

The Covenant

MARCH/APRIL 2025 • VOLUME 68 • ISSUE 2



Perspective
Building Bridges of
Understanding: Insights from
the DOJ Pilot Program
PAGE 8



Photos from L'Taken Teen
Social Justice Seminar
PAGE 11



From Purim to Passover:
Lessons in Courage, Faith,
and Freedom
Rabbi Paul F. Cohen
PAGE 4



Travel to Israel with Temple Jeremiah!
PAGE 15

Editor's Note

MEREDITH LEVINSON

Communications Coordinator
meredith@templejeremiah.org



I can't believe this will be my fourth year celebrating Purim at Temple Jeremiah, and each year, it seems like we expand and improve on the festivities. For example, this year, we are offering a special program for tots, parents, and grandparents on Sunday, March 16th at 10:15 a.m. before our annual carnival. Led by Jonathan Chapman, this program will provide an interactive adventure that brings the Purim story to life for an age group that will benefit the most from this kind of immersive experience.

And then, there is Passover. We will once again participate in Maot Chitim Food Delivery for Passover on Sunday, April 6th at 8:30 a.m. During Rosh HaShanah, we surpassed our goal to deliver 100 boxes of food, and we're looking to deliver even more this time around! I hope you'll explore all of our Purim and Passover festivities on page 3 and find one that you'll enjoy.

I would also like to encourage you to read about the wonderful programs that our J-Quest students have participated in, as well as our staff, Social Justice Committee, and Caring Community, which you can find throughout this issue.

We can't wait to see you at Temple Jeremiah for all the exciting things we have coming up!

Meredith Levinson

TORAH PORTIONS

MARCH

March 1st	T'rumah	Exodus 25:1-27:19
March 8th	T'tzaveh	Exodus 27:20-30:10
March 15th	Ki Tisa	Exodus 30:11-34:35
March 22nd	Vayak'heil	Exodus 35:1-38:20
March 29th	P'kudei	Exodus 38:21-40:38

APRIL

April 5th	Vayikra	Leviticus 1:1-5:26
April 12th	Tzav	Leviticus 6:1-8:36
April 19th	Passover	Exodus 13:17-15:26
April 26th	Sh'mini	Leviticus 9:1-11:47



Inside This Issue

FEATURES



4

**From Purim to Passover:
Lessons in Courage, Faith,
and Freedom**
Rabbi Paul F. Cohen



8

**Perspective:
Building Bridges
of Understanding:
Insights from the
DOJ Pilot Program**
Danny Glassman

HIGHLIGHTS



5

Treasurer's Report
Brian Ruben

13

**Q & A
with
Joyce Suchsland**



MORE

Coming Up at Temple Jeremiah	3
B'nai Mitzvah Date Request Form	5
Lately Around J-Quest	6
A Minute with Mr. Matt	7
ICYMI...	10
Social Justice & Advocacy	12
Caring Community Update	14
Travel to Israel with Temple Jeremiah	15
Acknowledgements	16
Donate to Temple Jeremiah	17


Coming Up at Temple Jeremiah

Dates and times are subject to change.
Check our calendar for the most
up-to-date information at
tinyurl.com/TJ-calendar

Purim March 14th, 2024

**Purim Kabbalat Shabbat with Adult Choir
followed by Shabbat Dinner with Friends**
Friday, March 14th @ 6:30 p.m.

**22ND ANNUAL
SHUSHAN SHUFFLE
5K RUN/WALK**



**SUNDAY, MARCH 16TH
9:00 A.M.**

**REGISTER:
[tinyurl.com/
ShushanShuffle25](http://tinyurl.com/ShushanShuffle25)**

Suggested Minimum Donation
of \$18/person. Proceeds will
benefit SHALVA.

A K'ilu Purim Adventure
Shake It In Shushan!
For Tots, Parents, & Grandparents



**Sunday, March 16th
@ 10:15 a.m.**

Travel back in time to help Queen Esther save the Jewish people of
Shushan in this interactive theatrical adventure that brings the Purim
story to life through immersive storytelling, music, movement, and
play. This experience is geared toward children 6 years old and
younger and their families. Price includes Purim Carnival access.

Food included!



**Children ages 0-2: \$5
Children ages 3-6: \$18
Adults are free!**

Register: tinyurl.com/PurimAdventure25

Questions? Contact Matt Rissien
matt@templejeremiah.org

**PURIM
CARNIVAL**
UNDER THE SEA

MARCH 16TH

**10:30 A.M.
MUSIC & STORY OF PURIM
11:00 A.M.
CARNIVAL**

**CELEBRATE PURIM WITH GAMES,
PRIZES, COSTUMES, INFLATABLE
OBSTACLE COURSE, TREATS,
CRAFTS, AND MORE!**



REGISTER AT TINYURL.COM/TJPURIM25
QUESTIONS? SHIRABRANDHANDLER@GMAIL.COM

Passover April 12th-19th, 2025

Passover Matzah Brei & Midrash
Sunday, April 13th @ 10:00 a.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat & Yizkor
Friday, April 18th @ 6:30 p.m.



**More upcoming events
are featured throughout
this issue.**

Maot Chitim Food Delivery

SPONSORED BY
TEMPLE JEREMIAH BROTHERHOOD

**Sunday, April 6th
8:30 a.m.**



**Let's go for 100, again!
Help Temple Jeremiah
deliver 100 or more
pre-packed boxes of
Passover food and
help bring some joy to
those in need.**

**PLEASE RSVP BY APRIL 1ST:
TINYURL.COM/MCSPRING25**



**Contact Michael Schack
michael.schack@comcast.net
with any questions.**

**INCLUSION
PASSOVER
SEDER 2025**



**SUNDAY, APRIL 6TH
11:30 A.M.**

**Please Register by
March 28th:
[tinyurl.com/
InclusionPassover25](http://tinyurl.com/
InclusionPassover25)**

**QUESTIONS?
CONTACT:**

Caren Brown
[ceb994@
gmail.com](mailto:ceb994@gmail.com)
(847) 471-1158

Barb Kite
[bkite1002@
gmail.com](mailto:bkite1002@gmail.com)
(847) 732-5352

Also Coming Up:

Yoga

Sundays, March 2nd & April 6th @ 9:15 a.m.

Stitch & Schmooze

**Fridays, March 7th & 21st, April 4th & 18th
@ 10:00 a.m.**

Mahjong

Sundays, March 9th & April 20th @ 9:15 a.m.

NCJW Reproductive Justice Shabbat

Friday, April 11th @ 6:30 p.m.

Yom HaShoah Commemoration

Wednesday, April 23rd @ 7:00 p.m.

Parent Coffee Connections

Sunday, April 27th @ 9:15 a.m.

Canasta

Every Friday @ 12:00 p.m.



Beloved Friends,

As we move from the joyous celebration of Purim toward the solemnity and renewal of Passover, I want to explore with you the deep thematic connections between these two holidays. While they may seem distinct—one a raucous festival of masks and revelry, the other a structured retelling of our journey from slavery to freedom—both Purim and Passover share profound and meaningful lessons about faith, resilience, and moral responsibility.

To me, one of the most striking connections between Purim and Passover is how each holiday presents a different mode of divine intervention. In the Purim story, God's presence is hidden—there are no overt miracles, no parting of seas or plagues raining down from the heavens. Instead, human agency drives the redemption of the Jewish people. Esther must summon the courage (the Mussar spiritual trait of *Ometz Lev*) to approach King Achashverosh, risking her own life to save her people, and Mordechai exhibits unwavering faith (the Mussar spiritual trait of *Bitachon*) in the unfolding of divine providence, even when it is not immediately visible.

In contrast, Passover is a festival of revealed miracles—God's hand is unmistakable in the plagues, the splitting of the sea, and the guiding pillar of fire. The Israelites do not take the lead in their redemption; rather, they must trust (the Mussar spiritual trait of *Emunah*) in God's power and follow Moses into the unknown.

These contrasting narratives teach us that redemption can come in different forms. Sometimes, we must take bold action, stepping forward like Esther, even when the outcome is uncertain. Other times, we must have the humility (the Mussar spiritual trait *Anavah*) to recognize forces beyond our control and place our faith in a greater plan in a story that is still unfolding and whose conclusion we may not know.

Both Purim and Passover also challenge us to consider what we do with our freedom once it is achieved. The Book of Esther ends with the Jews celebrating their survival, but also with a newfound sense of responsibility to commemorate and act upon their history. Similarly, Passover is not merely a retelling of past events but a call to moral action: "In every generation, one must see themselves as if they personally left Egypt" (Babylonian Talmud, Tractate *Pesachim* 116b). This commandment urges us to take the lessons of liberation

The Mussar tradition reminds us that freedom is not simply about personal liberation but about moral responsibility. The *middah* of *Zerizut* (the spiritual attribute of zeal or alacrity) encourages us to act swiftly in the face of injustice, just as Esther and Mordechai did. The *middah* of *Achrayut* (responsibility) teaches us that, like the Israelites leaving Egypt, we must use our freedom to help others who are still in bondage—whether physical, emotional, or spiritual.

As we prepare for Passover in a world filled with uncertainty, conflict, and rising antisemitism, these lessons feel more relevant than ever. Like Esther, we may find ourselves in positions where we can speak out against injustice, even when it is uncomfortable. Like the Israelites, we must also recognize when to place our faith in a greater plan and trust in the resilience of our people through our unfolding story.

This year, as we move from the hidden miracles of Purim to the revealed wonders of Passover, let us ask ourselves: How can we embody courage, faith, and responsibility in our own time? How can we, like our ancestors, move from survival to moral leadership? In answering these questions, we honor not just our past but our sacred duty to shape a more just and compassionate future.

Cathy joins me in wishing you and your dear families *Chag Sameach!*

**Pulse of Our World:
A Rabbi Reads the Headlines**

Wednesdays,

March 12th
April 9th
May 14th
June 11th

12:00 p.m.

This monthly adult ed series will look at an issue/event currently making headlines through the lens of Jewish text, teaching, and tradition. Please join Rabbi Cohen and your fellow Jeremiah learners and make sure to pack a lunch.

RSVP for individual events through our calendar.

Treasurer's Report



BRIAN RUBEN
Executive Committee Member and Treasurer

I wanted to provide a brief report on the financial results from the first half of our fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Q2 2024 - 2025 Year-to-Date Results

In the first half of our current fiscal year, we generated total revenues of approximately \$1.8 million (\$400,000 increase from the first quarter of \$1.4 million) and incurred total expenses of approximately \$1.4 million (\$700,000 increase from the first quarter of \$700,000). We anticipate our overall revenue and expense projections to be consistent to what we had previously communicated to you last quarter and anticipate that total expenses will align with or fall slightly below the approved budget of \$2.6 million. Our projected revenues are continuing to track below our budgeted amount of \$2.6 million, which we estimate could result in a shortfall of approximately \$90,000.

Our general and building fund endowments and related investments continue to yield positive returns and are closely monitored by our investment committee.

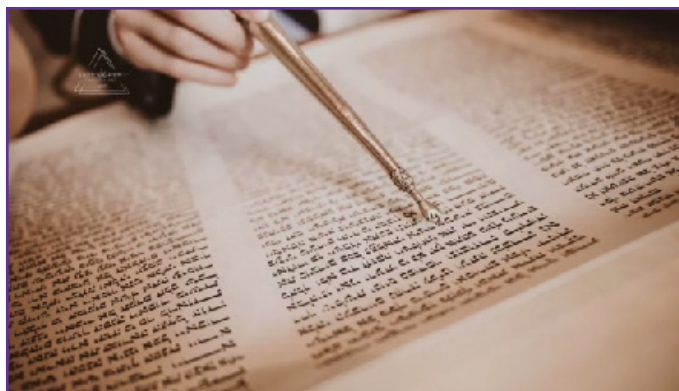
As we continue into the second half of our fiscal year, *Tzedakah* and philanthropy will continue to play an important role in our operating budget as we seek to cover the projected shortfall. Your ongoing financial support helps our temple thrive as we continue to nurture a vibrant and connected community. Every donation, regardless of size, makes a difference for our programs, worship, social justice efforts – strengthening our community and our impact.

Brian Ruben

B'nai Mitzvah Date Request Form 2027-2028

The B'nai Mitzvah Date Request Form for 2027-2028 was sent via email on February 28th to families with students currently in our 4th grade J-Quest Sunday Program. It is an online form. If you did not receive the form link via email, have questions regarding the form, or would prefer a hard copy be mailed to your home, please contact Cindy Lieb, B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator, by phone, (847) 261-0729, or email, cindy@templejeremiah.org.

Date requests are due by Tuesday, April 1st, 2025, and final dates will be emailed to families on Monday, May 5th, 2025. Please note, Cindy is unable to hold, reserve, or release any dates prior to May 5th.



Host Your Event at Temple Jeremiah!



We offer all the amenities and services to make your event a success:

- **Preferred Provider Program:**
Select all the services you need from our approved vendor list with special pricing for our members.
- **Choose your caterer:**
Customize your meal with any of our preferred caterers.
- **Flexible Lighting and Superior Acoustics**
- **Flexible spaces for different sizes and phases of your event**
- **Dance floor**
- **Handicapped accessibility**
- **AV screens and sound system**

To learn more about renting our temple facility for a Shabbat Dinner, B'nai Mitzvah party, or Kiddush Luncheon, contact Cindy Lieb.

Lately Around J-Quest

3rd Grade

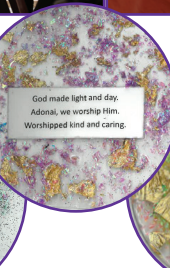
3rd grade students, along with their parents, participated in our "What's in a Name" program on Sunday, February 2nd, where they:

- learned about the history of their Hebrew names;
- explored the meaning of their Hebrew names and how they were chosen;
- created sand art of their Hebrew names.



4th Grade

4th graders participated in a "Resin Project," crafting Haiku poems into their own art pieces in preparation for their Creative *Tefilah*, which took place on Sunday, February 9th.



7th/8th Grade

As part of our 7th/8th Grade "Tracks" program, our students have the opportunity to learn about, prepare, and taste Jewish and Israeli foods. Known by its informal name, "Cooking with Chuck," this program has also included a field trip to Mizrahi Grill in Highland Park and, recently, a *Tu B'Shvat* seder. See the photos below for some highlights from the year so far!



templejeremiah.org | March/April 2025

A Minute with Mr. Matt



Director of Congregational Learning
matt@templejeremiah.org

Shalom!

Back in January, Cantor Lianna, Rabbi Debbie Helbraun, and I attended a four-day educator's conference in Evanston, where we joined 300 Reform Jewish educators and early childhood educators for an opportunity to network, learn, and, of course, have some fun as well! We were one of the only congregations with that much participation, and it was truly an amazing experience.

For those who attended Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday, January 23rd, and those who joined our livestream, you experienced an amazing evening. As part of the conference, we had the honor of hosting 50 of the conference participants at Kabbalat Shabbat, as well as special guest Shalom Orzach! Having all of the educators visit our building offered so much perspective for me.

When the educators arrived, they were led on a tour, rotating among me, Rabbi Heaps, Danny Glassman, and Rabbi Helbraun. Watching the educators take pictures of our walls and spaces, enter our Schreiber Sanctuary in awe of its beauty, and hearing their words of amazement in our collaborative spirit, made me remember what it was like for me seeing Temple Jeremiah for the first time.

My lesson from this is that in times where our lives can easily fall into routine, and when the beauty of the things in our everyday lives can lose their "wow factor," do not forget to stop and think back to your firsts in each moment. To take it one step further, next time you enter our Schreiber Sanctuary space, or even the front lobby at Temple Jeremiah, pretend like you are seeing it for the first time; We are truly blessed and fortunate to have the space, the leadership, and especially the people that we do.

Matt



The Covenant | Temple Jeremiah

Perspective



DANNY GLASSMAN
Executive Director
daniel@templejeremiah.org

Building Bridges of Understanding: Insights from the DOJ Pilot Program

At Temple Jeremiah, we believe that true connection extends beyond our congregation—it encompasses relationships with the broader community, fostering a shared commitment to mutual respect and understanding. This past January, I had the privilege of participating in a Department of Justice (DOJ) pilot program focused on building relationships with Jewish communities. It was a profound opportunity to explore how partnerships with other organizations and resources can strengthen our collective ability to stand against antisemitism.

This unique experience came to fruition thanks to the congregation's support of my participation in the FBI Citizens Academy last spring. That program opened the door to ongoing communication with the FBI, which regularly shares opportunities like this one. It's a testament to how engaging with external organizations can bring valuable tools and insights back to Temple Jeremiah.

The DOJ pilot program, hosted by the Community Relations Service (CRS) division, highlighted the importance of collaboration in addressing complex challenges. The CRS team provided an overview of their mission—to serve as “America’s peacemaker” by fostering trust and cooperation between diverse groups. Through an engaging exploration of Jewish history and life in the United States, participants gained a deeper appreciation of the Jewish community’s resilience and contributions. The program also shed light on the painful realities of antisemitism and its impact across the nation.

What resonated most was the focus on building bridges rather than just reacting to challenges. We learned about practical ways to forge connections with local organizations, law enforcement, and interfaith groups to create a network of allies. By working together, we can create an environment where understanding and solidarity are the foundation for standing up to hate and division.

Questions about our ongoing security efforts or Danny's experience with the FBI? Connect with him! Scan the QR code to schedule time to chat with Danny.



The session was as much about relationships as it was about education. Through interactive discussions and shared experiences, participants developed a sense of unity and purpose. It reminded me of the power of collaboration in creating lasting change. When communities come together to listen, learn, and support one another, we take a vital step toward ensuring a safer and more inclusive world.

This experience aligns beautifully with Temple Jeremiah’s values of being genuine, caring, and optimistic. It reinforced our commitment to making a positive difference by strengthening connections not only within our congregation but also with our neighbors and partners. Together, we can celebrate the diversity of our community while standing firm against antisemitism and other forms of hate.

Thank you for supporting opportunities like these that deepen our understanding and broaden our impact. I look forward to continuing this meaningful work with all of you as we strive to make our world a place of greater unity, compassion, and hope.

Chat & Chew Presents:



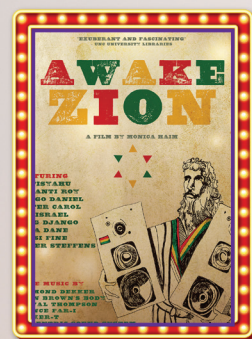
Big Sonia

Tuesday, March 4th
11:00 a.m.

Holocaust Survivor. Grandma. Diva. A poignant story of generational trauma and healing, *Big Sonia* offers a laugh-out-loud-funny portrait of the power of love to triumph over bigotry and the power of truth-telling to heal us all.

REGISTER:

tinyurl.com/ChatChewMar25



Awake Zion

Tuesday, April 29th
11:00 a.m.

Ever wondered why Jews and Rastafarians share the same Star of David and references to Zion? This film answers those questions and more as it explores the common histories of Jewish and reggae culture.

REGISTER:

tinyurl.com/ChatChewApr25

Brotherhood & Sisterhood

Upcoming Events



**Men's Night Out:
March Madness Basketball & Dinner**

**Thursday, March 20th
7:00 p.m.**

**Buffalo Wild Wings
(Northbrook)**

Come for a men's night out at Buffalo Wild Wings, where we'll have dinner and watch a lot of NCAA Tournament Basketball. No fee to attend. Reply to dbellows60025@yahoo.com by March 18th if you are planning to attend.

Temple Jeremiah

For ALL TJ Members

For Brotherhood



**Temple Jeremiah's
BROTHERHOOD
SHABBAT**

**Friday, April 25th
6:30 p.m.**

Everyone is welcome to attend this special Shabbat service led by Brotherhood, followed by Shabbat Dinner with Friends. \$25 per adult for dinner. Children 12 and younger are free.

Please register for dinner:
tinyurl.com/BrotherhoodShabbat25

Questions?
Contact Joel Rovner
(jrovner@comcast.net)

Temple Jeremiah

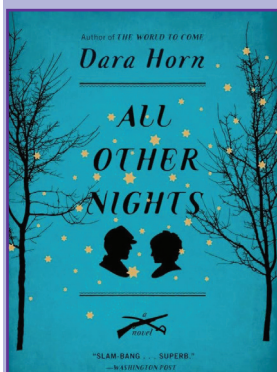
Sisterhood Book Club

March

All Other Nights

By Dara Horn

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



How is tonight different from all other nights? For Jacob Rappaport, a Jewish soldier in the Union army during the Civil War, it is a question his commanders have already answered for him — on Passover, 1862, he is ordered to murder his own uncle in New Orleans, who is plotting to assassinate President Lincoln. After this harrowing mission, Jacob is recruited to pursue another enemy agent, the daughter of a Virginia family friend. But this time, his assignment isn't to murder the spy, but to marry her.

Based on real personalities like Judah Benjamin, the Confederacy's Jewish Secretary of State and spymaster, and on historical facts and events, *All Other Nights* is a gripping and suspenseful story of men and women driven to the extreme limits of loyalty and betrayal. It is also a brilliant parable of the rift in America that lingers a century and a half later: between those who value family and tradition first, and those dedicated, at any cost, to social and racial justice for all.

Interested in joining Sisterhood Book Club?

Contact Randi Gurian
(randi.gurian@gmail.com).

April

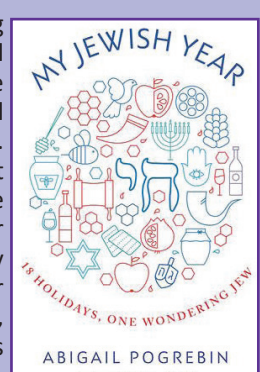
**My Jewish Year:
Eighteen Holidays, One Wandering Jew**

By Abigail Pogrebin

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

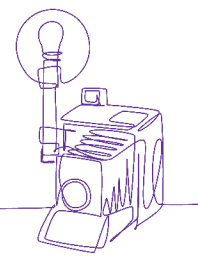
Although she grew up following some holiday rituals, Abigail Pogrebin realized how little she knew about their foundational purpose and current relevance. She wanted to understand what had kept these holidays alive and vibrant, in some cases for thousands of years. Her curiosity led her to embark on an entire year of intensive research, observation, and writing about the milestones on the Jewish calendar. *My Jewish*

Year travels through this calendar's signposts with candor, humor, and a trove of information, capturing the arc of Jewish observance through the eyes of a relatable, wandering—and wondering—Jew. The chapters are interspersed with brief reflections from prominent rabbis and Jewish thinkers.



ICYMI...

(In Case You Missed It)



Club 36 Chanukah Cupcake Challenge

On Sunday, December 15th, Club 36 (3rd-6th graders) competed in a Chanukah Cupcake Challenge. Cupcakes were decorated and sugar was consumed to get everyone excited for Chanukah!

J-Quest Social Day

During J-Quest on Sunday, January 12th, our 7th-12th graders enjoyed a social day, where they had snacks, pizza, and games, including team competitions with the amazing "Hungry Hungry Hippos Inflatable" game!



Inclusion Chanukah

On Saturday, December 14th, our Inclusion Committee put on a pre-Chanukah celebration with a DJ, food, activities, dancing, and *Havdallah*.

Weekend with Shalom Orzach

Israel Educator and author, Shalom Orzach, joined us from Friday, January 24th through Sunday, January 26th. During his time here, he presented during Kabbalat Shabbat and Torah Study, and led Parent Coffee Connections for J-Quest parents. The weekend's programs were generously funded by the Bill and Norma Brown Fund for Lifelong Learning.

Club 36 Ultimate Ninjas

Club 36 had an awesome time at their Climb Zone event on Saturday, January 25th. They spent the afternoon on the ultimate ninja course where they could jump, swing, and climb over obstacles to see who could become an ultimate ninja!



L'Taken Teen Social Justice Seminar

During the first weekend in February, a few of our high school students went with Rabbi Rachel to Washington, D.C. for L'Taken. It was a fun and meaningful weekend with teens from across the country, where they learned about social justice and advocacy, then met with Congress to advocate for the things they care about!

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

Thank You!

Thank you to those who volunteered at The Ark during winter break! It was great to see everyone helping out and experiencing the *Joy of Belonging* with other temple members.



Feed the Hungry

Feed the Hungry will take place on Sundays, March 2nd and April 6th at 9:00 a.m. Feed the Hungry provides a wonderful opportunity to make lunches together as a family on a Saturday night and bring them to the temple on the first Sunday of every month. You can also help us deliver the lunches. Please drop off your lunches by 9:30 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). Questions? Please contact Mindy Kurtz (cupermom@aol.com). To sign up, visit tinyurl.com/FTH2425.



Backpack Blessings

We were thrilled to have our 7th and 8th Grade J-Quest students and their parents participate again in our popular Backpack Blessings program on Sunday, February 2nd. **Backpack Blessings will take place next on Sundays, March 9th and April 27th at 9:00 a.m.** We would love some volunteers to help us load and deliver items during these months! 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 Platforms

Last summer, we shared a series of videos in our monthly Social Justice Newsletter to introduce and educate congregants on our social justice and advocacy platforms. Now, we would like to continue the conversation by highlighting our platforms in our monthly newsletter through articles, info graphics, and more. If you would like to sign up to receive our Social Justice Newsletter, please contact Meredith Levinson (meredith@templejeremiah.org).

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.



Q & A

with Joyce Suchsland

Longtime Temple Jeremiah Congregant and Whittier Elementary School Volunteer



Q: Can you tell us a bit about your background?

A: I do not have a background in teaching. However, my majors in college were computational mathematics and psychology. I know this is a strange combination, but I knew early on that while I enjoyed working with numbers, I also needed to have a job with much human interaction. I also have an MBA. My career was in market research working for Quaker Oats and NutraSweet (Monsanto). I stopped working outside the home after my second child was two years old.

Q: How did you get involved with volunteering at Whittier?

A: When my children were older, I wanted to have more structure in my life. A paid position would have been difficult for me given my husband's job, which took him away from home frequently, and the needs of my aging parents. Thus, I looked for a meaningful volunteer position. Volunteering at Whittier offered such an opportunity. I also began teaching ESL to adults two days a week through Oakton Community College. I don't remember the exact number of years I helped out at Whittier, but the teacher I supported believed it was more than 13 years.

Q: What did you do during your time as a volunteer at Whittier?

A: I assisted the most amazing fifth grade teacher. She knew I had been a math major in college and, thus, she had me help small groups of students with various math areas they were having difficulty with. She also had me work with students who had already mastered the math skills being presented in the classroom who needed more advanced mathematics enrichment so as to not become bored.



Joyce and her husband, Michael, have been members of Temple Jeremiah since 2007. Joyce volunteered as a classroom tutor at Whittier Elementary School in Waukegan for more than a decade and is now "retired."



This experience renewed or grew my confidence that good teachers are out there and that they can make a world of difference in a child's life.



Get Involved!



Whittier can always use more tutors!
Please contact Lori Kash
(lorikash12@gmail.com) for more information.

Q: What is your favorite memory from your time volunteering?

A: Hard to choose, but two memories stand out. First, I remember the students telling me that I was a math genius and that they couldn't believe how good I was at math. I then explained that most adults were good at fifth grade math and that they would be strong with what I was teaching them when they were my age (and long before). Second, I remember the thank you notes that the students wrote at the teacher's request each spring. Many students wrote of their increased comfort with math. Some even wrote of their new interest in the subject area.

Q: How can others participate/volunteer at Whittier?

A: Whittier can always use more tutors. Additionally, there are often school supply drives, clothing drives, and holiday gift requests. Currently, they should contact Temple Jeremiah Congregant Lori Kash (lorikash12@gmail.com) to volunteer.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to add?

A: Yes. I worked with an extremely talented teacher. This experience renewed or grew my confidence that good teachers are out there and that they can make a world of difference in a child's life. The teacher I supported was excellent at understanding the importance of differentiated education (different students have different levels of knowledge/ability and should be taught differently), motivating her students through experimentation, offering a world view (she had traveled, and perhaps lived in Africa), and class control (she could regain the class's focus when it had drifted with words or a look, rather than by yelling). I feel very lucky that I have had the experience to help her over the last several years.

Caring Community Update

Thank you to all who participated in our recent Banana Bread Bake Off to support Caring Community!



Congratulations to our winners!

Best Banana Bread: Caren Brown

Best Non-Banana Bread: Jill Pantano

Best Texture: Charles Laurito

Best Appearance: Bobbie Bloch

Popular Choice: Randi Ralph

TEMPLE JEREMIAH'S CARING COMMUNITY

FOUR WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

BAKE

Do you love to bake breads? We could use your help! Bake banana, zucchini, cranberry, or your favorite bread to be delivered to congregants who need a little TLC.

STORE & DRIVE

We are in need of individuals willing to keep a few loaves in their freezer to be delivered to a congregant at your earliest convenience when there is a need.

CALL

An important part of Caring Community is following up to confirm the congregant received their TLC and see if there is any other way the temple can support them.

INFORM

ALL CONGREGANTS CAN HELP!
If you know anyone who needs some TLC, please let clergy or the Caring Community know so we can reach out to them.

Testimonials

"The families I brought a meal to were very appreciative of the food as well as the personal contact. They all said how much they missed seeing their friends at temple. *In a way, I felt like I was bringing a little bit of TJ to them! Participating in the Caring Community shows that a little bit of kindness goes a long way.*"

-Caren Brown



"After a fall which took a week to concentrate pain in my Sacrum, I was hospitalized. Rabbi Cohen came to my bedside and when I returned home, the Temple Jeremiah community rallied around both myself and Robin with several wonderful meals and concern. *The Caring Community is a vital asset of our temple with compassionate leadership provided by Barbara Kite. I am forever grateful, and looking forward to returning the wonderful support I received to other members who may face similar challenges.*"



-Jon Lavin

The mission of the Caring Community is to foster a connected community among Temple Jeremiah's members. This will occur through Tikkun Olam and acts of loving kindness, especially when congregants are in need. The Caring Community is a way for congregants of Temple Jeremiah to reach out and take care of each other when times in our lives are a little more difficult, all while experiencing the "Joy of Belonging." Please reach out to Barb Kite (bkite1002@gmail.com) for more information.

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- Visit the Kotel (Western Wall) & explore the Western Wall Tunnel
- Walk through the lively Mahane Yehuda, Jerusalem's bustling open-air market
- Experience pure bliss as you float on the Dead Sea and uncover the historic marvels of Masada
- Celebrate Shabbat in Jerusalem
- Raft or kayak down the Jordan River
- Go for a jeep tour of the Golan Heights
- Explore Caesarea, a pivotal city in the Land of Israel during the Roman Period
- Visit the ANU museum, showcasing the rich heritage of Jewish culture
- Stroll through Tel Aviv's Carmel Market and the Nahalat Binyamin art and craft market
- Relive the birth of the State of Israel as you walk along Tel Aviv's Independence Trail
- Engage in an interactive archaeological dig suitable for all ages at the Beit Guvrin Caves
- And much more...



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Temple Jeremiah Endowment Fund

-Eliot Weinstein

IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Paul Cohen

For all he does
-Ellen and Tom Kaplan
-Ellen and Alan Toban

Rabbi Rachel Heaps

For all she does
-Ellen and Tom Kaplan
-Ellen and Alan Toban

Cantor Lianna Mendelson

For all she does
-Ellen and Alan Toban

Cantor Amy Zussman

For all she does
-Ellen and Alan Toban

IN HONOR OF

Margo and Claire Cohen,
granddaughters of Rabbi Paul
and Cathy Cohen, on the
occasion of their birth and
baby naming
-Michael and Deborah Cogan

The Kowitt Family

-Iris Levine

Rebecca Lichtman, daughter
of Barri and Herb Lichtman, on
the occasion of qualifying for
the U.S. National Development
team
- Barri and Herb Lichtman

IN MEMORY OF

Steven Belgrade

Husband of Mary Belgrade
-Mary Belgrade

Irving Brenner

Father of Howard Brenner,
grandfather of David Brenner and
Judy Craven
-Howard Brenner

Ruby Brenner

Wife of Howard Brenner, mother of
David Brenner and Judy Craven
-Howard Brenner

Esther Daniel

Mother of Valery Keller
-Valery and Jim Keller

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-Phyllis and Michael Mitzen

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-Joan Golder

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-Sheila Goode

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-Diane and Mark Gluskin
-Dianne and Joel Rovner

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Claire Goldie Cohen**
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Happy 70th Birthday, **Cory!**
Love The Franklin Family

In celebration of
Rabbi and Patti Schreiber's
40th wedding anniversary
With love, Emmy Rothschild

Thank You!

*Donations received and processed after January 27th that are not listed above, will appear in the next issue of the *Covenant*.

Donate to Temple Jeremiah

Making a donation to Temple Jeremiah is a wonderful way to honor a friend or family member on their happy occasion or to memorialize a loved one. There are specific funds you can make a donation to that support and enhance education programs for youth, adults, and our congregation as a whole. You can make a donation in two easy ways:

- 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.
- 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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