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	Editor's Note.....	2
	From Anne's Desk.....	3
	Monthly Mensch.....	4
	Weekly Torah Portions.....	5
	Checking in on Inclusion.....	6
	Save the Date.....	7
	Sisterhood Bookclub.....	7
	Checking in on Social Justice..	8
	Chai Lights.....	9
	Social Justice Calendar.....	9
	Lately Around Jeremiah.....	10
	February Calendar.....	11
	Acknowledgments.....	12

Inclusion Grows from Interfaith to More

By **RABBI PAUL F. COHEN**

Senior Rabbi

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Dear Friends,

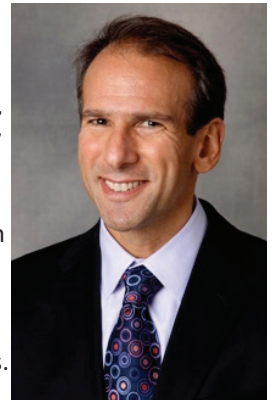
More than 60 years ago, a small group of families felt that they were not welcome at any of the synagogues that existed at that time. They were intermarried and instead of walking away from Jewish life they founded Temple Jeremiah. From its very beginning, Temple Jeremiah was to be a place of inclusion. At that time, inclusion meant inclusion of interfaith families.

This spirit of inclusion has remained a core principle of our congregation. Inclusion has also come to be so much more than our founding families could have ever imagined. Inclusion guides us in how we make virtually every decision about congregational policy and life. When a question arises in our congregational life we ask if the response will help to open our arms wider or will it create a barrier.

Over the years we have learned much about inclusion, and we have grown, rising to meet every new challenge.

While first directed to address interfaith families, inclusion also embraced people in different economic situations. Finances would never be a barrier to belonging. Our community quickly came to realize that inclusion must also mean welcoming people of different sexual orientations and gender identifications. Indeed, our hope is that anyone who might imagine that they are outside the pale for any reason will come to experience the joy of belonging to Temple Jeremiah.

The month of February has been designated as Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month. Our congregation has



continued on page 5

“ In this issue, we explore Temple Jeremiah’s commitment to inclusion.



By **JULIE WEINBERG**
Editor, *The Covenant*
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Welcome to the first revamped edition of *The Covenant*!

The Communications Committee and the Board have decided it’s time to

open up the pages of this newsletter to share more of the stories that represent the joy of belonging and illustrate the meaningful connections we all make through our Temple Jeremiah experience.

These changes come as we celebrate Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month in February, a worldwide effort amongst Jewish organizations to raise awareness and foster inclusion of people with disabilities and those who love them.

In this issue, we explore Temple Jeremiah’s commitment to inclusion. Rabbi Cohen writes our Cover Story about the history of inclusion at Temple Jeremiah and how it’s evolved over the years. Our volunteer feature, *Monthly Mensch*, introduces a member who is truly a leader in disability awareness. You’ll also discover how our inclusion programs are giving families opportunities they just can’t get anywhere else. As we check in on Social Justice, read about a client of Eat and Be Well, our medical food pantry, who gave as much to our volunteers as they gave to her. You’ll also

learn how we developed a partnership with Greater Bethlehem Healing Temple where we distribute lunches every month.

We hope all of these stories demonstrate that Temple Jeremiah values inclusion far beyond simply welcoming individuals to our community.

If you have a story you’d like to tell the rest of the congregation, please contact me. I’d love to hear it and help you share it.

Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance & Inclusion Month **FEBRUARY 2020**

QUICK SURVEY



Later this month,
the Members Survey
will be available.

Assistance will be available at Temple
to access the survey if computer help is
requested.

*We ask that you please take 10
minutes to share your thoughts
to help us plan for continued
growth and success here at Temple
Jeremiah.*

You can participate in one of two
ways: at home, via a link to be sent
in an email later this month, or, at
Temple, by using a computer in the
building on the following Sundays:

**February 16th and 23rd
March 1st and 8th
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

All information collected is
anonymous and will be used in
aggregate.

Your feedback from our last survey
helped the Board make several
changes, including starting the
Parent Network, creating a closed
Facebook group for Temple Jeremiah
parents, and revamping the
Sisterhood.

Thank you in advance—we look
forward to hearing your thoughts,
and to a high level of participation,
so we can grow from strength to
strength.

Our Most Important Work Promises Compliment of Highest Measure



By DR. ANNE LIDSKY

Director of Religious Education
anne@templejeremiah.org

I am always raving about the children at Temple Jeremiah. They are kind, friendly and thoughtful kids. Guest presenters, field trip chaperones, and visiting clergy are always charmed by the menschlichkite atmosphere that exists within our Center for Learning. This isn't just 'good luck.'

We have all worked hard to instill in our children the crucial importance of compassion and empathy.

“Our children need to be taught sensitivity. Children making plans to gather in a park, go to a mall, participate in trick or treating, can open their hearts and include others. If children are guided to HAVE A GOOD HEART, reach out to others, we will have a more peaceful community.”

Over the years, I have learned that we can most profoundly impact lives by being patient and thoughtful, placing more importance on being kind rather than right, and showing gentleness in daily encounters. This is what we strive to teach from the very beginning, creating compassionate, meaningful relationships with one another.

Our children discover the imperfections of the world all too quickly. They know it needs repair, but where does one start? As adults, we can help them absorb the true meaning of Hillel: In a place where no one behaves like a decent human being, strive to be that mensch. If we can help our children absorb that, then we have accomplished something extraordinarily powerful. Encouraging our children to be 'up-standers' rather than by-standers is the most important work that we can do.

As we pay special attention to Pirke Avot, The Sayings of Our Ancestors, wisdom given to us by our rabbis of long ago, I realize that "menschlichkite" has always been a high priority.

Let me share with you one of my favorite teachings from Rabban Yochanan ben Zakkai who said to his disciples, "What do we look for when we consider the one that we should always seek?" Rabbi Eliezer said, "A kindly eye." Rabbi Joshua said, "A good friend." Rabbi Yosei said, "A good neighbor." Rabbi Shimon said, "Foresight." Rabbi Elazar said, "A good heart." Then Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai said to them, "I prefer the words of Rabbi Elazar to yours, because his words include yours as well."

A GOOD HEART takes in all kind, gentle, and crucial qualities. How

does that play out today and what can we do to help our children understand what it means to have a good heart, and why being told you have one is a compliment of the highest measure?

I have chatted with children, 3rd - 8th grade, about their experience with events like Halloween or excursions to the mall and realized how it is all connected to a much larger picture of their world. I wanted to know how they decided who they were "traveling around the neighborhood with" and what unforeseen social consequences often happen if there is a lack of awareness. Who is not invited to accompany the crowd of friends from school? Who is left out by the "clique" that has not been sensitized to look around and see who is hurting? What happens when

parties are planned, sleepovers that include some and forget others? What happens to the kids who see themselves as friends but do not make the list of invitees? Unfortunately, this extends itself to Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations and children finding themselves running to the mailbox, hoping for an invitation, but finding none. It extends itself to the Monday after the big weekend when children don the t-shirt gifts that only point out

further that many decent, caring kids are painfully left out.

Our children need to be taught sensitivity. Children making plans to gather in a park, go to a mall, or participate in trick or treating, can open their hearts and include others. If children are guided to HAVE A GOOD HEART, reach out to others, we will have a more peaceful community.

The North Shore sometimes gets a bad reputation. Parents, teachers, principals, mentors can step in to guide our children to see that they can make a difference in someone's life. Instead of a child falling asleep with a sad heart, our children can save a soul and change the course of an experience.

We have excellent upcoming programs to support our efforts regarding inclusion:

Our annual 3rd grade program, Kids on the Block, helps our children understand the needs of those with physical or developmental challenges. During the month of February, facilitators from Keshet visit our center. Students grow in their understanding, sensitivity, and respect for children with special needs.

It is our job, our most important work to model kind, sensitive behavior and to become proactive, doing everything we can so that each child can proudly say, "Mom and Dad, today I was told that I am a 'mensch' with a good heart"...and you cannot get better than that!

Shirley Craven: An Inspiration in Inclusion

By JULIE WEINBERG

Editor, *The Covenant*

julieweinberg@me.com

Shirley Craven says it's her dream to find fun places for families with disabilities. She's making that dream come true right here at Temple Jeremiah. She joined the synagogue about four years ago because her children are members. Since then, she has become an active part of the Inclusion Committee. "It's an honor to be able to offer families with disabilities the opportunity to do all the things we do," she said.

During Temple Jeremiah's Inclusion Chanukah Party this past December, Shirley greeted guests with her warm smile. "It's our responsibility to find a way to reach individuals with special needs," she said, adding, "They are challenging us to make the world a better place."

Creating an inclusive environment is nothing new to Shirley. Inspired by her two grandsons who are on the autism spectrum, she started the group Grandparents United for Autism to give grandparents the opportunity to share their feelings and learn how to support their children and grandchildren. During the course of seven years, she brought in expert speakers, built awareness by talking on the radio, and hosted picnics for families with special needs.

In fact, Shirley is an expert in her own right. She has a bachelor's degree in counseling from Northeastern University and a master's degree in social work from George Williams College. She earned her PhD at the Institute for Clinical Social Work and has been in private practice for 40 years working with individuals and couples. She will turn 84 in February and still sees a few clients.

Knowing all of this about Shirley, it's no surprise that she was nominated in 2009 as a hero at the Heroes Ball, which recognizes local autism heroes and raises funds and awareness for the Chicago Chapter of Autism Speaks, the nation's leading organization dedicated to supporting individuals with autism and their families. However, Shirley sees things a bit differently. "The real heroes are the children with disabilities and their families. Every day they face many obstacles and challenges, and wake up each day and start the day over. Their resilience is what makes them our heroes," she said.

Shirley also calls Eunice Shriver her hero. "She was an extraordinary woman who, as much as anyone, taught the nation and the world that no physical or mental barrier can restrain the

“The real heroes are the children with disabilities and their families. Every day they face many obstacles and challenges, and wake up each day and start the day over. Their resilience is what makes them our heroes...”



Shirley Craven

power of the human spirit. We at Temple Jeremiah embrace that spirit.”

In addition to her work with the Inclusion Committee, Shirley volunteers with Keshet and is part of Temple Jeremiah's Leadership Cohort, a group that runs every other year to bring congregants together to learn about the temple and discover opportunities to strengthen their involvement. She is also looking forward to joining other congregants on Temple Jeremiah's trip to Israel coming up in March. Good luck to the rest of this group in keeping up with Shirley. She walks three to five miles a day (outside, even in the winter) and works out regularly at the Leaning Tower YMCA in Skokie where she lives.

Reflecting on her time at Temple Jeremiah, Shirley said, "My involvement brings me great joy and pleasure." She certainly is doing her part to return the favor to those around her.



If you'd like to nominate someone as the Monthly Mensch, please email Julie Weinberg at julieweinberg@me.com.

RABBI COHEN (continued from page 1)

much to be proud of as inclusion has come to focus on people with disabilities, as well. In 2000, as we began to plan for the renovation of our facility, it became a priority that our building be 100% accessible to everyone of every ability. We built ramps, we took out steps, we added an elevator, we installed automatic door openers and ensured that all doorways met ADA standards. Upon finishing the work, we received an award from New Trier Township for our completely accessible house of worship.

In the beginning, the focus of inclusion was on families who were interfaith. Not only did Jeremiah welcome them, we also created special programs designed to meet their unique needs. Slowly these programs began to disappear, but not because we lost interest or no longer cared. Rather, interfaith families no longer felt the need for this kind of explicit inclusion effort. They simply belong to the congregation and feel the joy of being included in all aspects of Temple life.

Several years ago, a new Inclusion Committee came together with the mission of creating programming that would be specifically designed for people with special needs and the people who loved them. Among the many programs: Rosh Hashanah worship and learning, Purim Carnival, Shabbat Worship, Chanukah Dance Party, and Passover Seder. Each year these programs developed and grew. People from all over our community attend. And every year our Inclusion Committee has added new programming. Dozens of people volunteer to help run these programs, too. Those who attend and those who volunteer and welcome them have their

lives enriched. I am so grateful for the leadership provided by the co-chairs of this committee, Caren Brown and Gail Modro, and the Goldberg Family Foundation that provides financial resources for these programs.

In the future, we hope to continue thinking about how people with special needs can feel not only included, but the joy of belonging to this incredible and inspiring congregation. We already provide so many assistance devices, such as the Hearing Loop in worship spaces, readers and large print prayer books, fidgets, and book holders. Our goal is to provide the support and the encouragement to make all of our programs as accessible as our building.

Two commands from Torah continue to guide us in this work. The first comes at the beginning of Genesis when we are told that we are all created in the image of God and are all worthy of being treated as such. Second, from Leviticus we learn that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. As we wish to be treated so, too, shall we treat others of all abilities, gender, sexual orientation, color, and religious faith. May we continue to work to achieve this goal together.

Shalom,



Rabbi Paul Cohen, D.Min., D.D.

Weekly Torah Portions

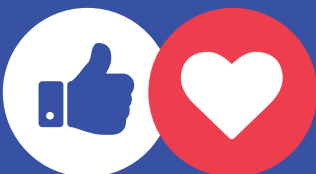
We invite you to join us on Saturday mornings to discuss the Torah portion and how it might apply to our lives. We meet at 9:30 a.m. every Saturday.



February 1, 2020	Bo	Exodus 10:1–13:16
February 8, 2020	B'Shalach	Exodus 13:17–17:16
February 15, 2020	Yitro	Exodus 18:1–20:23
February 22, 2020	Mishpatim	Exodus 21:1–24:18
February 29, 2020	T'rumah	Exodus 25:1–27:19

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♥ Upcoming events

♥ Shabbat Shalom Message

♥ Pictures from school

♥ Youth event pictures

♥ Announcements

♥ And much more!

Families Find Comfort, Cherished Memories, Jewish Experiences



By **CAREN BROWN AND GAIL MODRO**

Inclusion Co-Chairs

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After attending one event at Temple Jeremiah, the Glazer family knew this would be their new home even though it's not exactly in their neighborhood. Estee, Jeff, and their adult son, Mitchell, live in Vernon Hills. They had searched for a temple that would be responsive to Mitchell's special needs and discovered Temple Jeremiah. "Mitchell shows through his behavior that he feels comfortable here and talks about coming here before and after the events," said Jeff.

The Glazers are not alone. Many families have found their place in Temple Jeremiah's inclusion programs, which offer Jewish holiday services and celebrations that appeal to their children and include the whole family. It's all part of the Inclusion Committee's mission to create a welcoming Jewish environment where people of all ages and abilities can rejoice, contribute, and participate. For example, at the recent Inclusion Rosh Hashanah service, parents had the pleasure of watching their children read prayers, lead songs, and carry the Torah -- opportunities that they don't often have in services with the entire congregation. It is heart-warming to watch parents capture the moment in photos and videos to cherish the memory and share with other family members.

While everyone is welcome at all TJ events, families with special needs say inclusion programs simply make things easier. "Parents of loved ones with disabilities typically feel very isolated and do not want to burden others by showing up with their loved one who may or may not make it through the service without a behavioral outburst or something that will draw attention to them," explained Randi Gillespie, a TJ member and mother of Maddy, who has special needs. "I know

most congregants would welcome us at any event, but the additional programming provides an alternative for our family to be included in the community," she said.



Maddy Gillespie opening the ark

While much of the Inclusion Committee's work is focused on families with special needs, Lisa and Steve Levy joined Temple Jeremiah many years ago because they felt welcome as an interfaith family. Their interest in inclusion shifted when their third son, Kevin, was born with special needs. They were grateful for the accommodations he received in religious school and the chance for him to have a meaningful experience becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Looking back, Lisa wishes the inclusion programs that exist now had been available when her son was younger. "Temple Jeremiah has made so much progress in this area. I'd highly recommend this synagogue to other families with special needs," she said.



Lisa, Steve, and Kevin Levy

Since programs like these are so rare, even people who are not members of Temple Jeremiah attend regularly. One non-member recently wrote to us: "My family feels very welcome at all of your events at Temple Jeremiah! We appreciate the opportunity to join with you and others that are also included and make new friends! We tell others how much fun it is to share with you and everyone!"

We are so grateful to all the committee members for their hard work and dedication to inclusion at Temple Jeremiah, and we are proud that Jeremiah continues to show a commitment to meeting the needs of those with different abilities and their families.

If you have any questions or wish to join the Inclusion Committee, contact Caren Brown at ceb994@gmail.com or Gail Modro at gailmodro@comcast.net.

From the community:

"It's great for people with special needs to have something of their own, where they can feel comfortable, feel they belong, and can express their Jewishness."

- Patricia Weinfuss, TJ member and mother of Deborah, who has special needs



Patricia and Deborah Weinfuss

"Thank you for your gracious hospitality once again! I am so grateful to Temple Jeremiah for providing [us] with such a warm and welcoming venue."

- Mindy J.

"Thank you for including my boys in the Rosh Hashanah service. When we left, my older son kept saying 'very good' over and over again. I believe they understood where they belonged."

- Eileen B.

"We are so grateful to you and the Jeremiah community for holding these services. We feel more at home -- and connected with God -- at your services than we do at any other."

- Julie S.

Celebrating Inclusion with a Partnership Built Over Decades



Greater Bethlehem Healing Temple Choir

By **JULIE WEINBERG**

Editor, *The Covenant*

julieweinberg@me.com

While February is Jewish Disabilities Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion month, Temple Jeremiah is celebrating inclusion of a different kind by bringing together voices from Temple Jeremiah and Chicago's West Side in one special program. It's an event that has grown out of a long-standing relationship between the Greater Bethlehem Healing Temple and our synagogue.

More than 25 years ago, Temple Jeremiah members were running the Feed the Hungry program at a West Side shelter operated by the City of Chicago. When the city took the property back, the shelter closed, and TJ volunteers began the search for a new place to offer the packed lunches. They presented the program to the Greater Bethlehem Healing Temple, but the answer was initially no. Next, the volunteers tried a church in Austin and ran the program there for a year. Sister Candy, a neighborhood advocate who had been working on addressing hunger through faith-based organizations, had

become a crucial part of the effort. She felt Greater Bethlehem would really benefit from the program, so she, along with members of Temple Jeremiah's Social Justice Committee, prevailed upon the pastor to reconsider. He finally agreed, igniting a relationship that would blossom.

Over the years, members of both organizations have gotten to know one another by sharing ideas over breakfast, and participating in one another's services. In fact, when Greater Bethlehem installed a new pastor, Rabbi Emily Segal, Temple Jeremiah's previous associate rabbi, prayed with them at the installation service. "We are continuing to build this relationship. I truly believe you can't effect change on the West Side by sitting up here in Northfield," said Barbara Miller, Temple President, "you have to get proximate."

In the spirit of inclusion, the choir from Greater Bethlehem will travel to Temple Jeremiah to sing with our adult and youth choirs for a special Shabbat service.

Special Upcoming Events

February 7th at 6:30 p.m.

Shabbat Shirah Worship featuring the Greater Bethlehem Healing Temple Choir along with TJ Adult Choir

February 9th at 9:30 a.m.

Adult Learning - Special Needs & the IDF: An Israeli Approach to Inclusion



Selah Choir

February 21st at 6:30 p.m.

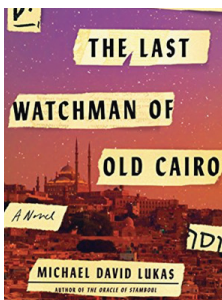
Abilities Awareness Shabbat featuring the Selah Choir, a group of individuals with different abilities from several local synagogues

Sisterhood Bookclub

It's a new year, decade, and booklist! It's 2020 and the books keep coming!
For more information or to sign up, contact Vicki Siegelman at vsieg@gralynn.org

Thursday, February 13, 2020, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

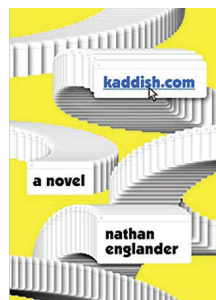
The Last Watchman of Old Cairo, by Michael David Lukas



A college student of Jewish/Muslim parentage receives a mysterious package that sets him off on a fabulous adventure of family history. A wonderful read, winner of: Sophie Brody Award, Nat'l Jewish Book Award in Fiction, Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature, BBC's Ten Best Books of the Year

Thursday, March 12, 2020, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

kaddish.com, by Nathan Englander



Orthodox and secular Jews clash when it comes time to say kaddish for their father. Imagine hiring a service from a website to say kaddish for your father! "This novel reads like Chaim Potok filtered through the sensibility of Mel Brooks."
— Publishers Weekly

Patient Shares Appreciation in Heartwarming Poem & Final Prayer



Miriam Reedy

By **JULIE WEINBERG**

Editor, *The Covenant*

julieweinberg@me.com

Miriam Reedy didn't seem like someone who needed help buying groceries, but when Temple Jeremiah started Eat and Be Well, a medical food pantry at West Suburban Medical Center in Oak Park, she was one of the pilot patients. "She didn't look impoverished or destitute," said Dr. Scott Levin, Miriam's doctor and Executive Vice President of Temple Jeremiah. "She was a renaissance woman who was a painter, a musician and wrote poetry," he said. It turned out, she was also hungry, and she was not alone. "We started screening every patient and uncovered a whole population of people who are food insecure," Scott explained.

Once Miriam started receiving fresh fruits and vegetables and lean protein from the pantry, her health improved, she lost weight, and enjoyed other benefits that were simply immeasurable. "Miriam was a medically and psychosocially complex patient. Receiving food from the pantry was an extreme stress reducer, but more importantly, she found peace and gratitude through her faith and connections with volunteers who were trying to make the world a better place," said Scott.

"Miriam was a delight," said Temple President Barbara Miller who co-founded Eat and Be Well. Miriam had no family, but her friends at the pantry filled that role. "We clearly gave a lot to her, but she gave a lot to us, the volunteers. She was a friend

with a great spirit who really cared about us," Barbara said, explaining that Miriam's visit to pick up her groceries typically included sitting down for an hour chatting with volunteers, sharing recipes, and even trying to convince a fellow client to eat cauliflower.

Over the years, when volunteers noticed Miriam didn't look well, they made sure she saw a doctor, and when she didn't show up, they worried. Together, they celebrated her birthdays, including her 88th, after which she wrote this poem:

Dear Pantry Pals,

**To all the guys and all the gals
Who had birthdays or will
Thanks for using your generous skill
So we the receivers no longer eat "ill"**

**We bless you for the broccoli
Are pleased with plums and pears
Chicken, turkey fill our carts
For you, dear ones, fill us not just with
protein, gluten carbs...**

**You help us with our nourishment
but not just with our bodies...
Our souls also expand....
For you have offered us
Your hearts.**

Happy Birthday to each and every one.

**Love you,
Mir**

That birthday celebration would be her last. Miriam died this past Thanksgiving Day. At her funeral, the Reverend read a prayer at

Miriam's request:

"For those who do the work of the Lord in feeding the hungry, let us pray to the Lord."

Miriam is one of many who have received a prescription for the medical food pantry after answering questions that determined obtaining food is a financial struggle. And the clientele is growing. "Every week, we find at least one new person who is food insecure," Scott said.

With the belief that access to healthy food could make a difference in a person's health and quality of life, Temple Jeremiah co-launched Eat and Be Well in 2015 in partnership with West Suburban Medical Center as well as the Greater Chicago Food Depository, which supplies fresh fruit and vegetables. Volunteers serve the produce as well as lean proteins and whole grains. An anonymous donor provides funds for everything.

While other food pantries primarily distribute canned and packaged goods, this food pantry was one of the first of its kind passing out fresh produce and lean protein.

The Illinois Academy of Family Physicians has recognized it as a model, and Blue Cross Blue Shield has used it as a template for its own healthy food program.

Volunteers are needed for the first and third Tuesday of each month from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at West Suburban Medical Center in Oak Park.

If you'd like to get to know people like Miriam and help them live a healthy lifestyle, sign-up to volunteer at: tinyurl.com/feed-the-hungry

Learn more by watching this video: tinyurl.com/FTHvideo

Family Promise: Compassion, Community, Connections



By **LISA ROSENBERG**

Communications Committee Member
lisarosenberg6@gmail.com

Temple Jeremiah hosted three adults and seven children from December 29 to January 5 as part of our latest participation with Family Promise. While this program helps homeless families get back on their feet, it also offers meaningful opportunities for our volunteers. "I became a co-chair of Temple Jeremiah's Family Promise Committee because my whole family loves the feeling of community on Family Promise evenings," said Dana Garbarski, adding that her daughter and co-chair Beth Wechsler's daughter enjoy making welcoming signs for guest families.

For two weeks each year, Temple Jeremiah becomes home for guest families staying overnight as classrooms are converted into sleeping quarters. In the morning, guests leave for work, school, training, and other Family Promise programming. They return each evening, and temple volunteers of all ages bring dinner, share a meal, visit with the families, and chaperone overnight as well. It's amazing how quickly all the children bond and run off to play games, do art activities, or watch a movie on the big screen, courtesy of Rabbi Rachel's tech expertise.

Linda, Ian, and Amy Lopata were first-time volunteers on December 30. They found the evening extremely rewarding and plan to "volunteer again for Family Promise at every opportunity."

Committee co-chairs Beth Wechsler, Dana Garbarski, and Sybil Stern work hard coordinating volunteers to fill the various roles. Sybil also makes fleece pillowcases that the children get to keep.

Family Promise is a national organization that addresses family homelessness and poverty with a holistic approach. It focuses not only on sheltering families, but also preventing homelessness and stabilizing family financial crises. Family Promise was founded on the belief that families should be able to stay together even during difficult financial times. Nearly all the families find housing within nine weeks of entering the program.

Temple Jeremiah's two host weeks are always planned during school vacation times, so entire families can more easily participate. If you'd like to participate, watch our website under Family Promise for the 2020 summer host week.

A Grandmother Shares Her Proud Moment

by Dr. Anne Lidsky

My 18 year old grandson, Noah, joined us at Family Promise. With a beautiful plan in mind, Noah captured each child staying with us this week through the ingenuity of a polaroid camera. I was so moved by the excitement of the children, decorating frames and ultimately surprising their moms with a New Year's gift - a happy, hard-copy photo that spoke of hope for a better 2020. For me, I watched my grandson as he tenderly interacted with each child, and I was filled with so much pride for the good soul he is, and that what could have been a simple ordinary moment of taking pictures became an extraordinary one, a God moment for all of us. I am filled with gratitude.



SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

February:

Sunday, February 2nd: Feed the Hungry
Tuesday, February 4th: Eat and Be Well
Sunday, February 16th: Backpack Blessings
Tuesday, February 18th: Eat and Be Well

March:

Sunday, March 1st: Feed the Hungry
Tuesday, March 3rd: Eat and Be Well
Sunday, March 15th: Backpack Blessings
Tuesday, March 17th: Eat and Be Well



Scholar in Residence (SIR) Weekend: Cantor Evan Cohen



SIR: Torah Study 12.7.19



SIR: Chanukah Concert 12.8.19



SIR: Chanukah Concert 12.8.19



SIR: Shir Joy 12.8.19



SIR: Shir Joy 12.8.19



Inclusion Chanukah Celebration 12.15.19



Inclusion Chanukah Celebration: Selah Choir 12.15.19

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8:30a.m. Tefilah 9:30a.m. Torah Study
2 9:00a.m. Religious School 9:00a.m. Nominating Committee Meeting 9:30a.m. Adult Learning: Heart Health and You 10:00a.m. Adult Hebrew 11:00a.m. Shir Joy 12:00p.m. Feed the Hungry	3 11:30a.m. Daytrippers: Visit to Church of the Holy Comforter 12:00p.m. AA Meeting 3:30p.m. Nosh and Mingle 4:30p.m. Hebrew School	4 10:00a.m. Eat and Be Well 12:00p.m. AA Meeting 7:00p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:00p.m. Alanon, Alateen, and EDA Meetings 7:00p.m. SHALE	5 12:00p.m. AA Meeting 3:30p.m. Nosh and Mingle 4:30p.m. Hebrew School 7:00p.m. Social Justice Committee Meeting 7:00p.m. Budget Committee Meeting	6 12:00p.m. AA Meeting	7 12:00p.m. AA Meeting 1:00p.m. Sisterhood Mah Jongg 6:00p.m. Tot Shabbat 6:00p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Reception 6:30p.m. Shabbat Shirah Worship featuring Greater Bethlehem Healing Temple Choir	8 8:30a.m. Tefilah 9:30a.m. Torah Study
9 9:00a.m. Religious School 9:00a.m. Brotherhood Business Meeting 9:00a.m. Nominating Committee Meeting 9:30a.m. Adult Learning: Special Needs and the IDF 10:00a.m. Adult Hebrew 11:00a.m. Shir Joy 4:00p.m. Youth Group Purim Committee Meeting	10 12:00p.m. AA Meeting 3:30p.m. Nosh and Mingle 4:30p.m. Hebrew School 7:00p.m. Executive Committee Meeting	11 12:00p.m. AA Meeting 7:00p.m. Season of Musar 7:00p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:00p.m. Alanon, Alateen, and EDA Meetings	12 12:00p.m. AA Meeting 3:30p.m. Nosh and Mingle 4:30p.m. Hebrew School 7:00p.m. Budget Committee Meeting	13 12:00p.m. AA Meeting	14 9:00a.m. Adult Learning: Talmud To Go 10:00a.m. Bim Bam Baby 12:00p.m. AA Meeting 1:00p.m. Sisterhood Mah Jongg 6:00p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Reception 6:30p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Worship	15 8:30a.m. Tefilah 9:30a.m. Torah Study
16 9:00a.m. Religious School 9:15a.m. Youth Committee Meeting 9:30a.m. Adult Learning: Gun Violence Prevention 10:00a.m. Adult Hebrew 10:00a.m. Backpack Blessings 11:00a.m. Shir Joy 12:00p.m. JeTY Event	17 Presidents' Day 12:00p.m. AA Meeting	18 10:00a.m. Eat and Be Well 12:00p.m. AA Meeting 6:30p.m. Leadership Development 7:00p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:00p.m. Alanon, Alateen, and EDA Meetings	19 12:00p.m. AA Meeting 12:00p.m. Downtown Lunch & Learn 6:45 Jewkbox Concert Rehearsal	20 12:00p.m. AA Meeting	21 10:00a.m. Bim Bam Baby 12:00p.m. AA Meeting 1:00p.m. Sisterhood Mah Jongg 6:00p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Reception 6:30p.m. Abilities Awareness Shabbat Worship, with Selah Choir	22 8:30a.m. Tefilah 9:30a.m. Torah Study 1:00p.m. Shir-In: Musical Retreat for Kids 6:00p.m. Jewkbox: The Jews Who Rock Concert
23 9:00a.m. Religious School 9:00a.m. Jeremiah Buddies 9:30a.m. Adult Learning: A Deeper Dive into Torah 10:00a.m. Adult Hebrew 11:00a.m. Shir Joy 12:00p.m. Jeremiah Kids Event	24 12:00p.m. AA Meeting 6:15p.m. Board of Directors Meeting	25 12:00p.m. AA Meeting 7:00p.m. Season of Musar 7:00p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:30p.m. Adult Learning: Music with Cantor Friedman 7:00p.m. Alanon, Alateen, and EDA Meetings	26 12:00p.m. AA Meeting 7:00p.m. Budget Committee Meeting 7:30p.m. RAC Illinois 2020 Issue Campaign Kickoff	27 12:00p.m. AA Meeting	28 NFTY678 Kallah 10:00a.m. Bim Bam Baby 12:00p.m. AA Meeting 1:00p.m. Sisterhood Mah Jongg 6:00p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Reception 6:30p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat Worship	29 NFTY678 Kallah 8:30a.m. Tefilah 9:30a.m. Torah Study

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Leo Dray Goldhar

In honor of his birth
-Leslie and Joel Goldhar

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In honor of their engagement
-Diana and Mark Gluskin

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In honor of their engagement
-Diana and Mark Gluskin

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In honor of their grandson's Bar Mitzvah
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-Abbie and Bob Tucker

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In honor of their special birthdays
-Lori and Andy Goldstein

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In honor of her becoming a Bat Mitzvah
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In honor of Dr. Lidsky's receiving the Board of Jewish Education's Rambam Award
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In honor of the engagement of their son, Sam
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Making a donation to Temple Jeremiah is a wonderful way to honor a friend or family member on their happy occasion or to memorialize a loved one. You can make a donation in two easy ways:

1. Click on "Make a Donation" at templejeremiah.org or visit the Member Login section and click on "Donate" to donate online via credit card or ACH/eCheck.
2. Mail a check to Temple Jeremiah, 937 Happ Road, Northfield, IL, 60093. Be sure to include a note as to what the donation is for and which fund you prefer.

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Discretionary Funds: Rabbi Paul F. Cohen • Rabbi Rachel L. Heaps • Cantor Susan Lewis Friedman

ADULT LEARNING

February 2020

Sunday, February 2, 2020 9:30 a.m. – Heart Health & You!

Cardiologist and congregant Dr. Phil Krause explores the current state of heart health in America and steps we can take to maintain our most precious muscle.

Sunday, February 9, 2020 9:30 a.m. – Special Needs and the IDF: An Israeli Approach to Inclusion

Join us as we learn about the programs the Israeli Defense Force has introduced to make this part of Israeli society accessible to as many citizens as possible.

Sunday, February 16, 2020 9:30 a.m. – Gun Violence Prevention

Social Justice Committee kicks off a series on gun violence prevention with a presentation by Moms Demand Action entitled BE SMART. Betsy Storm, of MDA-Evanston, will present this enlightening and helpful program, which is designed to help parents and others normalize conversations about gun safety and take responsible actions that can prevent child gun deaths and injuries.

Sunday, February 23, 2020 9:30 a.m. – A Deeper Dive into Torah

Back by popular demand, Anita Silvert joins us to explore our Torah with deeper meaning and connection for a modern world.





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FEBRUARY 22ND: 1 DAY, 2 BIG EVENTS!

Community Shir-In: A Musical Retreat for Chicagoland Kids

2nd - 6th graders, spend an afternoon making music and friends! Hosted by the Reform Cantors of Chicago, join workshops taught by area cantors, songleaders, and musicians. Learn and compose pop songs to sing in the evening's Jewkbox concert.

1:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Please register at tinyurl.com/shirin2020.

Jewkbox: The Jews Who Rock A Rock Concert/Dance Party

Come and enjoy popular pop music you've heard performed by Jewish artists such as Maroon 5, Lenny Kravitz, Pink, and more! Featuring Cantor Friedman with Chicagoland area cantors, song leaders, and musicians, and the Don Cagen Orchestra.

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

This free concert is open to the public.