



Jeremiah Buddies 1.23.2022

Inside This Issue

	Editor's Note.....	2
	Perspective: Matt Rissien.....	2
	Welcome the Stranger.....	3
	Sisterhood Book Club.....	3
	Purim 2022.....	4
	Monthly Mensch.....	5
	Weekly Torah Portions.....	5
	Staff Spotlight.....	6
	Social Justice Opportunities.....	7
	Mazel Tov to Ella Rubinstein.....	8
	Purim Shpiel Update.....	8
	Checking in: Youth Programs.....	9
	Matt Rissien and M ²	10
	Lately Around Jeremiah.....	11
	Acknowledgments.....	12

By **RABBI PAUL F. COHEN**

Senior Rabbi

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Beloved Friends,

I want to again express my appreciation to all of you for the gift of a January Sabbatical month. This time has been especially meaningful as I have restarted my work translating and commenting on *Midrash Aseret HaDibrot* (The rabbinic work structured around the Ten Commandments).

This work is really focused on the spiritual attributes we should strive to embody. This text is not a legal treatise on the should and should not of the *Torah*. This piece of medieval literature is comprised of rabbinic writings, metaphoric flights of fancy and folk tales all designed to help the readers become better human beings.

I have been focused this past month on the introductory material. Before approaching the first of the Ten Commandments, the author(s) begin at the beginning, the Story

of Creation. One of the wonderfully challenging aspects of this text is that the author(s) did not include any citations for the quotations and other material incorporated into the midrash itself. So, I get to research the vast treasure trove that is our inheritance to find, identify, and explain the sources used. This has been enriching for me and a lot of fun too.



Let me share with you one example. There is a relatively well-known story/midrash that the author(s) use as part of the introduction that addresses the Story of Creation. It connects the central idea of that story to Moses, who will be the medium through which Torah is given to the Children of Israel represented by the two tablets of the Ten Commandments.

continued on page 4



By **JULES HENSON**
Digital Designer/Developer
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When we look back at history, we can see how far we've come as a nation, as a human race. We see this on many different platforms: ethical, social, medical, technological, and more. Those who study the history of medicine, for example, know that before the start of the 1900s, needing surgery could mean almost certain death. Antisepsis and antibiotics are both relatively new concepts. Surgery may go as planned, but the patient would, more times than not, die of infection. Though it sometimes feels we are in the most desperate and uncertain times—seemingly unending, we are lucky to experience this pandemic in the time in history we are.

Though we have grown from where we were, we are still not living

in the best of times either. With continued sadness, pain, and fear all around us, we know there is better. This is why so many turn toward Temple Jeremiah for love, support, community, and to be a part of making change, working toward more growth—as individuals, community, and looking toward the larger society.

To do this, one needs to devote time. In this Covenant, you'll see how our Monthly Mensch, Temple Clergy and Staff, and the Social Justice Committee—along with the help of member volunteers—do just that. And one needs to learn a strength that both Matt Rissien, Director of Congregational Learning, and Rabbi Cohen share with us. Both faith in our future and humility in character are needed. I often think of a tree, which reaches its branches toward the heavens—and also has infinite tolerance and strength to withstand whatever comes its way. As the 13th-century Persian poet Rumi said, “Leaves tremble. Roots remain still.” I invite you to dive into the stories contained in this Covenant. I hope they will inspire you as they have me.

Our Responsibility to Protect the Light



By **MATT RISSIEN**
Director of Congregational Learning
matt@templejeremiah.org

It is February 2022 and I have faith. While January brought us a new year filled with hope, this past month also brought us back to reality quickly. It was a challenging month with the losses of several members here at Jeremiah, as well as the losses of some of my favorite actors and actresses.

It was another month of the pandemic, and, of course, there was the hostage situation at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas. Despite all these troubling events, there is still so much in our world that gives us faith. For me, faith was restored when I arrived at our first Sunday J-Quest session this past month.

After postponing J-Quest's first Sunday due to the rising cases of Covid, we were slated to come back on January 16th. Like many of you, I found myself glued to the television on Saturday, January 15th, watching the footage of the synagogue hostage situation. I woke up the next morning wondering what the climate would be at our first Sunday back. When times are tough, you can always count on the laughs and smiles of children to bring things back into perspective. As I stood on the bimah in the Sanctuary that morning, in front of me sat over 150 of our students. I closed

my eyes and listened to the beautiful sounds of our *Kehillah* (community) singing the *Shema* together for the first time in over a month. Listening to them gave me faith. Faith in our future as a people and faith that things will get better if you give it time and join in community.

The Hebrew word for faith is *Emunah*. If you look at the root of the word, you will see a familiar word, “*amen*.” Growing up, I had a Jewish friend who rarely attended synagogue. When he would attend services, the only way he could participate was simply by saying *amen* at the end of each prayer. While *amen* may only be three short Hebrew letters, it was a way for him to participate in prayer, even without knowing every word. When we say *amen*, we are confirming to ourselves, to our community and to God that we still have faith.

I want to wish everyone an incredible February filled with positivity, strength, healing, and faith. I want to acknowledge that having faith, especially during these times, is not always easy to do. When times are challenging, know that you can always turn to your Temple Jeremiah community. Whether through prayer, learning, or programs, we are always here for you! I look forward to seeing everyone this month at Temple and I look forward to our upcoming J-Quest Sundays, when I get to hear our students laughing, praying, and learning...That should give faith to all of us!



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♥ Upcoming events

♥ Shabbat Shalom Message

♥ Pictures from school

♥ Youth event pictures

♥ Announcements

♥ And much more!

Welcome the Stranger

Monthly Update
on our support
of an Afghan
refugee family.

Presented by
Temple Jeremiah's
Social Justice
Committee

The family's new apartment, furnished with items donated by Temple Jeremiah members.



As many of you have read in our previous communications, Illinois has committed to help 1500 Afghan refugees from the 65,000 from who were air lifted and brought to the United States. Temple Jeremiah has volunteered, side-by-side with HIAS, to help resettle one of the families in Roger's Park. While we were waiting for the family to arrive,

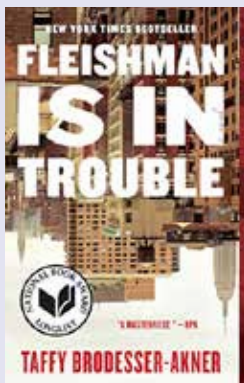
over fifty Temple Jeremiah members donated an apartment full of items to welcome the family and set it up for their arrival.

Contact Barb Miller at bmiller54@comcast.net or Dana Garbarski at dana.garbarski@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.

Sisterhood Book Club

NOTE: We're planning an in-person meeting (wearing masks)!

Thursday, February 10, 2022 ~ 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Fleishman is in Trouble, By Taffy Brodesser-Akner



Follow Toby in this "potent, upsetting and satisfying novel, illustrating how the marital pledge—build our life together—overlooks a key fact: There are two lives."
- *The New York Times Book Review*

Thursday, March 10, 2022 ~ 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
From Miniskirt to Hijab: A Girl in Revolutionary Iran, By Jaqueline Saper



Here's Jacqueline, a young Jewish girl growing up Western-style in Iran. "From Miniskirt to Hijab offers glimpses into Iran's history and customs, its arts and laws, how its social institutions operate and its people think." — *San Diego Jewish World*.

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

Rabbi Cohen (continued from page 1)

The story is about how the letters of the Aleph-Bet, (Hebrew alphabet), each proclaim that God should begin creation using them. In my research I found that the original source of this story is called *Sefer HaOtiot*, (the Book of Letters), contained within the *Zohar* which is the central mystical work of Judaism. In this story each letter comes forward with their argument for being the first letter of creation. Each one is rejected by God until the letter *Bet*, whose successful claim is that it will be the first letter of the Hebrew word that people will use to bless God, *Baruch*. Throughout this story the Hebrew letter *Aleph*, which makes no sound, is literally silent. God asks the *Aleph* why she has not stepped forward with an argument. She replies that she did not feel herself to be great enough for such a role. God responds and says that because of her humility, she will not only be the first letter of the *Aleph-Bet*, she will also be the first letter of the essence of *Torah*, the Ten Commandments.

The humility of the letter *Aleph* is then connected to Moses by way of the opening word of Leviticus, *Vayikra*. "And God called *Vayikra* [to Moses]." (Leviticus 1:1) The *Aleph* at the end of the word is written smaller in the *Torah* scroll than the other letters. The *Zohar* contends that it is representative of Moses' humility, his greatest spiritual attribute. *Aleph* is the first letter of the word "Ani" meaning "I." That is to say, Moses did not make his role as leader and teacher about himself; it was about the people. Moses understood his role and never sought to make his name great.

Anavah, the Hebrew word for humility, is the central message of

the introduction of *Midrash Aseret HaDibrot*. Just as the *Aleph* did not seek glory for herself and just like Moses did not seek glory for himself, so too should we act on behalf of others for their sake and not for ours.

My friends, now more than ever we see how hatred and violence seethe in our world. Antisemitism has never gone away. It is ever present and a threat to all. Antisemitism arises from fear that in turn comes from a place of insecurity. This coping mechanism that antisemites use for themselves is to pull themselves up and lash out at the scapegoat, claiming their own superiority.

The genius of Moses was that his humility was not about making himself small. His genius was to know his own gifts and how to use them as leader, teacher, and champion. Moses did not shy away from a threat. Moses knew when and how to respond. That is true *Anavah* (humility). Moses never made it about himself. Let us aspire to be like Moses, the humble servant of God, as we confront antisemitism and hatred of any kind with clear purpose. It is not about us, and we must respond, we must be vigilant, we must be vocal, and we must be humble.

Shalom,



Purim 2022

FRIDAY, MARCH 11TH
KABBALAT SHABBAT WITH ADULT CHOIR

SUNDAY, MARCH 13TH
19TH ANNUAL SHUSHAN SHUFFLE 5K RUN/WALK
PURIM SING-A-LONG
PURIM CARNIVAL

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16TH
PURIM SHPIEL



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
INDIVIDUAL EVENTS, VISIT
TEMPLEJEREMIAH.ORG/PURIM-2022

Vicki Weisenberg: A Temple Jeremiah Gem

Vicki Weisenberg joined Temple Jeremiah forty-six years ago and has been volunteering to help ever since - and every chance she gets! She has served on the Board and as an Officer, has helped with Adult Learning, and has created musical and other programs. And on top of that, any time an usher was needed for just about anything, Vicki could always be counted on. "Over the years, if something needed to be done, I tried to do it," she said.

Vicki grew up in Beverly Hills, California, with an unusual Jewish education. She attended Wilshire Blvd. Temple, a reform synagogue, on Saturdays and an Orthodox synagogue Sundays. Two additional days during the week, she drove her younger brother to cheder at the Orthodox shul, where he prepared for his Bar Mitzvah. "I sat in the back of the classroom and picked up knowledge, meant for the boys, like a sponge. Such was not usually the case for girls at that time," Vicki explained. Her thirst for Judaic knowledge has been a lifelong endeavor. This, as well as the connection she felt, is what attracted her to Temple Jeremiah and has kept her very happy.

Vicki has always been a doer. If ever there was any food needed, she baked or concocted. She even gave a "Cookies 101" session for Temple members. For more than ten years, Vicki worked with Cantor Zussman and David Lornson, creating musical productions at Temple. "Actually, they performed while I researched, wrote, and narrated," she said. The programs were first presented on Mothers' Day afternoons, and later at luncheons, and were always a big hit.

More recently, Vicki has helped with Purim productions, researching, creating costumes, helping with staging, and anything else that Cantor Friedman has needed. On the musical productions she said, "The amount of knowledge and joy that I have gained from both cantors and David Lornson can never be measured." Though everyone didn't always agree on everything, she said, "that's how you learn sometimes."

Years ago, when there was only one Rabbi, some members would be called upon to lead services. Vicki remembers occasionally getting a call from Rabbi Schreiber, stuck because of snow,



Vicki with her husband, Barry Goldman

asking if she would lead services. Of course nowadays, we have the luxury of multi-access services. But back then, Vicki was one that the Rabbi could count on. She had earned that after becoming a Bat Mitzvah at the age of 47. Years later, during a summer when the rabbi was on vacation and many lay members took a turn at conducting services, she remembers writing a D'var Torah connecting the need for both coffee and chocolate at any Oneg. On that she says, "let's just say it was based on a lot of creative research."

To Vicki, Temple Jeremiah has always been more than a building, more than a place to observe a holiday, and more than a place to educate one's children. "It is a living, organic entity that survives on coming together to share joy and sorrow, and for the feeding of those hungry for Judaic knowledge and meaning. It is my second home."

When asked whether she had any final thoughts about being involved, she said that the whole community has a personal responsibility for all that Jeremiah really is and wishes for all to experience this beauty.

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 and in-person at 9:30 a.m. every Saturday. To join us on Zoom, visit zoom.us/j/132889355.

February 5, 2022	T'rumah	Exodus 25:1-27:19
February 12, 2022	T'tzaveh	Exodus 27:20-30:10
February 19, 2022	Ki Tisa	Exodus 30:11-34:35
February 26, 2022	Vayak'heil	Exodus 35:1-38:20



Staff Spotlight: Leslie Landman

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

I am definitely a city girl. After spending most my childhood in Skokie, I returned to my city roots when I moved back to the Chicago area after college (UW-Madison, where I majored in Psychology and Hebrew & Semitic Studies) to attend law school at DePaul University. I moved into the Lakeview neighborhood and have remained there - now living just blocks from Wrigley Field (especially exciting when the Cubs won the World Series!). My husband, Aaron Feigelson, is a patent attorney. We have three children: Ezra, a recent graduate of Ida Crown Jewish Academy (my alma mater), is spending a gap year in Israel; Raizel, a senior at Rochelle Zell Jewish High School; and Ilan, an 8th grader at Metropolitan Schoolhouse.

After graduating law school and working mostly in family law, real-estate law, and estate planning, I learned of an opportunity to combine my legal background with my desire to work on behalf of the Jewish community. Working for the Jewish Federation in the Legacies and Endowment Department was a wonderful introduction not only to the details of planned giving, but to a broad range of fundraising and event planning. A personal highlight of my time at the Federation was leading a Birthright trip to Israel.

When I started my family, I left the Federation to work at Anshe Emet synagogue as their first Director of Development. As my family grew, I put all my energies into my role of mom, which in our home stands for *Manager of Madness*. I served on the Board of Directors at my kids' school, Akiba-Schechter Jewish Day School, chairing the Development Committee, and creating the school's first formal parent organization. I joined Temple Jeremiah in January of 2019.

In my downtime, I like to cook and bake. I am a kosher observing vegetarian/pescatarian and enjoy experimenting with new recipes—often trying to take recipes and adapting them to our family's dietary needs. A few times a year, our family makes veggie homemade eggrolls and sauces—a tradition started in my childhood by my mom and Bubby. I also try to bake challah weekly (surprisingly not a childhood tradition). I also love long bike rides, reading by the lake, and exploring Chicago neighborhoods.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE JEWISH TRADITION?

Passover is my favorite holiday. I have wonderful memories from childhood, when my great aunt would host our family's seders—multiple generations around her table, the house filled with the most wonderful smells emanating from her kitchen, singing songs, as we went through each page of the Hagaddah. What I have enjoyed as I began to host seders was keeping the traditions of my childhood, but also creating new family traditions connected to the holiday. When my kids were younger, the traditional seder did not work well. One of my kids had a host of sensory challenges, so I created a sensory seder where we went through the Exodus through a host of sensory experiences, including a marshmallow



Leslie with her husband, Aaron, and their kids, Ezra, Raizel, and Ilan at a family celebration

hailstorm, a slip and slide crossing of the Red Sea, and musical instruments. I also loved bringing my female friends together for an all-woman lunchtime seder, where we sang and talked about the themes of the seder through the lens of our experiences as women.

WHAT DO YOU DO AT JEREMIAH?

I am the Director of Philanthropy. My role is to help create and maintain a culture of philanthropy throughout the temple by planning, recommending, and assisting in the implementation of strategy and policy regarding fund development. This includes: crafting short and long term strategic fundraising initiatives; talking to members about their philanthropic goals at the temple, whether it is making sure that a contribution is directed to a preferred fund or exploring large impact gifts that may honor a loved one; writing articles and other informative materials related to philanthropy, highlighting changes in tax laws, raising awareness about the tax benefits related to certain assets, such as the benefit of contributing appreciated securities or using funds from an IRA; and, generally, helping out any way I can as part of the Temple Jeremiah family.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO TEMPLE JEREMIAH?

My consulting and volunteer projects were a good bridge as I considered a return to working outside of home. I was contemplating several options—expanding my consulting business, returning to law, returning to school. I knew that I was searching for a position that would use my skills in a challenging, creative, and meaningful way. And given my desire to balance family, while my kids are still home, I was searching for flexible, part-time hours. When I learned of the position, it held a lot of interest. I went through the application and interview process and was excited by all it offered. It spoke to my Jewish heart, offered the opportunity to use my skills and knowledge in a creative and meaningful way,

continued on next page



and would allow me to learn and grow professionally. I really enjoyed the interview process—each person I met was thoughtful, caring, and committed to the temple. I immediately felt it was a good fit and that initial instinct has been confirmed.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE TEMPLE JEREMIAH MEMORY?

Definitely, the 60th anniversary celebration. From start to finish, it was such a joyous evening. The gathering together for havdallah gave me chills and then the full celebration, from the shared words, to the wonderful video, to watching long time couples dancing together, and later joining on the dance floor. I remember thinking to myself—this is a community with a lot of heart...and this is a community that knows how to have fun!

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT TEMPLE JEREMIAH'S MEMBERS?

Everyone is so warm and friendly—and willing to help. During

the *Building Tomorrow Together* Campaign, I reached out to several members for assistance and without exception, people wanted to help! In particular, the videos and web page required a skill set that I do not have and were successful because of my collaboration with our members, Ernie Schubert, Julie Weinberg, and Lisa Rosenberg. The level of commitment and heart they brought to these projects was amazing. These were time intensive volunteer experiences, and they fully shared their talents and passions with me and our full community.

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

The "Joy of Belonging" to me is about connection. It is about knowing you are in a community that is there to support you and celebrate with you. It is what I witness in my professional relationships at the temple, the board and committee meetings I have attended, the worship services, the classes, and the programs.

Upcoming Social Justice Opportunities

Feed the Hungry

We are seeking volunteers on **the first Sunday of every month**. Please help us Feed the Hungry by volunteering at Temple, or by packing lunches at home! This quick, family-friendly activity can take place at home over the weekend and lunches can be dropped off at Temple Jeremiah before 11:00 a.m. Each lunch should consist of the following: two meat sandwiches (two slices per sandwich of any lunch meat), small bag of chips, fruit (apple, orange, etc.), and two cookies. Every lunch helps!

To get involved, visit: tinyurl.com/FeedTheHungry2021-2022. If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Miller at stephenmiller2854@gmail.com.

Welcome the Stranger: Partnership with HIAS

Temple Jeremiah is embarking on another humanitarian project with HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society). We are supporting an Afghan family who are living in Rogers Park. Temple Jeremiah has organized a group of Temple volunteers who will help provide basic items for the family, mentor the family for a minimum of 3 months, and raise money for support.

If you would like to help with one or more of these endeavors, please contact Barb Miller at bmiller54@comcast.net or Dana Garbarski at dana.garbarski@gmail.com.

To sign up to help provide household items, visit tinyurl.com/haiscollection.

40 Days of Teshuvah, A Short Film by the IOWA Project

Jill Patano, a Temple Jeremiah member and licensed clinical professional counselor, is leading a viewing and discussion of "40 Days of Teshuvah," a short film by The Inside Out Wisdom and Action (IOWA) Project. IOWA Project is a network of activists, educators, and spiritual leaders in the Jewish community supporting social justice leaders in exploring Jewish spiritual wisdom and developing Jewish spiritual practices. The Inside-Out change method helps people making social change integrate deep spiritual wisdom into their justice work.

To learn more and to register, visit: tinyurl.com/iowa-40-days.

To learn more about Temple Jeremiah's Social Justice programs and to get involved, visit: templejeremiah.org/engage/social-justice-programs.



To receive advocacy updates from the Social Justice Committee via text messages, please sign up here: <https://safestop.io/zVm4d6>

Please contact Advocacy Chair, Nancy Eisenberg, with any questions: nleslp@aol.com



ELLA RUBINSTEIN

Ella is a senior at Glenbrook North High School where she is a co-president of Jewish Student Connection club, a speech team competitor, executive board member, and varsity mentor, as well as a cross country runner. Outside of school, Ella is currently serving as the regional vice president of communications for her BBYO region and has been very involved with BBYO throughout highschool. She is also a peer mentor at Special Gifts Theater and a StandWithUs Kenneth Leventhal High School Intern.

Mazel Tov to Temple Jeremiah member, Ella Rubinstein!

Ella was selected to be one of JUF's 18 Under 18 Honorees!

18 Under 18 is a program designed to recognize Jewish teen leaders from across the Chicagoland community. Eligible teens are role models in the community who work toward *Tikkun Olam*/repairing the world and value *tzedakah*, demonstrate a passion for learning and practice, and/or motivate others to be involved in Jewish life regardless of background, experience, and ability.

We're so proud of you, Ella!

Jeremiah's Got Talent...The Purim Edition!



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

It's almost that time of year again: Purim! Time for costumes, hamentashen, groggers (noisemakers), and a story of yet another villain in the line-up of several, who tried to destroy us: Haman. My colleague, Jay Rapoport, wrote a catchy song, called *They Tried To Get Us, We*

Won, Let's Rock, that describes this to a tee. If you'd like to listen, visit tinyurl.com/jayrapoport-listen. Similar to the themes in other stories of this nature, evil Haman, the main advisor to King Ahashverosh of Persia, insisted that all residents of the town of Shushan worship him. A notable citizen, Mordechai, refused to do so, and Haman ordered him killed.

But not so fast....Mordechai was not only noble, but also CLEVER. He had *seichel* (wit)! The King was accepting applications for a new wife, and Mordechai convinced his beautiful cousin Esther to throw her hat into the ring. The King chooses and falls in love with her, and she has the courage to tell him not only that she is Jewish, but also of Haman's evil plot. The King shows love and *rachmanes* (mercy) for Esther and all of the Jewish people, is incensed by Haman's plan, and sentences Haman and his sons to death. They are all hanged. Today, as the story is told, their names are always read in one breath at the end of the *Megillah* (the Scroll of Esther).

One of the many amazing ways that we celebrate the holiday of Purim is through a shpiel, or a Purim play based on the story of Purim. Many Jewish congregations have talented members who write parodies to a favorite musical, song, or set of music. Temple Jeremiah is no exception. You might remember *When You Wish Upon a Jewish Star: A Disney Purim* which was our last hurrah before we locked down for COVID in 2020.

This year will be *Jeremiah's Got Talent....the PURIM Edition!* We are calling on any and all talented members to present their greatest talents with an added Purim theme. You could do a gymnastics sequence dressed as a Purim character, or you could have dancing hamentashen around you while doing the sequence. You could do a skit about Purim, tell a story, tell jokes, demonstrate how to cook hamentashen, or sing a popular song set to lyrics of the Purim story. I have many songs by bands, such as the Beatles, ABBA, or Coldplay, and from shows such as Frozen, Mary Poppins, and more. Or you can write your own and someone from our committee will be glad to help you.

Our shpiel will take place on Erev Purim, Wednesday, March 16th from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Rehearsals will be from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 13th and Tuesday, March 15th. The shpiel will be multi-access, and we will adhere to all COVID-19 protocols set in place by our Covid Task Force. Join us for the fun! Reach out to me with any questions at cantorfriedman@templejeremiah.org. Stay safe, healthy, and I'm sending you a huge virtual hug!

Two Peas in a Pod for Jeremiah Youth: Fun and Bonding!



By SHIRA BRANDHANDLER
Youth Engagement Director
shira@templejeremiah.org

The first half of the year has been filled with lots of fun for Temple Jeremiah youth of all ages! It has been wonderful getting to be together in person doing everything from laser tag and escape rooms to Chanukah parties, and everything in between. While all of these events and activities are inevitably a great time, the best part of each event is the small moments watching kids build new Jewish friendships and connect with each other and Judaism outside of their J-Quest classrooms.

Here are some of my favorite highlights from the year so far!

Jeremiah Kids (our K-2nd grade youth group) had a Chanukah Pajama Party. We painted dreidels, played games, and danced with DJs. Towards the end of the party, I noticed two kids, who had not been interacting, bonding over packages of cookies. They soon began racing through hula hoops, trading their painted dreidels, and becoming fast friends.

At Club 345 (our 3rd-5th grade youth group) we had a sleep under at Temple! We had a blast doing crafts and competing in energetic minute to win it games. Afterwards, we were able to celebrate Havdalah together. The kids were excited to get the chance to hold the candle, Kiddush cup, and spices. In the midst of all of the fun, it was wonderful to have a quieter moment to reflect on the week and celebrate together. We then had an epic dance break, of course.



Club 354 Sleep Under 11.13.2021

Jr. JeTY (our 6th-8th grade youth group) went to WhirlyBall! After several games of intense bumper cars, WhirlyBall, and a quick



Jr. JeTY WhirlyBall 11.21.2021

photo shoot, we had a little bit of time leftover on the WhirlyBall court. The time quickly turned into a dance party, and soon there were many requests for Israeli dance songs that the teens had learned at both OSRUI and Temple Jeremiah. Several dances later, we were all out of breath from dancing and laughing while trying to remember the moves.



JeTY Escape Room 11.14.2021

JeTY (our high school youth group) spent an awesome afternoon playing trivia, name that tune, and completing an escape room! The beginning of the escape room was a challenge as the group struggled to figure out where to start, but these teens continued to cheer each other, praise each new idea, and work together as a team. Once they got going (and received a few hints) they were able to successfully escape and celebrate together.

I love getting to witness these wonderful moments of joy and connection and I can't wait for many more this year!

To keep up with all things Temple Jeremiah Youth check out the Temple Calendar for all of our upcoming events and follow us on Instagram at @jeremiahyouth!

Matt Rissien's Commitment to Educational Excellence



Education has been at the forefront of thought and an overarching mission at Temple Jeremiah, and Matt Rissien, our Director of Congregational Learning, has the same personal and professional values. During the quarantine last year, Matt received a certificate in Virtual Experiential Education and Facilitation from M², an organization dedicated to the mission of promoting a proud and inspired community of Jewish educators, enabling their learners to find meaning and relevance in Jewish life. Of this program, Matt shares, "I loved how they challenged me to think outside the box to continue to engage students during the pandemic." He found that he had implemented so much of what he had learned at Temple. He soon learned about an opportunity to apply to become a part of a new Chicago cohort at M², and without hesitation, he applied and was accepted.

An eighteen month journey, from February 2022 to July 2023, Matt—along with 24 other educational leaders in Chicagoland—will be developing a shared language and approach for transformative experiential education. They'll learn new ways of thinking about educational practice, and acquire skills and effective methodologies that are relevant today. M² believes that this cohort of twenty-five diverse Jewish educators holds the potential—alone and together as a group—to positively and

powerfully impact the lives of our learners and strengthen the community for the next generation. This is exactly why Matt jumped at this opportunity and is excited to begin. "I applied because I believe it is so important to constantly strive to learn and grow in the field. As I've started at Temple Jeremiah, I have already learned so much and this M² cohort program will not only help me to grow as a professional, but also to help our education advance as well."

The cohort begins February 7th, and Matt is looking forward to being in a room with so many diverse, yet like-minded, educators. The fellows bring at least four to eight or more years of active work in the field, represent institutions all across Chicago including camps, schools, teen and student organizations, synagogues, cultural and grass-roots organizations, and more, and vary widely in religious observance and background. On this he says, "I am excited to learn with others who bring so many different perspectives and knowledge to the table."

Mazel Tov, Matt, on being accepted! We can't wait to see how this opportunity brings growth to you, Temple, and our greater educational system.

**Stay Up to Date
with Our Calendar**

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



Bim Bam Baby 1.21.2022



Jeremiah Kids Color Me Mine Party 1.30.2022

Backpack Blessings 1.16.2022



JeTY Top Golf 1.29.2022



J-Quest 1.23.2022



Purim Carnival Committee Meeting 1.23.2022

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Feed the Hungry

-Michele and John Maeglin

Temple Jeremiah

-Roxanne Gottlieb and Steve Blinderman
-Lia and John Quilico

Sisterhood's Wishtag Drive

-Michele and John Maeglin

IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Paul Cohen

-Lori and Gary Kash
-Rachel and Marvin Siegel

IN HONOR OF

Harriet and Gil Adelstein

On the occasion of their special birthdays
-Phyllis and Michael Mitzen

Jacob Cohen

Son of Rabbi Paul and Cathy Cohen, *on the occasion of his marriage to Elana Gordon*
-Geri and Michael Greenberg

Jamie Gluskin

Daughter of Diane and Mark Gluskin, *on the occasion of her marriage to Brandon Perl*
-Diane and Mark Gluskin

Madeleine Dawn Goldhar

Granddaughter of Leslie and Joel Goldhar, *on the occasion of her naming*
-Leslie and Joel Goldhar

Phyllis and Michael Mitzen

On the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary
-Harriet and Gil Adelstein
-Adrienne Lieberman

Hayden Shinsky

Daughter of Barrie and Michael Shinsky, *on the occasion of her becoming a Bat Mitzvah*
-Ellen and Alan Toban

Leo Nathan Sorin

Grandson of Lynn and Don Goffman, *on the occasion of his birth*
-Lori and Gary Kash

IN MEMORY OF

Charlotte and Nathan Ander

Grandparents of Dan Vorona
-Jane Ander

Sam Berk

Husband of Jennie Berk
-Jennie Berk

Charles Cohn

Husband of Marian Cohn, brother-in-law of Sandi Wexler
-Dianne and Joel Rovner

Eileen Diamond

Mother of Rand Diamond
-Rhonda and Rand Diamond

Lorraine Field

Mother of Lynn Goffman, aunt of Nancy Hirsch
-Cathy and Ed Atkins
-Darlene Gilford

Herman Fink

Father of Gerson Field
-Ilene and Gerson Field

Lorraine and Jack Goldman

Parents of Louis Goldman and Sally Wascher
-Sally and Jim Wascher

Frederika and Leon Halski

Parents of Joyce Frank
-Joyce and Gary Frank

Michael Harris

Father of Randi Carr
-Randi and Barry Carr

Jack Jacobs

Father of Alan Jacobs
-Avrie and Alan Jacobs

Lillian Kalin

-The Family of Lillian Kalin

Herman Kaplan

Uncle of Ellen Toban
-Ellen and Alan Toban

David Kost

Father of Jeff Kost
-Jamie and Jeff Kost

Hyatt Leverette

Father of Hershy Pappadis
-Hershy Pappadis

Joel Levine

Father of Penny Kowitt and Cynthia Levine
-Penny and Harlan Kowitt

Robert Liebman

Father of Marty Liebman, grandfather of Adam Liebman and Stephanie Schoenberg
-The Liebman and Schoenberg Families

Daniel Zachary Lipschultz

Son of Leslie and Stephen Lipschultz
-Leslie and Stephen Lipschultz and Family

Marian Peters

Sister of Rachel Siegel
-Rachel and Marvin Siegel

Herbert Pomerantz

Husband of Juliet Pomerantz
-Juliet Pomerantz

Spencer Rogers

Son of Julie Rogers
-Dee and Dick Bittman
-Geri and Michael Greenberg
-Bonnie and Herb Horn
-Sue and Joel Kaufmann
-Dianne and Joel Rovner

Molly Scher Rieger

Grandmother of Sheila Goode
-Sheila Goode

Maurice Schlaggar

Father-in-law of Sheila Schlaggar
-Sheila Schlaggar

Helen and Irving Slotnick

Parents of Sherrill Slotnick
-Sherrill Slotnick

Donald Steele

Brother-in-law of Mike Weil
-Nancy and Mike Weil

Louise Stein

Mother of Pamela Katz
-The Family of Louise Stein

Leon Toban

Father of Alan Toban
-Ellen and Alan Toban

Max Tucker

-Phyllis and Jim Klapman

Hannah Wortheimer

Aunt of Mike Weil
-Nancy and Mike Weil

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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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If you wish to create a permanent remembrance of your loved ones, please consider adding their names to Temple Jeremiah’s Memorial Wall. This beautiful wall commemorates those who touched our lives but are no longer with us.

A leaf on our Wall of Life is a meaningful way to share your happy occasion with the Temple community in a lasting way. It permanently marks a celebration such as a birth, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Confirmation, special birthday, wedding or anniversary.

For questions about Memorial Wall plaques or Wall of Life leaves, please contact Danny Glassman at danny@templejeremiah.org.

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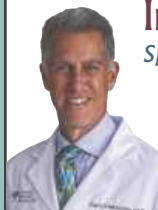
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