

# SHMOOZE & SHMEAR AT TEMPLE ISRAEL





## Half Shekel

*There is a custom to give a Half Shekel to charity on the fast of Esther, thus remembering Shabbat Shekalim. The beauty is that it teaches that each one of us needs someone else's Half Shekel to be complete. We all depend on each other!*

# Only Giving



In March, we have the beautiful holiday of Purim and two weeks prior, there is a special Shabbat in the Jewish calendar: Shabbat Shekalim. In the Torah portion, we read about a census of the

Jewish People which was taken while the Jews were in the Wilderness, after the Exodus from Egypt. The Torah is very specific, it teaches that it is forbidden to count Jews in the ordinary manner; rather, the People should be called upon to contribute items, which would then be counted.

In the case of this census, the item that was contributed by everyone was a half shekel, which was the currency at the time -and still is in Israel today. After counting the half-shekels, the funds were then used for the construction and the maintenance of the Mishkan, the portable Temple used in the desert.

Shabbat Shekalim always happens before Purim and is a powerful lesson on how a simple contribution benefits the entire community. It is interesting to note that Purim itself has two specific mitzvot that instruct us to give: we must give to the poor and we must give to friends. While we are mandated to give on Purim, we must remember that Tzedakah is a cornerstone of Judaism, giving of ourselves, giving from our resources.

Rabbi Marc Philippe

I would like to share a poetic text that I wrote that describes what happens in our life when we freely give.

### Only Giving

Giving of yourself.

Generously, without complaint.

Giving what you have - with a smile.

This transforms so much more than you may think.

You open a channel. A direct channel of Light.

With this channel comes guidance and blessings.

Angelic beings are brought to you.

So much love is created and so much rectification happens.

This is the way of the world.

The way the world came to be.

When you do this, you align with the most powerful energy.

...In harmony with the highest vibrations.

# FOUR MITZVOT OF PURIM



## READING THE MEGILLAH

We read the “Ganze Megillah”, the story of Esther. At Temple Israel, the Megillah will be read on Saturday night and Sunday morning.

## FESTIVE MEAL

On Purim, we celebrate with a special meal! We will have feasts on Saturday night and Sunday at Temple Israel.

## MISHLOACH MANOT GIFTS OF FOOD TO FRIENDS

On Purim, we celebrate unity and friendship by sending gift baskets to friends that should contain food items or beverages. The convenient way to do this is through our program at Temple Israel!

## MATANOT L'EVYONIM GIFTS TO THE POOR

Our celebration isn't complete without giving charity. On Purim, the mitzvah is to give directly to at least two people.



## *Reflecting on a Warm Havdalah Gathering by Aida Koocher*

Temple Israel along with our spiritual leader, Rabbi Marc Philippe, marked the end of Shabbat with a memorable Havdalah service on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:45 pm beginning with the afternoon prayers of mincha. This service was followed by a delightful third meal, after which Rabbi Marc Philippe carried out the evening prayers of maariv. As darkness fell and three medium sized stars became visible in the sky, the Havdalah service was done in a simple multisensory ceremony with blessings over lights, wine, and spices. The Havdalah service (Havdalah means separation) is an inspiring way to end Shabbat and start the new week. The atmosphere was warm and serene and heartfelt. With hearts full and spirits uplifted, we extend our deepest gratitude to all who joined us for this special gathering. May the light of Havdalah continue to illuminate our paths as we journey together in friendship and acts of loving kindness.

# Supporting Our Community: A Call for Kiddush and Oneg Shabbat Sponsorship

Dear Members of Temple Israel,

As we embrace the joyous gatherings of kiddush meals and Oneg Shabbats, we are reminded of the strength and warmth of our communal bonds. These cherished moments of shared meals and conversations are the heartbeats of our community, nourishing our spirits and fostering connections that transcend the ordinary.

While these events are an important feature of our community life, the costs associated with providing food and refreshments for these events can be significant. As such, we are reaching out to our beloved community members to kindly consider helping to subsidize the costs of these meaningful occasions. Your generosity in contributing towards the costs of Kiddush meals and Oneg Shabbats will not only help to alleviate the financial burden but also ensure that these gatherings remain accessible to all.

We understand that everyone's capacity to give varies, and any contribution, no matter the size, is deeply appreciated and valued. Whether through a one-time donation or ongoing sponsorship, your support plays a crucial role in sustaining the vibrancy of our community.

Contributions will be greatly recognized through announcements at the end of services and in our Kol Israel monthly newsletter, honoring the generosity of those who help to sustain our community's vibrancy.

Thank you for considering this request, and we look forward to continuing to build meaningful connections and shared experiences together.

With warm regards,  
Aida Koocher  
Chair, Events Committee.

thank you  
todah raba  
thank you  
todah raba  
thank you  
todah raba

- Liz and Larry Eckman for our kitchen and bathroom supplies
- Jeff Klein for taking care of the myriad building issues
- Stephen Singer and Jeff Klein for organizing Wednesday morning minyans
- Ken Cohn, Jeff Klein, and Josh Nathan for help with the yahrzeit boards
- John Weber and Leigh Musicof for their work on our security grant
- Michael Sydney for overseeing our cemetery
- Carol Sternberg Chairperson of the Gift Shop
- Kiddush Krew –Merle Paltrow, Ken Cohn, Monique Shaffer, Carol Pressman, and Carol Sternberg
- Ruth Chevion for her stories about her family's escape from the Holocaust to America
- Temple Israel Book Club Leaders - Ken Cohn, Aida Koocher and Benay Birch
- Rick Notkin for his safety & security initiative
- Steve Saulten for taking care of our security services

## Tzedaka

Cathi Lippman in memory of Doris Cohn

Phyllis Levine in memory of Bernice (Bunny) Cavall

Sydney Levine in memory of Jayson Levine

Anne Miller in memory of Jayson Levine

Alan Silberberg in memory of Saul & Eva Silberberg

Jacob Silberberg & Rebecca Berne in memory of Robert Silberberg

Jacob Silberberg & Rebecca Berne in memory of Francis Silberberg

Robert Singer in memory of Irving Singer

Robert Singer in memory of Jordan Singer

Isadora Zlotowicz in memory of Sydell Leibwoitz

Isadora Zlotowicz in memory of Pearl Ehrlich

Isadora Zlotowicz in memory of Harry Zlotowicz

## Kol Nidre

Morgan & Peter  
Hallock

## Kibbutz Azza

Phyllis Levine  
Spindel General & Cosmetic  
Dentistry

## Other

Barbara Bailey for Tu B'Shevat  
Leigh & Kim Musicof for  
Tu B'Shevat Purim Party  
Stephen & Marti Nathan for  
the Rabbi Subsidy Fund

# Our Visit to Roth's Hill in 1993 by Ruth Chevion

As we approach Holocaust Remembrance Day this year 2024, I'm hoping, dear reader, that you can take with you some of the stories I've told over the last two years.

Usually, the annual Holocaust Remembrance takes the form of reviewing what was done to us. But there is a way in which reviewing the details of what the Nazis did can blind us to our own accomplishments, our own beautiful culture under stress, and the goodness of people who helped us. Horror has a way of absorbing our attention.

As an antidote to the review of horrors, I would like to bring up the memory of my mother's Grandfather Mechel Roth.

For the first two years of the war, my mother lived with her grandparents, Mechel and Esther Roth, on their farm. Their house stood on a hill they called Roth's Hill in the village of Zniesienie, (Znyeh-she-nyeh) in the outskirts of Lvov. There was an orchard with plum trees on the top of the hill, plus a barn for cows and horses. Down below, there was an expanse of fields for corn and potatoes.

My Mom loved her grandfather. He was more of a gentleman farmer, as we would say, in the sense that he generally wore a suit, not overalls. My Mom described how in addition to reading the Jewish newspaper every day, he read Kant for self-education; how he befriended the local Russian Orthodox priest and played chess with him; how he introduced the use of fertilizer in the village. Mom loved to remember how during the war when she felt so lost and lonely, her grandfather would roast corn on the cob specially for her, using the ribs of Grandmother Esther's umbrella for a stick.

I had heard all these stories and many more about life on the farm, but nothing prepared me for what happened when we went back to Poland.

My mother and I travelled to Poland in 1993, with a group of Survivors and Children of Survivors. The idea of the tour was

to visit pre-war places, either where the Survivors lived before the war or where they were hidden. There were about fifteen people in the group, including, besides me and my mother, my mother's cousin Carl who had grown up on the farm. One notable stop on the tour was a visit to Roth's Hill.

The view was spectacular, just as Mom had described it. The group of us were walking about on the hilltop listening to Mom and her cousin Carl talk about what life was like back then, showing us with sweeps of their hands where Grandfather's fields lay, where the well was that they drew water from, etc., when suddenly a young Polish man showed up, approaching us politely, holding by the hand a little girl, dressed as if for church, in a sweet dress and nice shoes, whom he introduced as his daughter.

They had heard we were there, the man explained. We had caused quite a stir in the village. The man said he wanted his daughter to meet us because the stories of the Roth family were legendary in his family. He recounted how his own grandfather had spoken of old Mr. Roth, what a good neighbor he was, how he knew everyone in the village by name, how well he treated the workers on the farm, how he had taught the villagers about fertilizer and improved their lives because of it. The man asked if we would please walk through the village because other people wanted to see us too.

These kind villagers deserved our thanks in return. They had hidden the family when the Nazis invaded. You may recall the night my mother spent hidden in the rose garden on the first night of the Nazi invasion.

I want to thank the people of Zniesiene for this wonderful memory, and for the spirit of reconciliation that they extended to us that day. But as for the rest of the story, maybe a few photos will be better than a thousand words.

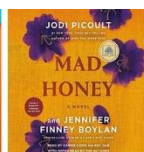
Photo of Mechel & Esther Roth before the war



Photographs from our trip in 1993



Temple Israel Book Club  
Zoom Meeting  
Wed, March 13 at 4:30pm  
rsvp to Ken Cohn at  
[newbegin04@yahoo.com](mailto:newbegin04@yahoo.com)



*Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Broylan is a suspenseful novel that explores the themes of gender identity, friendship, self-acceptance, conformity, and individuality. To receive the ZOOM link, please RSVP Ken Cohn at [Newbegin04@yahoo.com](mailto:Newbegin04@yahoo.com).

*Kabbalat Shabbat*  
**WITH  
 DINNER**  
**FRIDAY, MARCH 8  
 6 PM**




# JUDAISM & PSYCHEDELICS



UNDERSTANDING PSYCHEDELIC ASSISTED THERAPY AND SPIRITUALITY WITHIN THE JEWISH REALM

Join us for a discussion on the intersection of Judaism and Psychedelic assisted therapy as we explore expanded states of consciousness based on sacred Jewish traditions.

With Valerie & rabbi Marc Philippe **Thursday, March 14 ~ 7 PM**  
 at the  
**Jewish Federation of New Hampshire**



**Jewish Federation OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
 By sharing perspectives, facts, and information, we can learn together. The views and opinions expressed will be those of the presenters and participants and will not necessarily reflect the official position of JFNH.

# HADASSAH SHABBAT


FRIDAY, MARCH 15  
 6 PM


FOLLOWED BY SHABBAT DINNER

BRING PEACE WITH A SPECIAL KABBALAT SHABBAT

AND

CELEBRATE THE WOMEN WHO BRING HEALING TO OUR WORLD



**HADASSAH** 

# KIBBITZ & COOKING



**TEMPLE ISRAEL**  
 66 Salmon St., Manchester, NH

**JOIN US FOR HAMENTASHEN BAKING ON MARCH 17TH @ 10:00 AM IN THE TI KITCHEN**

RSVP to Aida [akoocher@comcast.net](mailto:akoocher@comcast.net)

# PURIM



**Saturday, March 23**  
**7:45 pm**  
 HAVDALAH  
 MEGILLAH READING  
 HORS D'ŒUVRES  
 L'CHAYIMS  
 MUSIC

**Sunday, March 24**  
**9:30 am**  
 MORNING SERVICE  
 MEGILLAH READING  
 PURIM SHPIEL BY SHMUBIES  
 COSTUME PARADE  
 PRIZES!  
 BRUNCH  
 MUSIC



*Please Join Us!*

*Shabbat Service - March 30- 9:45am*



## March 2024 – Adar I-21 to Adar II-21



Mar 1 - Gigi Georges-Oxman  
 Mar 14 - Pam Saulten  
 Mar 19 - Rachel Russell  
 Mar 22 - Mel Spierer

Mar 5 - Christine Gagnon  
 Mar 14 - Lydia Verbun  
 Mar 20 - Matan Kilchevsky  
 Mar 27 - Wendy Cadieux

Mar 9 - Ariel Cohen  
 Mar 15 - Ruth Zax  
 Mar 21 - Molly Notkin  
 Mar 29 - Jonah Benjamin Gaby

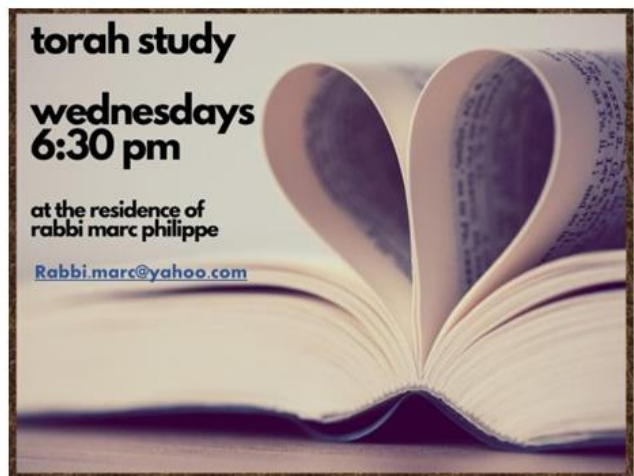


Steven & Denise Rudman  
 March 5 - 46 years

Steve & Helena Guttman  
 March 10 - 24 years

Noah Bednowitz & Sherri Keizman  
 March 26 - 7 years

Amy & Mitchell Weinberg  
 March 27 - 13 years



## March Calendar at a Glance

- Mar 8 – 6:00pm - Shabbat Service & Dinner. Please rsvp by noon, Feb 26.
- Mar 8 – Deadline for Mishloach Manot orders.
- Mar 12 – Please RSVP for Purim Events by noon.
- Mar 13 – 4:30pm – TI Jewish Book club on ZOOM. RSVP to [newbegin04@yahoo.com](mailto:newbegin04@yahoo.com)
- Mar 14 – 7:00pm – Judaism & Psychedelics at JFNH.
- Mar 15 – 6:00pm – Hadassah Service hosted by TI.
- Mar 17 – 10:00am – Kibbitz & Cooking in the TI kitchen.
- Mar 23 – 7:45pm – Purim Havdallah. Please rsvp by noon on Mar 14.
- Mar 24 – 10:00am – Purim Service w/Megillah Reading. Please rsvp by noon on Mar 14.
- Mar 30 – 9:45am – Shabbat Service & Kiddush.

# A Message from the Editor – Passing the Torch

It has been my pleasure to be the editor of Kol Israel since April, 2013. Over that time, Kol Israel has seen many evolutions in both format and content. I am pleased to announce that Rabbi Marc will be taking over as editor and producer of our temple newsletter. Going forward, a digital Kol Israel will be delivered directly to your email. This will allow Rabbi Marc to customize his message in response to events of the current times.

If you do not have access to email, please contact me at 603.622.6171 so that I can arrange for you to receive a printed copy.

Signing off as editor,  
Christine Dame



*Purim is a great time to let someone  
know you think they are special*  
**Mishloach Manot 5784**

There is still time to place Mishloach Manot orders! If you need a paper form or an email with the ordering link, please call 603622.6171 or email Christine at [office@templeisraelmht.org](mailto:office@templeisraelmht.org).

**Hevra Kadisha of Central New Hampshire**

Our Hevra Kaddisha is ready to help you in your hour of need to perform the ritual preparation of a deceased for burial in accordance with Jewish tradition. Do not hesitate to call us when needed. We are here for you!

Please call 603.746.5218 to initiate the process or for more information.

**Jewish Burial Plots Available**  
For Temple Israel Manchester Members

Email: [office@templeisraelmht.org](mailto:office@templeisraelmht.org)  
or  
Call: 603.622.6171

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**The Gift Shop Is open!**



Chanukah sherpa-lined warming socks - \$8  
Mezzuzahs - \$18  
Shabbat bride candlesticks - \$38  
Tallit Clips - \$20 - for Bar/Bat Mitzvah  
Menorahs - \$18 and up