

# Jeremiah The Covenant

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# **Our Path to Blessings**

#### By RABBI RACHEL HEAPS

Associate Rabbi rabbiheaps@templejeremiah.org

We Jews have lived a lot of places throughout history. Our ancestors first found their community through nomadic wanderings through wildernesses. A few generations later they established a kingdom and society in and around the holy city of Jerusalem. Eventually, the kingdom fell to foreign empires and our predecessors found themselves living in exile across the river Jordan. That exile gave way to diasporic Jewish communities all around the world. Though we are small in number, it would be nearly impossible to find a continent or country in which Jews haven't lived at some point in history. Which makes the question of our religious, cultural, and spiritual homeland a complicated one.

We could look to Jerusalem and the Land of Israel, now governed by the modern State of Israel, to find homeland, to discover centuries- and millennia-old artifacts that help to enlighten us to the earliest parts

of our communal narrative. We could look to the countries that our families claim as origin points and discover the roots of family recipes and stories that make up essential parts of our personal celebrations. We



could even look to the faith traditions and locations of our childhoods, remembering the earliest moments of spirituality and connection that have led to our place in community today. Each and every version of these spiritual homes carry special meaning and purpose in our hearts, and each of them have something in common: we are not the same people we were when our homelands were established. We are no longer the Israelites first settling in Jerusalem and building The Temple on the mount. Many of us have family stories of immigration—whether for health, wealth, or safety—that

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# Ø Editor's Note ⋅ Q Perspective... from Dr. Scott Levin



**By JULES HENSON**Digital Designer/Developer
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The summer of 1996 (just about the minute I turned eighteen), I flew to see Israel on a trip through Birthright Israel. It was a beautiful experience. As someone who is philosophical by nature, Israel is not just a place that I find myself connected to,

it is also a place that inspires thought and contemplation.

Israel, within all of its complexities and controversies, maintains by way of its people and history, a tremendous amount of holy and spiritual meaning, and will forever be special to so many of us.

Our sense of connection can come from various sources and motivations: as students of modern day social sciences, as preservers of a historical past, as seekers of spirituality, and so much more. We are touched by both artifacts and memoirs, structures and poems. I offer one such poem:

Jerusalem, by Yehuda Halevi (1086-1141), as translated by Robert Mezey

Beautiful heights, city of a great King,
From the western coast my desire burns towards thee.
Pity and tenderness burst in me, remembering
Thy former glories, thy temple now broken stones.
I wish I could fly to thee on the wings of an eagle
And mingle my tears with thy dust.
I have sought thee, love, though the King is not there

I have sought thee, love, though the King is not there And instead of Gilead's balm, snakes and scorpions.

Let me fall on thy broken stones and tenderly kiss them—

The taste of thy dust will be sweeter than honey to me.

The theme of this Covenant seeks to explore the way in which we connect spiritually and physically to our Jewish Homeland. I invite you to read the words of Dr. Scott Levin, as he shares his personal experience and love of Israel; of Rabbi Heaps, as she invites us to explore our own experiences; and the many pieces that bring light to the way in which we live, love, and work toward—as Rabbi Heaps so beautifully wrote—aliyah, as it fits within the context of our own path.

# Israel: Spiritual and Physical



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

Prior to June 2018, Israel, our Jewish Homeland was very importantly, but also merely, a place of spiritual connection for me. It was a land I spoke of, imagined, skewed, and read about. Whether in present day news, or in the Torah, Israel held a symbolic place in my heart and

mind, but was not tangible. Growing up in New York, my parents also held this view of Israel, but felt it was unsafe to travel there and never overcame that perspective. It was a perspective that was not unique.

So, what happened in June 2018? My wife, Amy; two daughters, Hannah (then 19) and Leah (then 16); and I joined Rabbi Cohen, Cathy, and an amazing group of Temple Jeremiah congregants on a trip to Israel, our very first. In fact, we landed in Tel Aviv, boarded a bus towards our first stop, and paused at a beautiful overlook for a very special blessing by Rabbi Cohen on our 25th wedding anniversary that very day. It is definitely a core memory.

Over the course of the trip, I was filled with enormous pride. The people, historic sites that are over a millennia, and phenomenal buildings and technology built in the desert were awe inspiring. Israel felt physical to me for the first time. For those of you reading this, many of you who have been to Israel not just once, but many times, will say, "Of course! This is a common feeling!" I know this.

However, like a wedding, having a child, having a grandchild, and other fairly common experiences, until one lives such an event as an individual, it is not real, really.

Leah, now 20, will be spending the entire summer in Tel Aviv, interning through an Israeli company. Amy and I did not ask her to do this, or even hint at it. She did this on her own with friends she has made along her current journey. She and Israel are also physically connected.

Our Jewish Homeland holds a very special power within our souls as Jews, whether we are aware or not. Take some time to reflect and become aware of the spiritual and physical ways Israel courses through yours.



# Welcome the Stranger

Monthly Update on our support of an Afghan refugee family.

Presented by Temple Jeremiah's Social Justice Committee



Ilyas Sadat (3) playing with blocks



The Sadat family with Diane Bielawski, TJ mentor

A lot has happened in the past month with the Sadat family.

The two older boys, Nadem and Nasibullah, have started school. Mohammed and Freba are taking English classes at the boy's school.

We've celebrated some birthdays over the last few weeks as well. Both Freba's and Nasibullah's (now six) birthdays were both in March. The youngest son, Ilyas, turned three in April.

Both Mohamed and Freba are currently applying for jobs. Freba was a teacher and looking for position in schools near their home.



Mohamed is interested in car mechanics. If you have information about a job within the Rogers Park area, please contact Barb Miller at bmiller54@comcast.net or Marcia Osher at jerryosher@comcast.net.

Social Justice

Advocacy

#### **Get to Know Mental Health Advocacy**

Temple Jeremiah has seven advocacy platforms, including mental health. Our advocacy platform states that individuals with mental illness should have equal opportunity to fully participate in society. We advocate for everyone having equal access to mental health services regardless of socioeconomic background and encouraging more education about mental health to help reduce stigma associated with mental illness. Mental well-being is just as important as physical health. After the last two years, we have seen the toll stress and anxiety has taken on everyone—adults to young children.

Current priorities in mental health advocacy include improving access to care with more community mental health programs, ensuring access to care for marginalized communities and increasing the number of qualified mental health professionals. Illinois is addressing this specific issue with the proposed development of the Illinois Behavioral Health Workforce Center. From the Illinois Department of Human Services website:

"Authorized by the IL Health Care and Human Service Reform Act, DHS will fund and collaborate with the Illinois Behavioral Health Workforce Center. With an initial investment of \$6 Million, one higher education institution will use a "hub and spoke" model to partner with other institutions across the state with a goal of researching and identifying specific interventions that give IL the behavioral health workforce it needs."

In the months ahead, we will let you know of opportunities you can take to help support these initiatives. Sign up for our text alerts here: safestop.io/zVm4d6.

### Rabbi Heaps (cont.) · 🖫 Learn to Play Canasta

# Rabbi Heaps (continued from page 1)

changed far more than an address. Even those among our community who grew up in our community have changed, no longer the inexperienced and innocent child.

...we need to embark on a journey through the unknown. We need to see and test who we are when the possibilities are endless. And we need to determine the parts of our lives, our families, our communities, and our souls that remain a foundation upon which we build our future.

When God first blessed Abraham and promised that he would become the originator of our great and multifaceted Jewish community, God instructed Abraham to leave his homeland, his birthplace, and the home of his parents. Only once Abraham left to begin his journey, was he able to truly perceive the importance of his home and homeland. Only once Abraham was allowed and encouraged to discover his path with and towards God, was he able to discover his own spirituality and its origins.

The same is true for us. In order to truly know our homeland(s) we need to embark on a journey through the unknown. We need

to see and test who we are when the possibilities are endless. And we need to determine the parts of our lives, our families, our communities, and our souls that remain a foundation upon which we build our future. When we embrace that journey, we also embrace its origin. Perhaps that origin is a physical location, which we can make every effort to revisit. Perhaps that origin is intangible, which we hold close through memory. Regardless, our home and homeland are a key component of the journey that is known to all Jews since the time of Abraham – the journey with and towards God.

We have a special word used to describe this ever-unfolding journey: *Aliyah*. We can make *aliyah* when we approach Torah for blessing. We can make *aliyah* when we choose to immigrate to Israel. We also make *aliyah* our whole lives long, simply because aliyah means "to go up." Every step along the journey is one we take towards meaning and purpose, goodness and connection, life and blessing. Every step lifts us up and teaches us how to lift up others. Every step begins somewhere and lets us adapt and evolve as we go. *Aliyah* is the never-ending path all Jews wander that begins in our homeland and leads us to the blessings we might never have otherwise imagined.

#### Learn Canasta at Temple Jeremiah

This fun, crazy, card game is taking over the Northshore! It's a great way to meet new people and socialize with current friends.

Fun for all to play.

The class runs for 5 weeks on Monday, May 2nd, 9th, and 16th, and Tuesday, May 24th and 31st from 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.

Space is limited to 8 students.

To register and for more information, visit tinyurl.com/TJLearnCanasta.

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Schurgin at lbjs2@yahoo.com.



# 🕏 Social Justice Opportunities 🕟 💵 Sisterhood Book Club 🕟 🖾 Weekly Torah

# **Upcoming Social Justice Opportunities**

#### **Every Voice, Every Vote Campaign Launch**

Join RAC, on **May 17th at 8:00 p.m.**, for the launch of the Reform Movement's Every Voice, Every Vote Campaign! The campaign is a nonpartisan effort to protect and expand democracy by making sure that every voice is heard, and every vote is counted. During the launch we will learn more about what is at stake in this election, and hear from leaders and partners who are leading the struggle to expand the electorate in the face of voter suppression.

To register, visit tinyurl.com/rac-evcrj.

- To learn more about, and get involved in
- I Temple Jeremiah's Social Justice programs,
- visit: tinyurl.com/TJSocialJustice
- I or scan the QR code.



#### **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 10:00 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!

Our next Feed the Hungry session is **June 5th**. **Note:** Drop-off time has changed from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

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

# Sisterhood Book Club

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

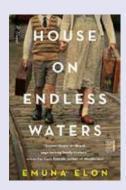
Thursday, May 12, 2022 ~ 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. *The World to Come*, By Dara Horn



"An actual art heist inspired this fictional tale...taking us from New York to the Soviet Union, and Vietnam... A compelling collage of history, mystery, theology, and scripture, The World to Come is a narrative tour de force crackling with conundrums and dark truths."

Booklist, starred review

Thursday, June 9, 2022 ~ 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. *House on Endless Waters*, By Emuna Elon



Yoel Blum, reknowned author, agrees to a publicity tour in Amsterdam where he was born. Should he? Yoel has promised his recently deceased mother that he will never go back. "Part family mystery, part wartime drama, House on Endless Waters is 'a rewarding meditation on survival' — Kirkus Reviews, starred review

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



# **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.

| May 7, 2022  | Emor       | Leviticus 21:1-24:23 |
|--------------|------------|----------------------|
| May 14, 2022 | B'har      | Leviticus 25:1-26:2  |
| May 21, 2022 | B'chukotai | Leviticus 26:3-27:34 |
| May 28, 2022 | B'midbar   | Numbers 1:1-4:20     |

# Reparations: A Discussion - Historical and Contemporary



"And if thy brother, a Hebrew man, or a Hebrew woman, be sold unto thee, and serve thee six years; then in the seventh year thou shalt let him go free from thee. And when thou sendest him out free from thee, thou shalt not let him go away empty: thou shalt furnish him liberally out of thy flock, and out of thy floor, and out of thy winepress: of that wherewith the LORD thy God hath blessed thee thou shalt give unto him..." — deuteronomy 15: 12–15

**On Sunday, April 24th**, Rabbi Cohen facilitated a discussion with Evanston Mayor Daniel Biss and former Evanston 5th Ward Alderman and founder of FirstRepair, Robbin Rue Simmons, on the recent passing of a local reparations initiative in the city of Evanston. The initiative will be funded by the first \$10 million of adult-use cannabis sales tax revenue collected by the city.

#### Context to reparations and to this discussion:

To give context to this conversation, in the United States, the average Black household earns about half as much as the average White household, and Black families' median and mean wealth is less than 15 percent that of White families, at \$24,100 and \$142,500, respectively (2019 Survey of Consumer Finances, the most recent available). According to the Atlantic magazine, "The income gap between Black and White households is roughly the same today as it was in 1970. Patrick Sharkey, a sociologist at New York University, studied children born from 1955 through 1970 and found that 4 percent of White Americans and 62 percent of Black Americans had been raised in poor neighborhoods. A generation later, the same study showed, virtually nothing had changed."

The origins of this wealth gap is rooted in the trans-Atlantic slave trade, and have been perpetuated in the years to follow by innumerable egregious injustices to African Americans throughout the nation. Thanks to the leaders, educators, and advocates contributing their passion to this vital topic, we are seeing some movement toward conversations and ultimately the hope of some tangible repair for the four hundred years of harm done to the African American community.

A few to note are: Former Congressman John Conyers, who in

1989, originally introduced H.R. 40, a vital bill in which Rep. Shiela Jackson is currently the lead sponsor of. It's a bill set forth to establish a commission to study slavery and its legacies, and to develop remedy proposals for reparations, which is finally due to pass after over thirty years; Judge Lionel Jean-Baptiste, a Cook County Circuit Court Judge and former alderman of Evanston's 2nd Ward, sponsored a reparations resolution in 2002 supporting H.R. 40, which the Evanston City Council approved. Recently, Jean-Baptiste was recognized by the City of Evanston with an honorary street name for his contributions.

Among these leaders are our panelists, both with a personal relationship to the concept of reparations. Mayor Biss is the grandson of Holocaust survivors, his maternal grandmother the recipient of reparations from the German government. Rue Simmons, born and raised in the segregated 5th Ward of Evanston, came to reparations work through her lived experience. "When I moved outside of the ward, when I got into the school system, I saw that we did not have access to information, to a neighborhood school, to clean air in some cases, to healthy foods, and the list goes on and on," she described.

Rue Simmons went on to discuss how these experiences informed all of her entrepreneurial endeavors and later led her to run for elected office. "I really thought I would get there and do more good, smart, public policy. I was not there long before I began to see the history of our city and the repetition of programs and acknowledgments without any substance or tangible benefits, and pretty quickly concluded that reparations were not only [needed] for the crimes of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, but also for the many egregious local - hyper local - acts that we have experienced," she said.

#### Inspiration for and goals of the reparations:

The first question that was asked of the panelists was the inspiration for and the goals of reparations. Biss' grandmother paved his passion for, and guided a lesson about the responsibility of an institution, particularly a government, to "grapple with wrongs that it has perpetrated in the past." Biss explained that

continued on next page

naming them and acknowledging them is critical, but then taking actual tangible steps to repair the harm—even if you know that those steps can't wipe out everything that was done wrong, can't erase decades and decades of history—is crucial. We must choose the path toward righting the relationship with those who were wronged and establish a true equality of citizenship.

Rue Simmons continued the conversation by explaining that the long list of harms done to the Black community, including previous redlining and zoning laws - which limited access to the infrastructure that allows communities to thrive - such as financial institutions, has led to the large racial wealth gap in Evanston. While on the city council, Rue Simmons was shown a report detailing anti-Black zoning laws. Comparing the historic redlining maps with the current map today, it overlaps a concentrated Black community, the lowest household income, and the most concentrated poverty in the city. That's when she drew the conclusion that reparations were due for contemporary harms against the Black community. Her legislative process toward that end began in 2019.

We have a responsibility as a country to engage in certain things that are moral obligations and if we as a country incurred a debt, we have a moral responsibility to repay that debt.

#### **Criticisms of reparations:**

According to Mayor Daniel Biss, who humbly gives credit to the passing of the reparations initiative to those who came before him - notably to Rue Simmons, we have a moral responsibility to pay back all debt that we incur. When asked about what the oppositions to reparations have been, he described that on a national level, the opposition tends to be a philosophical disagreement with the idea. The criticism is some form of "well now hold on, yes wrong was done, but why is it my responsibility to fix it? It was done a long time ago; it was done by my ancestors, even by someone else's ancestors, and is it really my job to be on the hook to fix it?" Until recently that was the clear majority view. Things have turned, but it's still a contested and controversial question. "I feel really strong about this," he stated, and continued, "I think that criticism misunderstands our collective responsibility, our collective citizenship. We have a responsibility as a country to engage in certain things that are moral obligations and if we as a country incurred a debt, we have a moral responsibility to repay that debt."

#### Qualifications for recipients of the reparations:

To qualify as a recipient of the reparations, one must be of African decent and have lived in Evanston between 1919-1969. You can also qualify as a direct descendant. There has been a lot of enthusiasm, and there has been judgment as well. The first step

in the initiative has been to address housing, which has been criticized. But criticism is natural, according to Rue Simmons. What may be helpful to one is different for another. Any one benefit alone is not enough. "The more productive use of our time as a community, is to advance how we do other things and not to get stuck on part one," she explained.

#### Quantifying harm to understand scale of repair:

When asked how the harm can be quantified in order to learn the scale of the repair, both Mayor Biss and Rue Simmons agreed that while we can't separate what Evanston has done versus what other institutions have done, the city is ultimately responsible for being a strong leader "marshaling a lot of different forces and resources to over time overcoming the [identified] wealth gap." Biss detailed the tremendous gap in public services and acknowledged the responsibility of the city. He talked about the gap in education and an absence of a neighborhood school in the 5th ward, which the city is ultimately responsible for. He continued to touch on some gray areas, such as "the tremendous health care inequities that were done by, for instance, our hospitals and the access to healthy food. We are a government, not a grocery store, except we establish the public infrastructures and zoning laws and through that the property value and land utilization that make it attractive or not for a grocery store business to make healthy food available in a given location."

Threads of Evanston's initiative as only a small step on a larger and hopeful path were carried throughout the conversation. The hope is that Evanston is charting the way to more learning and more tangible repair - both within its own community and also in the greater U.S. According to Mayor Biss, Evanston has not had the same criticism as there has been elsewhere. "We are listening to all points of view. We are doing this bit by bit. We have made a \$10 million commitment to reparations, but we have only allocated \$400,000 (4%) and so there is 96% left to allocate. We shouldn't call it a day at the end of that \$10 million either."

#### If/when reparations will be complete/what would that look like:

To wrap up, the question of all questions was asked of the panelists. Will reparations ever be complete, and what would that look like? To that, Rue Simmons began with, "Reparations is a complex process." She's learned that from her own path as well as from friends in other communities (the Jewish community and Japanese community - who have received reparations). "If we were to continue in the vein that we are in now, it would take two hundred and twenty-two years or somewhere around there for the Black community to catch up, to close our race gap. So the answer is it certainly won't be settled in my lifetime." To Rue Simmons, "it will be in perpetuity, just based on how egregious the harms of over four hundred years of crimes and plunder and trauma to a community has been. But that shouldn't stop us from starting the process."

"Little by little, a little becomes a lot" – Tanzanian Proverb

### 🖋 Chai Lights 🛚 🔣 Sisterhood & Brotherhood Game Night

# "The Food Guy" Steve Dolinsky Discusses the Chicago Pizza Scene



**By MEREDITH BEIRNE**Communications Coordinator
meredith@templejeremiah.org

"You must hear the pizza as you bite into it," is only one slice of advice those who attended the Adult Learning program on April 24th received. Steve Dolinsky, the Food Reporter at NBC 5 Chicago, joined Brotherhood and other Temple Jeremiah members to discuss the ultimate pizzas in

the ultimate pizza city, and his presentation delivered (although, not in 30 minutes or less).

Dolinsky began by discussing how he evaluates pizza, explaining elements such as what he calls "PIGUE" syndrome (Pizza I Grew Up Eating) and "OBR" (Optimal Bite Ratio). Then, attendees learned how deep dish pizza came to be, how it's constructed, and why those slices of mozzarella cheese above the bottom are so important to the integrity of the crust. But, a major take away that Dolinsky wanted to get across is that deep dish isn't the only style of pizza in Chicago. In fact, he believes there are at least 10 styles, including tavern-style, the popular square-cut thin-crust pizza that Chicago is also known for, and Roman-style, which is the type of pizza that he was referring to when he mentioned "hearing" the pizza as you bite into it.

Dolinsky explained that he is "on a mission to set the record straight" about the pizza styles and categories in Chicago, and more importantly, where to find them. To prove his dedication, he visited 185 places in Chicagoland over the course of six months in





NBC 5's "Food Guy," Steve Dolinsky, signing books and presenting

order to gather the information needed to write his book. That's a lot of pizza!

Following his presentation, Dolinsky stuck around to meet with members and sign books. Luckily, if you missed the event, you can watch Dolinsky discuss Chicago's pizza scene on our YouTube Channel (tinyurl.com/TJYouTubeChannel). And, if you only take away two pieces of information from the presentation, Dolinsky stressed that "Chicago Pizza = Multiple Styles," and always order deep dish "uncut!"

Steve Dolinsky is the Food Reporter at NBC 5 Chicago, where his "Food Guy" reports air every Thursday night at 10:00 p.m. He is the author of "Pizza City, U.S.A.: 101 Reasons Why Chicago Is America's Greatest Pizza Town" and "The Ultimate Chicago Pizza Guide," a comprehensive guide to the history of the styles, locales, and people that make the Windy City a prime destination for slices and pies.

## Sisterhood & Brotherhood Game Night!

Bring your friends and come play Canasta, Maj, Bridge, Poker or an assortment of board games. If you have a game you like, bring it along. (Bring your own Maj or Canasta Game Set)

May 11, 2022 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Snacks, desserts, and non-alcoholic beverages will be served. This is an adult only event. If you would like Adult Beverages, bring your own to share.

Open to non-temple members.

We hope to see you there!

This evening is in support of Project Kesher's Emergency Fund for Women and Girls in Ukraine.



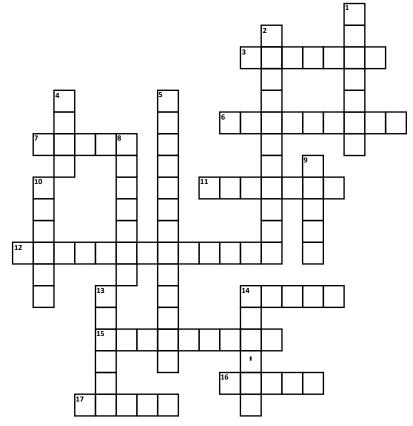
# The Covenant Crossword

#### **ACROSS**

- 3. Official emblem of the State of Israel
- 6. Third woman to serve as a prime minister (2 words)
- 7. Second king of ancient Israel
- 11. built the first Jewish temple
- 12. Leading English Israeli newspaper (2 words)
- 14. Israel is the only country to have more \_\_\_\_\_ than it did 50 years ago
- 15. City with largest no. of chess grandmasters per capita
- 16. Israel leads the world in recycling \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. Israel derives from the name given to

#### **DOWN**

- 1. Lowest point on earth (2 words)
- 2. Holiest place in Judaism (2 words)
- 4. Red Sea city
- 5. Israel has this type of political system
- 8. Only female judge mentioned in the Bible
- 9. The 10% less peanut allergies in Israeli may be due to this popular snack
- 10. Smallest desert in the world
- 13. How one says 'cool' in Israel
- 14. Israel's festival of love (2 words)



Find the answers on page 10.

Theme: Israel

# Monday May 23, 2022 7:00 p.m.

Participate in the approval of the 2022-23 Nominating Slate and the Budget, the presention of the Toddie Gray and Diane Mary Katz Scholarship, as well to honor Cory Franklin, MD as the Volunteer of the Year

**Join us** for a wine-tasting event beforehand at 6:30 p.m.

# **2022/23**Annual Meeting

**To view** the nominating report, visit: tinyurl.com/TJ2022NR

If you will not be attending in person, please complete a digital proxy by visiting: tinyurl.com/TJproxy2022

# A Temple Jeremiah Member's Gift: Jewish Music for All

A Temple Jeremiah member for three decades, Harry Major has been a part of a lot of love and growth. Initially, his wife, Lauren and he were looking for a Jewish education for their then small children and a place to worship together as a family. Jeremiah fit the bill and they have never looked back. Harry served on the Board of Directors for two terms, during which the temple was going through a major renovation. He remembers that important time as an interesting and stimulating experience. "I learned so much about Temple construction and design and I am very proud of the final product," said Harry. Each time he visits Temple, it makes him happy to see it being utilized exactly as it was designed to be.

A joy to Harry over the last thirty years has been listening to the beautiful music of the three cantors that have served Temple Jeremiah. Of this, he said, "Each cantor has a unique and absolutely beautiful voice that has enhanced the worship experience." Harry's interest in Jewish music goes beyond just listening to the voices inside of Temple, however. He had an idea a

number of years ago to help sponsor a High Holy Day music album. He approached Cantor Amy Zussman, who eventually did create the CD and they were able to send one to each member of Temple Jeremiah, which was Harry's ultimate goal.

When Cantor Friedman joined the temple, Harry had another idea that has recently come to fruition. He wanted to create a collection of both children and Jewish holiday songs. Cantor Friedman was enthusiastic about his idea and has been working on the project for the past several years. "We have been pleasantly surprised to see that she actually wrote many of the songs for the collection. Her voice is beautiful, and she has an amazing talent for creating original musical work," Harry said. The project has turned out fantastic and beyond his initial idea. "We are very excited to have the final album presented to Temple members," he stated.

We hope you will join us for the album release concert on Sunday, May 15th, at 10:30 a.m.

# Inclusion Passover: Next Year at Temple Jeremiah!



# By CAREN BROWN AND GAIL MODRO

Inclusion Committee Chairs ceb994@gmail.com and gailmodro@comcast.net

Like Moses and the Hebrews, Jeremiah's Inclusion Committee remains undaunted by circumstances! Even though we still couldn't have an in-person event this year, the Committee hosted a virtual Passover program for people with special needs and their families on April 10th.

It began and ended with singing led by Rabbi Rachel and Cantor Amy, which was a big hit as always. In between we heard the Passover story, said prayers over matzah and wine, played a special Passover bingo (thanks to Laura Bernstein) and displayed craft creations made with items sent in the gift bags.

We had a total of nineteen screens with twenty-eight people attending. Everyone had a (matzah) ball!

Here are some of the comments we received after the event:

"Thank you all very much! Harry had a blast! Such a great program!"

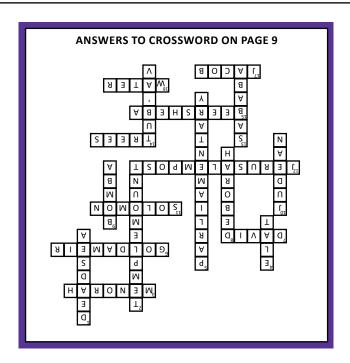
"We had a blast, and now I have a beautiful Elijah's cup and Miriam's cup for our Seder. Thanks! We actually danced too. :-)"

"Sarah had a wonderful time at her "Birthday Passover." She loved singing at the top of her lungs - muted most of the time - and

enjoyed the Bingo a lot also. It was a good activity for her. She said her sister was 'missing out on the fun.' Thank you to everyone who made this possible."

Many thanks to all the Inclusion Committee members who made this event possible, especially Barb Kite, Cantor Amy and their many gift bag helpers!

Next year at Temple Jeremiah!



# Lately Around Jeremiah













JeTY Shabbat 4.1.2022













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Backpack Blessings 4.10.2022

### **Acknowledgments**

#### IN APPRECIATION OF

#### **Phyllis Burg**

For her kindness and efficiency -Kay and Bart Gordon

#### IN HONOR OF

#### Joan Golder

On the occasion of her special birthday -Emmy and Ed Rothschild

#### **Rio Robert Heavenrich**

Grandson of Amy Ticho, on the occasion of his birth

-Caren Brown

#### **Phyllis Mitzen**

On the occasion of her special birthday -Marilyn Marks

#### **IN MEMORY OF**

#### Jane Berg

-Laura and Bruce Zimmerman

#### Sylvia Cohen

Mother of Ron Cohen -Doris and Ron Cohen

#### **Shirlee Fishbain**

Mother of Arnie Fishbain -Carol and Arnie Fishbain

#### Jim Foster

Husband of Lynn Foster, father of Kyle Weinstein

-Emmy and Ed Rothschild

#### Lee Gordon

-Marsha and Leslie Block

#### **Lois Gordon**

Mother of Leslie Grauer -Judy and Jack Craven

#### **Perry Granof**

Brother of Corinne Granof

-Corinne Granof and Vincent Tomkiewicz

#### **Rose Granof**

Mother of Corinne Granof

-Corinne Granof and Vincent Tomkiewicz

#### **Mickey Hammerman**

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- -Caren Brown
- -Stephen Brown
- -Carol Maxon
- -Emmy and Ed Rothschild

#### Hilda Jacobs

Mother of Alan Jacobs

-Avrie and Alan Jacobs

#### Jean Levin

Mother of Joyce Suchsland -Joyce and Michael Suchsland

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- -Carol and David Golder
- -Diana Kaufmann

#### **Pearl Kotz**

Mother of Lisa Bockenek and Mark Kotz

- -Lisa and Jerry Bockenek
- -Mark Kotz

#### Ben Lieberman

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#### **Henry Neu**

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- -Barri and Rusty Colman
- -Carol and David Golder
- -Bonnie and Herb Horn
- -Barb Kite
- -Emmy and Ed Rothschild
- -Dianne and Joel Rovner
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#### **Eugene Weil**

Father of Mike Weil

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#### **FOR THE SPEEDY RECOVERY OF**

#### Rabbi Paul Cohen

- -Alene Frost
- -Barb Kite
- -Phyllis and Jim Klapman
- -Jamie and Jeff Kost
- -Marla and Richard London
- -Liz, Scott, and Sarah Mendel
- -Hershy Pappadis
- -Lisa and Brian Schurgin
- -Ellen and Alan Toban



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