

The Covenant

JULY/AUGUST 2025 • VOLUME 68 • ISSUE 4

 Temple
Jeremiah
The Joy of Belonging



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Editor's Note

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Throughout the process of putting this issue together, I thought about what it means to have humility. I read Rabbi Rachel's article, which explains that the *Mussar middah* (spiritual quality) of *anavah* – humility – encourages us to occasionally step back and allow others to shine, to genuinely celebrate their successes without envy, and to offer support without seeking personal recognition. Through TJ member Joel Kaufmann's article, I gained his perspective on honoring Rabbi Cohen through the lens of humility. I even learned that the bluebell flower is a symbol of humility and gratitude, which is why it's pictured in a few places in this issue. The theme of humility is woven throughout the pages, and as you read, I encourage you to think about what it means to be humble.

Enjoy other members' successes, like our Volunteer of the Year award winner Hershy Pappadis, and those listed in our "Mazel Tov!" section. Celebrate community by reading about our recent Gratitude Shabbat and other events you attended or may have missed. Recognize that without each individual's contributions, our community would be incomplete.

As Rabbi Rachel said, "Seeing, exhibiting, and experiencing *anavah* will always lead us to gratitude." I think that's a great way to think about humility, which I will continue to do this summer and beyond.

Meredith Levinson

TORAH PORTIONS

JULY

July 5th	Chukat	Numbers 19:1-22:1
July 12th	Balak	Numbers 22:2-25:9
July 19th	Pinchas	Numbers 25:10-30:1
July 26th	Matot-Masei	Numbers 30:2-36:13



AUGUST

August 2nd	D'varim	Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22
August 9th	Va-et'chanan	Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11
August 16th	Eikev	Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25
August 23rd	R'eih	Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17
August 30th	Shoftim	Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9

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EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Kabbalat Shabbat & Dinner with Friends

Fridays, July 4th & 18th @ 6:30 p.m.

Check our calendar for location information.

Trivia Night at Sketchbook Brewing Co. (Skokie)

Wednesday, July 16th @ 6:45 p.m.

Enjoy trivia & food with Rabbi Rachel.

Stitch & Schmooze (Evanston)

Fridays, July 18th, August 1st & 15th @ 10:00 a.m.

Get crafty!

Annual Pickleball Game

Sunday, July 20th @ 4:00 p.m.

Get ready to rally at our annual pickleball game! We'll reserve the courts, you bring your best volley, drop shot, or ace!

Jeremiah Kids/Tots & Treats (Northbrook)

Monday, July 21st @ 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Matt can't wait to see everyone at Graeter's.

"Friendraising" at Cabo (Northbrook)

Monday, July 21st (all day)

Stop by and grab a bite at Cabo! A portion of the proceeds will go back to Temple Jeremiah, and you may see some familiar faces throughout the day!

90s Luncheon

Tuesday, July 22nd @ 12:00 p.m.

In celebration of our seniors 89 years and older, this luncheon will have music, narration, food, and lots of laughs!

Reform Responsa with Rabbi Rachel

Wednesdays, July 23rd & 30th @ 7:00 p.m.

Register for this adult learning class through our calendar.

Chat & Chew with Danny Glassman

Tuesdays, July 29th & August 26th @ 12:00 p.m.

Food, film, and feedback with Danny Glassman.

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



More upcoming events are featured throughout this issue.

Chicago Dogs Family Baseball Night with Brotherhood

Thursday, July 31st @ 6:00 p.m.

All Temple Jeremiah members are welcome to join Brotherhood for baseball and fireworks!

Bim Bam Baby Summer Session #2

Beginning Friday, August 1st @ 9:45 a.m.

Register online for this fun and energetic music class for tots and their parents or caregivers.

TEMPLE JEREMIAH

MULTIGENERATIONAL TRIP TO ISRAEL
LED BY RABBI RACHEL HEAPS AND
DANNY GLASSMAN

MARCH 19-29, 2026



PASSIONATE JEWISH JOURNEYS
EDUCATIONAL & EXPERIENTIAL JOURNEYS CREATED WITH YOU IN MIND.
NYC | TLV | PRG | JHB | J2ADVENTURES.COM



EVENTS & PROGRAMS CONT.

Laurie Berkner Concert at Ravinia (BYO ticket)

Saturday, August 9th @ 11:00 a.m.

Meet up with your Jeremiah friends
for a kids' concert at Ravinia!

Parade at Broadway in Chicago

Sunday, August 10th @ 1:00 p.m.

Register early to claim your spot in our ticket
block to see *Parade* at Broadway in Chicago.
Dessert to follow.

There will also be a special **pre-show adult
learning session** hosted by Cantor Lianna on
Monday, August 4th at 7:00 p.m. You do not
need a ticket to the show to attend this learning
program.

Welcome Back! Shabbat Dinner with Friends

Friday, August 15th @ 7:30 p.m.

We're already excited to welcome back our
members and share stories from our summers!

Kabbalat Shabbat with Pet Blessing & Kona Ice

Friday, August 22nd @ 6:30 p.m.

Bring your furry, scaly, loving friends to TJ to
receive a blessing, and enjoy Kona Ice.

Welcome Back Meet Up (Portillo's Deerfield)

Wednesday, August 27th @ 5:00 p.m.

Dine in, take out, or stop by to say hi to Mr. Matt!

Jews In Canoes (Skokie)

Saturday, September 6th @ 4:00 p.m.

Finish the summer with a canoe or kayak ride
around the Skokie Lagoons.



August is ice cream month at
Temple Jeremiah! Enjoy a frozen treat
oneg following Kabbalat Shabbat Services
throughout August.

SISTERHOOD BOOK CLUB

Interested in joining Sisterhood Book Club?

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

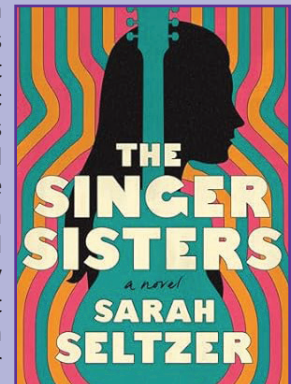
July

The Singer Sisters

By Sarah Seltzer

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

It's 1996, and alt-rocker Emma Cantor is on tour, with her sights trained on a record deal. Emma's got no lack of inspiration for her music — chiefly her mother Judie, a 1960s folk legend whose confessional songs made her an icon before her mysterious withdrawal from the public eye. Emma is baffled by Judie's coldness and is deeply shaken when she learns a long-kept secret about their family. When Emma uncovers more about her mother's past, she is vaulted to new heights as a performer. But the knowledge she gains also propels her toward a musical betrayal that further fractures her relationship with Judie. Increasingly famous, but fragile and isolated, Emma grapples with her mother's legacy and what it means for her own future.

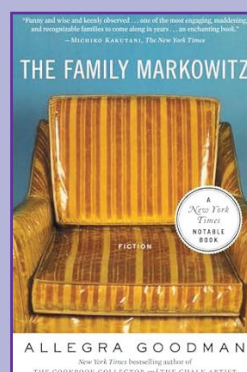


August

The Family Markowitz

By Allegra Goodman

Thursday, August 14th
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



In this beloved collection of linked short stories, Allegra Goodman writes with wit and compassion about three generations of Markowitizes: Rose, the displaced, cantankerous matriarch; her devoted son, Henry, an aesthete living abroad; his younger brother, Ed, a Georgetown scholar specializing in terrorism; Ed's wife, Sarah, who is a housewife with stalled literary ambitions; and their eldest daughter, Miriam, whose budding Orthodoxy bewilders her parents. Through the rhythm of ordinary family rituals—weddings, holiday dinners, hospital vigils—Goodman breathes extraordinary life into a cast of characters who reverberate with authenticity and never fail to speak their minds.



Cultivating *Anavah*

In our world that often celebrates the loudest voices, the *Mussar middah* (spiritual quality) of *anavah* – humility – might seem counterintuitive, even quaint or outdated. Yet, as we have learned from Rabbi Cohen, *anavah* is not merely the absence of arrogance; it is a profound and active inner strength, a pathway to deeper self-awareness, stronger relationships, and a more authentic connection to the world around us. As we navigate the complexities of modern life, cultivating *anavah* can be a transformative practice, offering solace and wisdom in unexpected places.

Mussar, a Jewish ethical discipline, invites us to explore and refine our character traits, one *middah* at a time. *Anavah*, often translated to "humility," extends far beyond simple modesty. It is about having attitude pointing toward self-truth, a realistic assessment of our strengths and weaknesses, and a recognition of our place within the vastness of creation.

How might we actively find a place for *anavah* in our lives? It's not about self-deprecation or diminishing ourselves. Rather, we work to create a subtle shift in perspective, embracing the crucial balance of "no more than my space, no less than my place." This means acknowledging our value and contributions without overinflating our importance, while also ensuring we don't shrink from our rightful responsibilities or unique capabilities.

Consider what makes our Temple Jeremiah community wonderful and unique. *Anavah* encourages us occasionally to step back and allow others to shine, to genuinely celebrate their successes without envy, and to offer support without seeking personal recognition. It means recognizing that every individual brings unique gifts to our collective endeavor, and that the strength of our community lies in the harmonious interplay of these diverse contributions. When we approach our communal roles as leaders, teachers, caregivers, and friends with *anavah*, we are more likely to seek collaborative solutions, to compromise gracefully, and to prioritize the well-being of the whole over one person's praise. This embodies "no more than my space," ensuring we don't overshadow others or monopolize discussions.

Anavah also teaches us to remain true to "no less than my place," recognizing our inherent worth and the unique contributions we bring. It's about confidently stepping forward when our skills or insights are needed, speaking up when we have something valuable to share, and taking on responsibilities that celebrate our capabilities. This isn't about arrogance; it's about self-respect and acknowledging that without our contributions, our community would be incomplete.

In looking to an example of *anavah* we often turn to the figure of Moses. The Torah describes Moses as "*anav me'od*" – "very humble, more so than any man on the face of the earth" (Numbers 12:3). This description of Moses is a profound lesson in *anavah*'s balance. Moses was a leader of unparalleled stature, who stood before Pharaoh, led an entire nation from slavery, and continually interceded on their behalf. He did not shrink from his immense responsibilities, even if he wasn't fully ready for what they would mean. Yet, he never sought personal glory or wielded his power for selfish gain. When Miriam and Aaron spoke against him, he demonstrated a profound "no more than my space" by not needing to assert his authority or correct their misperceptions. His humility was not weakness, rather an inner strength that allowed him to focus on the needs of the community and the task at hand. Moses teaches us that true *anavah* is not about the absence of self-esteem, but about a calibrated awareness of one's role and capabilities within a larger context.

As we begin Rabbi Cohen's final year as senior rabbi (but not final year as our rabbi), each of us has a story or memory about how he has embodied true *anavah*. He has been our rabbi who embodies this *middah* and teaches not just through sermons, but through his very presence and actions. He's shown us "no more than my space" by being approachable, by listening intently to when we have parts of our lives to share, and by being open when he doesn't have all the answers. He has also shown us "no less than my place" through his understanding and embracing of his unique role in providing our community leadership, guidance, and a door to living our Jewish values. He has led us for 26 years with conviction and wisdom, not from a position of superiority, but from a genuine desire to serve and uplift our Jeremiah community.

Seeing, exhibiting, and experiencing *anavah* will always lead us to gratitude. With *anavah*, we begin to understand our place in the world and the countless blessings surrounding us – the support of our loved ones, the opportunities presented to us, the gifts of nature – we are naturally filled with a sense of awe and appreciation. With this gratitude for what we have now, our grateful hearts are pulled toward those who taught us how to reach this moment as well. We are grateful to all our teachers, Rabbi Cohen, and others who have challenged us to think deeper, to engage more fully, and to take on new responsibilities, recognizing the potential that we might not yet be able to see within each of us. Their example shows us that leadership stems from authentic humility, building trust, and fostering a more connected, engaged, and joyful Jeremiah community. ★

PERSPECTIVE



Honoring Rabbi Cohen Through the Lens of Mussar: Humility

JOEL KAUFMANN

Temple Jeremiah Member Since 1978

Rabbi Paul Cohen.

In 1999, after carefully reviewing the 35+ resumes sent to me by the Central Conference of American Rabbis for consideration in filling the soon-to-be-open position of Senior Rabbi at Temple Jeremiah, my first reaction was that the name Rabbi Paul F. Cohen was the perfect name for our new rabbi. At this stage, we had not yet met.

As chairman of the blue-ribbon Rabbi Search Committee to find the successor to Rabbi Bob Schreiber—who had just announced his upcoming retirement—it was my responsibility to get the ball moving. In my view, Rabbi Cohen's resume seemed to be the most outstanding of the bunch; but I kept that to myself, not wanting to unduly influence any members of the committee — as if that could have mattered to our very independent thinking group of veteran temple members, including a number of past and future presidents of TJ.

Nonetheless, the name of Rabbi Paul Cohen alone remained a beacon for me.

We reviewed the resumes as a committee, culled out the majority, and settled on 14 candidates with whom to conduct telephone interviews. After that process was complete, we decided together which finalists we would bring in for in-person interviews with the committee. I vividly remember that for Rabbi Cohen's visit, the date conflicted with his wife Cathy's birthday, so we arranged to fly her in as well and had a small birthday party at our home hoping to impress upon them the esteem we held them in.

The Rabbi Search Committee was a very tough sell for every candidate we considered, with one exception. Rabbi Cohen was the unanimous choice of the committee, so it was time to take the next step in the search process.

We now needed to visit Rabbi Cohen's congregation in Portland, Maine, to see him in action.

Temple Jeremiah's President at the time, Diana Kaufmann, sent Mitch Slotnick and me, with our wives, to pay a personal visit to Rabbi Cohen and his family. It was certainly no surprise to us that we received quite a number of unfriendly looks from the members there who figured out the purpose of our visit.

As we journey through the 2025-2026 programming year, our Covenant newsletter will pay tribute to Rabbi Paul Cohen and the profound impact he has had on our Temple Jeremiah community. In each issue, we will spotlight a different *middah*—a Mussar trait—reflecting Rabbi Cohen's commitment to personal growth and ethical living.

Rabbi Cohen has introduced countless members to the wisdom of Mussar, and we are proud to honor his legacy through these teachings. Each of these reflections are from guest writers sharing personal stories and meaningful moments with Rabbi Cohen. Together, we celebrate a leader whose influence continues to shape our congregation with heart, purpose, and intention.

Joel during one of Rabbi Cohen's Lunch & Learn sessions



After the Shabbat service on Saturday, we were invited back to Rabbi Cohen's home where we found his two daughters still in diapers and some delicious tuna salad. The negotiations Mitch and I had with Rabbi Cohen later that evening set in motion the eventual hiring of him to lead our congregation for the last 25 years.

Getting to know Rabbi Cohen over the many years that we have been associated has been a true joy. He is very intelligent, patient, an excellent communicator, as well as a deep thinker. He has many things to be proud of among his personal traits and accomplishments. Many definitions of humility would normally view these traits as resulting in pride, which many might interpret as the polar opposite of humility. I feel differently.

I've always been struck by the dichotomy of the core soul trait in Mussar of humility and how it can be applied to our Rabbi. When you acknowledge his strengths and characteristics are worthy of being proud, that doesn't mean you can't have humility as well. Mussar teaches that true humility is associated with healthy self-esteem, not a lack of it.

That is a good estimation of Rabbi Paul Cohen. ★

5 QUESTIONS FOR...

KAREN KROSNICK

karen@templejeremiah.org

1

Who is Karen Krosnick? Please tell us a little about yourself.

I was born in Schaumburg, IL, and have lived in many different Illinois cities since then, as well as in Austin, TX, for two years. I graduated from Illinois State University with a major in Elementary Education and a minor in psychology. I taught first grade for three years and then moved into Educational Publishing as an editor/writer/voice actor. I have also worked as a proofreader, project manager, and in Human Resources. Today, I live in Buffalo Grove with my husband, David, my almost 17-year-old son, Finn, and three cats (Gizmo, Tootsie, and Mochi). I also have two stepsons, Caleb and Brooks. Caleb is going to be a junior at the University of Iowa, and Brooks is going to be a sophomore at the University of Missouri.



2

What is your role at Temple Jeremiah?

I began working as the Executive Assistant to the Clergy on April 28th and am loving every minute of my time at Temple Jeremiah so far. Everyone has been so welcoming and helpful. I look forward to getting to know members of the congregation.



Stop by this summer and say "Hi" to Karen in the front office!

3

What does the "Joy of Belonging" mean to you?

The joy of belonging is knowing you don't have to hide who you are to be loved or respected. When you belong, you feel seen and valued.



Fun Fact: Karen can whistle like a bird and talk like Elmo. If you want to hear either, just ask!

4

What's your favorite Jewish food?

I would have to say that my favorite Jewish food is sweet noodle kugel...no raisins allowed.



5

What are your favorite things to do outside of work?

I love singing. Last year was my first year as a member of the BG Singers, a choir of around 70 people in Buffalo Grove. I am a tv-aholic...if it's a drama, I've probably seen it. I also enjoy watching my son in his many theater/choir performances.

Fun Fact: If Karen had her own late-night talk show, she would invite P!nk as her first guest. "She is the perfect combination of bold, honest, and deeply human. She is a total icon who would connect with everyone watching," Karen said.



A Special Bond Highlighted Through Volunteerism

Each year, we present *The Robert H. Goldberg Award* to a member that has volunteered their time for service to the Temple Jeremiah Community. This year, Hershy Pappadis received this award in honor of her dedication and contributions to Temple Jeremiah.

"I was so honored to receive the award as 'Volunteer of the Year,'" Hershy said. "I will carry the feelings that it gave me of love and gratitude forever."

The Robert H. Goldberg Award was created in 2013 in honor of Temple Jeremiah Founding Member and Past President Robert H. Goldberg, for which the award is named.

"Among the founding members of Temple Jeremiah, my parents, Bob and Irene "Babe" Goldberg, were always extremely active in countless volunteering activities throughout their long lives," said Jean (Goldberg) Young, daughter of Robert Goldberg. "My dad was incredibly touched and honored to have this award for service to the temple created in honor of his 100th birthday."

Pictured from left to right: Rabbi Cohen, Robert Goldberg, and Rabbi Schreiberman celebrating Robert's 100th birthday.



Rabbi Cohen presented the award to Hershy during Gratitude Shabbat on Friday, May 30th. "When there is an opportunity or a need for help, we can always count on Hershy. Not only does she volunteer, but she participates fully, bringing the gift of her spirit [to our community]," said Rabbi Cohen as he presented Hershy with the award. Jean was also in attendance to see the award, created in her father's honor, be presented.



What's more, Hershy and Jean are dear friends.

"I was so thrilled to be at this Shabbat service and to share in the joy of [Hershy] receiving this year's award," Jean added. "I know how extremely thrilled [my dad] would have been to know that my good friend was the recipient of this year's award. I only wish he could have known her and shared in her much deserved honor."

"It was very special to share this honor with the congregation, let alone a dear friend. Having Jean there made this recognition even more rewarding," Hershy added. **"Temple Jeremiah is such a family to me. It's where I feel comfort when sharing my time, and I hope to continue growing with all my wonderful family."**

Jean, along with her husband Bob, have been members since Rabbi Schreiberman married them 47 years ago. Hershy has been a member of Temple Jeremiah for nearly 25 years. Thank you, Hershy, for all you do! ★



Hershy (left) and Jean posing for a photo in front of Jean's dad's photo from 1967.



Gratitude Shabbat: A Joyful Celebration of Community

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Gratitude Shabbat! It was a joyful evening filled with appreciation for our volunteers, board members, donors, and Covenant Society members.

A highlight of the evening was the meaningful dedication of our new High Holy Day Torah mantles — an inspiring tribute to leaders who helped shape Temple Jeremiah.

Director of Philanthropy Leslie Landman described the mantles as "works of sacred art that embody the heart and history of Temple Jeremiah." Each cover is inscribed in tribute to those who have shaped our community, our founders, and our beloved leaders: Rabbi Allen Tarshish, z"l; Rabbi Robert Shreibman; Fern Kamen, FTA; Cantor Amy Zussman; Dr. Anne Lidsky; and Rabbi Paul Cohen.

Each mantle bears a Hebrew word from the powerful verse in the book of Jeremiah, our namesake prophet:

"Hashiveinu Adonai eilecha v'nashuvah, chadeish yameinu k'kedem."

"Turn us to You, Adonai, and we shall return; renew our days as of old."

Seven words. Seven mantles. Seven reminders that return and renewal are always possible. **"Together, these dedications weave the personal stories of our leaders into the spiritual fabric of our congregation,"** Leslie added.

In addition to dedicating our High Holy Day Torah mantles, we also honored outgoing board members, welcomed new ones, and recognized our incredible members and volunteers. ★

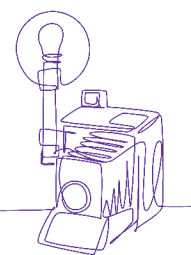


Temple Jeremiah's 2025-2026 Board



ICYMI...

(In Case You Missed It)



Rick Recht Returns to Jeremiah

On Sunday, May 4th, Rick Recht once again filled our sanctuary with music and brought J-Quest students to their feet. Each grade had the opportunity to sing alongside Rick on the bima, and this year, students were able to accompany Rick with their own instruments!



Confirmation Class of 5785

On Friday, May 16th, Shabbat worship was led by our Confirmation Class of 5785. Families, friends, and congregants were invited to share in the excitement of this significant milestone for our students. Mazel Tov!

Zoe Eliscu

child of

Jessica & Joshua Eliscu

Dana Morgen

child of

Marla & Allen Morgen

Annabel Glasser

child of

Katherine & Adam Glasser

Ella Marks

child of

Erica & Alexander Marks

Sammy Feldman

child of

Melissa & Chad Feldman





J-Quest Family Celebration

Prizes! Bingo! Pizza! Brotherhood sponsored a family-friendly celebration on Sunday, May 18th following our last day of J-Quest for the 2024-2025 school year.



Buffalo Grove Pride Parade

Several TJ members got together on Sunday, June 1st to celebrate "the magic of pride" at the Buffalo Grove Pride Parade. Rabbi Rachel and Cantor Lianna joined the fun, too! Reflecting on this experience, Rabbi Rachel stated:

"In a world that often struggles with acceptance and celebration of LGBTQIA+ people, Reform Judaism and our Temple Jeremiah community have taken on the sacred task of affirming that all individuals are created b'tzelem Elohim, in the image of God. And we are not alone in our commitment to full inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals in all aspects of Jewish life. To see synagogues and organizations celebrating Pride together is to see the intention to keep Judaism, divinity, and community open and available to all."

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.

Creative Arts Shabbaton

On Saturday, May 31st, we held our first-ever Creative Arts Shabbaton, a full day of prayer, learning, creativity, and compassion. This meaningful Shabbat included Tefilah, Torah Study, a Feed the Hungry Packing Party, a Mussar Session with Rabbi Cohen, a catered lunch, and a Project Linus Craft Project. The day was filled with spiritual growth, artistic expression, and acts of loving kindness.



ICYMI...

(Continued)



Greater Chicago Jewish Festival

On Sunday, June 8th, Rabbi Cohen and several TJ members met up at the Greater Chicago Jewish Festival where they enjoyed art and food fairs, music, dancing, and more! Kol Zimrah also performed, featuring several members from the TJ Adult Choir.



Inclusion Garden Party

It was a lovely day for a garden party on Saturday, June 7th, when people of all abilities and their families were invited to join the inclusion committee to celebrate the start of summer! Attendees enjoyed painting, planting, singing, and snacking together before the program concluded with Havdallah. Stop by Temple Jeremiah and visit our "Inclusion Garden" to see all the beautiful flowers and painted rocks.



Mazel Tov!

On Celebrating a Milestone Birthday

- Josh Kadish; July 2nd
- Cindy Miller; July 2nd
- Ellen Kaplan; July 3rd
- David Blum; July 10th
- Debbie Holzman; July 10th
- Jake Silverstein; July 12th
- Debbie Millman; July 13th
- Ami Denenberg; July 15th
- Aileen Blum; July 17th
- Shari Sacks; July 17th
- Anne Kaplan; July 19th
- Larry Zall; July 19th
- Jane Braun; July 20th
- Linda Stewart; July 21st
- Jeff Meisles; July 23rd
- Terry Belian; July 31st
- Lauren Edwards; July 31st
- Diana Kaufmann; August 3rd
- Rob Salkin; August 4th
- Mel Rodas; August 4th
- Bob Wilneff; August 5th
- Brett Goldberg; August 6th
- Mikey Beslow; August 13th
- Nick Jones; August 14th
- Howard Lanznar; August 15th
- Erik Friedman; August 19th
- Michael Revello; August 19th
- Jerry Wolf; August 20th
- Lisa Fishbain; August 21st
- Scott Rubin; August 22nd
- Fred Lurie; August 25th
- Peter Jacobson; August 26th
- Holly Rubin; August 29th
- Neil Benjamin; August 30th
- Alissa Wisniewski; August 30th



On Celebrating a Milestone Anniversary

- Arlene and Steve Drucker; 55 years
- Carlos and Sandra Frum; 55 years
- Ken and Barbara Kaufman; 55 years
- Judith and Robert Smoller; 55 years
- Michael and Andi Srulovitz; 55 years
- Brad and Judy Gordon; 45 years
- Jamie and Bruce Hague; 45 years
- Jessica and Stephen Schar; 45 years
- Peter and Sally Spero; 45 years
- Brian and Gail Kayman; 35 years
- Robbie and Rhonda Ball; 30 years
- Scott and Julie Gertz; 30 years
- Alex and Julie Gordon; 30 years
- Andrea and Daniel Brown; 25 years
- Lisa and Bradley Buchanan; 25 years
- Geoff and Ellie Mogilner; 25 years
- Cantor Amy Zussman and David Fell; 20 years
- Julie and Brian Siedband; 20 years
- Patricia and Neal Gainsberg; 15 years
- Matt and Carly Levenson; 15 years
- Melissa and Aaron Friedman; 10 years
- Carrie and Brandon Glick; 10 years
- Lindsay and Chris Trapani; 10 years



On Becoming a B'nai Mitzvah

- Gabriel Ryan Jacobs; August 16th. Gabriel's parents are Marc and Vanessa Jacobs.
- Reese Sophia Friedman; August 30th. Reese's parents are Jeremy and Marcie Friedman.



COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

Social Justice & Advocacy

Antisemitism Platform

It's not news to anyone that antisemitism is on the rise. Even before October 7th, the increase in acts of hatred against Jews had escalated to unfathomable numbers. As Jews, as a congregation, and as a community, the times call for us to raise our voices and work together to address the scourge of antisemitism.

In this effort, an Antisemitism Platform has recently been added to the work of the Social Justice Committee. To support this platform, we will be undertaking specific actions and offering a series of programming.

The ADL Midwest Signature Synagogue Program

This affiliation will give TJ access to all ADL research, programming, seminars, events, and training. Rachel Hirsh, Ph.D., Senior Associate Regional Director, will be our partner and primary facilitator of a series of training sessions for students and congregants.



ADL Words to Action Training Series

In the coming year, we will be offering training sessions designed to deepen understanding, build skills, and inspire action in the face of antisemitism. There will be two tailored tracks: one for students and one for adult congregants. (Note: all sessions are open to all congregants).

The student track for middle schoolers includes the following topics (dates TBA):

- Session 1: Joys of Judaism, State of Antisemitism
- Session 2: Antisemitism/Anti-Zionism, Championing Justice
- Session 3: Championing Justice II, Capstone Project Introduction
- Session 4: Capstone Project

The adult track will be on Sunday mornings (dates TBA) and will feature the following topics:

- Session 1: Antisemitism on Campus
- Session 2: Horseshoe Theory
- Session 3: Advocacy
- Session 4: Reaching Out

Advocacy Efforts

There are currently several bills under consideration in the Illinois Statehouse designed to address antisemitism. When the legislature is in session, we will notify the congregation of specific steps that can be taken (phone bank, send emails, etc.) to help ensure passage of this crucial legislation.

9,354

Total antisemitic
incidents reported in
the U.S. in 2024*

**This is the highest level ever recorded in the 46-year history of ADL's Audit of Antisemitic Incidents.*

Outreach Opportunities

How do we connect with non-Jews in a manner to foster more positive relationships? Working as individuals and along with community partners, we will be offering activities designed to build bridges. Examples include:

- Shabbat on the Block
- Jewish-themed books for Book Clubs
- Inviting non-Jewish friends or co-workers for a holiday dinner
- Community-wide Seder
- Partnership with local churches/organizations on Mitzvah projects

Book Discussion: "Our Nazi: An American Suburb's Encounter with Evil" by Michael Soffer

Sunday, November 9th at 9:30 a.m.

Author Michael Soffer will discuss his community's response to the revelation of a former Nazi Guard working as a custodian at Oak Park/River Forest High School. He will explore community tensions and the moral dilemma raised by the disclosure as well as how and why onetime Nazis found allies in American communities.

We are making a congregation-wide commitment to challenge antisemitism and hate through education, engagement, advocacy and action. Details will be forthcoming in our monthly Social Justice newsletters, and we hope you will join us. As Rabbi Cohen has stated, **"We must name antisemitism when we see it and confront it without fear."**

Antisemitism Platform

Antisemitism, as a Temple Jeremiah Advocacy Platform, holds that we believe and support:

- Jews should be treated with dignity and respect.
- It is wrong to stereotype, discriminate against, or hate Jews.
- Government officials should not establish a national religion or favor one religion over another.
- Educating and making all people aware of the positive effects of Jews as individuals and collectively on society will reduce antisemitism.

The Facts

40%

of Jewish adults avoided wearing, carrying, or displaying things that might help identify them as Jewish in 2024. (AJC)

35%

of U.S. adults are very likely to speak up on behalf of a Jewish person experiencing hostility or prejudice. (FCAS Survey)

62%

of U.S. Jews enjoy sharing Jewish culture and holidays with their non-Jewish friends, helping to foster understanding and connection. (Pew Research)

69%

of Jewish adults report experiencing antisemitism online or on social media. This number grows to 83% among young Jewish adults. (AJC)

56%

of American Jews say they altered their behavior out of fear of antisemitism in 2024. (AJC)



REPORT HATE CRIMES

The Cook County Sheriff's Office has a 24/7 Hate Crime Tip hotline. Please report concerns or related information on hate crimes to:

773-674-HELP (4357)

To access an online Hate Crime Tip Form, please visit our website:
cookcountysheriffil.gov/hate-crime-tip-form/

Social Justice & Advocacy Cont.

Feed the Hungry

During the summer, FTH is "Drop-Off & Delivery only," which 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 (**July 6th, August 3rd, and September 7th**). You can also help us deliver the lunches. Please drop off your lunches by **9:00 a.m.** Questions? Please contact Mindy Kurtz (cupermom@aol.com). To sign up, visit tinyurl.com/FTH2425.

Our next FTH Packing Party is Friday, August 1st at 5:45 p.m., prior to Kabbalat Shabbat. We will have everything we need to make 150 lunches; you just need to show up (and bring some friends)! 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).

Help Us Help Others

Temple Jeremiah's Social Justice Committee is here to help you get involved in giving back! If you have any ideas for additional social action programs and advocacy platforms, please contact Dana Garbarski (dana.garbarski@gmail.com).

Receive Advocacy Alerts

If you are interested in receiving Advocacy Updates via text messages, please scan the QR code. If you have questions about our social advocacy platforms, contact Nancy Eisenberg (nleslp@aol.com), Barb Miller, or Jill Patano.



Acknowledgements

IN SUPPORT OF

Temple Jeremiah Annual Fund
-Randi and Jim Mayer

IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Paul Cohen
-Geri and Michael Greenberg
-June Mayor and Ronald Kaplan

Charlotte Rose Cogan
Granddaughter of Deborah and Michael Cogan, on the occasion of her birth
-Karen Gitles and Michael Jablo

Danny Glassman
-Kay and Bart Gordon

Randi and Charles Gurian
-Shelly Trilling

Lori Kash
For her many years of dedicated service supporting Whittier School
-Dana Garbarski and Daniel Weisman

Hershy Pappadis
On the occasion of her receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award
-Liz Trager-Mendel and Scott Mendel

Matt Rissien
For helping with Sam Robbin's Bar Mitzvah
-Aaron and Anne Robbin

Cantor Amy Zussman
-June Mayor and Ronald Kaplan
-Renee Klass

IN HONOR OF

Georgia Basofin
Daughter of Jonathan and Alison Basofin, on the occasion of her becoming a Bat Mitzvah
-Jonathan and Alison Basofin

Robin and Jon Lavin
-Elan Adler and Bill Johnson

Judy Lazar
On the occasion of her special birthday
-Judy Lazar

Evan Loewy
Son of Alan and Jennifer Loewy, on the occasion of him becoming a Bar Mitzvah
- Alan and Jennifer Loewy

Robbie Patterson
Son of Alisa and Scott Patterson, on the occasion of his marriage to Jennifer Warren
-Alisa and Scott Patterson

Jacob Rogers
Son of Alissa and David Rogers, on the occasion of him becoming a Bar Mitzvah
-Caren Brown

Brooke Rosenberg
Daughter of Adam and Melissa Rosenberg, on the occasion of her becoming a Bat Mitzvah
-Adam and Melissa Rosenberg

Emmy Rothschild
On the occasion of her special birthday
-Sarah Rothschild

Vicki Weisenberg
On the occasion of her special birthday
-Trudy Bers
-Myrna and Cary Goldberg
-Kris and Ken Gorenberg
-Randi and Charles Gurian
-Emmy Rothschild

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-The Liebman and Schoenberg Families

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-Kevin Apter and Sherri Laurens

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-Sandra Marks

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uncle of David Brenner and Judy
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-Amy and Scott Levin
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-Jerry and Jan Wolf

Bessie Zaiken

Mother of Phyllis Klapman
-Phyllis and Jim Klapman

FOR THE SPEEDY RECOVERY OF

Jerry Lidsky

-Joan Golder
-Charles and Randi Gurian
-Jamie and Bruce Hague
-Liz Trager-Mendel and Scott
Mendel
-Shelly Trilling

WALL OF LIFE

In honor of
Carole Bellows'
90th Birthday
May 24, 2025



Thank You!

*Donations received and processed
after May 31st that are not listed
above, will appear in the next issue of
the *Covenant*.

Donate

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.

For questions about
Hall of Remembrance
plaques or Wall of Life
leaves, please contact
Leslie Landman
(leslie@templejeremiah.org).



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Visit us at templejeremiah.org



Temple Jeremiah is committed to being accessible and inclusive for all of its members and for the community. We welcome people of all ages, races, genders, sexual orientations, and abilities. Temple Jeremiah welcomes you as you are.

Contains Dated Material

Summer Checklist

- ☐ Renew Membership
- ☐ Update contact information in ShulCloud
- ☐ Register for J-Quest
- ☐ Enjoy TJ's new patio during Shabbat
- ☐ Follow TJ on social media
- ☐ Stop by and say hi!
- ☐ RSVP for Summer Events

Dates and times are subject to change. Visit our calendar for the most up-to-date information.