


















Temple Jeremiah at Ravinia

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Love and *Ani L'dodi V'dodi Li*

By **RABBI PAUL F. COHEN**

Senior Rabbi

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We are about to enter the Hebrew month of Elul, the month that precedes Rosh HaShanah! It is a month of preparation, introspection, and action. Our sages of blessed memory use the Hebrew name of the month to teach a powerful lesson about this time and the sacred nature of life. They point out that each of the four letters represent a word from a well-known verse from the scroll Song of Songs. "*Ani L'dodi V'dodi Li*," I am my beloved and my beloved is mine.

Song of Songs is a beautiful love poem that in the view of our sages is really about the love affair between God and us. It is in this period of time that we rededicate ourselves to God and in the process rededicate ourselves to one another, each of us a reflection of the divine image.

This year, perhaps more than ever before, this message of love and connection pulls at our hearts and strengthens our souls. We are loved and we are worthy of being loved.

Elul calls on us not just to remember this. To not just embrace this, but to live our lives as the embodiment of love and connection.

For more than a year and even up to this very moment, we have delved deeply to find new and never before imagined ways of connecting and growing together. It has not been, nor is it easy or intuitive. We humans are incredibly resilient, more so than we have ever dared to think. We strengthen one another and grow as we recognize and affirm "*Ani L'dodi V'dodi Li*, I am my beloved and my beloved is mine."

This is what the prophet Jeremiah meant when he proclaimed: "Turn us to you, Adonai, and we will return, renew our days as in the past," (Lamentations 5:21.) This year as we prepare for the High Holy Days, this is our theme.



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Editor's Note



By KATIE BICK
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While this issue of The Covenant details the return of some of our favorite temple traditions, including Jews in Canoes and outings to Ravinia, it also anticipates the wonderful things on the horizon for our Temple Jeremiah community.

Inside, you'll read about the temple looking forward to High Holy Days, both in Rabbi Cohen's reflection on renewal and *Ani L'dodi V'dodi Li* and in our exciting look at Maot Chitim, with whom Brotherhood is teaming up this Rosh HaShanah. You'll meet Matt Rissien, our new Director of Congregational Learning, who invites us all to look forward to the upcoming J-Quest school year and the renewed sense of community that comes from learning alongside one another. You will also learn about Cantor Susie Lewis Friedman's upcoming album, *Sing, Pray, Repeat!* that will debut

during Shabbat worship this fall.

Together, all of these articles make it clear that our community has a bright future. As we begin to return to something like normal, it's easy to forget how much all of our lives were disrupted by the pandemic. Around this time last year, I was afraid to make firm plans for the High Holy Days. It didn't seem practical then, when I didn't know if I would be able to leave my apartment to celebrate, let alone connect with my family states away. Now, I eagerly look forward to apples and honey in Michigan.

With the pandemic slowly receding, I find myself less cautious in my enthusiasm. In a world that feels a little safer, I can freely look forward to new events and opportunities for connection. Temple Jeremiah seems to be experiencing something similar. While the temple's community remained strong, resilient, and supportive during the height of COVID-19, I think we are all eager to experience the joy of belonging by sharing space together this fall. I'm excited to share these stories with all of you and I hope they give you all something to look forward to.



Stay Up to Date with Our Calendar

To learn about upcoming events, visit:
tinyurl.com/TJ-Calendar

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.



August 7, 2021	Re'eh	Deuteronomy 11:26 – 16:17
August 14, 2021	Shoftim	Deuteronomy 16:18 – 21:9
August 21, 2021	Ki Teitzei	Deuteronomy 21:10 - 25:19
August 28, 2021	Ki Tavo	Deuteronomy 26:1 - 29:8

Looking Forward to Music This Summer and Fall



“Let’s continue to have faith that we will get through this, and that the hardships we are facing will only make all of humanity stronger and more unified.”

By **CANTOR SUSIE LEWIS FRIEDMAN**
Cantor
cantorfriedman@templejeremiah.org

In Psalm 122:1 we read, "*Samachti B'omrim Li beit Adonai Nelech*," David is saying, "I was glad when they said to me, let us go into the House of the Lord." I never felt the magnitude of that Psalm more than this past summer, as the world coincidentally opened up for us to gather so that we could bid farewell to our beloved Dr. Anne Lidsky. How wonderful it was to be together, in our sacred spaces, to hear one another's voices, and to be an in person community once again.

Summer is my favorite time of year. I love the warm months, the green all around us, and I'm a total water nut. I am grateful that the beginning of the summer brought us some kind of normalcy where our favorite watering holes like the pool and the lake, were open to full capacity.

Summer has allowed us to be together safely outside, as we welcomed Matt Rissien, our new Director of Congregational Learning with fun ice cream social events, special Tot and Family Shabbatot, and many ruach-filled, Friday night services where we are fortunate to hear his voice participating in services.

This year, our High Holy Days are coming just on the heels of summer, as we will celebrate Erev Rosh HaShanah on Labor Day, September 6th. This year, for all of these holy days, we will gather in multi-access fashion, both outside in a tent, inside in our large sanctuary, and digitally.

We will be joined by our Adult Choir, who will sing live and in-

person with us in the sanctuary. If you would like to join us, please, please do! We will rehearse every Mon and Tues night throughout the month of August from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. No prior experience is necessary at all!

What a mitzvah it would be for you to read Torah for us on Saturday morning for our beautiful 8:30 a.m. minyan service. No pressure, just three verses! I'm here to help you! If your child likes to sing, please sign them up for Shir Joy, Temple Jeremiah's Jr. Choir, which will meet every Sunday when J-Quest (Religious School) is in session.

Speaking of J-Quest—on October 22nd, we will release my new album, *Sing, Pray, Repeat!* at Shabbat services. This album will feature live musical selections by Shir Joy from our 2019 Chanukah Concert: "Spread the Light!" The album will feature our very own Matt Rissien on a fun setting of Or Zaruah.

I am extremely grateful for the generous sponsorship of Harry Major, whose dream it was for me to bring the songs of J-Quest and worship to all of your homes. We will be giving away copies of this album via CD and digital download. It will also be found on my SoundCloud, accessible through the Jeremiah Sings section of our website.

I pray that you will continue to remain safe, happy, and healthy during this crazy unprecedented, roller-coaster of a time in the health history of our world.

Let's continue to have faith that we will get through this, and that the hardships we are facing will only make all of humanity stronger and more unified.

Music at Temple Jeremiah

Temple Jeremiah is thrilled to be hosting in-person musical events again! We invite everyone to learn more about our two wonderful choirs: our Adult Choir and Shir Joy, our youth choir.

Shir Joy, our youth choir is for second through sixth grade children who love to sing! *Shir* means song in Hebrew. Before the pandemic, we'd meet Sundays following the first session No commitment required, kids come when they can. Shir Joy sings for select Shabbat services throughout the year, including Shabbat Chanukah and Shabbat Shirah.

In our Adult Choir, all voices are welcome and no musical or Hebrew background is required. The temple's Adult Choir is a great way to meet new friends, make beautiful music, engage with spiritual life, and have fun.

Adult Choir meets every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Don't worry if you can't make every rehearsal, we are just happy to have you singing with us! The Adult Choir sings the second Friday night of each month and for special events.

We also encourage everyone who enjoys music at Temple Jeremiah to explore Temple Jeremiah's SoundCloud, tinyurl.com/TempleJeremiahSoundCloud, to hear choir performances, our worship songs, and music from Cantor Susie Lewis Friedman. You can also find some of the music of our temple on our YouTube page, tinyurl.com/TempleJeremiahYouTube.

To learn more about our choirs and music at Temple Jeremiah, please contact Cantor Susie Lewis Friedman at cantorfriedman@templejeremiah.org.

A Note from Danny Glassman on Membership Renewal



By DANNY GLASSMAN

Executive Director

danny@templejeremiah.org

To start, I want to thank you for continuing to be part of our temple community, especially during these uniquely challenging times.

Temple Jeremiah is proud to have created an inclusive atmosphere where members feel valued and appreciated. Our tagline, The Joy of Belonging, acknowledges that this is only possible because of your connection to this temple community.

As a congregation, we strive to do the right thing. We know the past fifteen months have been incredibly trying for everyone. The world has changed right before our eyes. For the 2021/2022 fiscal year, we are continuing our freeze on Community Commitment rates. We are all in this together.

As we enjoy these summer months, there are a few pieces of information we need to gather from each household in order to have the renewal process and High Holy Day experience run smoothly.

We encourage you to renew your temple membership for the upcoming year! To begin, simply visit tinyurl.com/MembershipRenewal2021-2022 and log into ShulCloud.

Once you are logged in, the renewal form will automatically populate with information in our database which you have already provided. All you need to do is verify that the information is correct and then select a payment option that works best for you. If possible, please use one of our automated payment processes (ACH or credit card) which eliminates the hassle of

having to remember to make payments. Please note: automated payments must be renewed each year so please double check that everything is in place.

If you have any questions or problems, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 847.582.4075 or by email at danny@templejeremiah.org.

In addition, we want to highlight that the renewal form also offers you the opportunity to support our Annual Fund. This fund is critical to the Temple's financial stability and helps sustain our daily operations. Community Commitments and school tuition fees only cover a fraction of our day-to-day costs. Without a strong Annual Fund, we would not be able to offer the worship and programming that enrich your lives, our members. Please consider a contribution as you complete your form. Every gift is both meaningful and vital.

We are a community first and foremost. We take pride in our commitment to each other and will provide assistance if you need help meeting the specified Community Commitment level to be a member of our temple. Our community ensures membership is available to all without regard to their financial circumstances. Please contact me at 847.582.4075 to set a time to talk. Be assured all conversations and all transactions are strictly confidential.

We want to remind you that the start of the High Holy Days is September 6th. We are working diligently to create a High Holy Day experience that will be meaningful in this new age. Information about our High Holy Day offerings will be shared via email. Please be sure to complete your renewal form to be sure you don't miss out on updates.

Thank you for your continued support and thank you for being a part of our community.

Registration for the 2021-2022 J-Quest School Year

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to register your children for the 2021-2022 J-Quest year of learning!

To enroll students for 2021-2022 classes, log into your ShulCloud account. Once logged in, select "My Account" and scroll down to "School Enrollment," then select "School Enrollment for J-Quest 2021-2022."

For questions or to learn more about this registration process, please contact Anne Kaplan at anne.kaplan@templejeremiah.org

Temple Jeremiah is dedicated to providing a warm and nurturing environment where each student can enjoy learning and strengthening their connection to Judaism. We offer a complete program of classes designed to provide your child with age-appropriate classes that are fun and engaging.

We are also proud that the Temple Jeremiah Center for Learning has received accreditation from the Association for Reform Jewish Educators.

This year we are excited to offer a blended series of in-person and digital classes for our J-Quest students. We are thrilled to combine the hands-on benefit of in-person sessions with the small group intimacy and convenience of remote learning.

The 2021-2022 school year also opens a new chapter for Temple Jeremiah as it marks the first J-Quest school year under the guidance of Matt Rissien, our new Director of Congregational Learning. We're excited for all of you to meet and learn with Matt!

To learn more about the upcoming J-Quest year, please visit templejeremiah.org/j-quest.

RABBI COHEN (con't)

We return to one another as we return to God. And, just as in the past we were able to experience renewal, so too, now we can renew our days as we move into the next normal.

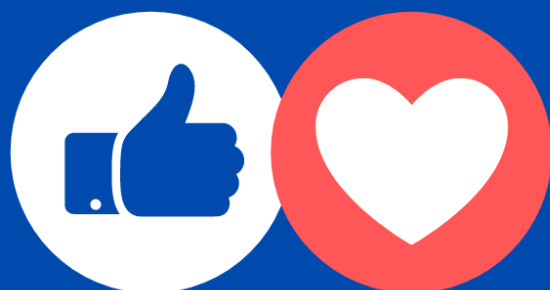
This year we will build on the multi-access model for worship, study, and acts of loving kindness. We will host in-person experiences indoors and out with many digital enhancements and make these experiences available at the same time through digital portals. And, true to our commitment to the multi-access model, you will also be able to access these experiences at different times through recordings.

We demonstrate our love of God through the love and caring we provide to each other and to those in need. Through multi-access experiences we can protect the health of body and soul.

I am so excited to approach the New Year with you, my beloved community. May we each find the strength we need through our return to one another and to God.

May we, in this New Year of 5782, experience renewal as those before us have experienced in the past. Cathy, Jacob and Elana, Eli, Anna, Hope, and I wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy, and sweet New Year.

Shanah Tova,

Follow Us on Facebook!

Search Temple Jeremiah and click the "Like" button. So easy!

- ♥ Upcoming Events ♥ Event Photos ♥ Announcements
- ♥ COVID-19 Updates ♥ Holiday Messages ♥ And much more!

Look Forward to These Social Justice Events

Feed the Hungry

Temple Jeremiah has been providing lunches for the hungry on the first Sunday of the month for years, and the need is greater than ever.

We need volunteers to drive the lunches downtown as well as families to make the lunches at home and drop them off at Temple Jeremiah. We are also resuming in-person packing at the temple!

Members are now invited to drop off food as well as sign up to pack food in small groups in the temple kitchen.

To get involved, visit: templejeremiah.org/engage/social-justice-programs. For questions please contact Stephen Miller at stephenmiller2854@gmail.com.

Backpack Blessings

As the school year begins again, families are in need of food and support. Backpack Blessings is here to help!

Each month, we need volunteers to help us pack backpacks and move prepared bags and boxes.

Please note: packing sessions will continue to follow physically distanced procedures with separate tables for each family or COVID-19 pod group.

To learn more about our packing schedules, please contact Jacki Krashin at jackikrashin@gmail.com.

Please visit our calendar for a full Backpack Blessings schedule.



COVID-19 Operating Procedures Update

The COVID-19 Advisory Task Force met this week and reviewed our current operating procedures, along with data from the CDC and Illinois Public Health.

As of July 27th, we are making one significant change that more closely aligns with the recommendations put out by the CDC and State of Illinois, as well as our local school districts. During school hours we will be requiring anyone in our building to be masked. This will begin immediately. All of our other policies will remain in place until further notice.

The COVID-19 Task Force will be meeting in the coming weeks to determine any additional updates to the policy. We continue to keep *Pikuach Nefesh*, the preservation and protection of life, front and center. This one command supersedes almost every other command in our Jewish tradition. We will be able to make updates as the situation evolves.

As mentioned in our previous updates, as tempting as it is to identify a specific date for when we will go back to “normal,” the

nature of COVID-19 and its spread makes this virtually impossible. Drawing upon guidelines established by other faith communities and the recommendations of the CDC, we have initiated a phased reopening. The COVID-19 Advisory Task Force will evaluate our procedures every six weeks to determine the best course of action moving forward. Our regular procedures will be applicable to all synagogue gatherings (both onsite and offsite), usage of the facility by synagogue partners, and all who enter into a rental agreement with Temple Jeremiah.

Best,

Temple Jeremiah COVID-19 Advisory Task Force

Scott A. Levin, MD, President
Barbara Miller, Immediate Past President
Ed Shapiro, Legal Counsel
Cory Franklin, MD
Charles Ieuter, Insurance Advisor
Rabbi Paul F. Cohen, D.Min., D.D.
Danny Glassman, Executive Director

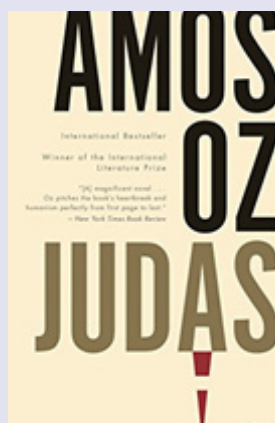


Hear the Stories of Our Temple

Learn about Tell Us Your Story at:
tinyurl.com/TJTellUsYourStory

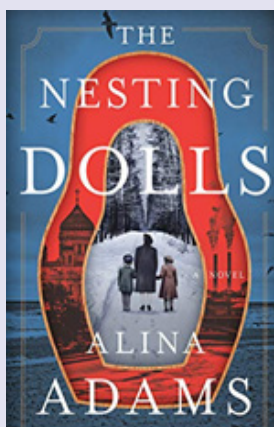
NOTE: We will be meeting in-person at Temple Jeremiah with the option to also attend via Zoom

Thursday, August 12th 2021 - 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Judas, By Amos Oz



Finalist for Man Booker Prize and Winner of the International Literature Prize
“[A] magnificent novel . . . Oz pitches the book’s heartbreak and humanism perfectly from first page to last.” — New York Times Book Review; “A [big] beautiful novel . . . Funny, wise, and provoking.” — Times (UK)

Thursday, September 9th 2021 - 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
The Nesting Dolls: A Novel, By Alina Adams



“Mesmerizing . . . Adams’ sweeping tale offers captivating explorations of”... three generations of a Russian Jewish family. This family saga takes us from 1930s Odessa to today’s Brighton Beach. Author Alina herself immigrated to the U.S. with her family from Odessa, USSR, in 1977.

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

Staff Spotlight: Matt Rissien



Matt Rissien

In each issue, Temple Jeremiah highlights one of our wonderful staff members with a profile in *The Covenant*. This month's Staff Spotlight is Matt Rissien, our Director of Congregational Learning. We invite you to learn more about him by reading the interview below:

TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF

I grew up in Overland Park, Kansas and went to Jewish day school from Kindergarten through 12th grade.

I'm a middle child with two sisters, Rebecca and Molly. I went to the University of Kansas for college (Rock Chalk), where I was an avid basketball fan and participated in tons of student organizations as well as joined the AEPi fraternity. I am also a big fan of singing, Broadway, concerts, and sports (mainly all the Kansas teams, Cubs, Bulls and Blackhawks). In my spare time, I enjoy making Jewish rap and parody videos on my YouTube channel.

I moved to Chicago in 2012 to become the Youth Director at Congregation Beth Shalom. Being new to the area, two weeks in I decided to go onto J-Date to meet new people. My wife Brittany, who grew up in Buffalo Grove, ended up being the first person I messaged, and we recently celebrated our 5th wedding anniversary! We do not have any kids yet, but we are currently going through the adoption process. We are both very excited to be joining the Temple Jeremiah family and can't wait to meet everyone!

WHAT DO YOU DO AT JEREMIAH?

At Temple Jeremiah, my job title is Director of Congregational Learning. What that job really entails is providing a memorable Jewish learning experience for everyone who is a part of our community.

It is my goal to make sure that all our students remember their experiences at Temple Jeremiah far beyond their final classes and that they want to come back as adults. I get to think outside the box and produce new, fun, creative ways for us to learn. I also get to know our younger families and adult education communities.

For me, my job is to get to know everyone in this building and greet everyone with a smile and positivity during their weeks.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO TEMPLE JEREMIAH?

Before coming to Temple Jeremiah, I was the Midwest Managing Director for a middle school Israel curriculum called IsraelLINK. When COVID hit, I took our curriculum and created a virtual program where I would teach groups of schools on Zoom. Temple Jeremiah was one of our most successful schools that I taught, and working with Anne Lidsky was a true joy.

When I heard that Anne was retiring, I knew that I wanted to join her community. Combining my background of innovative education at IsraelLINK and seven years at Congregation Beth Shalom, I was thrilled to accept the position and become part of the Jeremiah family.

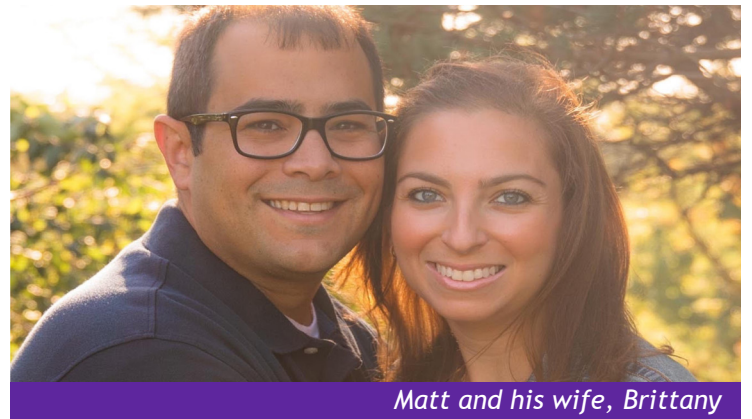
WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO IN THE UPCOMING J-QUEST SCHOOL YEAR?

For those who are not familiar, J-Quest is the name of our school program. When I had the honor of filling the shoes of Dr. Anne Lidsky in June, it was clear to me that J-Quest is a place that values community and relationships. We want our students to enjoy being here and we want everyone to feel welcomed.

I am doing as much preparation as possible to get everything ready for the start of J-Quest, but the thing I am most looking forward to is seeing our students and meeting all our families and congregants. To me, my position at Temple Jeremiah is more than a job; it's an opportunity to be a part of a special community.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE JEWISH TRADITION?

My favorite Jewish tradition is lighting the candles and saying the kiddush on Friday night. There is something special about a ritual that allows you to take time to reflect on the week that has just passed and take a breath for a moment to slow down from the fast pace of the week. I also have fond memories of doing this with my family growing up, followed by the *best* Shabbat dinners!



Matt and his wife, Brittany

WHAT DOES THE "JOY OF BELONGING" MEAN TO YOU?

To me, the "Joy of Belonging" is the fact that Temple Jeremiah brings together so many incredible people to join in Jewish experiences. At Temple Jeremiah, our differences don't matter; when we are here, we are one community.

Although I'm new to Temple Jeremiah's team, I have already felt the joy of belonging. The staff and clergy have done an incredible job of making me feel welcomed as have all of you. I love being with everyone on Friday nights and love getting to know the Torah Study community on Saturday mornings. I know that as the year goes on and I continue to meet members of Temple Jeremiah's community, my feeling of the joy of belonging will only grow!

Bridge and the Jewish Community: Bridge at Temple Jeremiah

With the return of Shabbat worship without attendance limits, in-person Sisterhood Book Club meetings, and summer activities like Jews in Canoes, it is apparent that things are slowly returning to normal at Temple Jeremiah after nearly a year and a half of physical distancing. For many temple members, one of the clearest signs that Jeremiah is resuming business as usual is the renewed presence of bridge games in our building.

For many years, Temple Jeremiah has been home to a series of local bridge games. Monday through Friday, area players are invited to come together in the Slotnick Social Hall for afternoons of bridge hosted by local game owners Tom Dressing and Daryl Novick.

"Temple Jeremiah has been a home for bridge players for much of my bridge playing career," said Tom. "The temple has a great space for players. Not only does it boast a vast social hall and great parking, but it is very well located. The Northfield-area is right in the middle of a bridge player stronghold. It works out well that we host our games here."

Temple Jeremiah's long relationship with bridge has helped shaped the temple as it grew and expanded. For example, when the Slotnick Social Hall was undergoing renovations, temple members specifically requested and financed the installation of higher intensity lights in the space to aid bridge playing.

"Our games generally feature many Jewish players," noted Tom. "There's a relationship between the Jewish community and the game of bridge. The fact that our games take place in Temple Jeremiah, the worship space of several of our players, feels apt with that in mind."

During the pandemic, the bridge games hosted at Temple Jeremiah migrated to a digital format. However, bridge, as a game, does not lend itself well to remote playing.

"To start, the majority of our players are in their 70's and 80's," noted Tom. "That's not the demographic best suited for online

games. More importantly, bridge is a social game. You want to be able to greet your opponents and partner. You want to be able to touch your cards. It's a game best played in person."

To Tom, bridge is first and foremost a social game. "Bridge is not a casual game—it takes effort to learn and dedication to play. Thanks to this, the bridge community is tightly knit. We generally see the same people coming to our games, and over the years we've all developed deep friendships with one another," said Tom. "Bridge is both an incredible game and comfortable way to meet and stay in touch with friends."

While excited to be holding their games in person again, Tom and Daryl acknowledge the potential health risks that arise from congregating during a pandemic. To ensure the safety of their players, all their games are only open to vaccinated players. They also are stringent about sanitizing their game cards and boxes.

Overall, Tom wanted to emphasize that new bridge players shouldn't be intimidated by the game. "Although you can't just waltz into a bridge game and start playing, I hope no one lets the complicated nature of the game intimidate them," said Tom. "Playing bridge can be immensely rewarding—it keeps your mind sharp and offers new joys and challenges with every game. My message is simple: all who are interested should take the leap and learn more about bridge."

The bridge hosted at Temple Jeremiah accommodate various levels of bridge experience. Monday through Thursday, interested players can find advanced and intermediate games at the temple, while on Fridays, players can attend a game devoted to less advanced players in the morning and expert players in the afternoon.

Although all of the bridge games at Temple Jeremiah are only open to those with previous bridge experience, Tom and Daryl invite those interested in the game to explore the resources, including bridge tutoring and novice forums, on the American Contract Bridge League's website: acbl.org.

Get Involved with Maot Chitim This Fall

Since 1908, the Maot Chitim of Greater Chicago has enabled thousands of Jewish people in need to experience important Jewish holidays in a traditional, dignified manner by providing them hot meals and the necessary supplies to celebrate.

Rabbis used to set up tables in front of the Synagogues about two weeks before Passover and distribute money to the needy to help. Chicago's Jewish poor would then use this money to buy matzohs and prepare for the holiday.

Now Maot Chitim is a thriving organization that provides enough food each holiday to meet the needs of over 16,000 individuals for both Passover and Rosh HaShanah.

Each year during the High Holy Days, Temple Jeremiah's Brotherhood teams up with Maot Chitim to deliver meals to Jews in need on the North Shore.

All Temple Jeremiah families are invited to join Brotherhood in this mitzvah! This year, Brotherhood is seeking volunteers to help them deliver Rosh HaShanah boxed meals to those in need on Sunday, August 29th at 9:30 a.m.

To get involved, simply contact Brotherhood's Maot Chitim organizer, Michael Shack at michael.schack@comcast.net. Be sure to let Michael know how many boxed meals you can deliver and how many members of your family will deliver meals with you!

Community, Judaism, and Music at Ravinia

This summer, Temple Jeremiah members gathered our blankets and snacks and returned to one of our favorite North Shore traditions: the Ravinia Musical Festival.

On Tuesday, July 20th, a group of temple members, helmed by Cantor Susie Lewis Friedman, went to see *Och & Oy! A Considered Cabaret*, featuring *The Good Wife* and *Cabaret's* Alan Cumming and *All Things Considered's* Ari Shapiro. The duo joined forces in song for an evening of storytelling, tunes, and tall tales.

"I'm a huge fan of both Alan Cumming and Ari Shapiro individually, so it's exciting that they're doing a show together" said Temple Jeremiah member Katie Bick. "Although they're not the most obvious pairing, they're both incredible singers and even better storytellers."

The following week, Temple Jeremiah returned to the musical festival to see a performance from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Pinchas Zukerman. With a career encompassing five decades, Pinchas Zukerman reigns as one of today's versatile musicians. An expert violinist, conductor, and chamber musician, Zukerman's talents were on full display during his concert. Zukerman not only performed a series of violin solos at his concert, but also conducted a group of CSO musicians.

While Temple Jeremiah members enjoyed the music at these concerts, they also appreciated the Jewish thread connecting the heart of both performances. Ari Shapiro is not only one of journalism's most visible Jewish figures, but also a storyteller whose humor and personality are informed by his upbringing.

Similarly, Pinchas Zukerman's Ravinia performance can be interpreted as an extension of his Jewish identity. Both of Zukerman's parents were born in Poland and survived the Holocaust. His father, a multi-talented klezmer musician, did so, according to Zukerman, not least by playing the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto—a work he performed in concert at Ravinia.

Overall, temple members enjoyed sharing space and music with each other. "It's always wonderful to meet in person again," said *Och & Oy! A Considered Cabaret* attendee Phyllis Burg. "After over a year apart, it's a delight to celebrate the warm weather with our community. It's easy to see why Ravinia outings are highlights of the temple's summer programming for so many members."



Ravinia's Pavillion

Ravinia's team echoed this sentiment. "More than ever before, we're excited to reinspire audiences at Ravinia with live music," said Ravinia President and CEO Jeffrey P. Haydon. "As one of the nation's best outdoor music venues, Ravinia is perfectly positioned to welcome concertgoers to comfortably experience live performances together again. Although this year's Ravinia experience may be a little different, we are happy to continue one of Chicagoland's favorite summertime traditions with music under the stars."

Temple Jeremiah is always thrilled to host musical events and outings. To learn more about the temple's music-related programming, please contact Cantor Susie Lewis Friedman at cantorfriedman@templejeremiah.org or visit templejeremiah.org/engage/music-at-jeremiah.



IAC Israel Fun Fact: Did you know...

The world's largest wholesale diamond center is Israel and most of the cut and polished diamonds in the world come from the country.

Israel was also the first nation to adopt the Kimberly process, the international standard that certifies diamonds as "conflict free."

Laura Bernstein: Lifelong Educator

If you have any familiarity with Temple Jeremiah's J-Quest programs, you'll probably know Laura Bernstein's name. For more than five years, Laura has served as one of J-Quest's incredible Sunday School teachers, helping our fourth-grade students strengthen their connections to Judaism in hands-on, innovative ways.

What you might not know is that Laura's passion for teaching extends outside of the temple's walls. Since leaving college, Laura has taught special needs students in Des Plaines, providing individualized attention to the children who most need it. According to Laura, her passion for teaching has roots in Temple Jeremiah.



Laura Bernstein at her son's Bar Mitzvah

Growing up, I got to see my mother teach Sunday School here at the temple," said Laura. "I feel like I grew up at Temple Jeremiah and have celebrated many mitzvahs here. The temple instilled in me a lot of admiration for teaching and for the Jewish community as well."

However, Laura cites a high school experience volunteering in a special education classroom as her inspiration for teaching students with special needs. "Working in that classroom as a high schooler was an experience I'll never forget," said Laura. "It was apparent that the students really wanted to learn, and that the classroom's teacher was willing to go above and beyond to help them. My time there made it very clear to me that this was something I wanted to do."

Now, Laura has been teaching children with special needs in the Chicago suburbs for over 20 years. She brings many of the skills she's honed in her long career teaching in public schools to her classroom at Temple Jeremiah. "My experiences teaching special needs students and J-Quest students definitely influence

each other," said Laura. "Although the teaching style I bring to each classroom is different, all of my students thrive when offered opportunities to engage directly with each other and the material."

For example, Laura loves to bring interactive art projects into her J-Quest classroom. "Fourth grade kids don't want to sit at desks and write paragraphs," said Laura. "They want to have a good time, connect with their peers, and learn while doing so." One of Laura's favorite interactive J-Quest projects is her annual mitzvah tree.

"My husband helped me out with this one by building me a wooden tree I could bring into my classroom," noted Laura. "Now, every year when my fourth graders learn about the concept of mitzvah, I have them write down a mitzvah goal on a wooden leaf that they then paint and add to the tree. It's always a great feeling to see the tree filled with their leaves!"

Laura's creative teaching approach is apparent in all of her classroom activities, which include an annual temple scavenger hunt and group poster design sessions devoted to celebrating Judaism. In 2016, to tap into the cultural conversation around the presidential election, Laura's class held a mock election in which students voted for their favorite prophet. "It's all about bringing fun into the classroom," said Laura. "We all learn best when we're excited about what we're doing."

Overall, Laura wants to bring her love for the temple into her teaching. "Temple Jeremiah helps me and my family feel excited about Judaism," said Laura. "I want to share that feeling with my students."



Laura Bernstein and her family

Do you know an outstanding member of Temple Jeremiah's community whose story you'd like shared in a Monthly Mensch article?

Contact covenant@templejeremiah.org to send in a Monthly Mensch nomination.



J-Quest Ice Cream Social 7.21.2021



Jews in Canoes 8.1.2021



Bim Bam Baby 7.9.2021

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:
covenant@templejeremiah.org

IN HONOR OF**Rabbi Paul Cohen**

-Audrey and Ronald Snyder

Samantha Feldman

Daughter of Melissa and Chad Feldman

On the occasion of her becoming a Bat Mitzvah

-Melissa and Chad Feldman

Rowan Halston Fisher

Granddaughter of Barbara and Jack Fisher

On the occasion of her birth

-Caren Brown

Audrey Hope Fowler

Granddaughter of Paula and Don Kessler

On the occasion of her baby naming

-Paul and Don Kessler

Jeanne and Ron Gieseke

On the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary

-Randi and Charles Gurian

Jami Gitles

Daughter of Paula and Jay Gitles

On the occasion of her marriage to Brian Hoorwitz

-Geri and Michael Greenberg

Matthew Kogan

Son of Loryn and Norberto Kogan

On the occasion of his engagement to Arika Jeter

-Alene Frost

Dr. Anne Lidsky

On the occasion of her retirement

-Leslie Berman

-Randie and Lew Bricker

-The Carr Family

-Nancy and Arnee Eisenberg

-The Erlich Family

-Carole and Bill Fishman

-Joyce and Gary Frank

-Diane and Mark Gluskin

-Lori and Andy Goldstein

-Geri and Michael Greenberg

-Randi and Charles Gurian

-The Gunther-Shukur Family

-Nancy Hirschfield

-Ina Jones

-Barbara and Ken Kaufman

-Jacqueline and Philip Krause

-Deborah Krupp

-Judy Lazar

-Leslie and Stephen Lipschultz and Family

-Susan and Ken Lorch

-Cynthia and Andy Miller

-Marcia and Gerald Osher

-Hershy Pappadis

-Gail and Mark Pierce

-Erica Regunberg and Rob Dann

-Babette and Jeffrey Sanders

-Rabbi Robert and Patti Schreibman

-Lisa and Brian Schurgin

-Elizabeth and Doug Shabelman

-Rachel and Marvin Siegel

-Bonnie Sorkin and Peter Alexander

-Andi and Michael Srulovitz

-Ellen and Alan Toban

Jerry Lidsky

On the occasion of his special birthday

-Susanne and Roger Fein

-Randi and Charles Gurian

-Susan and Ken Lorch

-Roberta Mallon and Lewis Robert

Josephine Maeve Micheletti

Granddaughter of Suzi and Joe Meis

On the occasion of her birth and baby naming

-Leslie Berman

-Suzi and Joe Meis

Sandra and Robert Morgan

On the occasion of their special wedding anniversary and his special birthday

-Sandra and Robert Morgan

Easton Newman

Son of Rachel and Jeremy Newman

Grandson of Leslie Berman

On the occasion of him becoming a Bar Mitzvah

-Leslie Berman

Dana and Ben Perlson

On the occasion of their marriage

-Nancy Perlson

Carol and Lee Saldinger

On the occasion of their special wedding anniversary

-Emmy and Ed Rothschild

Willem Van der Voort

Son of Marnie and Derek Van der Voort

On the occasion of him becoming a Bar Mitzvah

-Marnie and Derek Van der Voort

IN MEMORY OF**Elliott Berman**

Father of Leslie Berman

Gandfather of Rachel Newman

-Leslie Berman

Donald Bloom

Father of Sari Shuman

-Bonnie and Herb Horn

-Gail and Les Trubow

Sylvia Blustein

Mother of Rachel Siegel

-Rachel and Marvin Siegel

Joseph Breen

Husband of Adrienne Breen

-Adrienne Breen

Maury Cooper

Family friend of Ivy Baruch
-Ivy Baruch and Cary Green

Robert Gieseke

Father of Ron Gieseke
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-Phyllis Eisenberg
-Sheryl and Richard Sheiner

Jack Goldman

Father of Louis Goldman and Sally Wascher
-Louis and Barbara Goldman

Sharon Grossinger

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Aunt of Michael Cogan
-Deborah and Michael Cogan

Shirley Klein

Mother of Heidi Ross
-Heidi and Lewis Ross

Mort Levin

Father of Joyce Suchsland
-Joyce and Michael Suchsland

Samuel Mehr

Father of Sandra Morgan
-Sandra and Robert Morgan

Michael Robinson

Father of Sheila Schlaggar
-Sheila Schlaggar

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Sister-in-law of Diana Kaufmann,
Aunt of Julie Gordon, Kim Klinghofer,
Jason Kaufmann, and Jayme Kaufmann
-Marla and Charles Alexander
-Barri and Rusty Colman
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-Bonnie and Herb Horn
-Susan and Ken Lorch
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-Sheila Schlaggar

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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, P.O. Box 418, Montvale, NJ 07645. Be sure to include a note as to what the donation is for and which fund you prefer.

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about how to
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