

The Covenant

MAY/JUNE 2026 • VOLUME 69 • ISSUE 3



Temple
Jeremiah
The Joy of Belonging



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PURIM 2026!

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Editor's Note

MEREDITH LEVINSON
Communications Coordinator
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It's almost time for another Jeremiah summer, but first, we have a ton of events happening in May and June! We will continue to celebrate Rabbi Cohen with a Family-Friendly Block Party on May 17th; a Shabbat service on May 29th; and L'Chaim on the Porch, an evening of dinner and bluegrass music on May 30th. If you weren't already excited, you can read about Rabbi Cohen's career and legacy with Temple Jeremiah on page 6 to understand the many reasons we look forward to honoring him.

As the J-Quest year comes to a close, I encourage you to read about J-Quest March Madness on page 10. It was truly one of the coolest programs I've seen in my nearly five years at Jeremiah. I saw firsthand the hard work that was put in to making it all happen, as well as the excitement from students and staff. As Rabbi Debbie put it in her article, "J-Quest March Madness was more than a game. It was a celebration of Jewish culture, language, and community."

This issue reflects on our successes from the first quarter of the year, as well as looks ahead to the next couple months. There is information about upcoming events sprinkled in throughout the pages, so please read carefully as to not miss anything. I hope you enjoy our May/June issue, and I can't wait to continue sharing with you all the great things happening at Temple Jeremiah!

Meredith

TORAH PORTIONS



MAY

May 2nd	Emor	Leviticus 21:1-24:23
May 9th	B'har-B'chukotai	Leviticus 25:1-27:34
May 16th	B'midbar	Numbers 1:1-4:20
May 23rd	Naso	Numbers 4:21-7:89
May 30th	B'haalot'cha	Numbers 8:1-12:16

JUNE

June 6th	Sh'lach L'cha	Numbers 13:1-15:41
June 13th	Korach	Numbers 16:1-18:32
June 20th	Chukat	Numbers 19:1-22:1
June 27th	Balak	Numbers 22:2-25:9

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MAY EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Temple Jeremiah

You're invited to celebrate our

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 5786

Please join us on **Saturday, May 9th at 5:30 p.m.** for a worship service led by our Confirmation Class of 5786, followed by dinner. We invite families, friends, and congregants to share in the excitement of this significant milestone for our students.

RSVP: TINYURL.COM/CONFIRMATIONDINNER2026

MAZEL TOV!

LYLA KAHN CHILD OF JENNIFER & LEONARD KAHN	JILLIAN LEFTEROFF CHILD OF LINDSAY KOREY LEFTEROFF & LEWIS LEFTEROFF
REBECCA LICHTMAN CHILD OF BARI & HERBERT LICHTMAN	ZOEY MELAM CHILD OF CARRIE & DAVID MELAM
ALEX NIERMAN CHILD OF DEBORAH BEERMAN & JASON NIERMAN	ELISE ROTHSTEIN CHILD OF ALLISON & MICHAEL ROTHSTEIN
JONAH WINER CHILD OF RACHEL & RICHARD WINER	

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



More upcoming events are featured throughout this issue.

Stitch & Schmooze

The first and third Fridays of each month @ 10:00 a.m.

Block Party Celebrating Rabbi Cohen

Sunday, May 17th @ 10:00 a.m.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Service

Saturday, May 23rd @ 11:00 a.m.

Chat & Chew Presents: Carl Laemmle

Tuesday, May 26th @ 12:00 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat Honoring Rabbi Cohen

Friday, May 29th @ 6:30 p.m.

L'Chaim on the Porch

Saturday, May 30th @ 5:30 p.m.

Office Closures

Friday, May 22nd - Shavuot

Monday, May 25th - Memorial Day

More upcoming events are featured throughout this issue! Contact meredith@templejeremiah.org to sign up for our monthly **Adult and Youth/Family** Programming emails.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Feed the Hungry

Feed the Hungry (FTH) will take place in its regular format on **Sunday, May 3rd**. Please drop off your lunches by 9:00 a.m. FTH ***Drop Off Only*** will take place on **Sunday, June 7th**. ****DIETARY CHANGE**** Moving forward, any lunches you drop off must be pork free. You can use turkey bologna or regular turkey (vs. regular bologna). Questions? Please contact Mindy Kurtz (cupermom@aol.com). To sign up, visit tinyurl.com/FTH2526.

Feed the Hungry Packing Party

Want to do some good with other temple members? Please join us for a Feed the Hungry Packing Party on **Friday, June 5th at 6:00 p.m.**! We will have everything we need to make 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). As always, we are grateful for any lunches you drop off.

Stick around after the packing party on Friday, June 5th for Kabbalat Shabbat services at 6:30 p.m. followed by Shabbat dinner! All are welcome to attend. Register for dinner through our calendar.

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, Barb Miller, or Jill Patano.



CANTOR LIANNA MENDELSON

cantormendelson@templejeremiah.org

Compassion and Complexity

One of our most enduring and frequently told stories in Judaism is the Exodus from Egypt. It shows up in our daily liturgy, is the featured drama of the Passover Seder, and when we read it as the weekly parasha, we celebrate Shabbat Shirah. We often celebrate the Exodus as a moment of freedom and triumph, and it is. But how often do we pause to consider the darker side of this story?

The Hebrews were trapped in brutal slavery for 430 years. They had just witnessed ten terrifying plagues. And now, finally, just when they think they are free, they are pursued by the Egyptian army to the edge of the sea. With one more miracle, the sea splits open, and they cross to the other side. When the army tries to follow, the waters crash down, drowning the pursuers. The Hebrews sing in joy with the song that entered our liturgy as *Mi Chamocha*.

And yet, our tradition complicates that moment of celebration.

In the Talmud, *Mishnah Sanhedrin* 39b, the angels attempt to join in the triumphal singing. “At that time, the angels asked to sing a song in celebration before the Holy Blessed One. The Holy Blessed One said to them: ‘My handiwork are drowning in the sea, and you want to sing before Me?!’” God rebukes them. The Egyptians, too, are God’s children. While they had been harsh masters, they were still human beings, and their deaths remain a tragedy.

The Hebrews had undoubtedly suffered under slavery—but the Egyptians, too, had suffered under the plagues. This story invites us to exercise the muscle of compassion—*rachamim*—to see the humanity and acknowledge the suffering, even of those we might be in opposition with.

And yet, compassion is not always simple.

Mussar teaches that all our attributes must find their balance point. Compassion traditionally is balanced with judgement. These must be practiced with awareness and discernment, not allowing our judgement to override our compassion or our compassion to override our judgements. It is not a reflex, but a discipline—one that asks us to pay attention to the full humanity of others, even in moments when it is difficult or uncomfortable. The Exodus story itself models this tension: a moment of liberation that does not erase the reality of loss.

This is part of what makes compassion so demanding. It asks us to hold complexity rather than resolve it. To celebrate freedom while still recognizing suffering. To resist the ease of dividing the world into clear categories of good and evil, deserving and undeserving.

In a world that often pushes us toward certainty and simplification, this kind of moral attentiveness matters. Without it, we risk becoming closed off—unable or unwilling to see beyond our own perspective. Compassion reopens that space. It asks us to remain responsive, to stay human in the face of what is painful or challenging.

As Anantanand Rambachan writes in *American Values, Religious Voices*, “Power without compassion is destructive and becomes ethically and spiritually debilitating.” Jewish tradition has long understood this truth. Without compassion, strength can harden into indifference, and conviction can lose its moral center.

The Israelites stood at the sea and sang *Mi Chamocha*—a song of gratitude and awe. Our tradition preserves that song, but it also preserves the teaching that accompanies it: that even in moments of triumph, there is loss; even in liberation, there is complexity.

To live with compassion is to hold both truths at once.

Like the Israelites at the sea, we are called to respond to the moments before us. May we learn not only to sing in celebration, but also to remain aware of the humanity that surrounds us—even when it is hardest to see. ✨

Cantor Lianna

Leopoldstadt Learning and Performance

Join Cantor Lianna for an adult learning session on Wednesday, June 3rd, at 7:00 p.m. ahead of a performance of *Leopoldstadt* at the Writers Theatre in Glencoe on Wednesday, June 10th, at 7:30 p.m. Keep an eye out for more information!



Strengthening Our Future: Important Clergy Updates



STEVE KLEIMAN

Temple Jeremiah President
skleiman@zazove.com

We are excited to share the wonderful news that Rabbi Ben Rosen will be joining our Temple Jeremiah community as our new Associate Rabbi. Rabbi Rosen was ordained at Hebrew Union College after earning his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science at The Ohio State University. He is currently an Assistant Rabbi at Temple Beth Elohim in the Boston suburb of Wellesley. Rabbi Rosen has had great success in building relationships, leading worship and Torah study, and, as Director of Havayah, reenvisioning the teen program cultivating a culture of belonging and sustained engagement. He brings warmth and passion to his work that will enrich our Temple Jeremiah community.

Our Board of Directors unanimously approved the recommendation of Rabbi Cohen, Rabbi Heaps, and the Clergy Search Committee. We are deeply grateful to Ross Wolfson who chaired our Clergy Search Committee, as well as each of the members of the Committee. Along with myself and Rabbi Heaps, the Clergy Search Committee includes Executive Vice President Avi Greenfield, Ruth Adler, Eric Chern, Mara Franken, Mandy Frost, Mari Greenberger, Marla Morgen, and Al Slutsky.

We couldn't be happier to welcome Rabbi Rosen to our community. We will be providing additional information about opportunities for you to meet him before and after his July 1st start date. ★

Stay Informed by Attending Temple Jeremiah's Annual Meeting

Pre Annual Meeting Social

Monday, May 18th @ 6:15 p.m.

Annual Meeting

Monday, May 18th @ 7:00 p.m.



RABBI BEN ROSEN

Associate Rabbi
rabbirosen@templejeremiah.org

In Judaism, beginnings are sacred moments. Beginnings invite us to pause – to take a breath, to honor where we have been, and to express gratitude for having reached this moment. As I prepare to join Temple Jeremiah as your Associate Rabbi on July 1st, I find myself doing just that – pausing with deep appreciation for the incredible opportunity to serve this community and all who call it home.

From the very start, what stood out to me about Temple Jeremiah was the way that people show up for one another – with care, authenticity, and a whole lot of joy! I could not be more excited to be a part of this community and look forward to learning and growing alongside each of you.

My wife, Tess, daughter, Lilah, and I are incredibly grateful for the welcome already extended to us, and we cannot wait to begin this next chapter at Temple Jeremiah. ★



RABBI PAUL COHEN

rabbi@templejeremiah.org

It fills my heart with deep joy to join with Steve and Rabbi Heaps in sharing this wonderful news with you. On July 1st, we will welcome Rabbi Ben Rosen as our new Associate Rabbi at Temple Jeremiah, and I truly could not be more excited.

From the very first time we met, I felt in Rabbi Rosen a rare and beautiful combination of warmth, wisdom, and genuine presence. He carries a deep love of Judaism and people, and that sacred blend is something you feel immediately in his spirit. I was also moved by how naturally he connected with our incredible team, Rabbi Heaps, Cantor Mendelson, Matt Rissien, and Danny Glassman. There was an ease and shared sense of values that felt less like an introduction and more like a homecoming.

I am confident that Rabbi Rosen will be a perfect complement to our clergy and staff led by Rabbi Heaps, and a true gift to our community. I cannot wait for you to meet him, and to get to know his wife, Tess, and their daughter, Lilah, as they begin this new chapter with us. ★



MEREDITH LEVINSON
Communications Coordinator
meredith@templejeremiah.org

Honoring Rabbi Cohen & His Legacy with Temple Jeremiah

Since 2000, Rabbi Paul Cohen has been a pillar of Temple Jeremiah. Whether you have known him from the beginning of his career here, or you're a newer member, you have no doubt heard about the impact on and dedication to our community that Rabbi Cohen has shown over his nearly 26 years here. As he prepares to move into his new role of Rabbi Emeritus and Senior Scholar, let's reflect on his journey.

An Early Zest for Learning

A Chicago native, Rabbi Cohen considers his profession meaningful because so much of what he does involves teaching and learning. He enjoys creating moments of connection at Temple Jeremiah by teaching in both informal and formal settings, and through "just living life."



This mindset isn't new; Rabbi Cohen has always put an emphasis on education and learning opportunities, including his own. Before his time at Jeremiah, Rabbi Cohen earned a bachelor's degree from Grinnell College in Iowa, where he studied biology and comparative religion. After college, Rabbi Cohen continued to feed his zest for learning by receiving his Master of Arts and rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio, which in 2015 awarded him a Doctor of Divinity honorary degree celebrating his 25 years in the rabbinate. While in Cincinnati, Rabbi Cohen met his wife, Cathy, and together, they moved to Norfolk, Virginia, where he served as the assistant and then associate rabbi of Ohel Sholom Temple.



Immediately prior to serving Temple Jeremiah, Rabbi Cohen was the spiritual leader of Congregation Bet Ha'am in South Portland, Maine. Additionally, Rabbi Cohen earned a Doctor of Ministry from the Bangor Theological Seminary in Bangor, Maine, in May 2001, and is also a graduate of the Kellogg Management Education for Jewish Leaders program at Northwestern University. And, in 2016, Rabbi Cohen became a Senior Rabbinic Fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem.

It is this commitment to personal growth and ethical living that has shaped so many of Rabbi Cohen's teachings, including his classic *Mussar* series. Rabbi Cohen has introduced countless members to the wisdom of *Mussar*, and will continue to do so as he moves into his role as Senior Scholar at Temple Jeremiah.



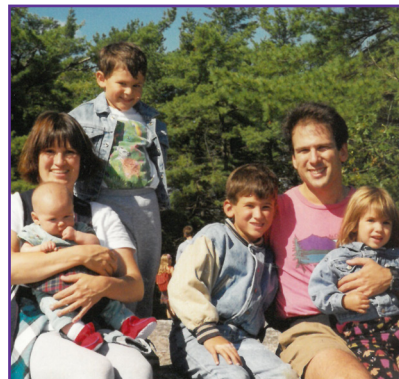
(left to right) Rabbi Paul Cohen, Executive Director Emerita Fern Kamen, Cantor Amy Zussman, and Diana Kaufmann at Rabbi Cohen's Installation Dinner in 2000.

Journey to Jeremiah

In 1999, after carefully reviewing the 35+ resumes sent to him by the Central Conference of American Rabbis for consideration in filling the soon-to-be-open position of Senior Rabbi at Temple Jeremiah, Congregant Joel Kaufmann felt Rabbi Cohen's resume was the most outstanding of the bunch.

Joel reflected on this time, saying, "*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. 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.*"

And so, Rabbi Cohen, his wife Cathy, and their four children, Jacob, Eli, Anna, and Hope, began to plant roots at Temple Jeremiah, quickly connecting with congregants, staff, and the community.



Tikkun Olam

Throughout his career, Rabbi Cohen has strived to help congregants feel deeply connected to community, Judaism, and Jewish life, and for each person to feel inspired to do *Tikkun Olam* — to make the world better for everyone. He strengthened this philosophy through years of taking on various social, economic, and political causes.

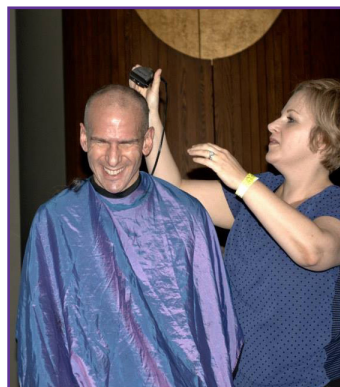


Active in both Brotherhood and our Social Justice Committee, Rabbi Cohen helped bring Maot Chitim to Temple Jeremiah, which creates an opportunity for congregants to help deliver pre-packed boxes of food to bring some joy to those in need. This partnership has grown over the years, and just this past March, volunteers delivered 125 boxes of food to approximately 100 families — a new record for the program.



Rabbi Cohen has also moderated conversations at the temple with leaders such as IL Gov. J.B. Pritzker and IL A.G. Kwame Raoul, focusing on topics of gun control and immigration, respectively. Politically and communally active, Rabbi Cohen has accepted invitations to offer testimony before state legislative committees and served on numerous community boards of directors, including as founding member of the Religious Coalition Against Discrimination; founding board member of Family Promise of Chicago North Shore; former president of the Chicago Board of Rabbis; and more.

Through his decades of rabbinical experience and community involvement, Rabbi Cohen has learned that “there’s always more to a story.” According to him, “Live your life from the perspective of abundance vs. scarcity. With scarcity, there’s always fear, and with abundance, there’s always possibility.”



The Joy of Belonging

Rabbi Cohen's profound impact on our Temple Jeremiah community is built on more than pastoral care, educational opportunities, and social action projects. He also understands the importance of authenticity and genuine connection.

Throughout his nearly 26 years here as Senior Rabbi, Rabbi Cohen has brought our members together through annual programs like our "Decades Luncheon," "Jews in Canoes," "Shushan Shuffle," and "New Member Breakfast" (where he is CHEF Rabbi Cohen!), embodying *the joy of belonging*.

Congregants Scott and Amy Levin reflected on this back in 2020, when Rabbi Cohen celebrated 20 years at Temple Jeremiah, saying, "*From the first moment we walked through the door as prospective members in 2006, we felt a connection. Since then, we have had two Bat Mitzvahs, two Confirmations, many dinners together, and an unforgettable trip to Israel. Your intelligence, integrity, story telling, and work ethic are all gifts to Temple Jeremiah and its community.*"

Temple Jeremiah is lucky to have had Rabbi Cohen as a source guidance, wisdom, and support over the past 26 years. Together, let's celebrate a leader whose influence continues to shape our congregation with heart, purpose, and intention. ★



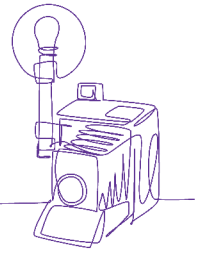
Celebrate Rabbi Cohen!
Kabbalat Shabbat Honoring Rabbi Cohen
Friday, May 29th @ 6:30 p.m.

L'Chaim on the Porch
Saturday, May 30th @ 5:30 p.m.

An evening of Dinner,
Bluegrass Music,
& Celebration in Honor of
Rabbi Cohen



(In Case You Missed It)



Purim 2026!

Sunday, March 1st was a big day at Temple Jeremiah! Thank you all for a fun and successful Purim. Whether you ran in the Shushan Shuffle, played carnival games, or volunteered your time and resources to help make it all happen, we are grateful to you! And, we are proud to share that we raised over \$10,000 in this year's Silent Auction!



Shushan Shuffle



Songs & Story of Purim



K'ilu Purim Adventure

Safari Purim Carnival



"Mag Mile Megillah"

On Monday, March 2nd, adults celebrated Purim with a Chicago-themed shpiel followed by trivia! Written by Jeremiahians and performed by our choir, this special Purim Shpiel tied the story of Purim to our home: Chicago. Of course, Portillo's was served!

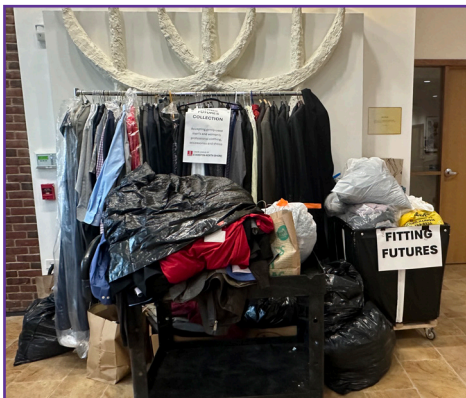


Passover 2026

On Saturday, April 4th, our Seder Committee hosted *A Passover Seder Luncheon for Everyone*, where members and friends enjoyed an interactive and festive Passover experience! Attendees also brought donations for Fitting Futures, which was a big success! Thank you to everyone who donated clothes to help this wonderful organization. The agency is delighted with the donations and we hope the new clothes will provide confidence to the women and men who will wear them as they reenter the work force.



A Passover Seder Luncheon for Everyone



Club 36 Chocolate Seder

Club 36 enjoyed a Chocolate Seder on Sunday, April 5th, where they learned about the Passover Seder traditions...but with a sweet twist!

AROUND J-QUEST



RABBI DEBBIE HELBRAUN
Hebrew Coordinator
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J-Quest March Madness!

This spring, J-Quest turned up the energy, the learning, and the *ruach* (spirit) with a program that brought Jewish vocabulary to life in a way our students won't soon forget: J-Quest March Madness.

Inspired by the excitement of the NCAA March Madness tournament, our *kehillah* transformed into arenas of friendly competition, where Jewish foods took center court and Hebrew language became the playbook. What started as a creative approach to vocabulary quickly became a full community experience, filled with cheering, spirited debate, and meaningful learning.

Each week, students were introduced to a new “matchup” of beloved Jewish foods, everything from challah to *sufganiyot*, pita to matzah ball soup. But this wasn't just about picking favorites. Our incredible *madrichim* led the charge, bringing each food to life through engaging lessons and interactive teaching. Using the “sandwich method” (English–Hebrew–Hebrew–English), they helped students build familiarity and confidence with each word, reinforcing both pronunciation and meaning in a way that felt natural and fun.



The ideas behind J-Quest March Madness were a collaboration between Rabbi Debbie and Danny Glassman, both seen here dressed as referees.

The energy grew week by week. What began as curiosity quickly turned into full-on enthusiasm, with students passionately cheering for their favorite foods and proudly using Hebrew words as they cast their votes. The sanctuary was filled with vibrant posters featuring both Hebrew and English, creating an immersive environment that reinforced learning at every turn. You could hear it in the building—students calling out “*sufganiyot*” or “*challah*” with excitement and ownership.



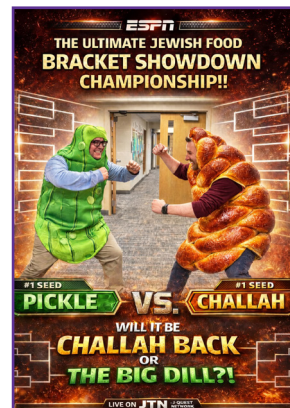
↪ *The Final Four: Pita (from the Israeli Foods bracket) vs. Pickle (from the Deli bracket) and Challah (from the Bubbie bracket) vs. Sufganiyot (from the Holiday bracket). Ask your student which food was the ultimate winner!*



One of the most powerful aspects of the program was its inclusivity. Every J-Quest student had a voice. Each week, the entire community participated in voting, deciding which foods would advance and which would be “eliminated.” This simple act of voting gave students a sense of ownership and investment in the process. They weren't just learning Hebrew, they were part of something bigger.

As the tournament progressed, so did the students' connection to the vocabulary. Repetition through excitement proved to be a powerful tool. By the time we reached the final rounds, students weren't just recognizing the words, they were using them confidently and joyfully.

J-Quest March Madness was more than a game. It was a celebration of Jewish culture, language, and community. It showed us that when learning is active, playful, and shared, it sticks. Most importantly, it reminded us that Jewish education can be filled with joy, creativity, and a whole lot of cheering.



We can't wait to see what takes the crown next year. ✨



As the 2025-2026 J-Quest year comes to a close, we want to share a few photos of what our students have recently accomplished!

"What's in a Name" Program

One of the highlights of our 3rd grade curriculum is our unit on Hebrew names. During this unit, students explore the Hebrew spelling of their names as well as the meaning and origin behind them. We culminated this learning with our special combined parent-student program and Hebrew Name Project, custom-created for each student, on Sunday, February 22nd.



7th & 8th Grade Tracks

Back in February, our 7th and 8th graders were fortunate to meet with a *soferet* — a female Jewish scribe who writes sacred texts such as Torah scrolls (*Sifrei Torah*), *mezuzot*, *tefillin*, and *Megillat Esther* (the Book of Esther). These holy texts must be handwritten in Hebrew on parchment (called *klaf*) using special ink and a quill, following very specific *halachic* (Jewish legal) guidelines. Students had the opportunity to see her work up close, examine a Torah scroll, and ask questions — a rare and exciting learning experience.



Then, on Sunday, March 8th, our 7th and 8th graders began their learning series on Israel led by educators from The iCenter, a leading organization dedicated to strengthening Israel education. During their first session, students heard from Dan Tatar, Interim CEO of The iCenter (and yes, he IS Mrs. Tatar's son as well!), as well as two of our community's teen *Shinshinim* (Israeli high school graduates who spend a year in North America serving as young Israeli ambassadors before entering the IDF).



L'Chaim!

Our 5th graders learned all about Jewish wedding traditions on Sunday, February 22nd, including what a *chuppah* is, the exchange of rings, and more!



2nd Grade Tzedakah Project

On Sunday, March 15th, J-Quest families with 2nd graders came together to create a meaningful *tzedakah* project.

SPOTLIGHT ON PHILANTHROPY



LESLIE LANDMAN
Director of Philanthropy
leslie@templejeremiah.org



A Lifetime of Connection—Meet Fern Kamen

I am continually inspired by the many ways our members connect to Temple Jeremiah—each story reflecting a unique journey of belonging, commitment, and community. This month, I am honored to introduce Fern Kamen, whose decades-long relationship with Temple Jeremiah reflects a lifetime of connection, leadership, and giving back.



Many longtime members know Fern from her years as Executive Director, where she was often the first to welcome congregants through the doors. For others, her story offers a meaningful window into the history and heart of our community.

Family, Beginnings, and Finding Temple Jeremiah



Fern and her husband, Michael, joined Temple Jeremiah when Rabbi Tarshish was leading the congregation. Like many families, they were looking for a place where their children could begin their Jewish education.

What they found was far more than they imagined. Temple Jeremiah became not just a place for their children to learn, but a community that would shape their family's life for generations—a place where they built lasting friendships, celebrated milestones, and created a shared Jewish life with other families. Over the years, their three children and all their grandchildren have celebrated their b'nai mitzvah and been confirmed at Temple Jeremiah—a testament to the roots they planted here so many years ago.

Fern's journey—from member, to Executive Director beginning with Rabbi Schreiber's tenure, and back to member in 2011—has been guided by a simple philosophy: wanting for others what she wanted for her own family, and doing whatever she can to help make that possible.

She approached her work with creativity and care—finding ways to bring people into the community while also developing new sources of support to sustain it. From innovative programming to welcoming members by name, Fern helped create a culture where people felt seen, valued, and connected.

When Fern was offered the role of Executive Director, Michael was serving as a Vice President on the temple's Board. He stepped down so she could take on this pivotal role—an example of their shared commitment to Temple Jeremiah.

Dedicated to Today and Tomorrow

When I called Fern to ask if she would consider joining the Development Committee, she asked for a few days to think about it. My phone rang no more than a minute later with a resounding “Yes!”

For Fern, joining the committee wasn't really a decision—it was a continuation of her ongoing commitment to give back to a community that has meant so much to her and her family. She is deeply motivated to help ensure that Temple Jeremiah continues to thrive, so that others have the opportunity to experience the same sense of connection.

Fern brings a unique and invaluable perspective to our committee. She understands both the relational side of temple life and the operational side—having not only served as Executive Director, but also expanded her expertise through training and leadership, earning a Fellowship in Temple Administration certification from the National Association of Temple Administrators (NATA), where she served as a two-term president. That legacy of leadership continues at Temple Jeremiah today, where our Executive Director, Danny Glassman, serves as a Vice President on the NATA board.

Her deep knowledge of Temple Jeremiah, spanning decades, is especially meaningful. She remembers the early years, when membership was small and financial resources were limited—and the creativity and determination it took to build the strong, vibrant community we know today.

She shared that she said yes because she felt she had something to offer—the reality is, we have so much to gain.

As Executive Director, Fern secured a partnership with a local bridge group—creating a steady rental income stream that continues to support the temple today.

Fern's story is a powerful reminder that sustaining Temple Jeremiah is not just about today—it's about ensuring that future generations can build the same connections that have shaped so many lives.

The Impact She Hopes to See

Fern believes deeply in the importance of participation, connection, and sustaining the temple so that it remains a place where people can build relationships, celebrate Jewish life, and find meaning.

At the heart of her perspective is a simple but powerful hope: that others will discover what she describes as the “magic” of Temple Jeremiah—a feeling of connection, community, and shared experience that endures over time.

Fern and Michael were among the first congregants to dedicate leaves on our Wall of Life, marking meaningful milestones in their family's journey.



Join Us in Supporting Temple Jeremiah

Philanthropy is more than donations—it is the lifeblood of our community. This year, approximately 10% of our annual operating budget relies on contributions beyond our members' annual community commitments.

Your support ensures that Temple Jeremiah continues to be a vibrant center for Reform Jewish life—for worship, music, education, social justice, and community programs. It sustains our talented clergy and staff, maintains our beautiful building, and enables meaningful experiences for every member, today and for generations to come.

With your participation, we can continue to grow our programs, deepen connections, and create moments of joy that bring our community together. Every gift, big or small, makes a real difference.

For more information about ways to support Temple Jeremiah, please contact Leslie at leslie@templejeremiah.org.

Please see our webpage for more details about our budget and feel free to contact Danny Glassman at daniel@templejeremiah.org with any questions. ✨



JUNE EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Aging with Aliveness: A Jewish Journey Through Mindset, Meaning, and Essence
Wednesdays, June 3rd, 17th, & 24th at 12:00 p.m.

Inclusion Garden Party and Havdallah
Saturday, June 6th @ 4:00 p.m.

Buffalo Grove Pride Parade Meet Up 
Sunday, June 7th @ 11:00 a.m.

Mussar at the Garden with Rabbi Cohen
Tuesday, June 16th @ 11:00 a.m.

Trivia at Ridgeville Tavern (Evanston)
Wednesday, June 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Chat & Chew Presents: David Baddiel: Jews Don't Count
Tuesday, June 23rd @ 12:00 p.m.

Grill House "Fun-Raiser"
Tuesday, June 23rd @ 5:00 p.m.

Pride Shabbat 
Friday, June 26th @ 6:30 p.m.

Stitch & Schmooze
The first and third Fridays of each month @ 10:00 a.m.

Celebrate Community!

Please join us for a joyful evening as we come together for our **Gratitude Shabbat** service on **Friday, June 12th at 6:30 p.m.**, celebrating another incredible year in the life of our Jeremiah community. As we welcome Shabbat, we will also join in gratitude—thanking outgoing board members, welcoming new leadership, and celebrating members whose generosity has gone above and beyond their annual commitment, along with our Covenant Society members.

Let's fill the sanctuary with gratitude, celebration, and community spirit! A festive oneg will follow the service—a chance to continue gathering, connecting, and being together.

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



More upcoming events are featured throughout this issue.

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BROTHERHOOD

Here are just a few of the recent events that our Brotherhood has hosted, participated in, and/or sponsored!

Don't miss out — Friday, June 5th is our annual Shabbat service and dinner led by Brotherhood! All are welcome to attend.

Bourbon Tasting Night

Hosted by Brotherhood's own Ross Wolfson on Wednesday, February 25th, Jeremiah men got together to sample a variety of bourbon choices, from mild to complex, while analyzing each one's character.



Men's Night Out

On Thursday, March 19th, Temple Jeremiah men got together at Buffalo Wild Wings in Northbrook to enjoy dinner and watch March Madness basketball games!

Maot Chitim

On Sunday, March 22nd, Brotherhood once again sponsored Maot Chitim Food Delivery and helped deliver pre-packed boxes of Passover food to bring some joy to those in need. Congregants Jim Weiss and Michael Crane led the charge this year, recruiting 25 volunteers who helped **deliver 125 boxes of food to approximately 100 families — a new record!**



SISTERHOOD BOOK CLUB

May Going Home

By Tom Lamont

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

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

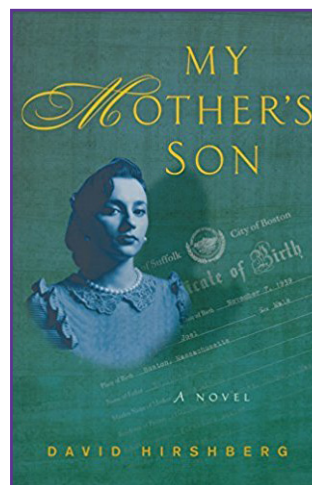
June My Mother's Son

By David Hirshberg

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



Going Home is a sparkling, funny, bighearted story of family and what happens when three men—all of whom are completely ill-suited for fatherhood—take charge of a toddler following an unexpected loss. Wise, relatable, and blissfully laugh-out-loud funny, *Going Home* is a captivating first novel that explores the mysterious ways children can force us to grow up fast while simultaneously keeping us young forever.



My Mother's Son is a story told by a radio raconteur revisiting his past in post-World War II Boston, the playground and battleground for two brothers whose lives are transformed by discoveries they never could have imagined. From the opening line of the book, the stage is set for this riveting coming-of-age story that plays out against the backdrop of the Korean War, the aftermath of the Holocaust, the polio epidemic, the relocation of a baseball team, and the shenanigans of politicians and businessmen.

MAZEL TOV!

On Celebrating a Milestone Birthday

Bennett Garfield; May 2nd.
Lisa Aronson; May 2nd.
Michele Youngerman; May 3rd.
Julie Weinberg; May 3rd.
Carol Hirschfield; May 4th.
Rick Hirschhaut; May 5th.
Julie Walden; May 6th.
Steve Schwartz; May 6th.
Josh Winer; May 7th.
Marc Eisenberg; May 8th.
Jeff Youngerman; May 8th.
Evan Schoenberg; May 8th.
Joel Africk; May 8th.
Ilene Meyer; May 9th.
Michael Rothstein; May 14th.
Jackie Krause; May 14th.
Gregg Fisher; May 15th.
Andy Rubin; May 15th.
Cathy Cohen; May 15th.
Ron Hamu; May 17th.
Nancy Weil; May 22nd.
Bobbie Katz; May 22nd.
Janice Weinstein; May 24th.
Lisa Seidenberg; May 26th.

Jennie Berk; May 26th.
Laura Elster; May 28th.
Richard Saldinger; May 30th.
Susan Berg; May 30th.
David Ellis; May 30th.
Michael Cogan; May 30th.
Dean Chalmers; June 1st.
Peter Wolff; June 2nd.
Brad Block; June 2nd.
Alison Small; June 2nd.
Howard Rosenberg; June 3rd.
Ron Schwartz; June 5th.
Daniel Shevrin; June 10th.
Hershy Pappadis; June 10th.
Andrea Kaplan; June 12th.
Mike Silverman; June 12th.
Bernie Weinstein; June 13th.
Jackie Eisenberg; June 16th.
Jessica Wasserman; June 20th.
Brian Silver; June 25th.
Barry Slade; June 25th.
Jenny Kahn; June 28th.
Robbie Ball; June 29th.
Gail Belian; June 30th.

On Becoming a B'nai Mitzvah

Daniel Isaiah Albrecht; May 2nd. Daniel's parents are Ron Albrecht II and Allyson Jacobson Albrecht.
Brayden Lucas Persky; May 9th. Brayden's parents are Sara and Lane Persky.
Ryan Harper Bazer; May 9th. Ryan's parents are Beth and Adam Bazer.
Eliza Julianne Wilson; May 16th. Eliza's parents are Marc and Erika Wilson.
Isabella Sandra Zimblar; May 30th. Bella's parents are Evan and Jill Zimblar.
Elizabeth Charlotte Nadler; June 6th. Lizzie's parents are Daniel and Natalie Nadler.
Sebastien Edward Ardell; June 13th. Sebastien's grandparents are Susan and Miff Ardell.
Joshua Lev Barnes; June 20th. Josh's parents are Victoria and William Barnes.

Please join us for our Adult B'nai Mitzvah Service on Saturday, May 23rd @ 11:00 a.m.

Mazel Tov!

Caren Brown	Oliver Kramer
Cathy Cohen	Jackie Lutz
Amy Feldman	Phyllis Richmond
Melissa Kaufman	Susan Schinleber

On Celebrating a Milestone Anniversary

Linda and Charles Dresner; 65 years.
Karen and Robert Weitzman; 55 years.
Thomas and Marcia Korman; 55 years.
Ginger and Fred Seff; 55 years.
Patti and Sheldon Greenberg; 50 years.
Lynn and Abe Goldsmith; 50 years.
Shelley and George Spathis; 50 years.
Ellen and Tom Kaplan; 45 years.
Michelle and Mark Zisook; 45 years.
Jeanne and Ron Gieseke; 45 years.
Michael and Deborah Cogan; 40 years.
Patricia and Steve Salk; 40 years.
Charles and Randi Gurian; 35 years.
Wendy and Burton Levy; 35 years.
Monica and Rick Hirschhaut; 35 years.
Carol and Lee Saldinger; 35 years.
Danielle and Brian Ruben; 30 years.
Tracy and Joshua Kadish; 30 years.

Melissa and Adam Celnik; 30 years.
Marcia and Gerald Osher; 30 years.
Lori and Craig Itagaki; 30 years.
Wendy and Richard Baum; 30 years.
Felissa and Micah Onix; 25 years.
Lindsay and David Sweet; 25 years.
Melissa and Alan Hirsch; 25 years.
Jane and Alan Bresloff; 25 years.
Evan and Stephanie Schoenberg; 25 years.
Scott and Sara Weisenberg; 20 years.
Cameron and Andrea Grant; 20 years.
Louis and Amy Banks; 15 years.
Amy Rizman and Danny Kaplan; 15 years.
Adam and Yena Levinson; 15 years.
Jori and Samuel Swartz; 15 years.
Noah and Allie Rothschild; 15 years.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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-Joyce and Michael Suchsland

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-Joan Golder

Temple Jeremiah

-Cathy and Harvey Friedman
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-Mathew and Benita Logiudice
-Mary Vihon
-Jan and Jerry Wolf

IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Paul Cohen

-Jamie and Bruce Hague
-Jean Young
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Danny Glassman and the Chat & Chew Program

-Hershy Pappadis

Fred Milder/Fred Kagan Shabbat

-Linda and Daniel Mendelson

Rabbi Rachel Heaps

-Minda and Michael Bernberg

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-Judith and Frederic Milder
-Diana Thomas
-Betsy and James Weiss
-Jody Haas-Wolfson and Ross Wolfson

IN HONOR OF

Steve Brown

On the occasion of his 65th birthday
-Elizabeth Shapiro-Kopin and Benjamin Kopin

Rabbi Paul Cohen

On the occasion of his 65th birthday
-Teena and Michael Crane
-Barb Kite
-Hershy Pappadis
-Emmy Rothschild
-Ellie and Fred Schwimmer
-Sarah and Erick Weingart

Eden Glassman

Daughter of Krystal and Daniel Glassman, on the occasion of her becoming a Bat Mitzvah
-Sue and Dan Weitzman

Mia Kramer

Daughter of Sarita Schueller-Kramer and Oliver Kramer, on the occasion of her becoming a Bat Mitzvah
-Caren Brown

Robby Pfeifer

Son of Marissa and Matthew Pfeifer, on the occasion of him becoming a Bar Mitzvah
-Marissa and Matthew Pfeifer

Debra Magad

On the occasion of her special birthday
-Barbara and Stephen Miller

Zack Murokh

Son of Caroline and Dmitry Murokh, on the occasion of him becoming a Bar Mitzvah
-Caren Brown

Babette Sanders

For receiving a special honor at Northwestern University
-Caren Brown
-Barb Kite

Ben Silverstein

Son of Tanya and Jacob Silverstein, on the occasion of him becoming a Bar Mitzvah
-Sue and Dan Weitzman

IN MEMORY OF

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-Babette Sanders

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Wife of David Adelstein, mother of Lisa Fishbain
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-Nancy Hirschfield

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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
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the donation is for and which
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For questions about Hall of
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contact Leslie Landman
(leslie@templejeremiah.org).



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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.

You're Invited to a Block Party!

**Sunday, May 17th
10:00 a.m.
Temple Jeremiah**

***Celebrate Rabbi Cohen and
kick off summer with games,
food, and music at this
family-friendly festival!***

RSVP:

