

## IN GOOD HANDS WITH EACH OTHER

BY JOSH NATHAN, PRESIDENT

It was great to see many of you during the High Holidays and over Sukkot as well. Many of you approached me to comment on how much you enjoyed services this year. I was very glad to hear it! Rabbi Jen Tobenstein guided our community through this period of deep introspection and teshuvah with such grace it felt as if she had been a long-time member of our community. She and Cantor Marc made a great duo and on behalf of Temple Israel I extend a yahser koach ("Strength to You!") to both of them.

The High Holidays are often described as a hectic time – religiously and logistically speaking. While we were blessed to have had the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Jen for our High Holiday services, it was still our Plan B. We will find a rabbi for Temple Israel and in the months ahead I hope to share good news on that front. Even without a rabbi, though, I'm proud to say we have had quite a team of dedicated members who have donated their time and energy to preserve and maintain the observance of our ancient rituals in this transition period. The scope of their involvement is impressive, and I want to take a moment to recognize and honor them.

**Security:** We have a safe place to pray, eat, and socialize thanks to Steve Saulten who coordinates our security. Often times we are protected by our own members who Steve recruits. He is always looking for more volunteers for the security detail!

**Words of Torah:** Thanks to Michael Davidow, Harry Shepler, Jeff Salloway, Philip Borenstein, Mitchell Weinberg, Rabbi Gary Atkins, and Steve Saulten who have graciously shared words of wisdom with us by giving a d'var Torah (Word of Torah).

**Service Leadership:** Thanks to Rachel Spierer, Ken Cohn, David Winthrop, Mitchell Weinberg, Michael Sydney, and

Rabbi Gary who have helped to lead various portions of the service.

**Torah Readers:** one of the holiest moments in our service is when we read from the Torah. Thanks to Ruth Chevion, Michael Sydney, Rabbi Gary, Philip Borenstein, Av Harris, Ami Kilchevsky, Al Shamash, and Jen Beard for fulfilling this mitzvah for us!

**O'neg Shabbat (Kiddish lunches):** Who doesn't enjoy a little nosh following services? This is made possible thanks to the coordinated efforts of Carol Sternberg along with Carol Pressman, Merle Paltrow, Ken Cohn, David Winthrop, Morgan Hallock, and Benay Birch.

**Sukkah Demo and rebuilding:** Many of you know that this year we took down our old sukkah to replace it with a new reusable one. Thanks to John Weber and his chain saw, Jeff Klein and his rebar cutters, the muscles of Pete Hallock and Brian Zinn, and a whole host of Hebrew school parent volunteers the demo went smoothly. Thanks also to Emily Verbun, Mitchell Weinberg, and Rachel Russell for helping to erect the new sukkah and all the Hebrew school children and teachers who helped decorate it!

**Wednesday Morning Minyan:** This weekly morning minyan is as old as Temple Israel itself starting in 1955! Thank you to Gary Singer and Jeff Klein for organizing this service! And thanks to all the "Minyonaires" including Elliot Adler who helped to make a minyan over Sukkot and Shmini Atzeret.

Many of you have contributed to Temple Israel in numerous ways other than what I've focused on above and for that we are fortunate, and I am grateful. As we move forward into the new year, I am proud to say we are in good hands with each other and will be a stronger and more vibrant kehillah because of it. Kol Hakavod ("all the respect") to all of you and may we all prosper in the year to come.

### Tzedaka

Caroline & Richard Ekman in memory of Nathan Ekman  
Ruth Zatz in memory of Ben Perlman  
Phyllis Levine in memory of Solomon Cavall  
Mark & Celia Magovskey in memory of Murray Magovskey  
Roberta Silberberg in memory of Leon Rubin  
Robert Thaler in memory of Morton Thaler

William Kavesh in memory of Miriam and Max Kevesh  
Ruth Zatz in memory of Rose Finn  
Mark & Celia Magovskey in memory of Scott David Magovskey  
Mark & Celia Magovskey in memory of Simon & Bertha Magovskey  
Roberta Silberberg in memory of Benjamin Rubinstein

### Other Donations

Iris & Rabbi Gary Atkins in honor of Jeff Klein  
Ken Cohn & Maureen DeLeasa for High Holiday Flowers  
Martti & Stephen Nathan in honor of Rosh Hashanah  
Elizabeth Teixeira in honor of Steve Saulten

Iris & Rabbi Gary Atkins in honor of our new sukkah  
Liz & Larry Eckman to the general fund  
Carol & Bob Sternberg to the Hebrew School Fund  
Phyllis & Howard Turtle to the Break Fast Fund

### Kol Nidre (received as of this writing)

|                          |                         |                    |                       |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Iris & Rabbi Gary Atkins | Noah & Sherri Bednowitz | Elaine Braverman   | Renee Brenner         | Aida Koocher      |
| Phyllis Levine           | Al Shamash              | Roberta Silberberg | Carol & Bob Sternberg | Dina & John Weber |

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

- Liz and Larry Eckman for our kitchen and bathroom supplies
- Our Temple Board for meaningful service options and activities
- Jeff Klein for taking care of the myriad building issues
- Stephen Singer and Jeff Klein for organizing Wednesday morning minyans
- David Winthrop for being our Gabbai and for organizing our High Holiday Aliyah
- Michael Sydney for overseeing the Hebrew Cemetery and our Hebrew School building upgrade plans
- John Weber for his financial acumen and continued support
- Carol Sternberg Chairperson of the Kitchen Krew, Lunches and Gift Shop
- Kiddush Krew – Renee Brenner, Merle Paltrow, Carol Pressman, Carol Sternberg & David Winthrop
- Ruth Chevion for her wonderful stories about her family’s escape from the Holocaust to America
- Tim Dame for clearing stumps from the back yard

**The Kindness of Strangers . . . by cjdam**

I was coming to the realization the afternoon of Sunday October 9 that the back yard cleanup would take yet another Sunday or two to finish when a young couple walking by volunteered to help. Tina and AJ worked quickly and even cleared the huge pile of grass clippings that accumulated over the past 10 years or so. Finished just in time for Sukkot!



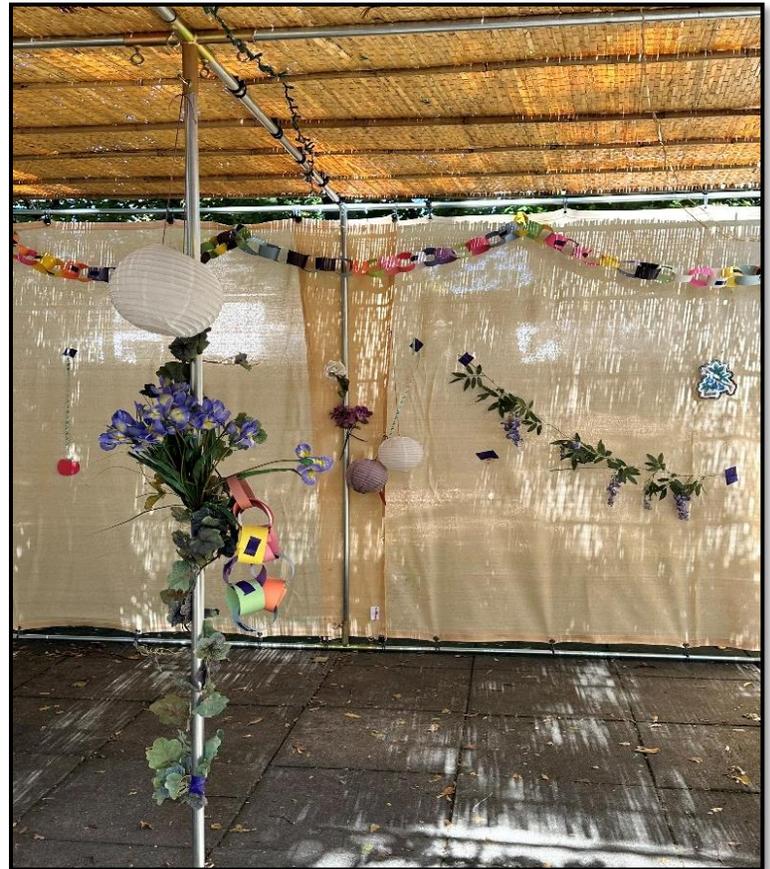
**Decorating the Sukkah 2022!**

We thank our many volunteers for all their hard work in preparing our brand-new Sukkah!

Our Sukkah Builders: Mitchell Weinberg, Emily Verbun, Josh Nathan



Ready for celebrating!



Our decorators – the Hebrew School students and staff



## The German Soldier and the Rose Garden by Ruth Chevion

My mother survived the war without a tattoo.

When asked to explain where she got the mojo to do the breathtaking things she did to avoid getting caught, she described her night in the rose garden.

You can't get the flavor of the incident without the context, so please bear with me while I start at the beginning.

When the war began on September 1, 1939, my mother found herself on her grandfather's farm in the outskirts of Lvov, then part of Poland. Mechel Roth, her grandfather, had for many years cultivated good relationships with the local Christians. He had introduced them to the use of fertilizer, which made them more prosperous. He knew the village people by name and greeted them daily as he brought his cows back from pasture. He played chess with the local priest every Friday night. They were friends. Mechel Roth was so well regarded by the local people that when my mother and I went to Poland in 1993, their descendants came out to greet us and make us welcome.

My mother was at the farm for school vacation. Ordinarily she lived in the city of Tarnow with her mother, but the onset of war had separated them. Hitler and Stalin had made a pact to divide Poland. Mom was caught on the Russian-occupied side, her mother on the German-occupied side. So, Mom lived with her grandparents and went to Russian school, separated from her mother until 1941, when the Hitler broke the pact, and the German army suddenly invaded the Russian-occupied side of Poland.

The farmhouse stood on top of a hill from which there was an open view to the railroad station below. When the family saw German soldiers coming up the hill, they ran out of the house helter-skelter, trying to get away. As my mother ran, a young German soldier in the front line coming up the hill, motioned to her that she was running in the wrong direction. He motioned to her to run away from him. This soldier saved her life right then. Mom turned and ran in the direction he indicated.

When they reached the village at the bottom of the hill, the 12 members of the extended family sought refuge with local Polish-Ukrainian people. My mother was taken in and hidden all night outdoors in a rose garden. As she lay there inhaling the aroma of the roses, she said to herself that she would survive this thing somehow.

I heard this story many times. As I always understood it, the point was that something so supremely beautiful as the smell of roses made her feel that life was worth fighting for.

But writing it down, dear reader, has made me see another side to it. There must have been genuine fear involved. The kind of fear that makes you lose your guts. My mother always said about herself that she was a coward. This rose garden event occurred on or about June 22, 1941, when my mother was 17. The humiliation and wanton killing of Jews had been going on for almost two years in Poland. Suddenly it came to them in Lvov. The Nazis were here!

Maybe she remembered the rose garden so vividly later on, not only because it was beautiful, but because she sustained a trauma there, lying face down in a stranger's yard all night, all alone, and scared, not knowing what would happen next, what she would have to do, what would happen to her, and who would help her. Where was her grandfather? Her cousins?

I think maybe what happened for my mother in the rose garden is that there dawned in her the x-ray awareness that actually got her through. That it was this bizarre juxtaposition of sublime beauty with bone chilling fear that caused a new capability to arise in her at that moment, spontaneously. I'm sure motivation arose there too, but it was this awareness that was the real medicine. Her stories bear that out.

I remember my parents talking about awareness. My dad had a story too, about how one time he was returning to his main apartment but instead of going inside he walked right by as though he didn't live there. Something was off. I would ask him what it was. He said he really didn't know, except maybe the children weren't playing outside. It was just a sense. It turned out later that the Gestapo had been waiting for him in his apartment.

This new insight I just received about awareness feels like a blessing to me. It's so valuable. But what about the German soldier? What do you do with gratitude to someone so anonymous as a soldier who did one small thing? Or to the family whose rose garden it was? Or to the Russian Orthodox priest who preached to his flock that they should help the Jews even at risk to their own lives? It's all so complicated when you delve into the details. The least I can do is tell you about them, dear reader.



**My mother's grandfather, Mechel Roth**



# Sunday Funday - November 13

Join us for "Grown Up and Me" time for you and your child to sing songs and learn Jewish traditions!

Concurrent with the first Sunday of Hebrew School every month from 9:30 am – 10:15 am

Open to children ages 3-6 and their caregiver

Members and Nonmembers are welcome!

No cost to attend

Each month we will focus on a Jewish holiday or custom.

For more information contact:

Liz Sommers at [familyeducator@outlook.com](mailto:familyeducator@outlook.com)

## ZOOM ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES ARE BACK!!

*FOR THE SAKE OF HEAVEN: HOW JUDAISM TEACHES US TO DISAGREE CONSTRUCTIVELY*

*by Cantor Marc Stober, Education Director, Temple Israel, Manchester*

Some religions define themselves as a group of people who all believe the same thing. Judaism is also a group of people, but certainly don't all believe the same thing. In fact, Jewish tradition encourages us to hold different beliefs, even about such a central part of Judaism as the Torah. It says in Midrash Psalms 12 that for each statement in the Torah, there are 49 valid arguments both for and against it. To use lingo from when I worked as a software developer, disagreement is "a feature, not a bug."

So, how do we hold together a community of people who disagree? This is one of the most important issues of our time, and not only within our Jewish institutions. How do we work together on important issues as a congregation, a local community, or even as whole country, when we can't agree? Rabbinic literature has an answer called *mahloket l'sheim shamayim*—disagreement for the sake of Heaven. In more modern terminology, we might call this "constructive disagreement."

The elements of a constructive disagreement in Jewish traditions ranges from the abstract attitudes we about ourselves and the other, to concrete precedents such as how to set up the chairs around the table. Judaism encourages us to dialogue with those we disagree with and to learn their perspective, while also leaving a lot of space to "agree to disagree."

In the Torah, the reconciliation of the Jacob with his brother Esau is a perfect example of respect between people who have different perspectives. On the other hand, the story of Korach challenging Moses' authority is the ultimate example of a disagreement that is **not** for the sake of Heaven.

The Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, an educational center that has years of experience bringing together different types of Jews, has been teaching about this topic with a curriculum called Mahloket Matters. I was able to learn from their teachers about it, first in Jerusalem a few years ago and more recently online. I believe it's one of the most important lessons Judaism has for us in today's world. This fall, I'll be teaching it to my community in a series of adult learning sessions open to Temple Israel members and nonmembers, at no charge thanks to the support of Temple Israel and Pardes.

The sessions will be on four Thursdays at 7pm: November 10 and 17 and December 1 and 8. While you'll get the most out of attending all sessions, you can also participate in only some of them. For more information or to receive the link to the online sessions, contact [school@templeisraelmht.org](mailto:school@templeisraelmht.org). While supplies last, those who RSVP will receive a printed booklet of material to follow along in the course.



### WE'RE LAUNCHING A PAD PROJECT DRIVE

Tuesday, November 15th at 7 pm at TAY

Help local students & their families who are economically & emotionally impacted this school year.

TAY Sisterhood invites you to a book discussion of "Period. End of Sentence" by Anita Diamant and a special screening of the Netflix film THE PAD PROJECT to launch a TAY collection of feminine hygiene products to benefit Catie's Closet\*

Please visit [catiescloset.org](http://catiescloset.org) to learn more about Catie's Closet.

Please visit [thepadproject.org](http://thepadproject.org) to learn more about the Pad Project.

Please RSVP to Gail Ellis at [gailellis49@comcast.net](mailto:gailellis49@comcast.net) or 603-303-3514

\*A Pad Drive collection box will be in the TAY lobby for donations the evening of the event. Thank you!

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH





# NOVEMBER 2022

## 6 TISHREI TO 6 CHESVAN 5783



Nov 2 - Elana Bannerman  
 Nov 2 - Rafaela Zeballos  
 Nov 16 - Maureen DeLeasa  
 Nov 17 - Stephen Borofsky  
 Nov 20 - Dina Weber  
 Nov 25 - Jonas Welch  
 Nov 29 - Louise Allard

Nov 2 - Elias Reed Weinberg  
 Nov 13 - Michael Sydney  
 Nov 16 - Amichai Kilchevsky  
 Nov 17 - Amy Weinberg  
 Nov 23 - Sophia DePasse  
 Nov 26 - Michael Davidow

Sheryl & Denis Hammond  
 November 9, 2022  
 47th anniversary

### Services and Events at a Glance

|        |         |   |
|--------|---------|---|
| Nov 2  | 7:00am  | Morning Minyan (contact Jeff Klein at   |
| Nov 5  | 10:00am | Shabbaton service & catered Kiddush with Ari Strasser & Marc Stober   |
| Nov 13 | 9:30am  | Sunday Funday. <i>Contact Emily Verbun at <a href="mailto:Familyeducator@outlook.com">Familyeducator@outlook.com</a> for info.</i>  |
| Nov 6  | n/a     | Set clocks back   |
| Nov 9  | 7:00am  | Morning Minyan (Kristallnacht)  |
| Nov 10 | 7:00pm  | Session 1 of For the Sake of Heavn ZOOM series with Marc Stober. <i>RSVP to Marc at <a href="mailto:school@templeisraelmft.org">school@templeisraelmft.org</a>.</i>   |
| Nov 11 | n/a     | Veterans Day – office closed  |
| Nov 13 | 9:30am  | Sunday Funday   |
| Nov 16 | 7:00am  | Morning Minyan  |
| Nov 17 | 7:00pm  | Session 2 of For the Sake of Heavn ZOOM series with Marc Stober. <i>RSVP to Marc at <a href="mailto:school@templeisraelmft.org">school@templeisraelmft.org</a>. Four session, you can attend as many as you like.</i> |
| Nov 19 | 10:00am | Shabbat service and Shem Tov Award ceremony for Jeff Klein with catered Kiddush. <i>RSVP by noon Nov 14.</i>  |
| Nov 20 | 10:00am | Schmooze & Schmear at the Foundry. <i>RSVP to Norri at <a href="mailto:norri333@aol.com">norri333@aol.com</a></i>   |
| Nov 23 | 7:00am  | Morning Minyan  |
| Nov 24 | n/a     | Thanksgiving – office closed  |
| Nov 25 | n/a     | Office closed   |
| Nov 30 | 7:00am  | Morning Minyan  |

### Please support our vendors!



The Temple Israel Gift Shop is Open!

- Yom Tov Challah Board - \$25
- Challah Knife - \$20
- Candlesticks - \$25.
- Hamsa - \$25
- Blue Enameled Mezuzahs - \$30

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