


















Avi Patano, Levi & Eden Glassman, and Dylan & Sloane Silver with Rabbi Cohen planting a tree for future generations

## Inside This Issue

	Editor's Note.....	2
	Perspective: Dr. Scott Levin.....	2
	Rabbi Schreibman Message.....	3
	Checking in: COVID Task Force..	3
	Weekly Torah Portions.....	4
	The Right to Vote.....	4
	Voting Rights with Al Franken...	5
	Advocacy Alerts.....	6
	Sisterhood Book Club.....	6
	Alexis Ruda on Jumpstart.....	7
	Checking In: Inclusion.....	8
	Cantor Friedman's Album.....	8
	Building Tomorrow Together..	10
	Lately Around Jeremiah.....	11
	Acknowledgments.....	12

## The True Meaning of Community

By **RABBI RACHEL HEAPS**

Associate Rabbi

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In Judaism, every word has connected meanings. It all comes from the way our *Lashon Kodesh* (sacred language), Hebrew, is structured. Hebrew is built around roots; three (sometimes four) letters that when put into various grammatical structures take on different meanings. Take for example the root *alef, hey, vet*. Many of us know this word in its noun form: *ahavah*, meaning love, or from the prayer *V'ahavtah*, meaning and you will love. But in different structures the same three letters can mean to love, to fall in love, beloved, lust, flirt, unconditional love. Definitely all related words, but also very different. When we try to understand Hebrew – both modern and biblical and everything in between – one way we study the true meaning of a word is to understand all of its connected meanings as well.

When we think about the true meaning of community, we do the same. Our Hebrew word for community is *Kehillah* (root: *koof, hey, lamed*). You might recognize the phrase *kehillah kedosha*, a sacred community, from

any one of a number of times we've discussed what all the individuals of Jeremiah come together to create. But what I find fascinating about this word is that in its basic verb form it doesn't mean "to commune," to share intimate thoughts or feelings. Rather, this root means "to gather," to come together in one physical location.

If anything, this past year and a half has taught us that we don't need to be together physically to be a *kehillah kedosha*. Again, this year, when celebrating the season of our holiest days, we won't all be together. Of course, we want to be together, but we've also learned that Jeremiah and our larger community is more resilient than our physical limitations. I, for one, am encouraged to have proof that we do not need to gather to be a community.



*continued on page 4*



By JULES HENSON  
Digital Designer/Developer  
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Lately, I've been contemplating community as I look around at all that's going on in our world. It really wasn't until the modern era that community became something to take for granted. Until then, it was essential to the survival of the individual.

The Industrial Revolution brought with it a sense of isolation, when relationships became a choice and were based on convenience and contracts. And it was then that society, as we know it today, started to become too big and scattered to form close relationships with everyone. Today, even though we are bound, in a way, by the same issues, we have more opportunity to choose our people, our family, our community.

I am constantly in awe of the community that Temple Jeremiah has created since its beginning. Those who make the choice to be a part of it are enveloped by love and truth, and instantly become a part of the healing of the world, *Tikkun Olam*. I've come to know myself the importance of fellowship and how it's only when we have it, that we are well and that we can help others be well. We turn *illness* into *wellness* when we replace the *I* with *WE*. And the *WE* of Temple Jeremiah - which is synonymous with its heart-warming community - does just that. It's a community of both stability and growth, fervently working toward grounding each individual in both while reaching with open arms toward the greater community.

“I am constantly in awe of the community that Temple Jeremiah has created...Those who make the choice to be a part of it are enveloped by love and truth, and instantly become a part of the healing of the world, *Tikkun Olam*.”

For those of you who are wondering who this person is who is writing the Editor's Note this month, I'd like to properly introduce myself. I've been working with Temple Jeremiah for the past several years on communications by building promotional pieces and maintaining the website. I've silently become a cheerleader behind the scenes as I've quietly read and proofed the many, many cover stories, perspectives, monthly mensch articles, social action and advocacy events, Shabbat Shalom messages, J-Quest updates, and so much more. I've watched the temple grow as the times have shifted. There is no stagnancy here, only flexibility and acceptance of the need to change with a changing world.

This month's Covenant is full of these messages, while also seeking to explore the meaning and importance of community. Rabbi Heaps shares the true meaning of the word, and what it means to be a part of the Jeremiah community; three past Temple presidents share what giving to the temple community means to them; current Temple president, Dr. Scott Levin, shares his view on community and the importance of building it; Cantor Friedman shares her hopes to strengthen the Jeremiah community through music; and more. I hope these stories will ignite your own thoughts of this special community, and I wish each of you a very happy and healthy new year.

## Community: Beyond Just Being One



By DR. SCOTT LEVIN  
Temple President  
scottamy93@aol.com

***"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."*** - Coretta Scott King

As we celebrate the High Holy Days, and the beginning of 5782, we have a chance to reflect on our community. How have we responded to the onslaught this last year has brought? How have we turned pain into promise, trauma into growth? Have our actions been compassionate? Has our community aspired to greatness?

These questions can be both uncomfortable and a cause for pride, sometimes simultaneously. So many members of our Temple Jeremiah community have acted with not only compassion, but with patience, generosity, kindness, and love. Yet, there is still so much that needs to be improved, healed, reconciled, and moved towards peace.

Our vision is to be a Jewish community of meaningful connection. Our mission is to foster a warm and inclusive Reform temple community that enriches the lives of our congregants through meaningful worship, *Tikkun Olam*, support of Israel, and the joy of lifelong learning. The word community takes center stage in both statements, and this is not happenstance. Individuals and families join Temple Jeremiah, and then remain a part of our congregation, because of that sense of community, the compassion of its members, and the connections that can be realized.

It is also important to recognize that a community is comprised of many different facets, perspectives, and fibers. Building community is not passive, and it takes conscious effort to reach out and across to someone who may not think or believe exactly as we do, but who still has great capacity for compassionate action. Building community is essential, beyond just being one.

This is the honor and privilege I feel as President of Temple Jeremiah. Having a chance to be a part of this community, to help build this community, learn about so many of you, and look towards an ever-growing compassion, even greatness, is a blessing indeed. Thank you for everything you bring to our community, and *L'Shanah Tovah*.

## The Day of Atonement: Have We Forgiven?



By **RABBI ROBERT D. SCHREIBMAN**  
*Rabbi Emeritus*  
schreib04@comcast.net

Dear Fellow Congregants,

As a Rabbi Emeritus, I look back at the past year and wonder about change: what has and what has not changed, and was it for better, worse, or just the same?

*Ecclesiastes: Chapter 1 Verse 8*, tells us "What has been is what it will be and what has been done is what will be done and there is nothing new under the sun." However, Heraclitus said you cannot step into the same river twice, while Plutarch told the story of hearing his father say that the world is topsy-turvy, but so did his grandfather say that.

It is a new year. We look back, and though we are glad it is over, we all seem the better for it. The major events were a decisive election which nearly half the country wishes not to accept; a terrible epidemic which seemed to be over, but is it? And there still are arguments on whether we should take the best chance to beat it. Climate change is probably worse. Has Israel done right

with its political changes? Are Ben & Jerry correct?

I wish that in my old age I had the answers, but that comes from my own almost 86 year perspective. Many of you can probably guess at my answers. But the real question is: have I or you changed? It is after all better for most of us.

But are we more content? Have we made our former lives better with our spouses, children, parents, and in other relationships?

In a few days we will be observing The Day of Atonement. Have we forgiven? Do we deserve to be forgiven? Do we lie in bed each night counting not sheep but our own mistakes? Have I forgiven myself?

Another year begins with the same questions to ponder on.

Patti joins me in wishing everyone a year of peace for the world, for our country, and for us.

Sincerely,  
Rabbi Robert D. Schreiberman

## COVID-19 Update



We continue to keep *Pikuach Nefesh*, the preservation and protection of life, front and center in all of our planning and decision making. This one command supersedes almost every other command in our Jewish

tradition. We are committed to informing you of updates to Temple safety policies for gathering in worship, study and Tikkun Olam as the situation evolves.

The COVID-19 Advisory Task Force met on August 10th, and reviewed our current operating procedures, along with data from the CDC and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). We are making the following updates that more closely align with the current recommendations by the CDC and the State of Illinois:

### 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

**Effective August 12th, we will be requiring anyone in our building to be masked.**

There are two exceptions to note:

1. Individuals leading/participating in our worship experiences from the *bima* may remove their masks as long as they are fully vaccinated.
2. Staff working individually in their enclosed offices may remove their masks while working.

For our J-Quest Program, we will exercise, where possible, physical distancing of three feet.

Temple Jeremiah will continue its current policy of not offering onegs, kiddushes, or food service in our building. Grab and go meals/snacks will be permitted as long as they are not eaten inside.

All our other policies will remain in place until further notice.

For specific High Holy Day COVID-19 updates as of August 25, 2021, visit [tinyurl.com/hhd-covid-update](https://tinyurl.com/hhd-covid-update).

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding.



## Rabbi Heaps (*continued from page 1*)

So then what might our Hebrew root teach us about the nature of community? We might find the answer in another common Hebrew practice. Like our ancestors Avram and Sarai, when they entered into a covenant with God, their names were changed to include a symbol of God. Avram became Abraham and Sarai became Sarah, each of them having a *hey* added onto the end of their name. There are many letters we use to symbolize God, each coming from a different nickname or understanding of God's presence. *Heys* and *Yuds* often appear in names to be that symbol of God. *Kehillah* has both added to its root, changing a generic "gathering" into a "community."

But our root can go even further. Take the same letters of *kehillah* (*koof, hey, yud, lamed, hey*) and put both symbols of God together (*koof, hey, lamed, yud, hey*) the word becomes *kehiliya*, a commonwealth. The identity of the group of people becomes one of common interests, common benefit, and common support – all actions that can be performed anywhere and at any time.

Indeed, our Jeremiah community is all of these things. We are a

place to gather—to celebrate and mourn, to educate and wrestle, to comfort and challenge. We are a commonwealth—where the needs of the individual, the needs of the community, and the needs of the forgotten are forever at the forefront of our minds. And we are a sacred community—creating holiness and

“We are a commonwealth—where the needs of the individual, the needs of the community, and the needs of the forgotten are forever at the forefront of our minds.”

experiencing holiness by being in relation to one another. We continue to evolve and adjust to best define the letters *koof, hey, lamed*, in an authentically Jeremiah way. As we embark on this next year, I am honored and privileged to discover all of these definitions with all of you. May we find only sweetness this year. May this year be marked by our exemplar of community.

## 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 at 9:30 a.m. every Saturday. To join us on Zoom, visit [zoom.us/j/132889355](https://zoom.us/j/132889355).



September 4, 2021

**Nitzavim**

Deuteronomy 29:9–30:20

September 11, 2021

**Vayeilech**

Deuteronomy 31:1–30

September 18, 2021

**Haazinu**

Deuteronomy 32:1–52

September 25, 2021

**Chol HaMo-eid Sukkot**

Holy Days Exodus 33:12–34:26

## Fair and Equal Access to the Right to Vote



**By NANCY LAWTON EISENBERG**  
Social Justice Advocacy Chair  
[nleslp@aol.com](mailto:nleslp@aol.com)

Some months ago, I was listening to Senator Al Franken's weekly podcast. I've always had a place in my heart for him. After all, he's funny and he's Jewish! The topic he discussed was the current status of voting rights in our country and how the filibuster impacts those rights. I

learned that he has studied these topics for over a decade and has become a scholar on these and related issues. Senator Franken

presents this subject in his signature humorous style, but also with great clarity. As I listened, it struck me that not only does this topic speak to our advocacy platform of antiracism, it is also in alignment with the goals of our URJ affiliate, the RAC. So imagine my delight when Senator Franken accepted our proposal and invitation to come speak to us at Temple Jeremiah!

I believe that voting rights are foundational and essential to a democracy. Fair and equal access to the right to vote is something I care deeply about. Please take this special opportunity to learn more about this important topic by attending our next antiracism program, Voting Rights and More with Senator Al Franken on October 10th.



# Voting Rights & More with Al Franken



As we continue our series of programs on antiracism, we invite you to join us in welcoming Senator Al Franken to Temple Jeremiah.

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**Sunday, October 10, 2021**  
**4:00 - 5:15 p.m.**

**Register at:**  
[tinyurl.com/tj-voting-rights](https://tinyurl.com/tj-voting-rights)

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Over the past decade, Senator Franken has become an authority on the topic of voting rights and related issues such as the filibuster.

In his conversation with Rabbi Paul Cohen, he will discuss the history and status of voting rights in the U.S. and more. A portion of our time will allow for Q & A by our audience.



## Receive Advocacy Alerts from the Social Justice Committee

The Temple Jeremiah Social Justice Committee is excited to provide advocacy action alerts via text messages.

You might expect to receive an Advocacy Alert about once per week on one of our seven Board-approved issue platforms: antiracism, criminal justice, gun safety, hunger, immigration, inclusion, and mental health.

At Temple Jeremiah, "advocacy" means that we educate about social justice issues and provide opportunities to communicate with legislators and policy-makers. We do not endorse any particular opinion or position, although some of our platform affiliates, that provide us with opportunities and information, may be partisan or issue-oriented.

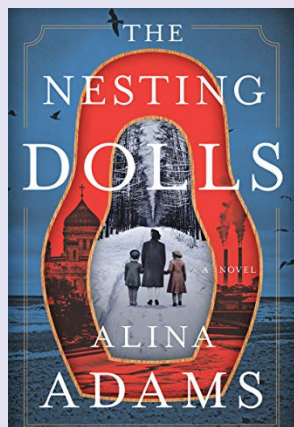
**If you are interested in receiving advocacy updates via text messages, please sign up here: <https://safestop.io/zVm4d6>**

Please contact Advocacy Chair, Nancy Eisenberg, with any questions: [nleslp@aol.com](mailto:nleslp@aol.com)

## Sisterhood Book Club

**NOTE:** Look for an email a few days before BookClub that confirms an in-person or Zoom meeting!

Thursday, September 9, 2021 ~ 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
***The Nesting Dolls***, 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.

Thursday, October 14, 2021 ~ 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
***Revolutionaries***, By Joshua Furst



"A grown-up child of the 1960s looks back in anger... at his mercurial father, a legendary activist and counterculture icon... - *Kirkus* (starred) Furst's richly researched and detailed book gives us a vivid portrait of the '60s and '70s also from a child's eye, street-level view" - *The New York Times Book Review*

Contact Vicki Siegelman at [vsieg@gralynn.org](mailto:vsieg@gralynn.org) for more information or to join.

## Cultivating Roots by Instilling Community

**Alexis Ruda** spent a lot of time at Temple Jeremiah as a child with her aunt and uncle, Anne and Jerry Lidsky. She always felt like this was a loving, warm, and wonderful place that she wanted to be a part of. Now, having been a teacher at Temple Jeremiah for twelve years, she shares her own story and sense of community:



*Alexis with two students*

Alexis decided to learn Hebrew and have a Bat Mitzvah ceremony after graduating from college, not having done either as a child. At the age of 24, she hired a tutor to help her learn the Aleph Bet, how to read Hebrew, and the prayers, and she did what she set out to, became a Bat Mitzvah at Temple Jeremiah. "It was just wonderful," she said. "I wish I had the experience as a child and it is never too late."

Then, as happenstance had it, years later, in 2010, her aunt (Dr. Lidsky) told her about an opening to teach at Temple Jeremiah, and asked if she would like to fill the position. Alexis could not believe her good fortune! She thought, "Now I really would be on the inside of the temple community, not just looking in from the outside, helping students with their education."

Alexis always felt drawn to the community at the temple, from childhood on through her choice to become a Bat Mitzvah. Now, having been a teacher here for over a decade, she feels like she truly is a part of the Jeremiah community.

Regarding COVID-19 and the changes, she said, "I had a lot of trepidation about going into the past year teaching online. I felt like my strengths as a teacher lay in the bonds and relationships I formed with my students in person. I worried that I wouldn't be able to keep the children engaged via Zoom." To everyone's surprise, however, teaching online was quite a success. The small groups allowed her to give a lot more attention to each individual child. It reduced behavior issues and it was convenient for the parents and the children, too!

This year Alexis is looking forward to a combination of teaching Aleph (first year Hebrew) in person on Sundays and then continuing her online classes on Monday and Wednesdays with older students. "The best of both worlds," she thinks.

Alexis is thrilled to be the teacher/tutor for Temple Jeremiah's new Jumpstart Hebrew program. The premise is that there are many families who missed Aleph Hebrew last year, whether they waited to join the temple until this year or didn't want to add yet another Zoom class to their child's schedule. The temple came up with a program that would allow students to catch up as quickly and efficiently as possible through individualized small groups. Alexis is personally working with these incoming fourth graders as she catches them up to enter the overall Bet Hebrew (second year) curriculum.

**“Whether Shabbat services, Hebrew school, or social justice programs the Joy of Belonging represents community. It's more than just a school or a place to worship...”**

Alexis is meeting with 2-4 students for 30 minute weekly Zoom sessions—not a huge time commitment. This will be complimented with in-person meetings so the students can meet each other, complete hands-on projects, and have the experience of being inside Temple Jeremiah.

"I imagine students will be nervous that they are too far behind, but this program will be a confidence builder as they catch up to their peers."

Being in person will be incorporated into the schedule: three weeks remote, one week in person. "The experience of just being in the same room, able to respond immediately and spontaneously to the children, to have them see their classmates (and me). It will improve the sense of community, camaraderie and friendship among the students." Students will also have the experience of being involved in prayer services, interacting with the clergy, and getting used to the customs of praying inside a sanctuary.

"I want Temple Jeremiah to be a place where these children can feel like they're putting down roots, not merely a concept we discuss over Zoom," Alexis said. "I love teaching here."

On the Joy of Belonging she says, "There is a real difference in the sense of belonging that you can cultivate in children when you're meeting in person at this very special holy place. Whether Shabbat services, Hebrew school, or social justice programs the Joy of Belonging represents community. It's more than just a school or a place to worship. It truly is a community where people come together and do a lot of different things to learn from each other and help support the Jewish community in general."

Alexis wants the children to have a sense of all that it means to be a part of such a vibrant community. It is really important to meet and spend time with the clergy who are going to be a part of their Jewish journey. "I want the kids to sing with Cantor Friedman, to know Rabbi Elbron, and learn the songs and the stories. I want them to have the feeling of sitting in the sanctuary and the chapel and leading prayers. There is a real interaction between learning the curriculum and being immersed in the temple itself as well as the people who work and contribute to Temple Jeremiah.

"I treasure the work that I do here and I am so excited to reconnect with the students I have already taught and a whole new group of kids in the coming year. I just love my job."



## 2021-2022: A Look at What's to Come

By CAREN BROWN AND GAIL MODRO

*Inclusion Co-Chairs*

ceb994@gmail.com, gailmodro@comcast.net

The Inclusion Committee has been trying to stay connected with each other and with the special needs community over the past several months. We had a wonderful Passover Celebration in March via Zoom. We sang songs, recited blessings, and read through an abbreviated Haggadah complete with a virtual seder plate! Many Temple Jeremiah families as well as families in the community participated.

Unfortunately this Rosh Hashanah, for the safety of all, we could not offer an in-person service for individuals with special needs and their families and friends as we had hoped to. Instead, we are proud to offer an updated version of the creative and meaningful service that our clergy produced last year. Although we missed seeing our friends in person, the advantage of the digital service was that it could be seen on YouTube when the timing worked for each family. In this way, many families stayed in touch with Temple Jeremiah and each other during the holiday. Special gift bags were distributed to those families who pre-registered for the service and it was great to see those smiling masked faces as they received the bags!

We have a full year of events planned for 2021-22. We will host them in-person if possible or via multi-access approaches. All ages and abilities are always welcome to attend. Dates and times to be announced.

Animal Appreciation Event  
Chanukah Celebration  
Scott B. Crane Abilities Awareness Shabbat  
Passover Seder  
Israel Day Picnic

If you'd like to know more about current issues involving people with disabilities, *New York Times* published an outstanding article written by David Axelrod (fact-checked by Jeremiah's own Scott Mendel) titled, "When It Comes to People Like My Daughter, One Size Does Not Fit All," dated July 4, 2021.

Contact co-chairs, Caren Brown at ceb994@gmail.com or Gail Modro at gailmodro@comcast.net, if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas regarding inclusion at Temple Jeremiah. We wish you a happy and healthy New Year!

## Sing, Pray, Repeat: Cantor Susie Lewis Friedman's New Album

Cantor Susie Lewis Friedman talks about her new album *Sing, Pray, Repeat*, which she hopes will help spread Jewish music to Temple Jeremiah members of all generations.

### On the album and what we can expect

The album is called *Sing, Pray, Repeat*! It was generously underwritten by one of our amazing members, Harry Major. He wanted the children in JQuest, Temple Jeremiah's religious school, to be able to listen to the songs they learn in school outside of Temple. He was also excited about the idea of adding my original songs, many of which are used for worship and also in the school. I've written about twelve to fifteen songs over the years.

### On the mixture of musical styles in the album

It is mainly Jewish folk/pop/world in style, but contains many different kinds of songs. Almost all have English texts woven throughout the Hebrew, which is a favorite style of our Temple Jeremiah members. There is also everything on there from the *Bim Bam* we sing in Tot Shabbat to rap. For some of the songs, I was inspired to write in R&B style. There are two eclectic settings—one is an R&B type *Hineni* featuring percussion, bass, me on voice, and Jewish singer-songwriter Laurie Akers. Another is a setting of *Or Zaruah* where I sing a melody, and our very own Matt Rissien interweaves a rap of the English meaning of the text. I've also written a couple songs for my husband, Ross, over the years. One is a *Dodi Li* (I am My Beloved's and My Beloved is Mine), which I wrote for him while we were apart during my first year of Cantorial School in Israel.



Cantor Friedman, with (left-right) Nadav Simon, drummer; Aaron Kaplan, cellist; and Mike Konopka, music studio owner and co-producer, during the making of the album

### On whether those styles define her as a musician

The styles in the album only partially showcase the styles that I can present. A wide range of styles is necessary for today's cantor to be able to reach all the different members in our communities.

### On the inspiration behind the album

Two years ago when we were performing a *Hineni*, written for me by Cantor Pavel Roytman, we gave every member of the congregation a CD of it. Many loved it and asked for more music to

*continued on next page*



play at home. When Harry suggested that I do this, I was thrilled to be able to put together another album.

Another thing that inspired me was my participation in Jewish Rock Radio's *Chicago Sings* spearheaded by Jewish songwriting sensation Rick Recht and led by Laurie Akers. Jewish Rock Radio is a streaming station that has been on air for about 10 years. I listen to it all the time, and always wanted my music featured. After I saw "A Star Is Born" with Lady Gaga, I was inspired by how she had to change her musical writing style, when she was first being discovered, in order to get her foot in the door of pop culture style. In a way, she took the sophistication out of her music. But once she made a name for herself, she was able to then write the way her heart desired, in a more melodic, contemplative style. At the time I saw that movie, we were in the cycle of Torah where the text with *Hineni* was being read—the *Akeidah*, where Abraham says, "Here I am" in answer to God's call to bind his son, Isaac. So I decided to write a *Hineni*, inspired by Lady Gaga's R&B writing style, and sang it with Laurie for one of the Jewish Rock Radio *Chicago Sings* programs. We then recorded it a year later.

#### On who was involved in making of the album

My co-producer is Mike Konopka at Thundertone Audio/Pie in the Sky Music. He also designed and helped install the amazing sound system enhancements which we have been enjoying in the Schreibman Sanctuary since fall of 2019. The album features Julian Chin on most of the piano pieces. I also play piano on a few of them. Nadav Simon plays drums throughout the album, and he is absolutely amazing. A few of the pieces also feature Aaron Kaplan on cello, Julian on accordion, and Don Cagen on flutophone and trumpet. I'm also thrilled to present two original songs by Cantor Pavel Roytman, one of which features my amazing friend and colleague, Felicia Patton, who we brought here for Shabbat Shirah this past year. She and I also sing *Amazing Grace* together. Singing with her is truly like going to heaven. Rick Recht is also featured in two songs, as well as my dear friend Cantor Rayna Green, and of course our very own Matt Rissien. Last but certainly not least, the album features my sweet daughter, Abigail, who co-wrote a very cool Yom Kippur kids' song with me last year, in response to Ross' observation that there really are not very many Yom Kippur songs for kids. It's called *I'm Sorry for What I've Done*. She also sings on most of the religious school songs, such as *Chag Purim*, *Bim Bam* and *Tzum Gali Gali*.

#### On whether Jewish music has changed through the years

Jewish music has always borrowed the "tunes of the land." You'll notice that the "regular" or "most popular" *V'Shamru* setting that we do sounds like a drinking song, and this minor, sort of raucous style was what was the "music on the street" when the composer wrote it. By the same token, the *Sh'ma* that we know and love, by Solomon Sulzer, was actually booted out of the synagogue when it was first presented because of its major key and church-like sound. However, Sulzer wrote this way because during the early 19th century at the time of his writings and workings as a cantor, Jews were not able to attend classical music concerts, opera, or other musical events that they loved so much due to antisemitism.

So, they brought that style of music that they loved into the synagogue. Similarly, Debbie Friedman transformed worship music from being something to take in, listen to, and observe to something to be embodied and participated in by the worshippers. I would encourage everyone to listen to Jewish Rock Radio streaming online, or if you have an Echo Dot, you can say, "Alexa, play Jewish Rock Radio." You will hear an eclectic mix of Jewish music, most of which sounds like you are listening to a pop radio station. Israeli rock can also be heard here, and contains a great deal of rap and R&B. Broadway is of course another huge influence on our worship music, and the greatest example of this that can be heard here at Temple is the *Modim* by Jonathan Comisar, which we do for the High Holy Days. It is so easy to connect to, with its beautiful, singable melody, and English text which helps us understand and fully embody the meaning of the text.

#### On whether Jewish music will keep evolving

For sure. Every time the music of the land changes, so does Jewish music. My good friend, Cantor Rayna Green, laughed so hard when I told her Matt was rapping on the album over an *Or Zaruah* tune I wrote, because she reminded me of how I always said I would quit if rap came into synagogue music. But I fully realize the need to create music for all ages to connect to, and as soon as I heard Matt rap on another song, I knew I had to ask him to be a part of this!

#### On who will be touched by the debut of the album

I truly hope that our J-Quest kids will listen to it at home and that it will help them be excited about coming to Religious School, and staying with it way beyond their B'nai Mitzvah. I really hope this album can be a vehicle for the temple to gain recognition as a house of eclectic music and worship, and that it will help draw more children to participate in all kinds of aspects of the Temple.

#### On plans to continue writing music in the future

Yes! I just wrote a *Hashiveinu* setting for the month of Elul to help us connect to our theme from Lamentations 5:21—"Return us to You, O God, and we will be returned. Renew our days as before." I often get hit by the "muse" of a song while I'm doing random things like driving, cleaning the house, or just going about my daily life. Then I try and record the song as soon as I can, wherever I am, and then expand upon it at the piano later. I am so honored and excited to be able to share all of this with our congregation.

#### On where to find Cantor Friedman's current/future music

You can always find my music at the bottom of our Temple Jeremiah website. Just click on the Jeremiah Sings link and it will take you to my SoundCloud where you can listen to this album, plus many more selections. You can also visit my SoundCloud directly here: [soundcloud.com/user-783341897](https://soundcloud.com/user-783341897). Right now, you'll be able to listen to some of your favorite songs from our High Holy Day videos last year.

Stay tuned for information about our upcoming CD release party!

## Meet Our Co-Chairs



By **LESLIE LANDMAN**

*Director of Philanthropy*

[leslie@templejeremiah.org](mailto:leslie@templejeremiah.org)

As shared over the past several weeks, we are in the midst of a time-limited capital campaign, Building Tomorrow Together. Announced in late August, this campaign brings our community together as partners to secure Temple Jeremiah's financial future.

This campaign is steeped in the idea of *l'dor v'dor*, generation to generation. Blessed that the founders of Temple Jeremiah had the vision and commitment to build our physical structure, our spiritual home, we look to our members today to help strengthen and secure its future. For close to 50 years, in this building, our members have worshipped, learned, celebrated and shed tears together. In this building, we have taken the values of *Tikkun Olam* and brought them to life with projects and programs to help those in need and improve our world. But, this space, like all aging buildings, needs significant updates and renovations, in addition to annual resources that exceed the revenue of our building fund. The funds raised through this campaign will address these needs and strengthen our building endowment.

I asked our Building Tomorrow Together co-chairs and former temple presidents, David Golder, Ken Lorch, and Barbara Miller, to share some thoughts about the temple and their motivation to lead this critical effort. Please read their personal reflections and consider making a donation to help us build for the future.

Building Tomorrow Together Campaign is one of those times. My gift and the gifts of those who have already contributed will ensure that the temple and the building will survive for another 60 years.

All aspects of my life have been enriched by my involvement in Temple. It has been a spiritual home, a place to do good, a place to educate my children and a place to establish relationships and community. Just this year alone, our family has participated in dozens of social justice projects, many continuing education programs, mourned the passing of five family members and friends, and celebrated the marriage of my son, Sam, to his beloved Alicia. My temple community was there for me during all of these times. I never felt alone, I always felt part of a bigger community. The temple has made a long lasting contribution to me and my family. Now, I have the opportunity to do that for the temple. It is hard to believe that you could feel good about making a financial commitment but both Stephen and I feel honored and happy to help an organization that gives to us and others daily.



*Susan and Ken Lorch, with their grandchildren*

### Ken Lorch

Susan and I have enjoyed over 25 years as part of the Temple Jeremiah family. We joined because it was a beautiful place to pray and learn and we quickly developed personal friendships with a number of the leaders of the congregation, all of the clergy, and the senior staff. We also liked the chocolate they served at the onegs. It's an organization that supports our core values of *Tikkun Olam*. It's my firm belief that when one belongs to an organization one has an obligation to support it. If I'm going to support it, I want to be involved beyond the financial obligation. As a result, over time I went from committee to committee to the Board to become an officer and ultimately the president. I have said repeatedly that the more I was engaged with the congregation, the more amazed I was by all the good our temple does for our community – both in and outside our walls.

I believe in a strong Jewish community – we share a history and many values. A congregational community is a microcosm of the larger community but one where you can get to know people and count on them to be there when you are in need. Maintaining that strong healthy community helps ensure the security of my family now and in the future.

*continued on next page*



*Barbara and Stephen Miller with Erin, at Sam and Alicia's wedding*

### Barbara Miller

A few years ago, a very dedicated and forward thinking group of board members identified two problems that challenged the long term stability of the temple. As Board President, I knew it was the responsibility of leadership to identify and implement a solution. That is how the Building Tomorrow Together campaign was born.

I am truly honored to be able to not just co-lead this effort but to financially participate in a meaningful way. There are few times in your life when you can make a long lasting impact. Giving to the





Carol and David Golder with their children, Jacob and Caitlin

#### David Golder

As I think about Temple Jeremiah, it is a part of my life that has been so significant over the years, and ensuring its healthy future is so important to me personally. I have been privileged to be

part of Temple leadership and that is why, when I was asked to be involved in this effort it seemed like a natural extension of my involvement.

This is such a critical initiative for the temple. By renewing our commitment to our building, it is part of ensuring our future and providing space and facilities for our community, educational, and religious programs.

Being part of this campaign is what it means to be a community, and what it means to make a promise to the future. I am very proud of Temple Jeremiah and our commitment to today and tomorrow.

To donate, visit: [templejeremiah.org/building-together-tomorrow](https://templejeremiah.org/building-together-tomorrow).

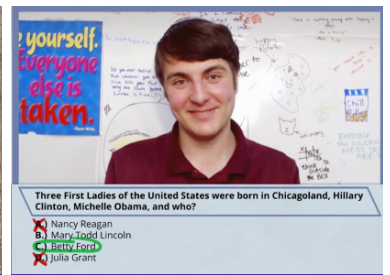
## Lately Around Jeremiah



Tot Havdallah 7.27.2021



Rosh HaShanah Care Packages



Ezra Landman-Feigelson, son of Director of Philanthropy, Leslie, was the youngest contestant on WTTW's The Great Chicago Quiz Show with Geoffrey Baer



Bim Bam Baby Classes

Send Us Your Home Photos!



TYPICALLY we showcase activities and events happening lately around Temple Jeremiah on a full page. 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.

Email your photos to:  
[covenant@templejeremiah.org](mailto:covenant@templejeremiah.org)



### IN SUPPORT OF

#### **Temple Jeremiah**

-Adrienne and Joseph Feldman  
-Ellen and Tom Kaplan

### IN APPRECIATION OF

#### **High Holy Days**

-Judith Sontag and Mike Pollak

#### **Rabbi Paul F. Cohen**

-Ilene and Gerson Field  
-Myrna and Mickey Hammerman

#### **Rabbi Rachel L. Heaps**

-Ilene and Gerson Field

### IN HONOR OF

#### **Jenna Aronson**

Daughter of Lisa and Tom Aronson, *on the occasion of her marriage to John Zukin*  
-Lisa and Tom Aronson  
-Lisa and Steve Kleiman

#### **Rowan Halston Fisher**

Granddaughter of Barbara and Jack Fisher, *on the occasion of her birth*  
-Alene Frost

#### **Graham Frank**

Son of Joyce and Gary Frank, *on the occasion of his marriage to Kyle Goldhoff*  
-Geri and Michael Greenberg

#### **Jami Gitles**

Daughter of Paula and Jay Gitles, *on the occasion of her marriage to Brian Hoorwitz*  
-Paula and Jay Gitles

#### **Joan Golder**

*On the occasion of her 90th birthday*  
-Barbara and Mike Gilbert-Koplow  
-Sheila Schlaggar

#### **Bennett Dean Harris**

Grandson of Jani and Steve Harris, *on the occasion of his birth*  
-Cantor Amy Zussman and David Fell

#### **Samantha Kessler**

Daughter of Paula and Don Kessler, *on the occasion of her marriage to Sean Fowler*  
-Paula and Don Kessler

#### **Dr. Anne Lidsky**

*On the occasion of her retirement*  
-Minda and Michael Bernberg  
-Lucy and Herb Blumenthal  
-Ronda and Dan Franks  
-Jamie and Bruce Hague  
-Mindy and Randy Kurtz  
-Hershy Pappadis  
-Jennifer and Michael Pfeifer

#### **Rachel Odzer**

Daughter of Jill Odzer, *on the occasion of her marriage to John Craver*  
-Jill Odzer

#### **Alex Rothschild**

Grandson of Emmy and Ed Rothschild, *on the occasion of his engagement to Hannah Gould*  
-Cantor Amy Zussman and David Fell

#### **Josh Oppenheim-Rothschild**

Grandson of Emmy and Ed Rothschild, *on the occasion of his engagement to Joelle Riffle*  
-Cantor Amy Zussman and David Fell

#### **Caden Robert Thompson**

Great-grandson of Carol Maxon, *on the occasion of his birth*  
-Cantor Amy Zussman and David Fell

#### **Rafe Simen Kelly Wolfson**

Grandson of Jody Haas-Wolfson and Ross Wolfson, *on the occasion of his birth*  
-Krystal and Danny Glassman

#### **The Committee for "Celebrating Anne"**

*In honor of a fabulous committee*  
-Cantor Amy Zussman and David Fell

#### **Vince Michael Zuccaro**

Grandson of Margo and Jim Oliff, *on the occasion of his birth*  
-Mara and Gerry Lane

### IN MEMORY OF

#### **Harriet Schwartz**

*Mother of Cheri Grossman*  
-The Schurgin Family

#### **Herbert Seligmann**

*Father of Babette Sanders*  
-Babette and Jeffrey Sanders

#### **Jerry Silverman**

-Joyce Landau

#### **Helen Slotnick**

*Mother of Sherrill Slotnick*  
-Sherrill Slotnick

#### **Edith and Morris Sutton**

*Parents of Art Sutton*  
-Diane Stumpf and Art Sutton

#### **Andrea Zinn**

*Mother of Danielle Ruben*  
-Danielle and Brian Ruben

#### **Reymond Arbetman**

*Father of Shelley McNaughton-Sulkin*  
-Shelley McNaughton-Sulkin and Mark Sulkin

#### **Donald Bloom**

*Father of Sari Shuman*  
-Deborah and Michael Cogan  
-Jennifer and Michael Pfeifer

#### **Sheldon Brody**

*Father of Ivy Baruch*  
-Ivy Baruch and Cary Green

#### **Esther and Sidney Cohen**

Parents of Randi Mayer  
-Randi and Jim Mayer

#### **Robert Cohn**

*Father of Jamie Kost*  
-Jamie and Jeff Kost  
-Cantor Amy Zussman and David Fell

#### **Solis "Sy" Dudnick**

*Husband of Dana Dudnick*  
-Dana Dudnick

#### **Charlene Goodman**

*Mother of Karen Goodman*  
-Karen Goodman and Robert Joseph

#### **Allen Hirschfield**

*Husband of Nancy Hirschfield*  
-Jane Colman  
-Jill and Richard Wellinger

#### **Ronald Kaufmann**

*Husband of Diana Kaufmann, brother of Joel Kaufmann, father of Jason Kaufmann, Mark Kaufmann and Kimberly Klinghofer, uncle of Julie Gordon*  
-Diana Kaufmann

#### **Zelda Kost**

*Mother of Jeff Kost*  
-Jeff and Jamie Kost

#### **Bettye Leverette**

*Mother of Hershy Pappadis*  
-Hershy Pappadis

#### **Harriet Lewinthal**

*Mother of Wendy Phillips*  
-Minda and Michael Bernberg  
-Wendy and Jim Phillips  
-Patty and Marc Turim

#### **Ludwig Neu**

*Father of Henry Neu*  
-Evelyn and Henry Neu

#### **Thomas James Pappadis**

*Husband of Hershy Pappadis*  
-Hershy Pappadis

#### **Gladys Passes**

*Sister of Gerson Field*  
-Ilene and Gerson Field

#### **Boris Rabin**

*Father of Arlene Drucker*  
-Arlene and Steve Drucker

**Morris Sauer**  
*Brother of Jennie Berk*  
-Jennie Berk

**Abraham Silver**  
*Father of Ilene Field*  
-Ilene and Gerson Field

**Harold Wise**  
*Husband of Susan Wise, father of Robin Sheperd*  
-Susan Wise

**Sharon Zislis**  
*Sister of Joel Kaufmann*  
-Judy Sontag and Mike Pollak

**FOR THE SPEEDY RECOVERY OF**

**Tom Hathaway**  
-Joyce Landau

### 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.

### Your Donation Supports:

Temple Jeremiah Annual Fund • Temple Jeremiah Endowment Fund • Temple Jeremiah Building Maintenance Fund • Social Justice Fund • Education Fund • Stanley Golder Interfaith Initiative Fund • Marshall B. & Viola R. Schwimmer Library Fund • Prayer Book and Torah Commentary Fund • Caring Community • The Bill and Norma Brown Fund for Lifelong Learning • The InterAct Fund for Youth Programming • The Fern M. Kamen Fund for Youth • Joseph H. Goldberg Family Fund for Special Needs Programming • The Cantor Amy Zussman Fund for Music • Brotherhood Fund • Sisterhood Fund  
Discretionary Funds: Rabbi Paul F. Cohen • Rabbi Rachel L. Heaps • Cantor Susan Lewis Friedman

## Stay Up to Date on Events with our Calendar

*Looking to learn more about upcoming events at Temple Jeremiah?*

For up-to-date programming and our full calendar,  
visit [tinyurl.com/tj-calendar](https://tinyurl.com/tj-calendar).



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**School Phone:** 847.441.0202

*An affiliate of the Union  
for Reform Judaism*

Visit us at [templejeremiah.org](http://templejeremiah.org)

Join us for *the* Building Tomorrow Together Concert,  
a fun-raising and fund-raising rockin' musical event  
featuring Cantor Friedman, Marc Mayer & Friends.

**September 22, 2021**  
**6:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

Song requests! Dedications!  
Rock and Roll classics! All ages welcome!

This is a multi-access event. To join us on Zoom, visit [zoom.us/j/87196727818](https://zoom.us/j/87196727818)