



















Club 345 Paint Party

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Chesed: A Root of Kindness and Connection

By **RABBI RACHEL HEAPS**

Associate Rabbi

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Translation is inherently interpretation. Language carries with it many levels of meaning, and though one word might seem like a perfect equal to one in another language, the depth of the word does indeed change. Sometimes translation only captures the surface meaning of the word. Other times, translation can open our eyes to new depths of meaning previously undefined.

This month we focus on kindness, in all its forms. I am glad and proud to say that Temple Jeremiah and the people who make up the Jeremiah community always have kindness guiding their hands, mouths, and hearts. Our kindness echoes the kindness we find (and want to find more of) in our larger, English speaking community. With kindness we find courtesy, niceness, patience, and tenderness. The word kindness is associated with gentleness and is given by the grace of one's own compassion. It is offered by one who understands themselves to be blessed with more than they need, when the excess gives way to benevolence rather than greed.

Yes, when kindness is extended to our Hebrew familiar community, subtleties take on new form. Most often kindness is translated as **חֶסֶד** (*chesed*), a word whose roots are as old as our communal story. It might seem odd, but the word is first used in reference

to Lot, Abraham's nephew and sole survivor of the destruction at Sodom and Gomorrah. He receives *chesed* from some visiting angels, who see the destruction looming and try to convince him to flee. Lot refuses, and so the angels forcibly drag him out of the city to save his life. The angels' behavior isn't one that we would usually summarize as kind. Their message is scary, and their tactics are brusque. And yet, the Torah describes their actions as filled with *chesed*.

Again and again, *chesed* shows up in our tradition as a seemingly odd expression of



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Editor's Note



By **KATIE BICK**
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At Temple Jeremiah, it's hard not see kindness everywhere you look. From our social justice initiatives, which further the Jewish imperative of *Tikkun Olam*, to the tireless work of the Inclusion Committee who ensures that the temple is accessible to those of all abilities, and to our spiritual

workshops that invite congregants to consider how to live as conscientious community members, Temple Jeremiah is bursting at the seams with compassion and good-will.

At times, it feels like kindness is just a part of Temple Jeremiah's DNA. Often, I find myself regarding the temple as not only a religious institution, but also as a compassionate force onto itself. However, when I catch myself thinking this way, I like to remind myself that Temple Jeremiah, as a building or institution, isn't fundamentally kind on its own, but rather, it's made kind by the care and compassion our members bring to the congregation.

The beating heart of Temple Jeremiah is rooted in our community. Our members provide the temple with its unique character, and it's your warmth, empathy, and generosity that make Temple Jeremiah such a kind place.

This May issue of the Covenant celebrates the kindness of Temple Jeremiah's members. As you read this issue, you'll meet Lori Kash, our Monthly Mensch, who has devoted her retirement to assisting those in need of all ages and ability levels. You'll also learn about Tell Us Your Story, a community initiative organized by Temple Jeremiah President Scott Levin to celebrate the inspiring lives and acts of service of temple members.

The issue also explores the kindness behind Temple Jeremiah's tagline, "The Joy of Belonging." I invite you to read the articles inside this issue that give a kind welcome to new community members, like Matt Rissien, our next Director of Congregational Learning, and Boom Bagels, our new community partner.

I'm excited to share these stories of kindness with all of you and I'm grateful for all the ways Temple Jeremiah members devote themselves to making the world a warmer, kinder place.

Stronger Together: The Joy of In-Person Connection



By **CANTOR SUSIE LEWIS FRIEDMAN**
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During the weeks between the end of Pesach and the beginning of the holiday of Shavuot it is customary to study *Pirkei Avot* (Blessings of the Fathers). There is a famous passage from it, which instructs us, "Do not separate yourself from the community" -- אל תפריש מן הצבור.

Rabbi Avraham Yitzack Kook in the commentary *Orot* interprets this in the following way:

"The relationship between the Jewish people and its individual members is different than the relationship between any other national group and its members. All other national groups only bestow upon their individual members the external aspect of their essence (a title such as "American"). But the essence itself each person draws from the all-inclusive soul, from the soul of God, without the intermediation of the group. This is not the case regarding Israel. The soul of the individuals is drawn from the community, the community bestowing a soul upon the individuals."

Rav Kook studied at Yeshiva in Latvia as a boy, and he had an unprecedented influence on Jewish life at the turn of the century.

He said that because we were created from that divine spark, as we read in the book of Genesis, that even the most mundane, day-to-day, irreligious thing we do is fulfilling the word of God. Thus, he had strong feelings about Jews not being just nationalists or individualists, but rather a part of a whole. We are one. If only we could get the rest of the world on board with this kind of thinking, imagine the *tzuris* we might avoid.

As of late, I am feeling unbelievably grateful and giddy with happiness to see real fruits from "living in the hope". We are starting to be together in person more often, which feels amazing. Scientists are even sanctioning in home gatherings with small groups of vaccinated people.

On March 21, two of our closest friends dined in our home with us, and we were over the moon with delight. It felt like such a Kabbalistic moment, where all our good feelings and energies seemed to collide. And it did not seem coincidental that during our time together that night, they got the great news that they got the home they were trying so hard to purchase!

Where am I going with all of this, you might ask? Well, I guess I am trying to reiterate the importance of doing everything we can to make it possible for us all to be together again as a community, in person. While we have certainly been blessed with the technology to keep us together even while apart, my fear is that this digital way of being could become the norm. Some individuals have shared that they need to learn how to be with people again, and

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how difficult that is. As much of an extrovert as I am, even I have felt exhausted with this transition back to in-person gatherings. Consequently, I can only imagine how it must feel to my more introverted friends.

However, for me, this exhaustion is a very small price that I am happy to pay for the extreme joy I feel when I am physically with other people. For example, when I visited family in New Jersey over Passover, just sharing space with people I love had me smiling the entire time.

All of that said, for as much as I *kvetch* about it, there have been tremendous positive outcomes during this period of physical distancing. Our Adult Choir has faithfully met via Zoom nearly every week during the pandemic. My colleagues tell me that we are the only choir in the area, and perhaps one of very few in the US, who have successfully kept meeting regularly.

While it has been impossible to sing together over Zoom, it has been amazing to hear the beauty that has come from people focusing on their individual voices from their homes. Instead of singing together as a muted choir, we usually ask each member to unmute at various points in well-known songs, so that we can hear their voices. Singing alone has forced us into a self-reflection that we might not otherwise have had.

Shir Joy, our Youth Choir, has also had a few members who met

regularly during the pandemic and they have grown tremendously. Purim this year had an extra measure of joyfulness because many of us were able to gather in person for the first time since the pandemic began. We could sing together, safely distanced, in the Schreiber Sanctuary.

As the choir has slowly begun to return to sing in person, we feel an extra measure of appreciation and confidence as a result of having had the real time and space to listen to and become comfortable with our own voices while in quarantine. This has given us the confidence to be real leaders as we come back to sing together. I cried as I heard their beautiful voices when we met for the first time a few weeks ago.

Our Adult Choir and Shir Joy have created a nice collection of videos which will not only be evergreen, but will enable us to showcase the talents of our Temple to the entire world. I have been so excited to have members of both of these choirs volunteer to sing for our Zoom worship services.

May we take these many blessings that our time during the pandemic has given us, and keep them as we move to living again as Rav Kook instructed, which is to be mindful that the souls of each and every one of us are drawn from our community. May the world become safer, stronger, and healthier, so that we may return again to that community, that oneness, and experience the "Joy of Belonging," the hallmark of our temple.

Weekly Torah Portions

Join us at 9:30 a.m. every Saturday to discuss the week's Torah portion and how it may apply to your life.
To join us on Zoom, visit zoom.us/j/132889355.



May 1, 2021	Emor	Leviticus 21:1 – 24:23
May 8, 2021	B'har-B'chukotai	Leviticus 25:1 – 27:34
May 15, 2021	B'midbar	Numbers 1:1 – 4:20
May 22, 2021	Naso	Numbers 4:21 – 7:89
May 29, 2021	Beha'alotcha	Numbers 8:1 – 12:16

ZOOM SHABBAT ACROSS JEREMIAH

FRIDAY, JUNE 4TH - 5:30 P.M. OR 7:45 P.M.

We are excited to make this pandemic version of one of the temple's favorite events a quarterly occurrence!

Come together in small groups on Zoom to bring in Shabbat together, either before or after Shabat Worship.

Register at: tinyurl.com/ShabbatAcrossJeremiahJune2021



Lori Kash: Dedicated Volunteer and Community Member



Lori Kash

Lori Kash is happiest when she's giving back. "I'm not someone who feels comfortable being idle," said Lori, "especially when there are ways I know I can be making a difference." When Lori retired, she applied this civic mindedness to filling her newly-free schedule with community service.

To help those in need, Lori began volunteering at the Center for Enriched Living (CEL), a nonprofit that exists so that people with developmental disabilities can be fully included in the community, achieve personal success, and enjoy a good quality of life.

"I knew that working with people in a hands-on capacity would be particularly meaningful for me," said Lori. "This led me to CEL's Adult Day Program where, for the past 12 years, I've been a twice-weekly volunteer."

Although, before coming to CEL, Lori had limited experience working with people with disabilities, she immediately felt at home with CEL and its members. "I fell in love on day one," said Lori. "Not only is it fun to be a part of the community and meet new people, but it's both a joy and an honor to help CEL members master new skills or accomplish their goals. Nothing compares to seeing members' eyes light up when they achieve something they've been working towards or know that they have done a good job with a project."

When able to volunteer in person, Lori assists CEL adult members with activities. However, when members don't need hands-on help, Lori also serves as a source of support. "I love being a cheerleader for CEL members, providing motivation and encouragement," said Lori.

During the last year of physical distancing, Lori has volunteered with CEL's Adult Day Program over Zoom. One of the activities Lori has enjoyed virtually assisting with is the Monday Morning Movement program, a group activity that encourages CEL members to exercise in creative ways. "One week, we took a walk through a digital, scenic countryside," said Lori. "Another week, we followed along to an Irish step dance video. It's so much fun to exercise along with the members and help them stay motivated through the program."

"Although it feels very different to volunteer over my computer, it's so nice to continue to see faces I used to see every week in-person," said Lori. "Even when not face-to-face, there's still a way for me to connect with the members and help out."

Lori is also deeply involved with Whittier Elementary School in Waukegan, where she has consistently volunteered since the fall

of 2008. According to Lori, it was at a Temple Jeremiah High Holy Day service where she learned about Whittier Elementary. "I first learned about the school through the Sabbath Light insert," noted Lori. "Roberta Mallon was recruiting volunteers for Whittier's kindergarten reading program and I decided to get involved."

Lori's hard work with the program led to her taking over as its Volunteer Coordinator in 2012. Soon after this, Lori became even more involved with Whittier Elementary by organizing annual drives at Temple Jeremiah to collect necessities for students.

"Whittier is located in one of the most underserved school districts in Illinois," said Lori. "For example, although the school requires students to wear uniforms, many students can't afford to purchase the necessary clothing. Similarly, many students at Whittier lack winter coats and adequate school supplies. Knowing these needs, I began organizing campaigns to help out through the Social Justice Committee. Our drives grow every year, and I always keep in touch with Whittier's staff to find out what students might need at any given time."

According to Lori, there's an inherent link between Jewish identity and community service. "When I became involved with Temple Jeremiah's Social Justice Committee, it became clear to me that so much of Judaism is rooted in *Tikkun Olam*," said Lori. "Even just being a part of the temple, it's hard not to see the overlap. The Jewish experience here seems to go hand-in-hand with making the world a better place."



Lori and Gary Kash

Going forward, Lori plans on continuing her involvement with the temple and with her various volunteer commitments. Overall, she encourages members to participate in temple events and initiatives that can be meaningful to them. "There are so many opportunities to give back brought about by Temple Jeremiah," said Lori. "That's part of the joy of belonging, and I hope everyone here can find that joy in their own big or small ways."

Get to Know Your Temple Community with Tell Us Your Story



By DR. SCOTT LEVIN
Temple Jeremiah President
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Nothing can bind a relationship more than a shared story, and sharing stories. You do not have to look far to see this truth. Whether it is *Breaking Bad*, *Game of Thrones*, *Homeland*, or *Ozark*, the story, the arc of the story, the characters in the story, with all their strengths and flaws, is what creates gravitational pull to the essence.

In the finale of *Game of Thrones*, and do not worry, I will not give anything away for anyone who may have been living underground for several years, Tyrion asks, "What unites people? Armies? Gold? Flags? No. It's stories. There's nothing in the world more powerful than a good story. Nothing can stop it. No enemy can defeat it."

Think about it. Is not the Torah, perhaps, the greatest story ever told? I did not always think of the Torah in this manner. Certainly, as a child in Hebrew and Sunday School, I did not. It is only as I

have listened, learned, and heard some of the infinite plots, sub-plots, interpretations, and connections to the present day, that I have even begun to think of Torah in this way. This common story of our beginning is powerful beyond words.

Now, let us connect with each other in meaningful ways, sharing our stories of what brought us to this community, even to Temple Jeremiah. This is what is at the heart of our Tell Us Your Story project.

In Volume I, we have invited 18 Temple Jeremiah congregants to share their story. You will begin to see short videos of these interviews, and then longer versions available if you choose. We hope you enjoy watching them as much as we enjoyed making them.

Make sure to watch each video debut in the weekly E-Newsletter on Thursdays or on our Facebook page on Fridays. You can also view each week's video at www.templejeremiah.org/tell-us-your-story. We can't wait to share all of these meaningful stories with all of you at Temple Jeremiah!

*If you would like to become involved in Tell Us Your Story
please contact Scott Levin at scottamy93@aol.com*

RABBI HEAPS (continued from page 1)

kindness. It is not the soft, compassionate kindness that we know from English. In Hebrew, it takes on a different flavor all together. Whereas in English, kindness is seen almost as a benevolent gift bestowed from one person to another, in Hebrew, *chesed* becomes the foundation of a relationship grounded in mutual responsibility, mutual benefit, and mutual care. In essence, kindness is occasional and one directional, *chesed* is ongoing and must be both given and received.

I once had a Psalms teacher describe *chesed* as the moments when her son cleans the dishes. She and her son are in a loving and caring relationship, one where each individual contributes in their own way to the extent of their own ability. Sometimes their relationship is flowers and fun times, where all the cares of the world seem far away. Sometimes their relationship is filled with chores and obligations. The *chesed* that they share connects those two different states of relationship and everything in between.

When we act with *chesed*, we act with kindness not because we can, but because we should; not because it's easy, but because it's necessary. When we act with *chesed* it's because we care not just about what we have to give to someone else right now, but because we care about that person and how we relate to them

now and later. We act with *chesed* because we realize that we are truly in a relationship with our fellow human beings, and the foundation of that relationship matters.

What would it mean if we were to go throughout our lives not looking for random acts of kindness, but relying on and encouraging intentional acts of *chesed* (our own and from others)? How would it change the way we walk through life?

Hebrew and Judaism view *chesed* as a quality that has its potential within each of us but requires ongoing nurturing. Our weekly Torah portions, our holidays, our rituals, every one of our Jewish practices in some way rely on *chesed*. They rely on us being in relation with one another, without which we'd just be going through the motions. Our Jewish religion, culture, and community become the mindfulness practice for *chesed* that might be hard to otherwise cultivate. Engaging in Judaism helps us to find *chesed* in the world. Doing acts of *chesed* connects us back to our Judaism.

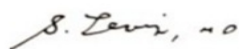
Each moment in our lives becomes a way to add another level of meaning into our language and our practice, and another way to bring the words of Rabbi Menachem Creditor to life: *Olam chesed yibaneh*, build this world with kindness.

Searching for Dr. Anne Lidsky's Successor

A NOTE FROM TEMPLE PRESIDENT SCOTT LEVIN

Very shortly after Dr. Anne Lidsky announced her plans to retire, we were able to form an exceptional Search Committee to find her successor. This committee was chaired by our own Ross Wolfson, whose expertise in Human Resources was indispensable. The committee had representation from our teachers, our Board of Directors, and congregants at different stages of their membership. We vetted over two dozen candidates and ultimately interviewed six. Four superb candidates were chosen to then meet our Clergy and Senior Staff, in person. A unanimous choice became clear after those meetings and was then confirmed by the Search Committee. I am very proud to announce that Matt Rissien will be our next Director of Congregational Learning. Matt is already well known in the Jewish education arena, with many local and regional connections. He brings a fresh spirit of humility, creativity, and energy to this role, qualities we have treasured at Temple Jeremiah, for years. I look forward to you having a chance to meet Matt in the coming months. He will officially begin on June 15, 2021.

Sincerely,



Dr. Scott Levin, Temple Jeremiah President

A NOTE FROM RABBI COHEN

When Anne first told me that she was planning to retire this year my jaw hit the ground, I grasped my face with both hands and felt as if I was going to vomit. I could not comprehend what she was saying to me. Months have passed, as has the nausea, Anne has calmed me down and we have hired an amazing person, Matt Rissien, to be our new Director of Congregational Learning.

How fortunate we have been to have the wisdom, the joy, the spirit, and the energy of our Anne Lidsky for these past 40 years. How fortunate we are that we have found the perfect person to take the baton and continue to build on this glorious legacy. Matt truly embodies and exudes what it means to be a mensch. Anne and Matt already have a wonderful relationship and she will be an integral part of ensuring a smooth and successful transition. I so deeply appreciate Ross Wolfson and our Search Committee for the hours and hours of work and the thoughtful insight each member of the committee brought that has culminated in such a wonderful way.

Shalom,



Rabbi Paul F. Cohen

Meet Matt Rissien, Incoming Director of Congregational Learning



My name is Matt Rissien and I am so excited to be joining the Jeremiah family! Over the past two years, I have worked with Anne Lidsky through my current job at IsraelLINK. I always admired the incredible educational program and the excitement and liveliness that I witnessed in just the few times I visited on a Sunday. There is no way to replace someone as amazing as Anne Lidsky, but I am excited to continue her legacy, building off of the

current success of the school at a congregation that emphasizes community, innovative programming, and quality education.

I would love to share a little about myself. My wife Brittany grew up in Buffalo Grove and we met when I first moved from Kansas in 2012. I spent seven years as the Director of Youth and Young Family Programming at Congregation Beth Shalom in Northbrook. During my time at Beth Shalom, I stressed the importance of not just being part of the staff but also an active member of the congregation; something I look forward to at Temple Jeremiah as well. During my time at Beth Shalom, with the help of my staff, I nearly doubled the attendance of our youth programs, developing teen leaders who earned numerous awards throughout the years.

I was honored to have been named one of JUF's 36 under 36 top Jewish Professionals in 2014 as well as receiving the LEAD

award in 2018 for being voted the top Jewish Youth Professional in the Chicagoland area. In 2019, I took on a newly created position in Israel education as the Midwest Managing Director for StandWithUs' middle school department, IsraelLINK. In my time at IsraelLINK, I worked on curriculum development, teacher training, management, and public speaking. During COVID, I helped pivot our curriculum, grouping schools together to learn over Zoom sessions that I taught and facilitated discussing Israel and identity. The sessions with the students at Temple Jeremiah were some of the best!

Now that you know a little about my background, I cannot wait for the chance to get to know all of you! I have a strong passion for building relationships and community. My wife and I have heard such wonderful things about Temple Jeremiah and are so excited to be a part of the family. One of my first goals as Director of Congregational Learning is to meet as many congregants and families as possible. As I begin to be present in the building after June 15th, whether in person or via Zoom, please reach out and introduce yourself and say hello! It is an honor to accept this position and I cannot wait to get started on June 15th.

Thank You,



Matt Rissien

They Ain't Ready For Me: Tamar Manasseh and MASK

The scourge of gun violence has reached epidemic proportions across the United States. After every mass shooting, people point to gun violence in Chicago as an example of how gun regulation doesn't work. After all, they say, Chicago's gun laws are among the strictest in the country, yet it has one of the highest murder rates in the US. What this argument fails to address are the underlying causes of murder in Chicago—poverty, joblessness, mass incarceration and institutionalized racism.

They Ain't Ready for Me shows how Tamar Manasseh, a black, rabbinical student, is combating gun violence on the South Side of Chicago with magnetic, self-assured energy through her organization MASK, Mothers/Men Against Senseless Killings. Tamar and MASK are proving on a daily basis that something can be done to reduce gun violence when there is the will to do so.

In the film, Tamar addresses the challenges facing both the black and Jewish worlds. The story exists within the context of the larger issues that are playing out in today's America—increasing racial tensions, rising inequality levels, and a growing sense of division and alienation.

Within the Jewish world, Tamar is looked at as an outsider, someone whose identity is constantly questioned even as her approach to fighting gun violence is lauded. *They Ain't Ready for Me* explores the complex identity and motivations of an extraordinary person who is Jewish and black, and how these intersecting identities offer her a road map for addressing one of America's most urgent crises.

Tamar has become a well-known figure in Chicago, and she is poised to become a national figure—in the past several months,

The New York Times has published four opinion pieces that she wrote. *They Ain't Ready For Me* will play a big role in establishing her as an important, Jewish voice.

This April, in partnership with JCC Chicago and Congregation Or Shalom, Temple Jeremiah offered digital screenings of the film and held a discussion with Tamar herself and Brad Rothschild, the film's director.

During the discussion, Tamar and Brad discussed MASK's tireless work on the South Side, other projects Tamar has worked on which do not appear in the film, Jewish identity, and Tamar's fight against sexism in her rabbinical studies.

According to Ilene Uhlmann, JCC Chicago's Director of Arts & Ideas "JCC Chicago was thrilled to share this film that highlights the extraordinary work of Tamar Manasseh, a member of our local Jewish community who is setting an example for us all on how each of us has the power and ability to make a difference."



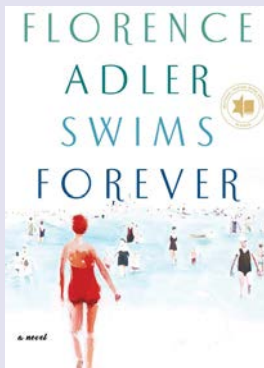
Tamar Manasseh in *They Ain't Ready for Me*

Sisterhood Book Club

NOTE: We will be meeting through Zoom! Join us online at zoom.us/j/83947774073, Password: BookClub

Thursday, May 13, 2021 - 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

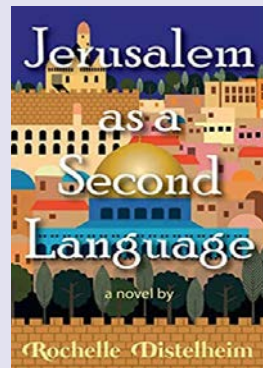
Florence Adler Swims Forever, By Rachel Beanland



"Beanland is particularly good at conjuring... the historical moment... as American Jews try to save relatives in an increasingly untenable Nazi Germany. The [America] dream is not without costs, and the dreamers are not immune to tragedy." — New York Times Book Review

Thursday, June 10, 2021 - 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Jerusalem As A Second Language, By Rochelle Distelheim



"A necessary story...that takes on two cultures whose differences are daunting and she manages to represent both with convincing detail and, most importantly, with sympathy. The book builds a bridge that the characters walk across with dignity and just enough mordant humor to convince us its real." — Rosellen Brown

Contact Vicki Siegelman at vsieg@gralynn.org for more information or to join.

Yom HaShoah: The Music of the Theresienstadt Ghetto

Yom HaShoah, also known as Holocaust Remembrance Day, occurs annually on the 27th of the Hebrew month of Nisan. This Yom HaShoah, to honor the lives of those lost in the Holocaust, Temple Jeremiah held a reflective concert entitled “Yom HaShoah Commemoration: Music in Theresienstadt and the Untold Stories of Talented Composers.”

During the Holocaust, the Theresienstadt Ghetto served two main purposes: it was simultaneously a waystation to Nazi extermination camps and a “retirement settlement” for Jews, designed to mislead Jewish communities about the true nature of the Final Solution. To strengthen the propaganda surrounding the ghetto, an unusually high number of composers and intellectuals were deported to Theresienstadt.

Temple Jeremiah’s Yom HaShoah concert, performed by Cantor Susie Lewis Friedman and High Holiday organist and Theresienstadt scholar Paul Dykstra, commemorated the work of Gideon Klein and Ilse Weber, two composers who were sent to live in the Theresienstadt Ghetto.



Paul Dykstra performing at the Yom HaShoah Concert

While Gideon Klein was renowned for his voice and piano compositions, Ilse Weber was celebrated for her cabaret and folk-style music. As outlined in the concert, Ilse Weber was deeply inspired by her adoptive children. During her time in Theresienstadt, Weber volunteered to care for more than 60

displaced children. Many of her pieces were lullabies she wrote while imprisoned, both to buoy the spirits of younger residents while reminding them of happier times in the past.

The Covenant spoke to Paul Dykstra to learn more about his studies in the Theresienstadt Ghetto and the expertise he brought to this special concert.

According to Paul, while his interest in music informs his studies of the Theresienstadt, his research is largely motivated by the desire to keep the stories of these composers alive. “I love music,” said Paul, “but more importantly, I’m invested in the lives lost, the careers ended, the work unwritten by the horrors of the Shoah.”

Recently, Paul was invited to serve on POLIN - Museum of the History of Polish Jews’ international development committee to further honor the lives and legacies of the composers he has researched. “We want to bring to light not only the names of the artists and composers lost,” said Paul, “but also expose the world to the part of them that still exists: their compositions.”

For Paul, Yom HaShoah is not just an important, annual event, but an essential tool of keeping the memory of those lost to the Holocaust alive. “As fellow Jews, we owe it to these amazing composers and artists to remember their existence,” said Paul. “We must become ever more aware of what was lost. While I focus on studying the musicians and composers who lost their lives, there were scientists, poets, mathematicians, researchers, architects, builders, doctors, etc. who were senselessly executed. There are worlds of knowledge destroyed, and now it is on us, in the 21st century, to try to piece what we can of it back together.”

Overall, Paul characterized the Yom HaShoah concert as a way to both honor those lost and celebrate the indomitable beauty of the human spirit. “Composers like Gideon Klein and Ilse Weber created beauty in some of the world’s most awful circumstances,” said Paul. “Time and again I’m awed by the fact that even in desolation, isolation, and pain, they could make art that speaks to the soul. Their work is a testament to the greatness and beauty of creation that HaShem instilled within us.”

Judaism & Civil Society: A Collaboration with HUC-JIR

Over the past year, Temple Jeremiah has been partnering with The Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion to offer Judaism & Civil Society, a series of courses about the pressing concerns of our civic life today, including race and identity, elections, prison reform, and religious voices on social justice issues.

Each course invites a panel of experts to weigh in on a specific topic and is followed by a Q&A for participants moderated by our own Rabbi Cohen.

This summer, the series is coming to a close. We invite you to read about the final Judaism & Civil Society courses here. To learn more about these courses, including their speakers and how to register, please visit www.huc.edu/HUCConnect.

NOT THE SAME AS WHITE: LATINX STUDENTS TALK ABOUT JEWISH SCHOOLING: JUNE 10TH

Why does race matter? Explore how colorblindness and perceptions of caring inform the way we think about community. Building on the narratives of Latinx students in Jewish schools, these experts take a bold stance on how intersectionality operates and why we should embrace it.

JEWS, WHITENESS, POWER AND PRIVILEGE: JUNE 22ND

Are American Jews white? The question, answered differently by different generations of American Jews, gets at the heart of American Jewish identity. Have Jews remained separate and distinct from the rest of middle-class America or have they assimilated so much that they have become white? Come explore the contentious history and sociology of Jews and racial definition.

Staff Spotlight: Juan Carlos Sanchez



Juan Carlos Sanchez

Each issue, Temple Jeremiah highlights one of our wonderful staff members with a profile in *The Covenant*. This month's Staff Spotlight is Juan Carlos Sanchez, our Maintenance Supervisor. We invite you to learn more about him by reading the interview below:

TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF

I was born in the city of León in Guanajuato, Mexico.

I came to the United States when I was 11 years old, and since then, I have lived in Chicago.

My wife Monica and I have four children. Some of you may already know two of them, Jessie and Jean, because they work with me at Temple Jeremiah. My other two children are Francia and Monique. Of my four kids, three are currently in college and one is in high school, preparing to apply to college soon. I love my family, and I am always trying to be the best husband and father I can be!

I also love animals. Currently, I have two turtles, five fish, two parakeets, and two cats at home.

When I was 22, I got an opportunity to work for Sears. While employed there, I was transferred to work in the sales side of the flooring industry. To prepare for this position, I attended school and training seminars about all things flooring, where I learned the ins and outs of things like hardwood floors, carpet fibers, chemicals, carpet cleaning, and carpet installation. During this time, I received certification from the Institute of Inspection, Cleaning, and Restoration Certification, the non-profit certifying body for the cleaning and restoration industry.

Over the years, I have obtained various certifications. For example, I am a certified carpet installation technician, carpet cleaning technician, odor control technician, upholstery and fabric technician, and water restoration technician. I also have completed many OSHA safety training courses.

After leaving Sears, I started working with Food for Thought Catering as a warehouse manager. While there, I learned all about party and dining set up and kitchen and sanitation procedures. Following that position, I worked at Coca Cola in warehouse operations and logistics.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO TEMPLE JEREMIAH?

While at Coca Cola, I saw a job posting online that interested me. The ad said Temple Jeremiah was in need of a weekend manager. However, they were not looking for just anyone—they wanted a person with significant experience with planning, tables, dining and meeting setups, hard floor care, carpet cleaning, and logistics.

When I applied, Michael Garlin, the Executive Director at the time, said I was the perfect match for the position! The rest is history. Now, I have been working for Temple Jeremiah for almost 11 years, and it's been a blessing working at such a nice place with so many nice people.

WHAT DO YOU DO AT JEREMIAH?

I oversee the setups for J-Quest, parties, B'nai Mitzvah, meetings, and dinners. I also oversee building maintenance. My crew and I do a little of everything, including repairs, painting, floor maintenance, electricity management, plumbing, and so on. I also handle many facilities management responsibilities, like managing vendors and contractors.

WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF WORK?

When I am not working, I like to listen to music. I also enjoy fixing things: you can usually find me fixing my car, fixing a computer, or fixing something in my house. I love to do new projects and take on new challenges.

I also love movies, particularly animation, action, and comedy movies like *Avatar*, *Kung Fu Panda*, *2 Fast 2 Furious*, and *Coming To America*. When my kids were younger, we would order pizza and chicken wings every Friday and watch movies together all night. We try to do family nights now, but due to everyone's busy schedules, we don't have them as often.

“When you come to Temple Jeremiah, you feel like you're a part of a great family. That's how I've felt since I started working here, and how I still feel now.”

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE TEMPLE JEREMIAH MEMORY?

I always love the High Holidays, especially when we can be at the temple in person. They're a time when you can see and talk to people you do not cross paths with often, and it's always great to connect!

I like to say that while I am a Christian by faith, I'm Jewish by heart. I'm very theology inclined, so much so that, in 2011, I graduated from the Ebenezer Theological Bible School in Humboldt Park.

While it's not a memory, per se, another reason why I love working for the temple is that it allows me to learn more about theology, in addition to Jewish history, culture, and traditions. Each day, I love learning firsthand from the temple's clergy and teachers.

WHAT DOES THE “JOY OF BELONGING” MEAN TO YOU?

In one word, “family.” When you come to Temple Jeremiah, you feel like you're a part of a great family. That's how I've felt since I started working here, and how I still feel now.

Celebrate Dr. Anne Lidsky with Temple Jeremiah

To celebrate Anne Lidsky's retirement, we have organized the following three programs, and we encourage you to get involved!

THANK YOU CELEBRATION : SUNDAY, MAY 16TH AT 10:00 A.M.

All Temple Jeremiah members are invited to join us for a celebration of Anne's 40 year career with Temple Jeremiah!

At 10:00 a.m. we will hold a car parade for Anne! Event attendees are encouraged to decorate their cars in fun ways and to drive them around Temple Jeremiah's parking lot. Have fun and honk your horns to let Anne know how much you appreciate her and all of her work with Temple Jeremiah!

The event will also feature a presentation from J-Quest students and Shir Joy, an ice cream truck sponsored by Brotherhood, music from Spin City DJs, and much more.

KABBALAT SHABBAT: FRIDAY, JUNE 11TH AT 6:30 P.M.

The congregation is invited to a Kabbalat Shabbat service where Anne will be honored for her extraordinary career.

To make this Shabbat even sweeter, complimentary Oneg Shabbat Grab & Go bags will be available for curbside pick-up at the temple on the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday before the service.

DESSERT RECEPTION: SATURDAY, JUNE 12TH AT 7:45 P.M.

Join us for an elegant dessert reception celebrating Anne in a tent directly outside of the temple. The event will begin with a Havdalah service, followed by desserts and entertainment to honor Anne's retirement.

In-person space is limited, but all can attend the event remotely. Please watch your email for your invitation.

To participate in any of these events honoring Dr. Anne Lidsky or learn more, please visit templejeremiah.org/celebrating-anne-lidsky

Boom Bagels: Temple Jeremiah's New Bagel Bakery Partner

This spring, Temple Jeremiah welcomed a new tenant into our kitchen: Boom Bagels. A Northfield-based family bakery, Boom Bagels began in the kitchen of Temple Jeremiah neighbor Jonathan Wise.

Jonathan, who affectionately refers to himself as Boom Bagel's "Chief Dough Schmoosher," has always had a passion for good bagels. "Since I was a kid, I loved New York-style bagels," said Jonathan. "When the pandemic began and we all found ourselves with a little more down time, I decided to turn to bagel baking, something that always sparked joy for me."

According to Jonathan, what began as a passion project soon grew into a bona fide bagel business. "At first, I was just making bagels for friends and family and working on perfecting my recipe," said Jonathan. "However, as time went on and demand for the bagels increased, we knew we had the makings of a real bakery. With that came the need for a larger baking space."

As Jonathan lives mere blocks away from Temple Jeremiah, he reached out to see if the temple would have any interest in partnering with Boom Bagels.

"Northfield bagels at a Northfield temple? It's a match made in heaven," said Jonathan. "We're thrilled to have space at Temple Jeremiah. After getting to know your staff and community, it seems like a perfect fit."

Jonathan also had a special interest in partnering with a temple.

"Bagels have a deeply Jewish history, and I like to think our partnership with the temple pays homage to that," said Jonathan. "Bagels were created as Polish street food. They're a staple Jewish snack from the old country."

Now, you can find Jonathan and his sous chef sons in the temple's kitchen on Sundays, preparing bagels and homemade cream cheese for pick up. "Without a doubt, the best part of Boom Bagels is getting to work with my sons, Charles and AJ, each day," said Jonathan. "So much of the fun comes from the fact that we're a family business."

While Boom Bagels now sells a variety of bagel flavors—including favorites like everything, sesame, and poppyseed—they plan on introducing sweet bagel flavors and experimenting with a flavor of the week program going forward.

Boom Bagels accepts orders every Wednesday for pick up at the temple on Sundays. To order from Boom Bagels, visit their website (www.boombagels.com) at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesdays and click the "Order Online" button.

To pick up your bagels, simply drive to the temple on Sunday morning and follow the signs to the Boom Bagel pick-up location.

Overall, Jonathan just wants to share with everyone the joy of a classic, hand rolled New York-style bagel. "We have the best ingredients and the best bagels," said Jonathan. "And we can't wait for you to try them!"



Club 345 Paint Party 3.21.2021



Zoom Shabbat Across Jeremiah 3.12.2021

Send Us Your Home Photos!

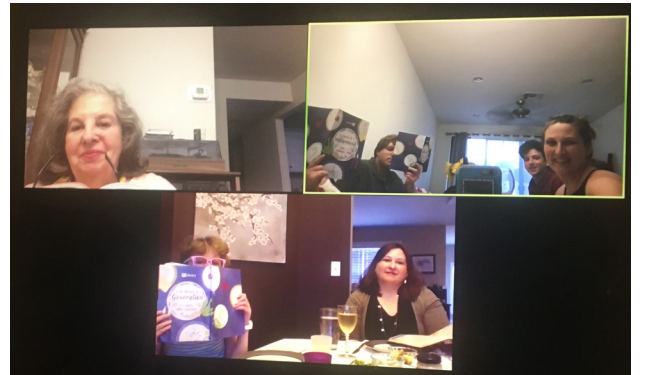
While the physical building is not filled with everyone's smiling faces, we know the warmth and connections amongst our congregation still exist.

We'd love to share pictures of what's going on at your home as you stay in touch with Temple Jeremiah! Grandparents, share photos of your grandchildren. Families, share photos of you celebrating Shabbat, your kids interacting online with youth events, or your birthday celebrations.

Email your photos to:
katie@templejeremiah.org



JeTY Shabbat 4.2.2021



The Celnik Family's Seder 3.27.2021

Acknowledgments

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The Scott B. Crane Inclusion Shabbat

-Susan and Richard Schencker

The Stanley Golder Interfaith Initiative

-Joan Golder

IN APPRECIATION OF

Cantor Susie Lewis Friedman

-Marilyn and Yale Kaplan

IN HONOR OF

Charlie Jean Boruszak

Granddaughter of Susan and Ken Lorch

On the occasion of her birth

-Alene Frost

Shirley Craven

On the occasion of her birthday

-Arden and David Brenner

Carol and David Golder

On the occasion of their special anniversary

-Lori and Gary Kash

Leo Klapman

Great-grandson of Phyllis and Jim Klapman

On the occasion of his 2nd birthday

-Phyllis and Jim Klapman

Logan Ira Levy

Grandson of Sue and Dan Weitzman

On the occasion of his birth

-Alene Frost

-Krystal and Danny Glassman

Roberta Mallon

On the occasion of her special birthday

-Dianne and Bradford Block

Carly Slotnick

Daughter of Natalie and Barry Slotnick

Granddaughter of Valerie Slotnick

Niece of Jay Slotnick

On the occasion of her becoming a Bat Mitzvah

-Valerie Slotnick

Leo Weinstein

On the occasion of his 60th birthday

-Kyle and Leo Weinstein

IN MEMORY OF

Rachel Brody

Mother of Ivy Baruch

-Randi and Barry Carr

-Debra and Gary Holzman

Norma Brown

-David and Joyce Brown

Sylvia Cohen

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Natalie Green

Mother of Stuart Green

-Janine and Stuart Green

Linda Sulkin Hack

Sister of Mark Sulkin

-Shelley McNaughton-Sulkin and

Mark Sulkin

Gloria Halevy

-Shelly Trilling

Allen Hirschfield

Husband of Nancy Hirschfield

Father of Jill Meltzer

-Alice Anson

-Joan Berke

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-Judy Homer

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-Muriel Kaplan

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-Rebecca and Jason Erlich

Jill Landau

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-Sheila Goode

Tom Pick

-Joanne Keeshin

Douglas McNaughton

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-Shelley McNaughton-Sulkin

Dolly Moline

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-Steve and Marla Brown
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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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IAC Israel Fun Fact:

Did you know...

Israel boasts more than 200 tels—prehistoric mounds created by many generations of people living and rebuilding on the same site. Three of these tels, Megiddo, Hazor, and Beer Sheva, were declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO in 2005.



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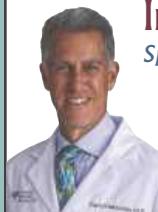
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SAVE THE DATE: TEMPLE JEREMIAH'S ANNUAL MEETING

Come together on: **Monday, May 24th**
from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

This year's agenda includes the announcement of the Toddie Gray-Diane Mary Katz Scholarship and Robert Goldberg Volunteer of the Year Award, approving the 2021-2022 Nominating Slate as well as the 2021-2022 budget, and celebrating an unprecedented but wonderful year of Judaism and connection!

To attend the meeting,
please register in advance at:
tinyurl.com/TJAnnualMeeting2021