

The Covenant

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025 • VOLUME 68 • ISSUE 1



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Jeremiah
The Joy of Belonging

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Editor's Note

MEREDITH LEVINSON

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The beginning of a new year is often filled with a mix of both renewed energy to get out and accomplish goals, as well as the desire to cozy up inside a warm home and just relax. Luckily, at Temple Jeremiah, you have the opportunity to enjoy a warm, inviting atmosphere while making connections and learning new things!

Have you been searching for a way to challenge yourself in the kitchen while doing a *mitzvah*? Check out the details of our Banana (and more) Bread Bake Off for our Caring Community on the next page. Perhaps you're looking for opportunities for continued learning, such as the chance to hear from special guests Shalom Orzach during the weekend of January 24th-26th, or Jordan Dann during our annual Scott B. Crane Abilities Awareness Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday, February 14th.

These events and more are how our members experience the joy of belonging. I encourage you to read through this issue of the *Covenant* with your resolutions and desires for the new year in mind, and join us at temple throughout the winter!

Meredith Levinson

TORAH PORTIONS

JANUARY

January 4th	Vayigash	Genesis 44:18-47:27
January 11th	Va-y'chi	Genesis 47:28-50:26
January 18th	Sh'mot	Exodus 1:1-6:1
January 25th	Va-eira	Exodus 6:2-9:35

FEBRUARY

February 1st	Bo	Exodus 10:1-13:16
February 8th	B'shalach	Exodus 13:17-17:16
February 15th	Yitro	Exodus 18:1-20:23
February 22nd	Mishpatim	Exodus 21:1-24:18



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Coming Up at Temple Jeremiah

For the Adults

BYO Lunch & Learn*

Wednesdays, January 8th & February 12th @ 12:00 p.m.

Parent Coffee Connections

Sunday, January 12th @ 9:15 a.m.

Adult Learning with Rabbi Heaps: The Great Beyond*

Wednesdays, January 15th, 22nd, 29th @ 7:00 p.m.

Introduction to Judaism*

Wednesdays, starting January 15th @ 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat Dinner with Friends*

Friday, January 17th @ 7:30 p.m.

Mahjong

Sundays, January 19th & February 23rd @ 9:15 a.m.

Yoga

Sundays, February 2nd & 9th @ 9:15 a.m.

Chat & Chew: The Last Laugh*

Tuesday, February 4th @ 11:00 a.m.

Adult Learning with Dalia Marks*

Wednesday, February 5th @ 7:00 p.m.

* Registration required



More upcoming events are featured throughout this issue.

A Weekend with Shalom Orzach

Senior Educator and Consultant for the iCenter



Kabbalat Shabbat Worship

Friday, January 24th @ 6:30 p.m.

Torah Study

Saturday, January 25th @ 9:30 a.m.

Parent Coffee Connections

Sunday, January 26th @ 9:15 a.m.

For Families/J-Quest

Bim Bam Baby*

Fridays, January 10th-31st, February 7th-28th @ 9:45 a.m.

Family Kabbalat Shabbat Worship

Friday, January 10th @ 6:30 p.m.

"What's in a Name?"

3rd Grade Hebrew Name Program

Sunday, February 2nd @ 9:00 a.m.

Shabbat Dinner & Worship with Families,*

Second Grade Presentation, & Family Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, February 7th @ 5:30 p.m.

4th Grade Creative Tefilah

Sunday, February 9th @ 9:00 a.m.

J-Quest Open House*

Sunday, February 23rd @ 9:00 a.m.

Shabbat Dinner & Worship with Families*

& Fifth Grade Presentation

Friday, February 28th @ 5:30 p.m.

CLUB
36

Ninjas/Climb Zone*

Saturday, January 25th @ TBD

Color Me Mine*

Sunday, March 2nd @ TBD

Dates and times are subject to change.

Check our calendar for the most up-to-date information at tinyurl.com/TJ-calendar

Beginners Bridge Lessons

The Temple Jeremiah Canasta Ladies, who play every Friday from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., are looking to add a new venture in January 2025: Beginners Bridge Lessons! The dates and times are TBA, and everyone is welcome to join. Keep an eye out for more information in January. P.S. Everyone is welcome to join the Friday Canasta games, too!

Temple Jeremiah's Caring Community Presents:

BANANA BREAD BAKE OFF

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH
9:00 A.M.



CALLING ALL BANANA BREAD BAKERS!

(or cranberry, lemon, blueberry, gluten-free, vegan, etc.)

Temple Jeremiah is hosting a bread bake off to support Caring Community and enable us to reach out to congregants who need a little TLC!

Here's how it will work:

1

RSVP using the QR code below and submit your recipe to Barb Kite (bkite1002@gmail.com).



2

Bake two loaves: one for judging and one as a donation to Caring Community. Donated loaf needs to be in an aluminum pan with a lid.

3

Present your loaf at the temple on January 12th!



Prizes will be awarded for different categories. All ages welcome! Come and join the fun!!



Shalom!

If you look above the green couch in my office, you will see a wall-hanging with a tree, a dove, and some Hebrew embroidered around the border. That wall-hanging was a gift from my parents in honor of my cantorial ordination, a tapestry created by the fiber artist Shirley Waxman, who also made the tallit I received upon becoming Bat Mitzvah and still occasionally wear today. My parents had managed to keep the details of the present a surprise, but they did ask me to pick a particularly meaningful verse of Torah. I studied the Song of Songs for my thesis, and so that was at the front of my mind. I chose Song of Songs 2:12 – “The blossoms have appeared in the land, the time of pruning has come; the song of the turtledove is heard in our land.”

I always love a double meaning in Hebrew, and the word for “pruning” in Song of Songs 2:12 is one of the best examples. It is “*zamor*,” which also means “singing.” I love the interconnectedness of the imagery between the land and its blossoming and the act of creating music. This verse heralds a flourishing, the renewal associated with the arrival of spring.

But I think there’s an even deeper connection between pruning and singing. There is nothing to prune if we don’t plant the seeds, water them, tend the plants, and encourage them to grow. So, too, singing and the musical culture of a community, do not come out of nowhere. They must be practiced and tended to.

In my first few months at Temple Jeremiah, I have immersed myself in learning about the musical ground of this community – what music people know and like, and what they value out of their music and worship programs. I’m getting to know people who like to participate in music and worship. I am building the musical staff and building relationships with them, too. I am so grateful that David Lornson came out of retirement to support me and the choir with his kindness, compassion, and detailed musicality. I am also so grateful that Marianne Kim has been willing to take on a bigger role, as she is a truly unique musician, able to play anything from classical organ to jazz piano. She is kind and collaborative, and I couldn’t imagine a better musical partner. And, we are so excited to have our new choir director, Marissa Simmons, on board! Marissa is a fabulous musician and her enthusiasm for Jewish music is infectious.



In addition to our wonderful professional team, I am blessed with an incredible roster of volunteer musicians. I am so enjoying leading services with Fred Kagan with his experienced and beautiful guitar playing. Archie R. is our amazing music *madrich*, who is willing to try anything, brings so much to our J-Quest music, and is such a great role model for the younger kids. Our adult choir is incredibly dedicated and rises to any occasion with beautiful music. And the *ruach* of our Shir Joy youth choir brings a smile to all our faces. I love making music with so many diverse musicians and being able to see our congregants shine!

We are all working together to tend the garden of rich musical programming here at Jeremiah. Even if you are not someone who finds yourself on the bimah, if you are in the congregation at a worship service or in the audience at a musical program, you are a co-creator of that experience. Music and prayer do not take place in a vacuum, but feed on and grow from the energy in the room.

In addition to tending the existing garden, I am starting to sow seeds to root my cantorate here at Temple Jeremiah through music and education. We will grow together, and blossom together.

One way to celebrate our coming together is my installation weekend, February 21st-23rd. On Friday, February 21st, we will have a special service of installation where many of the different Temple Jeremiah musicians will get to collaborate with some of the people who have influenced my musical and cantorial journey. Cantor Richard Cohn will be my installing clergy; he was the director of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music when I was in cantorial school. Some of my friends and classmates will be there as well. I am so excited and grateful to have this opportunity to bring together my friends and family with my new Jeremiah family. On Saturday, February 22nd, we will have trivia night and dinner here at Jeremiah as well, and on Sunday, February 23rd, we are working on an opportunity to have J-Quest students participate in a collaborative fiber arts project. It will be an incredible weekend!

Together, we will make our garden grow – Temple Jeremiah will be an enduring and fertile soil for a rich and blossoming Jewish musical life. We will sing together, pray together, and be together in moments of sadness and moments of joy. The time of singing has come.

Cantor Lianna



Save the Date

The Installation of
Cantor Lianna Mendelson

Friday, February 21st @ 6:30 p.m.
Kabbalat Shabbat & Shabbat Dinner with Friends

Saturday, February 22nd @ 6:00 p.m.
Adult Trivia Night & Havdallah




A Message From...

Temple Jeremiah's President



STEVE KLEIMAN
skleiman@zazove.com



Dear Temple Jeremiah Community,

When Rabbi Heaps joined our community as an Assistant Rabbi in 2017, we knew that there was something special about her. We had high hopes for a bright future together and we couldn't have been more insightful. Rabbi Heaps has proven to be a strong leader who, among other things, is warm, engaging, inclusive, wise, spiritual, optimistic, and compassionate.

In December 2022, Rabbi Cohen shared with our community that the Executive Committee and Board of Directors had approved his recommendation to renew Rabbi Heaps' contract. He also let us know that while he was not retiring, the intention was for Rabbi Heaps to succeed him as Temple Jeremiah's Senior Rabbi.

Over the last year or so, we have been working on a detailed transition plan that was approved last week by our Board of Directors. On July 1, 2026, Rabbi Cohen will transition to Rabbi Emeritus and Senior Scholar, and Rabbi Heaps will begin her journey as Temple Jeremiah's fourth Senior Rabbi.

We have been blessed with Rabbi Cohen's wonderful leadership for over a quarter of a century, and we have great confidence in a bright future for many decades to come with Rabbi Heaps as our Senior Rabbi.

Please join me in a hearty Mazel Tov to Rabbi Cohen and Rabbi Heaps!

Steve Kleiman

5 QUESTIONS ABOUT...

JEWISH DISABILITY AWARENESS, ACCEPTANCE, AND INCLUSION MONTH



...with Rabbi Rachel Heaps

1

What is JDAAIM?

Every February we celebrate Jewish Disability Awareness, Advocacy, and Inclusion Month (JDAAIM), which is a month of deep significance in our Jeremiah and broader Jewish communities. JDAAIM is a time when we come together to recognize and lift up the voices, experiences, and legacies of individuals with disabilities.



2

Can you explain more about the significance of JDAAIM in Jewish communities?

JDAAIM is a symbol of our commitment to our shared values of *Tzedek* (justice), *rachamim* (compassion), and *kehillah* (community). In a world that sometimes marginalizes those with disabilities, it is our duty as Jews to advocate for a more equitable and accessible society, beginning with ourselves.

Our Jewish tradition calls us to stand up for the rights and dignity of our fellow human beings. We are all responsible for creating a more just and inclusive world.



3

How about specifically at Temple Jeremiah?

At Temple Jeremiah, we have long understood the importance of creating an inclusive and welcoming space for all. Our Torah teaches us that each person is created in *B'tzelem Eloheim* (in God's image), and we fundamentally cherish the worth and dignity of every human being. This extends to those with disabilities, who may face unique challenges, but also may bring unique gifts and perspectives to our community.

4

Why is it important that we celebrate JDAAIM?

JDAAIM is a time when we spotlight the experiences of individuals with disabilities and their families. It is an opportunity to listen, to understand, and to amplify their voices. By celebrating JDAAIM, we build bridges of empathy and compassion, breaking down the barriers that separate us from one another. In our Torah, it is written, *Tzedek, Tzedek, Tirdof* (Justice, justice you shall pursue) (Deuteronomy 16:20). To pursue justice is to work toward a world where all people, regardless of their abilities, can fully participate and thrive.



5

How can I get involved?

All are welcome to join us on Friday, February 14th at 6:30 p.m. for our annual Scott B. Crane Abilities Awareness Shabbat. We will have a special guest speaker and will have a chance to further discuss the importance of JDAAIM. Congregants are also welcome to learn more about our Inclusion Committee on the next page, whose members actively plan programming and educate our congregants on issues involving those with special needs.

Committee Spotlight: Inclusion

The Temple Jeremiah Inclusion Committee had its beginnings in 2005 with the intention of including any and all differently-abled temple members in full religious life. The initial goal was to eliminate barriers that members might face. However, the goal became to also provide specific programs for the enjoyment and benefit of individuals with special needs and their families.



Through the years...

Fifteen years ago, the physical structure of the temple building inhibited non-ambulatory members from full participation in some programs and events. Since then, the Inclusion Committee has been able to:

- Ensure that pathways throughout the temple are accessible to users of wheelchairs and walkers
- Facilitate the installation of handicap accessible bathroom door entries, as well as accessible water fountains
- Provide accessibility to the stage in the Slotnick Social Hall Stage Area as well as other areas. A couple of years ago, the temple was gifted a portable lift that can go anywhere inside the building as well as outdoors. The lift is large and sturdy enough to support a heavy wheelchair, yet light enough for an average person to operate.
- Offer aids to hearing and visually impaired individuals so that they can participate fully in worship services
- Make available devices for anyone who has difficulty holding a regular-sized prayer book
- Create an "Accessibility Cart" to hold the above devices as well as "fidget" items for those with sensory issues and attention difficulties



...to today!

Most of the Inclusion Committee's current work is in programming for our participants and educating our congregants on issues involving those with special needs. The hallmark of our programs is that people with different abilities help lead our services in prayers, songs, and by carrying the Torah.

Every year we host:

- A *Rosh HaShanah* service for those needing a special format of worship
- A *Chanukah* party
- A *Passover Seder*, which also involves our guests with special needs
- Social activities such as picnics and visits to our temple from comfort dogs
- Havdallah* services
- Mitzvah* projects
- Special programs every February to highlight Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month. Programs include a Shabbat speaker and other activities.



Looking Ahead

THE INCLUSION COMMITTEE ALWAYS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS AND NEW IDEAS! We have an active committee that plans and volunteers at all our events. But there's more that could be done to make our temple community more inclusive. Feel free to come to one of our meetings and try out the fit, or join us for one of our many events. You'll be rewarded with grateful smiles and new friends! If you have any questions or would like more information feel free to reach out.

Caren Brown
Inclusion Committee Co-chair
(ceb994@gmail.com)

Barb Kite
Inclusion Committee Co-chair
(bkite1002@gmail.com)

Liz Trager Mendel
Inclusion Committee Member



**JDAAIM/Mitzvah Project
Planning Meeting**
Wed., January 15th
7:00 p.m.

Mitzvah Project
Sun., February 9th
Time TBD

**Passover
Planning Meeting**
Wed., March 19th
7:00 p.m.

Passover Seder
Sun., April 6th
1:00 p.m.

**Summer Event Planning/
Wrap-Up Meeting**
Wed., April 23rd
10:00 a.m.

**Committee
Potluck Dinner**
Wed., May 21st
6:00 p.m.



Perspective

BRIAN RUBEN
Executive Committee Member and Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

I wanted to provide a brief report on the results of our completed fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2024, and the results of our recently completed first quarter, which ended September 30, 2024.

Year-End Financial Summary

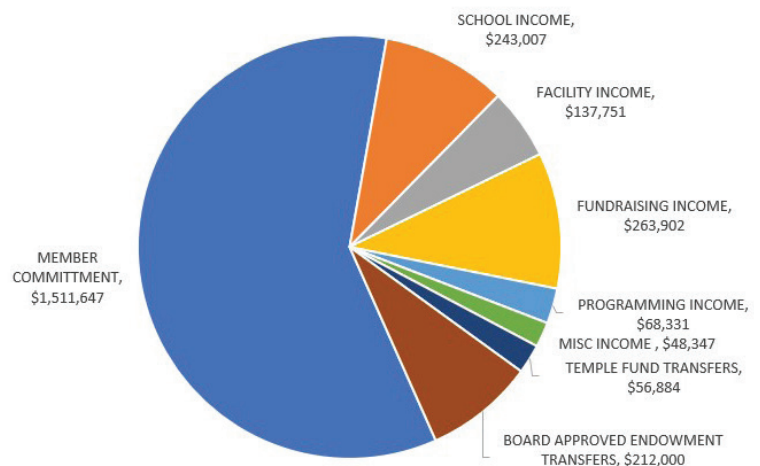
For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, our actual expenses amounted to approximately \$2,541,000, slightly below the budgeted amount of \$2,556,000, resulting in a savings of \$15,000. Actual revenues totaled approximately \$2,273,000, which is 11% lower than the budgeted revenues of \$2,556,000. This shortfall was primarily due to lower-than-expected membership commitments and school enrollment. While we continue to welcome new households into our community each year, we also have members leave our community, as well as members who require financial assistance. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, fundraising income exceeded our budget of \$211,000 by 25%. After the allocation of certain expenses to various temple funds, and the interest and dividends earned last year on our building and general endowment, we ended the year with an overall shortfall of approximately \$211,000. In October 2024, the Board of Directors approved the allocation of funds from our general and building endowments to cover this shortfall. Despite this, our endowment investment portfolios continued to grow over the past fiscal year due to strong investment returns.

Q1 2024 Results

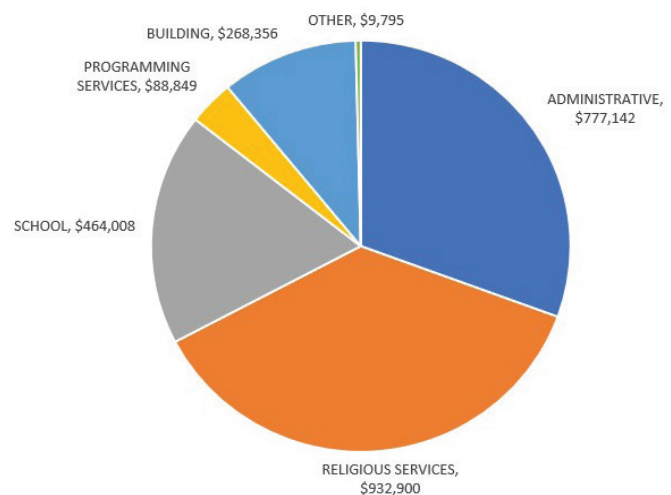
In the first quarter of the new fiscal year, we generated total revenues of approximately \$1,354,000 and incurred total expenses of approximately \$663,000. As we project for the remainder of the year, we anticipate that total expenses will align with or fall slightly below the approved budget of \$2,605,000. However, projected revenues are expected to be slightly less than the budgeted \$2,605,000. As we continue into our 2024-2025 fiscal year, *tzedakah* and philanthropy will continue to play an important role in our operating budget. Your ongoing financial support helps the temple thrive as we continue to nurture a vibrant and connected community. Every donation, regardless of size, makes a difference for our programs, worship, social justice efforts – strengthening our community and our impact.

Brian Ruben

FY 23-24 Actual Income





FY 23-24 Actual Expense



Brotherhood & Sisterhood

Upcoming Events

TEMPLE JEREMIAH'S BROTHERHOOD PRESENTS


GLOBETROTTER

HOW ABE SAPERSTEIN SHOOK UP THE WORLD OF SPORTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19TH @ 9:30 A.M.

This FREE event includes an opportunity to discuss the book with congregant and granddaughter of Abe Saperstein, Abra Berkley, and author Mark Jacob!

REGISTER: [TINYURL.COM/ABESAPERSTEIN](https://tinyurl.com/abesaperstein)



Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

In conjunction with Brotherhood's sponsorship of this free event, they are also raising funds for Jewish overnight camp scholarships. To donate, please scan the registration QR code above.

For ALL TJ Members

For Jeremiah Brotherhood

BROTHERHOOD PRESENTS:

NORTHWESTERN BASKETBALL NIGHT



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29TH, 2025

GAME TIME IS 8:00 P.M.

NORTHWESTERN VS. RUTGERS @ WELSH RYAN ARENA

DINNER AT FRED'S GARAGE (WINNETKA) AT 6:00 P.M.

WE WILL LEAVE FRED'S GARAGE @ 7:00 P.M. FOR THE ARENA

\$18

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES DINNER AND GAME TICKET

PLEASE REGISTER BY JANUARY 26TH:

tinyurl.com/BrotherhoodBBALL25



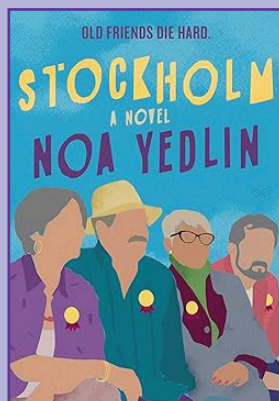

Sisterhood Book Club

January

Stockholm

By Noa Yedlin

Thursday, January 9th
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



Avishay is up for the Nobel Prize for Economics. There's just one problem—he's dead. His four closest friends agree that the well-earned prize must stay within his grasp, and so conspire to conceal Avishay's corpse until the committee's announcement. The potential of a glorious legacy for their late friend—and by extension, for them all—is only a mere eight days away. What could go wrong?

Packed into a drama-filled week, bristling with insight and dark humor, *Stockholm* offers a refreshingly honest consideration of the age when we begin to measure the sum of our lives.

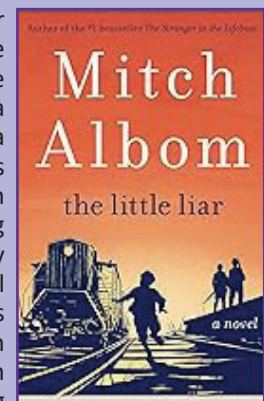
Interested in joining Sisterhood Book Club? Contact Randi Gurian (randi.gurian@gmail.com).

February

The Little Liar

By Mitch Albom

Thursday, February 13th
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



Eleven-year-old Nico Krispis has never told a lie. When the Nazis invade his home in Salonika, Greece, the trustworthy boy is discovered by a German officer, who offers him a chance to save his family. All Nico has to do is persuade his fellow Jewish residents to board trains heading "north," where new jobs and safety await. Unaware that this is all a cruel ruse, the innocent boy reassures passengers on the station platform every day. But when the final train is loaded, Nico sees his family being herded into a boxcar. Only then does he discover that he has helped send them—and everyone he knows and loves—to their doom at Auschwitz. Nico escapes—but he never tells the truth again. In *The Little Liar*, Mitch Albom examines the human repercussions of deception by interweaving the stories of four characters and revealing the consequences of each person's honesty and dishonesty.

Music at Jeremiah

What Has Our Choir Been Up To?

Our Adult Choir sang during Kabbalat Shabbat with *Kristallnacht* Commemoration on Friday, November 8th together with the choir from Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto, Canada, and Cantor David Rosen.



Then, Cantor Lianna and a few of our Adult Choir members, along with Kol Zimrah Jewish Community Singers and Holy Blossom Temple Choir, participated in the *Shining Through Broken Glass Concert* on Sunday, November 10th in Glencoe. Others who were able to snag tickets to the sold-out event, which commemorated *Kristallnacht*, celebrated Israel, and supported *Magen David Adom*, came to cheer on our members.



More From Our Weekend with Elana Arian

Elana is one of the leading voices in contemporary Jewish music, and it was great to have her delight congregants with an evening concert and *Havdallah* on Saturday, December 7th. Attendees of all ages enjoyed this musical weekend at Temple Jeremiah!

How About Shir Joy?

In December, Composer and Multi-instrumentalist Elana Arian joined us for a weekend of song, prayer, and joy!

Members of Shir Joy, our Youth Choir, performed on Friday, December 6th during Kabbalat Shabbat before Elana addressed the congregation and alongside Elana during her J-Quest concert on Sunday, December 8th.



What's Next? *Havdallah* Concert for Shabbat Shirah
Saturday, February 1st @ 5:00 p.m.

Greetings from...

The 1940s Decades Luncheon!

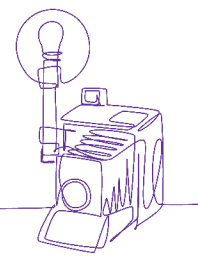


On Monday, November 11th, the music, nostalgia,
and headlines of the 1940s filled our building with
the help of Cantor Amy Zussman, Rabbi Cohen,
David Lornson, and special guest Cantor Lianna!



ICYMI...

(In Case You Missed It)

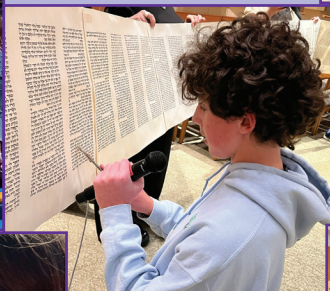


Jews, Lou's, & Brews!

On Wednesday, October 16th, adults were invited to enjoy beverages and Lou Malnati's deep dish pizza in our *sukkah*! We even got a shout out on Lou Malnati's official Instagram page, where they complimented our clever event title.



We're obsessed with how well "Jews, Lou's, and Brews" rhymes. How was the pizza?



Sukkot Festival

On Sunday, October 20th, our annual *Sukkot* Festival brought together families for games, *sukkah* decorating, treats, and more! We also had a special program with Jonathan Chapman that morning for first graders and their parents before First Grade Consecration. It was a busy, exciting Sunday at J-Quest!



New Member Breakfast

New Jeremiah members were invited to join other congregants for breakfast at the temple on Sunday, November 10th, and Chef Rabbi Cohen was in attendance! Along with his sous chef, Ben Topaz, new members were able to meet each other as well as Executive Board Members.



Chat & Chew: Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg

Danny's November 26th Chat & Chew program had attendees watch the documentary *Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg*, which tells the story of Gertrude Berg, an important, overlooked figure in the entertainment industry. Of course, lunch was served! Danny also hosted Chat & Chew in December, where the film *Dreaming of a Jewish Christmas* was watched and discussed.

Stitch & Schmooze

Twice a month, Cantor Lianna and some of your Temple Jeremiah friends meet for an hour of crafting and conversation at Curt's Cafe in Evanston. Attendees are welcome to bring any kind of fiber craft project — knitting, crocheting, embroidery, felting, even spinning! The next Stitch & Schmooze meetings will be Fridays, January 3rd & 17th at 10:00 a.m. To RSVP or if you have any questions, please email Elan Adler (elanadler@gmail.com).



Shabbat Dinner with Families & Friends

Shabbat Dinner was "grate" on Friday, December 6th, because Cheesie's Food Truck was there! Warm grilled cheese sandwiches and tots were a hit, especially in the cold weather!

Spotted: Fun at J-Quest!

We love to catch candid moments of our students enjoying J-Quest, and sometimes they love to pose for the camera!

Send us your photos!

Do you have photos from Jeremiah events you would like to share with us? We would love to see them! Please send photos to Meredith Levinson at meredith@templejeremiah.org or tag us on social media.

Social Justice & Advocacy

A Big Thank You!

Feed the Hungry

It was great to see the Inclusion Committee lead Feed the Hungry in December (and we appreciate all who joined in the cold weather)! **Feed the Hungry *Drop Off* will take place on Sunday, January 5th at 9:00 a.m.** Can't make it? Please consider donating to support our packing parties (on your Temple Jeremiah account, click donate, choose Social Justice, and write "Feed the Hungry" in the notes). As always, we are grateful for any lunches you drop off. If all the slots are full, please consider signing up for a future month to spread out the donations, although of course, we will never turn away lunches so you are still welcome to drop off what you have prepared. Questions? Please contact Mindy Kurtz (cupermom@aol.com). To sign up, visit tinyurl.com/FTH2425.



Family Promise

Thank you to those who recently volunteered for Family Promise. We so appreciate those who brought food and shared dinner with families experiencing housing insecurity while they stayed at Temple Jeremiah. Look out for information in the coming months about when Temple Jeremiah will serve as host for Family Promise next!



Thanksgiving Baskets for A Safe Place

We also want to thank those who helped with our Thanksgiving Baskets for A Safe Place. With your help, we were able to reach our goal of providing 50 of the roughly 250 estimated baskets A Safe Place was hoping to hand out!



Backpack Blessings

We were thrilled to have our 7th and 8th Grade J-Quest students and their parents participate in our popular Backpack Blessings program on Sunday, November 17th. Students and their parents can also participate in our next Backpack Blessings program, which will take place on **Sunday, February 2nd at 11:00 a.m.** If you have any questions, please contact Jacki Krashin (jackikrashin@gmail.com) or Melanie Morrow (stein.melanie@gmail.com). To sign up for Backpack Blessings for future months, visit tinyurl.com/BPB2425.



Advocacy Alerts

If you are interested in receiving Advocacy Updates via text messages, please scan the QR code. Please contact Advocacy Chair Nancy Eisenberg (nleslp@aol.com) with any questions.



Lately Around J-Quest

Our J-Quest students have been busy bees lately!



5th Grade *Havdallah* Program on Sunday, November 3rd



6th Grade *Shabbaton, Yad, & Siddur* Program on Saturday, November 16th

2nd Grade *Tzedakah* Project on Sunday, November 17th



Acknowledgements

IN SUPPORT OF

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IN APPRECIATION OF

Caring Community

For their dedication and hard work
-Ellen and Alan Toban

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Rabbi Paul Cohen

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Rabbi Rachel Heaps

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-Karen Gitles and Michael Jablo

Rabbi Rachel Heaps and Cantor Lianna Mendelson

For a beautiful High Holy Days
-Babette and Jeffrey Sanders
-Stephanie and Steven Victor
-Brian Wright

IN HONOR OF

Basya Cohen

Great-niece of Anne and Bob Kaplan, on the occasion of her birth
-Anne and Bob Kaplan

Rabbi Paul and Cathy Cohen

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Daughter of Chad and Melissa Feldman, on the occasion of her becoming a Bat Mitzvah
-Chad and Melissa Feldman

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Dana Garbarski and the Social Justice Team

-Michele and John Maeglin

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Daughter of Paula and Jay Gitles, on the occasion of her marriage to Adam Nadler
-Paula and Jay Gitles

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-Babette and Jeffrey Sanders

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Daughter of Lisa and Steve Kleiman, on the occasion of her marriage to Ross Kofkin
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The Lubetsky Family

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On the occasion of her upcoming installation
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On the occasion of the birth of their first grandchild
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On the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary
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-Carol Maxon
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IN MEMORY OF

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Uncle of Ellen Toban
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and Stephanie Schoenberg
-The Liebman and Schoenberg
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-Ellen and Alan Toban

Sandra Wexler

-The Family of Sandra Wexler

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Mother-in-law of Susan Wise,
grandmother of Robin Sheperd
-Susan Wise

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Brother of Phyllis Klapman
-Phyllis and Jim Klapman

Joseph Zaiken

Father of Phyllis Klapman
-Phyllis and Jim Klapman

FOR THE SPEEDY RECOVERY OF

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-Nancy Hirschfield
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-Ros Wolfe

-Richard and Jamie Zelvín

Thank You!

*Donations received and processed
after December 5th that are not listed
above, will appear in the next issue of
the *Covenant*.

Temple Jeremiah Covenant Society

We are deeply grateful for the members of our Temple Jeremiah Covenant Society, a dedicated group of individuals who have pledged to ensure the future of our beloved community through planned gifts, bequests, or other estate and financial instruments.

Thank you for your foresight, commitment, and care. Your decision to include Temple Jeremiah in your plans embodies the essence of L'dor V'dor, passing on the traditions and values that have sustained us for generations. Because of you, our community will continue to thrive for many years to come, creating new moments of connection, joy, and belonging for all who walk through our doors.

We are truly inspired by your generosity and the lasting impact you will have on the future of Temple Jeremiah.

Joel and Julie Africk

Phyllis Burg

Rabbi Paul and Cathy Cohen

Drew Davis

Michael and Laura Fine

Julie and Jim Ford

Alene Frost

Daniel and Krystal Glassman

Avi and Allyson Greenfield

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Rabbi Rachel Heaps

Judith Homer

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Anne and Jerry Lidsky

Ken and Susan Lorch

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Michelle Myers

Alisa and Scott Patterson

Noah and Jennifer Schnepfer

Laurel and Ed Shapiro

Vicki Siegelman and David Baldwin

Linda and Gary Stolberg

Judy and Jerry Tatar

Jason and Amy Torf

Stephanie and Stephen Victor

Anonymous (4)

This list includes members who have completed a Declaration of Intent as of 12/5/2024. If you planned a future gift and your name does not appear above, please let us know so we can thank you and update our records.

Covenant Society: In Memoriam

We deeply appreciate beloved members whose foresight and generosity left an enduring legacy for Temple Jeremiah by planning a future gift during their lifetimes. Their thoughtfulness continues to bless our community and will forever be an inspiration.

Norma and Bill Brown

Dorothy Kayle

Mitchell Slotnick



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Strengthen Our Community

Your generosity makes everything we do
at Temple Jeremiah possible.

All the programs in our *Covenant*
— and so much more —
happen because of you!

*Your donations help ensure that Temple Jeremiah
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connection, joy, and belonging.*

Please consider a new or additional donation to
help support the amazing programs that bring us
together and strengthen our temple.

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