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Shabbat: More Than Rest During COVID-19

By **RABBI PAUL COHEN**

Senior Rabbi

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Dear Friends,

Usually, at this time of year we are shifting gears from the school year to summer vacation. Even those of us who no longer have school age children find the rhythm of our lives changing as the days get longer and the nights get shorter. This would be the time that I and many of your children would be preparing to go to camp. This year is very different. Time has shifted as we have spent weeks and weeks sheltering at home. So many of us have lost track of the days of the week as one day seemingly blends into another. In many conversations people have shared that it feels like Groundhog Day (the movie starring Bill Murray) only not nearly as funny.

For me, my family, and you, Shabbat is a weekly gift that affords us the opportunity to experience renewal in the face of the mind-numbing routine. Shabbat is so much more than a day of rest. It is a day of

renewal. It gives us space to engage deeply in the life of the spirit and the sacred, and it offers a boundary for us to renew our relationships with others and the Creator of all.

No one wrote about this more eloquently than Rabbi Dr. Abraham Joshua Heschel. In a book simply titled, *The Sabbath*, Heschel describes the Sabbath as a "palace in time," whose architecture is built through a combination of intentional abstentions (e.g., refraining from business dealings, long-distance travel) and acts of prayer, study, joyous meals and interaction with loved ones. Most importantly, perhaps, Heschel explains that Shabbat not only offers us an opportunity for weekly spiritual communion, but it also has the potential to help shape the way we live the other six days of the week.



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By **JULIE WEINBERG**
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How many things in your life are the same as they were at the beginning of 2020? I'm pretty sure EVERYTHING has changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Temple life, school, work, social interactions, grocery shopping... even brushing my teeth feels different as thoughts swirl in my head about the constantly updated news.

How do we cope with all of this chaos? We are re-evaluating, reorganizing, reconnecting, refreshing, and, of course, responding. In short, we are taking advantage of this opportunity for renewal, and in this issue, we dig deep into what that looks like for all of us.

In our cover story, Rabbi Cohen reminds us of the gifts of Shabbat and explains why we need this moment in our week now more than ever. Also, in this issue, Dr. Anne Lidsky looks at the lessons that guide us in our new reality; Rabbi and Cathy Cohen's son talks about his life on the frontlines of this pandemic; and the Cornwell family tells us about moving a Bar Mitzvah from Costa Rica to the computer, launching Temple Jeremiah's new virtual B'nai Mitzvah. You'll meet some young people who are responding in a big way

“...we are taking advantage of this opportunity for renewal, and in this issue, we dig deep into what that looks like for all of us.”

to the growing demand for food donations and a couple who has renewed their membership after more than two decades. Director of Philanthropy Leslie Landman explains why now is an ideal time to make a donation, Treasurer Steve Kleiman details how Temple Jeremiah is fairing financially, and Rusty Colman from the Brotherhood tells us what's happening to camp scholarships.

In the midst of all the upheaval, Temple Jeremiah is undergoing a change at the top of our leadership. Barb Miller is stepping down after an impressive three years as President and Dr. Scott Levin is taking her place. They both share their thoughts during this transition.

I hope these stories help you wake up each day with a renewed sense of how to handle what's happening around us, and that you feel proud of the great work happening in our community to keep all of us safe and healthy.

Uncovering Lessons in Search for Renewal



By **DR. ANNE LIDSKY**
Director of Religious Education
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After weeks of worry and moments of feeling depleted, we have come to know that our hearts and minds are in need of renewal. We have lived with social distancing for almost three months, so it is crucial to ask ourselves: *what have we learned that will help us renew and move us in the direction of mindfulness so we live*

with an attitude of gratitude for what we have rather than focus on what we lost?

We have learned that all of our feelings, no matter what they are, are valid.

We have learned the importance of reaching out to our loved ones.

We have learned the joy of taking walks with our family, smiling at neighbors we had not met before, and finding moments to relax.

We need to take all that we have learned and move forward with a refreshed view of life, learning to live more in the present.

Ordinary moments can be quite extraordinary if we pay attention; feel the warmth of the sun, listen to the laughter of the children or the amazing song of birds in our yards. Stand outside and feel the wind on your face; open your hearts to family members, allowing unimportant arguments to dissipate and not interfere with loving one another. This is what it means to be renewed.

There is a beautiful prayer book called *Siddur Lev Chadash*. *Lev* is the Hebrew word for heart; *chadash* is the Hebrew word for new/renewed.

Indeed, so many of us have closed our eyes and silently prayed for help. But as Rabbi Harold Kushner so beautifully shares:

We can't pray that God makes our lives free of problems... We can't ask God to make us and those we love immune to disease... We can't ask God to weave a magic spell around us so that bad things will happen only to other people, and never to us... But people who pray for courage, for strength to bear the unbearable, for the grace to remember what they have left instead of what they have lost, very often find their prayers answered. They discover that they have more strength, more courage than they ever knew themselves to have.

Lev Chadash contains a powerful, relevant prayer that I would like to share with you now. Perhaps it will speak to you as it has to me.

continued next page

When we are ill, we long to be well; and when we are well, we forget how it feels to be ill; we take our health for granted, and omit to thank God for our good fortune.

"After a long illness, I was permitted for the first time to step out-of-doors. And as I crossed the threshold, sunlight greeted me...So long as I live, I shall never forget that moment...the sky overhead was very blue, very clear, and very, very high...A faint wind blew from off the western plains, cool and yet somehow tinged with warmth – like a dry, chilled wine. And everywhere in the firmament above me, in the great vault between the earth and sky, on the pavements, the buildings – the golden glow of sunlight. It touched me, too, with friendship, with warmth, with blessing.

In that instant I looked about me to see whether anyone else showed on their face the joy, almost the beatitude, I felt. But no, there they walked – men and women and children, in the glory of the golden flood, and so far as I could detect, there was none to give it heed. And then I remembered how often I, too, had been

indifferent to the sunlight, how often, preoccupied with petty and sometimes mean concerns, I had disregarded it. And I said to myself: How precious is the sunlight but alas, how careless of it we are."

Yes, we pray for courage, for strength, and we pray for an increased awareness of what is truly important in life. At the same time, the prayer for each new Hebrew month, *Birkat HaChodesh*, also beautifully expresses what we may all be feeling in our hearts, for us and for all the world: *May it be Your will, Adonai, our God and God of our fathers and our mothers, that you begin for us this month for good and for blessing. May You give us long life, a life of peace, a life of goodness, a life of blessing, a life of sustenance, a life of physical health...a life in which Adonai fulfills the request of our hearts for good.*

We pray that as we enter this new month of June, we will focus on the possibility of a renewed spirit. May this month be full of unexpected blessings of renewal in each of our lives.

Susie & Allen Slutsky: Back for More

More than 30 years after first joining Temple Jeremiah, Susie and Allen Slutsky decided to renew their connection to the congregation and are now back for a second membership. "We had been members for 11 years," Susie said, "and now, 23 years after we left, we decided we needed something more in our life."

The Slutskys were active members back in the 1980s with Allen serving on the Temple Board and the Board of Religious Education, Susie was involved with the Sisterhood and the Bagel Bar, and their daughter became a Bat Mitzvah. During their break from Temple Jeremiah, Allen and Susie were busy with family and careers, Susie working as a special education teacher and Allen running his own law firm.

“When we came back, we were very warmly received by people we know and people we didn’t know. We really felt the sense of community, and that felt good.

Knowing Temple Jeremiah had been a good fit all those years ago, they rejoined in early 2019. "When we came back, we were very warmly received by people we know and people we didn't know. We really felt the sense of community, and that felt good," said Allen.

Now, they are both deeply involved with the Inclusion Committee, inspired by Susie's first cousin with disabilities whom they cared for since the mid-90s. They participate in committee meetings and have helped plan inclusion events like the Purim Carnival and



Susie & Allen Slutsky

Abilities Awareness Shabbat Service. In addition, you may have spotted them at the temple's musical concerts as well as Torah Study. Both say they are impressed by the increase in activities over the years. "If you can't find something of interest at Jeremiah, then you aren't paying attention," Susie said.

Outside of Temple Jeremiah, Susie and Allen are also active volunteers in the greater community. Susie is committed to a regular shift at the Northfield Food

Pantry, and Allen gives his time to visiting with clients at the senior day program at Clearbrook. "If they get half as much out of it as I do, then it's a success," he said. Of course, their in-person volunteering is on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic, and Allen said it's tough not seeing his clients. "I miss them," he said.

Temple Jeremiah is fortunate Susie and Allen Slutsky are back in the congregation bringing their commitment to inclusion and the community, and that's why they are the June Monthly Mensches.



To nominate someone as the Monthly Mensch, please send an email to covenant@templejeremiah.org

Barbara Miller Reflects on Legacy



Barb Miller, at the end of her term as Temple Jeremiah's President, is leaving a significant legacy of growth and stability after her three years in office.

Her involvement in temple life began more than 25 years ago when she and her family first became members. You may have heard her tell the story of a fellow member asking her to help with the Feed the Hungry program, and she answered,

"yes," knowing she had some time to spare while her children were in school. Decades later, during her first High Holy Day speech as President, Barb encouraged all of us to give the same answer when she said, "When someone asks you to help, say yes. Because you never know where yes can lead you." The response to that speech was tremendous, and participation jumped. "People are giving their skills doing what they normally do for a living, but they are donating their time and talent to Temple Jeremiah. It's amazing," she said.

During her tenure, Barb has also focused her efforts on securing the temple's financial future. Using her "say yes" campaign, she reached out to members with expertise in finance and investment, and in the last three years, they have worked together to ensure Temple Jeremiah is poised to "survive and thrive."

While Barb is leaving her executive office, she is committed to staying active in temple life. She will remain on the board, continue her work with social justice, and stay involved with various committees along with her volunteer commitments outside the temple including mentoring small businesses and giving her time to several other organizations.

Above all, Barb says the best part has simply been the relationships she's built over the years: "I've gotten to know a ton of people that I feel close to. I know their story. I've been able to enhance the joy of belonging for all of us."

President Scott Levin Shares Goals for New Role



Dr. Scott Levin never sought out Temple Jeremiah's presidency, but after accepting a series of "asks" over the years, he's now moving into that top spot. "It's a privilege for others to recognize that you have something to give. I am humbled," he said.

Scott's path to the presidency began when his family joined Temple Jeremiah

in 2006. They got involved attending family services, holiday celebrations, and other events. A few years in, their connection to the congregation deepened at a temple retreat where they got to know other members. Scott was invited to join the board where he has served for the past eight years. He has most recently fulfilled the role of Executive Vice President and co-chairs the Leadership Development Cohort. "The mission of that committee is to develop human capital, and we've been very successful," said Scott.

As he takes on the role of President, Scott has two goals. First, as a family physician with a busy professional life and a married father of two, he wants to set the example that there are opportunities for volunteers no matter their availability. "I want to try to create an environment where people feel comfortable giving what they can," he said. Second, he's looking forward to enhancing his bond with others, something that comes from his work as a physician. "I enjoy accompanying people through life's journeys. It's about being with people and developing relationships," he explained.

Scott recognizes that he's taking office during a very scary time. He's seen it up close when he gowns up to enter the COVID unit at West Suburban Medical Center in Oak Park where he works. "It's like a movie," he said. However, he has a positive outlook. "We will get through this. We are in great hands with our clergy and staff, and fortunately, Temple Jeremiah has large spaces so we can accommodate social distancing," he said, adding, "We will learn from this. We are already seeing flexibility with new uses of technology, and a little improved hygiene can't hurt!"

SEND US YOUR HOME PHOTOS!

TYPICALLY we showcase activities and events happening lately around Temple Jeremiah on a full page. While the physical building is not filled with everyone's smiling faces, we know the warmth and connections amongst our congregation still exist. How about taking a photo of what's going on at home as you stay in touch with Temple Jeremiah? We'd love to see you celebrating Shabbat, your kids interacting online with youth events, or the challah that you baked. Please send your pictures our way so we can continue filling these pages with the images that remind us all what a wonderful, vibrant, and caring community we have created.

SEND PHOTOS TO: covenant@templejeremiah.org

RABBI COHEN (continued from page 1)

Here are two quotations among many favorites that express Heschel's teaching about Shabbat:

"Sanctifying the Sabbath is part of our imitation of God, but it also becomes a way to find God's presence. It is not in space but in time, he writes, that we find God's likeness. In the Bible, no thing or place is holy by itself; not even the Promised Land is called holy. While the holiness of the land and of festivals depends on the actions of the Jewish people, who have to sanctify them, the holiness of the Sabbath, he writes, preceded the holiness of Israel. Even if people fail to observe the Sabbath, it remains holy."

"Spiritual life begins to decay when we fail to sense the grandeur of what is eternal in time. Our intention here is not to deprecate the world of space. To disparage space and the blessing of things of space, is to disparage the works of creation, the works which God beheld and saw "it was good." The world cannot be seen exclusively sub specie temporis (under the aspect of time). Time and space are interrelated. To overlook either of them is to be partially blind. What we plead against is man's unconditional surrender to space, his enslavement to things. We must not forget

that it is not a thing that lends significance to a moment; it is the moment that lends significance to things."

The Sabbath is an opportunity to renew and refresh our souls, our spirits. It is also the time when we can renew our relationships and how we approach the new week that begins. During Havdallah, the ceremony that marks the end of Shabbat and the beginning of the new week, we bless God who makes the separation between sacred and the ordinary. By renewing how we embrace the sacred we can also renew how we approach the ordinary. The sacred permeates every moment and everything. With renewed vision we gain this insight and connect more deeply with the whole of creation.

Shalom,



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

Lately Around Jeremiah: What's Keeping Members Busy?



The Silversteins dye their hair...



The Erlich family takes walks.



...and read books together.



Raydon Bauwens' food truck is keeping him busy.

Paramedic Jake Cohen Working on Front Lines of Pandemic



The Cohen family: Anna, Cathy, Jake, Rabbi Paul Cohen

Since high school, Jake Cohen, son of Cathy and Rabbi Paul Cohen, wanted to become a paramedic and firefighter. After years of training, he's on the front lines facing the COVID-19 pandemic with every shift. From his home in Denver, Colorado, he shared the details of what it's like to work as an emergency responder right now. "You're there to help, and in times like these, when our services are most necessary, you put the fear behind you," he said.

Before Jake and his colleagues head out from their station in Centennial, Colorado, the dispatcher screens every call to determine the risk of exposure to COVID-19. If there's a chance a patient is infected with the coronavirus, then emergency responders suit up with more protective equipment than usual, but less people actually go to the patient to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. "In pre-COVID times, six responders would go in, now we send one to assess the situation," Jake explained.

If the symptoms warrant a trip to the hospital, the department follows up with every patient to find out the results of COVID-19 testing. If the crew was not wearing PPE because the dispatch information did not warrant it, and the patient tests positive, the

crew must self-quarantine for 14 days. "We don't have enough gear to assume everyone is positive, so we can't always suit up," Jake said.

Regardless of the information that comes from dispatch, Jake said everyone is taking extra safety measures by wearing additional layers of clothing. He keeps his uniform in a separate compartment in his bag and washes it immediately. In addition, anything that comes in contact with a patient is sprayed with a disinfectant. "We are extremely diligent and taking the most precautions that we can," he said. Despite all of that, some colleagues did test positive early on in the pandemic.

Overall, he observed, 911 calls have dropped since people are trying to avoid trips to the hospital, and, he said, there are fewer transports. "People are more trusting and willing to listen and take our word if we say they are better off at home," he said.

When he's not on the job, Jake is sheltering-in-place with his fiancé, Elana Gordon, who is a physical therapist. Elana is continuing to see patients with acute needs. The two met eight years ago as counselors at OSRU and were planning an April wedding which was postponed due to the pandemic. They've rescheduled for November and are hopeful to make it to the chuppah without another delay and with Jake's father officiating. It's sure to be an extra special celebration!



Jake Cohen with his fiancé, Elana Gordon

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 virtually on at 9:30 a.m. every Saturday.

To join us on Zoom, visit zoom.us/j/132889355.



June 6, 2020	B'haalot'cha	Numbers 8:1–12:16
June 13, 2020	Sh'lach L'cha	Numbers 13:1 - 15:41
June 20, 2020	Korach	Numbers 16:1–18:32
June 27, 2020	Chukat	Numbers 19:1–22:1

Jeremiah Youth Lead Efforts to Feed the Hungry

Hi everyone!

Thank you so much for making these amazing lunches for all of the people in need of food. When we were driving by, we saw the happy expressions on the people's faces because they were getting food. That is a moment I'm definitely going to remember. I hope this encourages all of you to keep wanting to feed the homeless. I am so, so appreciative that you helped me and my family make this all happen. Without you I don't know what these people would've done!

#1stSundayofEveryMonth

Be safe 🧡 Be well 💚 Be happy 💖

Harps

Harper Adelstein is just finishing fifth grade, but she is a force in Temple Jeremiah's Social Justice efforts. She and her family joined Temple Jeremiah last fall and quickly got involved volunteering with the Feed the Hungry program, making and delivering lunches to people at the Greater Bethlehem Healing Temple on Chicago's West Side. Harper was so moved by her initial experience that she rallied others

The next day, four families drove the food to the church, and it was apparent that their work is critical. "As we were leaving, Sister Ketchum told me that these families need the food so badly. Some of them eat the meal right in front of her when they pick it up because they are so hungry," said Liz, adding "It breaks my heart knowing how much hunger and suffering is out there."

"Being a part of this program has helped me realize how lucky I am to have this amazing life, and I want to make a difference in the lives of others," said Harper. The Adelsteins and their team are not alone.

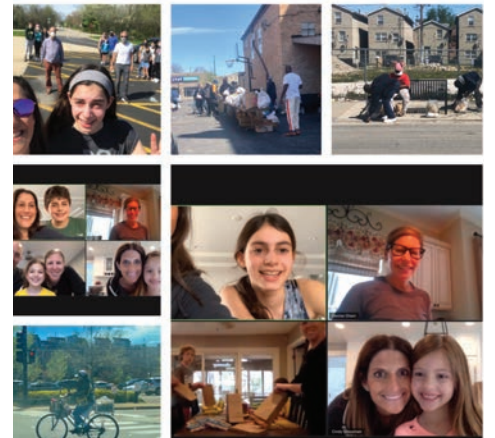
Michael Nagel, who will become a Bar Mitzvah in October, is also committed to feeding the hungry and has set a lofty goal of delivering 800 lunches over the summer as his Tikkun Olam project. "I want to do something to help people," he said. Michael is reaching out to grocery stores with a letter explaining the mounting plea for food. "Before COVID-19, I made about 20 lunches to deliver to the church. The need is 10 times more now," he wrote. He has already secured some donations to fill the lunch bags.



Harper Adelstein



Harper packing lunches with her mom and brother



The Adelsteins, with other families, packing lunches

“Being a part of this program has helped me realize how lucky I am to have this amazing life, and I want to make a difference in the lives of others.

to join her efforts, and now the Adelsteins are leading a mission to meet the growing demand as a result of COVID-19.

On Saturday, May 2nd, they gathered virtually with a dozen other families, some members of Temple Jeremiah and others who are not. Each created their own assembly line and collectively packed about 300 lunches. "By adding that social component, it feels like we are all in it together," said Liz, Harper's mother.

If you'd like to join Harper and Michael to Feed the Hungry, simply make lunches before the first Sunday of every month.

Please note that the menu has changed to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. Visit tinyurl.com/FTH-updated for all the details on ingredients and packaging instructions.

All lunches must be dropped off at Temple Jeremiah by 10:00 a.m. on the first Friday of every month.



Michael Nagel

TO PARTICIPATE IN FEED THE HUNGRY, please visit tinyurl.com/FTH-updated for all the details on ingredients and instructions.

Why 2020 is Ideal Time to Donate



By **LESLIE LANDMAN**
Director of Philanthropy
leslie@templejeremiah.org

Like many of you, I have been reflecting on actions I can take to help a world that is feeling very much in need of repair amidst the reality of COVID-19. There is tremendous demand for individuals to volunteer, especially as former volunteers who are particularly vulnerable to the virus take a step back from those roles. Equally important is the need for advocates bringing attention to critical issues. And, of course, there is tzedakah, an opportunity to engage in acts of righteousness and giving, be it bringing meals to medical professionals on the front lines or supporting organizations that are helping respond to the pandemic.

If you are in a financial position to do so, 2020 is an extremely beneficial time to make a charitable gift.

All nonprofits, including the temple, are feeling economic pressure as a result of COVID-19.

When Congress passed the CARES Act at the end of March, it recognized that charities would need monetary assistance to continue their vital missions and included provisions in the relief package to promote giving by offering tax breaks for **gifts made in 2020**. These breaks **only apply for cash contributions made directly to the charitable organization** (not to private foundations or donor advised funds).

Under the CARES Act:

- **Non-itemizers** may receive an above-the-line deduction for up to \$300 in charitable contribution. If you have been opting for the standard deduction in recent years and got out of the habit of keeping your charitable receipts, you may want to hold onto them this year, in case they are needed in order for you to take advantage of this benefit.
 - This year, **itemizers** can make charitable contributions directly to organizations equal to their adjusted gross income (AGI) and deduct the full amount. If they make a gift in excess of their AGI, for tax purposes, that excess would carry over to the following year and be subject to the 60% AGI limit. If you have any multi-year pledges at a charitable institution, you may want to explore advancing those payments to take advantage of this 2020 option.
 - The annual cash gift limit for corporate donors, including partnerships, is increased from 10% to 25% of corporate taxable income, potentially allowing greater charitable support.
 - Also, given the heightened awareness and incidence of food insecurity, the CARES Act provides **significant incentives for food donations**. The tax deduction available for food inventory has been increased from 15% to 25%. Taxpayers who donate food to their local food pantry can claim the value of that food on their taxes.
- The CARES Act provides financial stimulus to renew our economy. Please explore these special incentives and consider including Temple Jeremiah in your charitable giving plans. Whether you are thinking about outright gifts or are creating legacy plans, I am always available to speak with you. Gifts at every level are critical to maintain the programs and worship services the temple offers and are especially appreciated during this time. As always, please consult with your tax advisor for details about tax laws and your personal giving situation.

Donate to Temple Jeremiah

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.

* Please note that the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) gives additional tax advantages to those making cash donations to the temple in 2020. For those who do not itemize, an "above the line" deduction up to \$300 may be claimed. If you do itemize, this year you may be able to deduct charitable contributions equal to as much as 100 percent of AGI. (Consult your tax advisor for details and specific rules about what constitutes qualified contributions.)

COVID-19 Prompts Contingent Budget for 2020-2021



By **STEVE KLEIMAN**

Treasurer

skleiman@zazove.com

Budget Season Kick-Off

The budget season started in typical fashion in mid-February. The Budget Committee met weekly to analyze and project the Temple's income and expense items for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020. As in the past, our marching order

was to be fiscally responsible and present a balanced budget to the Board for their review at our April meeting.

Change in Circumstances

Typical quickly turned to atypical in March. Not only did we find ourselves meeting digitally over zoom, but suddenly our thoughtful analysis and projections over the prior month were called into question. We struggled with these important questions:

Would our projected Membership Commitments for the upcoming fiscal year fall dramatically due to the economic fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic?

Would the decline be similar to what we saw during the financial crisis?

Could we count on our projected facility income from members for events such as B'nai Mitzvah celebrations and from non-members who rent space on a per usage basis?

Will the Fall see life back to normal with Religious School and Hebrew School in session and a full house at High Holiday services?

While the answers to these questions will have a material impact on our income projections, it is safe to say that in April we did not have all the answers.

Difficult Decisions

After analyzing three scenarios from a modest to severe decrease in income, we settled on a middle ground in reducing our

projected income for the year. This caused us to have to make meaningful reductions in expenses to reach a balanced budget. These were incredibly difficult decisions and we agreed to the following guidelines:

- minimize the impact on our programming
- retain all our dedicated staff

We balanced the budget by:

1. Applying for and receiving a CARES grant. Congress passed the CARES stimulus package that included assistance to small businesses and tax-exempt organizations through the Payroll Protection Program. We qualified for this program and received a loan that will largely be converted to a Federal grant. The proceeds from the loan will be used to cover payroll and health insurance expenses of our employees. This was an extremely helpful part of the formula that let us retain our full staff as we head into the summer.
2. Reducing expenses on the Operating Budget by having certain program costs covered by existing Temple funds (e.g., Music Fund; Education Fund; Clergy Discretionary Funds).
3. Reducing expenses, the most significant of which was our annual financial commitment to the Union for Reform Judaism.
4. Eliminating discretionary salary increases and we made the difficult decision to eliminate the Temple's retirement plan contributions for the new fiscal year. Unfortunately, the balance of the required reductions in expenses to reach a balanced budget fell on our employees.

Contingent Budget

By the time you read this article, the Temple will have passed the Budget presented at the Annual Meeting in May. At that meeting we will present the Budget as having been formulated during a period of many unknowns due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Budget will be passed with the caveat that it will be revisited in August when we will have a better understanding of what the new normal may look like in the Fall. Stay safe and healthy.

ADULT LEARNING June 2020

Talmud to Go

Fridays, June 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th | 9:00 a.m.

Start your day off with a taste of Talmud learning. Join our rabbis every Friday of the month as we dive into the Talmud and how it helps guide our lives. No previous experience with Talmud necessary. Contact Rabbi Rachel Heaps with questions.

For up-to-date Adult Learning programming, please visit our online calendar.

To read about past and future events, visit tinyurl.com/TJ-virtualprogramming.

Camp Scholarship Winners Announced



By RUSTY COLMAN
Brotherhood Member
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In normal, pre-COVID-19 times, June would be a period for fully blossomed renewal—specifically, a time when many Jeremiah youngsters could look forward to warm, fun-filled days at overnight camp. That was also Brotherhood's intent in early spring when we opened our camp scholarship competition. But as time passed, it became increasingly apparent that these would not be normal times. We now know there will be no summer camp in 2020.

Nevertheless, while still hopeful earlier in the spring, our scholarship committee—Alan Turover, Charles Gurian, Rusty Colman, and Bruce Zimmerman—judged the 24 essays submitted. Although the judging was truly a daunting task, three JUF Alan and Sarah Turover Overnight Camp Scholarship winners were chosen: Sky Sonabend, Jake Werber, and Alex Sweet. In addition, five Al Brottman Scholarship winners were designated: Rayne Boyer, Sadie Cohen, Anna Friedman, Isaac Morgolis, and Evan Mogilner. Brotherhood congratulates these youths and would like to express

our appreciation to each child who submitted an essay. Each was truly worthy of serious consideration.

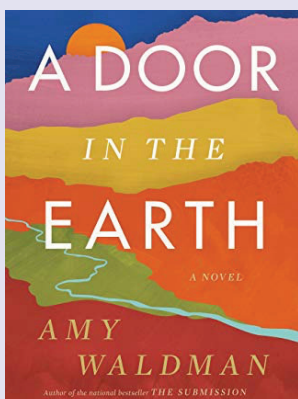
So what do we do with the winners, given no camp in 2020? The committee has decided that each winner will be able to use his or her scholarship in 2021. Winners will need to notify committee chairman Rusty Colman (warrencolman@gmail.com) next spring, expressing their intent to either go to or forego camp. The committee will then decide whether an additional competition will be held for the summer 2021 season.

Even though Brotherhood has been unable to hold in-person meetings, we have been meeting virtually. In addition to business meetings, we have been holding our Kibbitz 'n Bites (temporarily renamed by Brother John Maeglin as "Kibbitz 'n Bytes") to keep in touch with our Brotherhood friends. In other words, despite the pandemic, we have continued our *tikkun olam* initiatives for Temple Jeremiah, as well as for our local, state, country, and worldwide Jewish communities. And we continue to foster our close friendships. As you probably know, our important social and charitable works are funded by the Jeremiah community. And so we would ask that you opt in to Brotherhood dues when the temple's annual payments come due. It will help us continue our important work.

Sisterhood Book Club

NOTE: We will be meeting through Zoom! Join us online at zoom.us/j/3417454169.

Thursday, June 11, 2020 ~10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
A Door in the Earth, By Amy Waldman



Young, Afghan-American, and female...what should she do? Choose between a comfortable life in northern California or follow her ideals to a charitable cause? "A Door in the Earth" is a deeply chilling, multifaceted examination of... the situation in Afghanistan.

— Bookpage, starred review

Thursday, July 9, 2020 ~10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
The Liar, By Ayelet Gundar-Goshen



She is no one, really. Just a person, a person no one notices, until THE LIE...and then everyone knows and wants to know her. "A psychological page-turner, rich in setting, character, and wisdom...The author unfurls her ironic fable—simultaneously timeless & contemporary..."

— Kirkus

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

B'nai Mitzvah Go Virtual in Midst of Shutdown



Mason Cornwell, during his virtual Bar Mitzvah

By JULIE WEINBERG

Editor, *The Covenant*

julieweinberg@me.com

Mason Cornwell heard his parents' "awesome stories" about their trip to Costa Rica, so when it was time for his Bar Mitzvah, the Attea Junior High seventh grader decided that's where he wanted to celebrate his special day. Unfortunately, it was not meant to be. Mason is one of nearly two dozen Temple Jeremiah kids whose B'nai Mitzvah fell as the world shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All of their plans were derailed.

"Families were in shock at the beginning," said Cindy Lieb, Temple Jeremiah B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator, "I've done a lot of consoling them in their disappointment."

The Cornwell family had initially arranged for a small group of relatives and friends, along with Cantor Susie Lewis Friedman and her husband, to join them on their Costa Rican trip for the March 28th Bar Mitzvah. As departure day got closer, the Cornwells realized they needed to pull the plug. "I started to feel like we shouldn't go. People were getting stuck in other countries," said Mason's mom, Tammy. So, what was the alternative? They considered

a small service in the Chapel, but Tammy wasn't comfortable with that either. "How could I ask people to come when we have been instructed to social distance?" she asked.

Three days before his scheduled date, Mason went for a walk with his mom, and she said to him, "What do you think about doing this virtually?" Mason was on board. Tammy called Rabbi Paul Cohen who agreed right away, and the Virtual Bar Mitzvah plans began in haste.

By Saturday morning, everyone was in front of their computers, connected via Zoom, and Temple Jeremiah conducted its first virtual Bar Mitzvah. "I was a little nervous, but it went pretty smoothly," Mason said.

During the service, Rabbi Cohen acknowledged how many people who joined them that day would not have been able to participate had they gone to Costa Rica. Tammy later learned there was an even bigger crowd elsewhere as it was live streamed on Facebook to more than 200.

Meanwhile, Cindy is left with the giant task of rescheduling many B'nai Mitzvah into an already packed calendar. "During the first weekend in October, we are planning four B'nai Mitzvah in 24 hours. It's going to be busy," she said, adding, "For Temple Jeremiah, the silver lining is we have the ability to come up with an alternative to make people happy."



The Cornwells, wearing clothes they'd planned to wear in Costa Rica, hope to reschedule the trip when it's safe to travel.



Jack Weinberg, during his virtual Bar Mitzvah

Joining the Trend

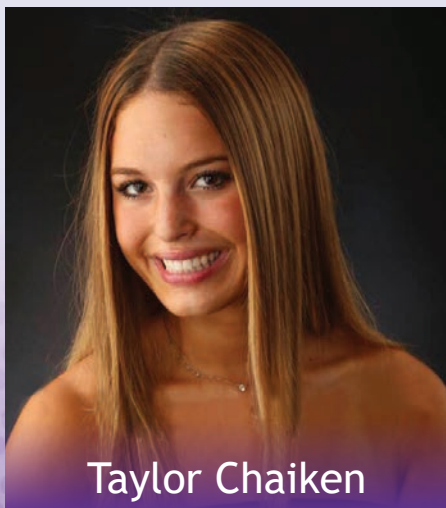
Thank you to Mason and his family for initiating the virtual Bar Mitzvah and setting an example for the rest of us. Three weeks after Mason's Bar Mitzvah, my son, Jack, followed suit with his own virtual Bar Mitzvah. Our extended family joined us via Zoom to support Jack as we marked this milestone. It was truly a special experience to welcome them to Temple Jeremiah in this most unique way.

Although we cancelled the luncheon we had planned following the service, we still celebrated virtually. Again through Zoom, we shared toasts, a video montage, and even danced the hora! It was a Bar Mitzvah unlike any other, and turned out to be just right for Jack. For a kid who loves video games, what could be more appropriate than a virtual Bar Mitzvah? I am so grateful we could use his beloved technology, something that puts us at odds on so many occasions, to bring people together and share some joy during a very difficult time.

-Julie Weinberg

In an effort to provide accurate and up-to-date programming, we have decided to make our online Calendar the main source for this information. For all programming, visit tinyurl.com/tj-calendar.

CONGRATULATIONS



Taylor Chaiken

On receiving the Toddie Gray and Diane Mary Katz [college] Scholarship.

Toddie Gray and Diane Mary Katz

In memory and honor of Toddie Gray and Diane Mary Katz, a college scholarship is awarded each year to a graduating Temple Jeremiah high school senior who has actively participated in or provided service to their community. This year's recipient, Taylor Chaiken, is no exception. At Temple, Taylor has volunteered at many social justice events, worked as a teaching assistant in a 2nd-grade classroom for three years, and most recently served as Co-President of Temple Jeremiah's Youth Group, JeTY. At Deerfield High School (where she just graduated), amongst several leadership roles Taylor held, she organized various charity events for Student Council, raising over \$112,000 in her four active years.



Ross Wolfson

On receiving the Robert H. Goldberg Award for Service to the Temple Jeremiah Community

Robert H. Goldberg Award for Service to the Temple Jeremiah Community

Created in honor of Bob Goldberg's 100th birthday and for his 55 years of dedication to Temple Jeremiah, this award is given each year to a member who has given their time in order to help the Jeremiah community. Often times these individuals are working with us behind the scenes, although you will likely see their smiling faces at Temple gatherings too. These individuals help us work to be a place of meaningful connection, and Ross has been an essential part of that work. Not only has he served as a High Holy Day usher coordinator for years, he also serves as unofficial head of all search committees, by which he has played a crucial role in bringing many of the staff we are blessed to have today.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

FEED THE HUNGRY will continue the first Sunday of every month. A new menu can be found at tinyurl.com/FTH-updated. All food must be dropped off at Temple Jeremiah by 10am. Next delivery day: June 7th

FOOD DRIVE: Drop off packaged food to Temple Jeremiah Monday - Friday between 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Deliveries will be made the third Sunday of every month to A Just Harvest. Next delivery day: June 21st

If you'd like more information about our social justice programs during this time, please visit tinyurl.com/SJ-updates.

IN SUPPORT OF

Temple Jeremiah

-Suzanne McAuley

IN HONOR OF

Henry Baron

On the occasion of his 100th birthday

-Susan and Joel Bersh

-Joan Golder

-Deborah and Franklin Leibow

Nicole Brodsky

On the occasion of her birthday

-Joanne Keeshin

Jacob Cohen

Son of Cathy and Rabbi Paul Cohen, on the occasion of his engagement to Elana Gordon

-Karen Gitles and Michael Jablo

Carol Fishbain

On the occasion of her special birthday

-Carol and Arnie Fishbain

Madeleine Dawn Goldhar

Granddaughter of Leslie and Joel Goldhar, on the occasion of her birth

-Leslie and Joel Goldhar

Aya Rose Stevens

Granddaughter of Susan and Miff Ardell, on the occasion of her birth

-Judith Sontag

Jack Weinberg

Son of Julie and Mark Weinberg, on the occasion of him becoming a Bar Mitzvah

-The Weinberg Family

Vicki Weisenberg

On the occasion of her special birthday

-Joan Golder

Andrew Zbaraz

Son of Stacy and Tobby Zbaraz, grandson of Fern and Michael Kamen and Darrelyn and Bruce Winograd, on the occasion of him becoming a Bar Mitzvah

-Barbara Kite

IN MEMORY OF

Lois Jacobs Abrams

Sister of Alan Jacobs

-Avrie and Alan Jacobs

Odie Banks

-Kathy and Marc Mayer

Fannie Beeres

Mother of Muriel Kaplan

-Muriel Kaplan

Irwin Berkley

Father of Abra Berkley

-Abra Berkley and Tony Ryba

-Susan and Ken Lorch

-Hershy Pappadis

-Jessica and Stephen Schar

Susan Blinderman

Daughter of Sandra Marks, sister of Patricia Lurie, former wife of Steve Blinderman

-Patricia and Fred Lurie and Family

Lawrence Blum

Father of David Blum

-Janet and David Blum

William Brandfon

Husband of Lillian Brandfon

-The Family of William Brandfon

Bruce Cohen

Son of Doris and Ron Cohen

-Doris and Ron Cohen

Phyllis Davis

-Norma and Bill Brown

-Randi and Charles Gurian

-Gayle Malvin

Barbara Ferdman

Wife of Seymour Ferdman

-Seymour Ferdman

Allen Fishbain

Father of Arnie Fishbain

-Carol and Arnie Fishbain

Jason Fishbain

Son of Carol and Arnie Fishbain

-Carol and Arnie Fishbain

Mark Friedman

Son-in-law of Doris and Ron Cohen, brother-in-law of Shelley and Jay Cohen

-Shelley and Jay Cohen

-Lori and Gary Kash

Hannah Goldstein

Mother of Carole Fishman and Linda Schubert

-Carole and Bill Fishman

Robert I. Goldy

Father of Jill Goldy

-Jill Goldy and Mark Holtzer

Rose Granof

Mother of Corinne Granof

-Corinne Granof and Vincent Tomkiewicz

Allen Horowitz

Father of Helene Boyer

-Barbara Kite

Ronald Klein

Husband of Jacqueline Klein, father of Sandy Bernstein and Rob Klein

-Cindy and Rob Klein

Harriet "Honey" Laurens

Mother of Jonathan Laurens

-Jane Borucki

-Barbara and Howard Silver

Daniel Schimmel

-Kathy and Marc Mayer

Rose Shore

Mother of Susan Slutsky

-Susan and Allen Slutsky

Blanche Victor

-Adrienne and Joseph Feldman

Robert Zall

Father of Larry Zall

-Nancy and Arnee Eisenberg

-Pamela and Larry Zall

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Temple Jeremiah's SOCIAL ACTION OPPORTUNITIES

FEED THE HUNGRY

Now, more than ever, individuals are relying on the lunches we bring every month. Please review the new safety protocols and drop off lunches every first Sunday of the month.

TO LEARN MORE, visit
tinyurl.com/FTH-updated

FOOD DRIVES

Looking for a safe way to lend a hand during this pandemic? We are holding a packaged food drive to benefit *A Just Harvest*, a food pantry who is experiencing an increase in the need for food at this time.

TO LEARN MORE, visit
tinyurl.com/TJ-food-drives

MASK DRIVES

Many Chicago-area organizations are accepting mask donations during this time. We have put together a list of organizations, with details about how you can donate to to them.

TO LEARN MORE, visit
tinyurl.com/TJ-donate-masks