy Veda

Sherry and David Rothenberg, on the birth of their grandson, Tyler James Deutsch

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Birthdays are listed on the decade (30th, etc.). This month's honorees are:



JoAnn Baumann • Martha Berzon • Amy Dolnick • Steve Drucker • Marv Feig • Laura Fine • Corey Gers • David Golder • Sheldon Isenberg • Lori Itagaki • William Johnson • Barbara Max • Kirsten Ravage • Patrick Rossiello • Brian Ruos • Robert Sawyer • Lisa Schurgin • Alan Toban • Jeffrey Torf • Jerry Weinberg • Jay Weisbach

MAZEL TOV TO OUR DECEMBER B'NAI MITZVAH CANDIDATES:

Micah Gagerman, son of Dawn and Paul Gagerman

Scott Brandner, son of Andrew and Heather Brandner

**Please note: The information for the Condolences, Mazel Tov, and New Member sections of this page is from October. For November news, please see the January Covenant, and for December news, see the February Covenant.*

SHARE YOUR NEWS

Do you have news to share with the congregation? Whether positive or negative, please share your life cycle events with us.

Our clergy can provide supportive services, and our Caring Community members are happy to cook a meal for you in a time of need.

If you have news to share, please let us know by contacting Phyllis Burg at 847.441.5760 or Phyllis@templejeremiah.org.

Calendar of Events							December 2016	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
4 Feed the Homeless 9 a.m. Brotherhood Kibbitz 'n' Bites 10 a.m. Adult Learning: Pulse of Our World 5 p.m. Brotherhood Bingo	5 3:45 p.m. Nosh & Mingle	6 10 a.m. Eat and Be Well	7 11 a.m. Chat and Chew 12 p.m. Lunch and Learn 3:45 pm. Nosh & Mingle	1 1	2 6 p.m. Tot Shabbat 8 p.m. Erev Shabbat Worship	3 8:30 a.m. Tefilah 9:15 a.m. Torah Study 11 a.m. Shabbat Morning Worship		
11 Backpack Blessings 10 a.m. Adult Learning: New Israel Fund 1 p.m. Jr. JeTY Laser Quest 4:30 p.m. Congregational Chanukah Party	12 3:45 p.m. Nosh & Mingle	13	14 3:45 p.m. Nosh & Mingle	15	16 NFTY Winter Kallah at OSRUI 6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Reception 6:30 p.m. H(OUR) Shabbat Worship	17 NFTY Winter Kallah at OSRUI 8:30 a.m. Tefilah 9:15 a.m. Torah Study		
18 NFTY Winter Kallah at OSRUI <i>No Religious School</i>	19 <i>No Hebrew School</i>	20 10 a.m. Eat and Be Well	21 <i>No Hebrew School</i>	22	23 6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Reception 6:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Worship	24 8:30 a.m. Tefilah 9:15 a.m. Torah Study		
25 <i>No Religious School</i> Family Promise	26 <i>No Hebrew School</i> Family Promise	27 Family Promise	28 <i>No Hebrew School</i> Family Promise	29 Family Promise	30 Family Promise 6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Reception 6:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Worship	31 8:30 a.m. Tefilah 9:15 a.m. Torah Study Family Promise		

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OF

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-Alice Solovy

IN HONOR OF

Bill Brown

On the occasion of his special birthday
-Phyllis and Arnold Cowen

Bill and Norma Brown

For hosting the Break the Fast
-Avis Zimblar

Ryan Brown

Son of Andrea and Daniel Brown; grandson of Shari and Lorry Brown; great-grandson of Esther Brown, *on the occasion of him becoming a Bar Mitzvah*
-Shari and Lorry Brown

Danny Bruns

Son of Jennifer and Elliott Bruns, *on the occasion of him becoming a Bar Mitzvah*

-Susan and Ken Lorch

Rabbi Paul F. Cohen

For inspirational High Holy Day services
-Alene and Skip Frost

Adel Gold

On the occasion of her 90th birthday
-Lisa and Brian Schurgin

Josh Gurian

Son of Randi and Charles Gurian, *on the occasion of his marriage to Perrin Romine*
-Mandy Scully and Brian Frost

Adam Kahan

For inspirational High Holy Day services
-Alene and Skip Frost

Jeff Kost

On the occasion of his participation in the second day of Rosh HaShanah services
-Jamie and Jeff Kost

Michele and John Maeglin

On the occasion of their special anniversary
-Norma and Bill Brown

Natalie Sydney Reich

Granddaughter of Renee and Alan Reich, *on the occasion of her first birthday and Hebrew naming*
-Renee and Alan Reich

Rabbi Emily E. Segal

For inspirational High Holy Day services

-Alene and Skip Frost

Miri Shure

Granddaughter of Peggy and Jeff Nitzkin, *on the occasion of her birth*
-Debbie and Wayne Goodman

Laura and Bruce Zimmerman

On the occasion of their special anniversary
-Norma and Bill Brown

Skylar Elle Zitter

Granddaughter of Teena and Michael Crane, *on the occasion of her baby naming*
-Teena and Michael Crane

IN MEMORY OF

Jeanette Ansell

Aunt of Rabbi Paul Cohen
-Diane and Brian Albert
-Wendy and Howard Allenberg
-Renee and Alan Reich

Robert Aronson

Father of Tom Aronson
-Leslie, Corey, Jami, Rachel, and Josh Grauer

Rochelle Benjamin

Mother of Neil Benjamin
-Pat and Neil Benjamin

Marvin Bernstein

-Audrey and Ron Snyder

Stanley Carr

Father of Barry Carr
-Randi and Barry Carr

Marilyn Cohen

Mother of Rabbi Paul Cohen
-Diane and Brian Albert
-Wendy and Howard Allenberg
-Martha and David Berzon
-Shari and Lorry Brown
-Judy Denenberg
-Amy and Ira Dolnick
-Liz and Seth Erlich
-Judi and Jeff Goldman
-Leslie and Corey Grauer
-Loryn and Norberto Kogan
-Deborah and Michael Millman
-Wendy and Jim Phillips
-Renee and Alan Reich
-Susan Rubnitz
-Maralee and Ed Wicks
-Frances and Stuart Zimmerman

Robert Cohn

-Jamie and Jeff Kost

Rita Cooper

Mother of Debbie Lorig and Cindy Schwartz
-The Family of Rita Cooper

Ernie Frankl

-Susan Baker and Rick Gilkey

Linda Karno

Sister of Shelley McNaughton-Sulkin
-Maddy and Steven Goldman

Leyb Khazin

Father of Roza Hersher
-Roza and Richard Hersher

Zelda Kost

Mother of Jeff Kost
-Jamie and Jeff Kost

Marty Krasnitz

Brother-in-law of Barbara Milk
-Andrea and Doug Kaplan

Jeff Mantel

-Shari and Lorry Brown

Jacqueline Sabath

Mother of Marla London
-Joanne Keeshin

Gloria Schall

Mother of Betsy Rooth
-Diane and Brian Albert

Bernard Schaner

Husband of Carol Schaner
Father of Cindy Manhoff
-Carol Schaner

Herman Simon

-Jamie and Jeff Kost

FOR THE SPEEDY RECOVERY OF

Shelly Trilling

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-Drew Davis
-Alene and Skip Frost
-Susan and Ken Lorch
-Linda and Ernie Schubert
-Ellen and Alan Toban

Bernard Turek

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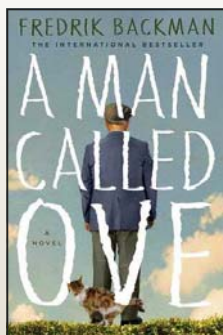
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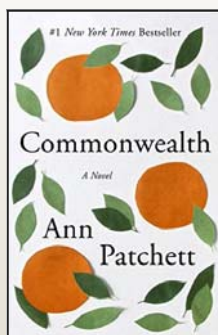
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For more information or to sign up, contact Vicki Siegelman at vsieg@gralynn.org.*

WEDNESDAY EVENING GROUP



Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016
6-7:30 p.m.

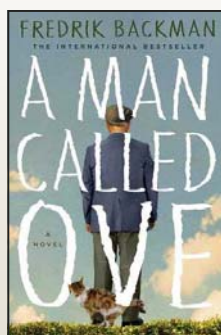
"A Man Called Ove"
by Fredrik Backman



Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2017
6-7:30 p.m.

**"Commonwealth: A
Novel"** by Ann Patchett

THURSDAY MORNING GROUP



Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016
10-11:30 a.m.

"A Man Called Ove"
by Fredrik Backman



Thursday, Jan. 12, 2017
10-11:30 a.m.

**"Commonwealth: A
Novel"** by Ann Patchett

Feel free to bring your dinner!

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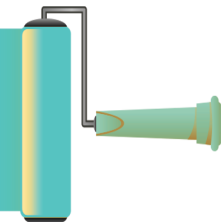
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