

A Message from our Temple President

The Torah uses more words about the building and use of the *Mishkan* – the portable holy temple in the desert – than any other topic and highlights the importance of community (kehillah) in its construction. Through donations of money, materials, and labor everyone's contribution was seen as equal in this holy project. This is what we understand when the Torah describes its completion by saying "It came to pass as the tabernacle was one."

Today the synagogue is our *Mishkan* and it too requires donations of money and the volunteering of our labor. But what is the *value* in supporting Temple Israel? Do we give money for access to Jewish knowledge? To prepare our children for a bar/bat mitzvah? To fund social justice initiatives? To maintain our building and grounds? These are all very important things and many of you give to support these things – quite necessarily. But what makes you want to support these things in the first place? What is unique about them?

It is well known that the core value of synagogue affiliation is actually the opportunity to be in

face-to-face meaningful relationships with one another. We come to synagogue to meet each other and to share a deep and ancient bond that recalls our covenant with God and each other to be – *am kadosh* – a Holy People. Your generosity that supports Temple Israel is a fulfilling mitzvah because we are also supporting each other when doing it. We are *one* as the Torah says.

We are embarking on a very exciting 5784 riding along with the *ruach* – spirit – that Rabbi Philippe and Rebetzen Valerie have infused into our intimate community. We are blessed to have such a gifted spiritual guide. Your financial contributions to Temple Israel made this possible. Thank you! We rely on your continued support and sponsorship of programs and our infrastructure throughout the year. But coming together and kindling our spirits is what makes it all worthwhile.

May we be inscribed for a good year to come!



**DEDICATION OF THE MEMORIAL MONUMENT TO JEWISH SERVICEMEN/WOMEN
INTERRED AT THE NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE VETERANS' CEMETERY IN BOSCAWEN
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 AT 1PM**

Here is a link to an overview of the cemetery: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CE8hOxwJKYw>

And here is a link to photos of the Memorial Garden and some of the monuments: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/qUP63C94bdySeVQQ8>

You most certainly do not need to be a veteran to acknowledge the dedication and sacrifice of those interred in this hallowed ground.

Rabbi Gary Atkins

Chaplain, New Hampshire Wing, Civil Air Patrol



- 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
- 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

Ruth Chevion in memory of Paul Scribner
Jacob & Hadassah Aaronson in memory of Zohara Aaronson
Alexis Landes in memory of Ronda Canter
Michelle Rosenthal & Jeff Klein in memory of Bernard Rosenthal
Roberta Silberberg in memory of The Skumsk 7, Leon Rubin and Benjamin Rubinstein

Other

Julia & Ido Preis for the 2023 annual fundraiser and in honor of Rabbi Marc Philippe
John Weber for cleaning the chandeliers, skylights and other pre-Holiday cleanup
Josh Nathan, Lee Sinkow, Zephan Wood, and Brian Zinn for assembling the Sukkah

Klezmer Band Sponsors

Pat & Henry Biagi
Aida Koocher
Christy Aberg & Josh Nathan
Carol Pressman & Bob Hutter
Linda & Lee Sinkow
Rachel & Mel Spierer
Dina & John Weber

THE TI KIDDUSH LUNCH KREW NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!!

The Kiddush Lunch Krew can use help!! Some of us are on vacation or want a break.

Twice monthly we meet (usually on a Friday) and work in pairs, perhaps making a salad, putting out a basket of bagels, a dish of gefilte fish or whitefish, fruit, and coffee cake. (All refrigerated till after next day's service.)


Can't come help with prep? Perhaps you can spare a few minutes to put the refrigerated foods out and/or help with clean-up.

If you would you like to do a Mitzvah, we would love to have you!

Contact Carol at carolnsn@myfairpoint.net or 603.623.7752



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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.

The Bounty Hunter by Ruth Chevion

My mother had eluded the Gestapo twice. The first time she was interrogated under glaring lights for several hours by three Gestapo agents, but she convinced them she was not Jewish, so they let her go. The second time was at the Post Office where she worked. She distracted the co-worker who had been tasked by the Gestapo to detain her, and she ran away just in the nick of time.

The story I'm about to tell you was the third time she was almost caught. This time it was not the Gestapo. It was a bounty hunter.

Aunt Fela had gone to fetch my mother from a short-term hiding place. Fela had arranged a new ID for my mother, but it needed a fingerprint. They were going back to Krakow by train. So, the two women went into the ladies' room, and did the fingerprint there with an ink pad that Fela had brought along. The result was a bit messy, but good enough, and they boarded the train. They didn't sit together, but they were in the same car.

Before long, a Polish man boarded the train. Walking slowly down the aisle, he peered at each passenger, until he stopped at my mother. Jew, he stated, pointing. Show me your papers. No, she said. Go away. But he grabbed her arm and pulled her off the train. Nobody intervened.

There were many bounty hunters in Poland. My Dad encountered them too. It could be a cottage business, bringing in a little income. The Gestapo gave financial rewards for Jews that were brought in. At the very least, they always gave a bottle of vodka. It was well known.

But the bounty hunter who took my mother off the train did not immediately take her to the Gestapo. First, he took my mother to his house. There, his wife and two daughters took my mother's clothes apart looking for gold or money. They opened her hems. They undid the soles of her shoes. They took apart her suitcase.

Finding nothing, they let her get dressed, and the man walked with her back to town, ostensibly to turn her over to the Gestapo. When they reached the Gestapo building, my mother made no move to resist. On the contrary, resigned to her fate, she set her suitcase down on the steps.

"How old are you," the bounty hunter asked.

"Had I not met you sir," she replied, "I would be nineteen next month."

"Oh hell," he said, "let someone else have you on his conscience." "*Niech ktosh inny cze ma na sumiene*," in Polish. And he let her go.

When my mother told this story, she always described the thing about how she put her suitcase down. It was as though everything she was feeling was described by that physical gesture. Part of her was exhausted. Her mother and her brother had been taken. She was in grief. Another part of her was realistic. No way to run. No place to hide. All the efforts come to an end. At the same time, it's clear she doesn't want to be manhandled. She may be headed to her death, but she is still her own person.

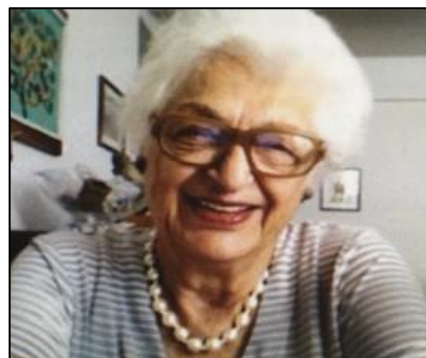
But what about the bounty hunter? What was he feeling when he let her go? His intentions had been bad. He had planned to rob the girl and then collect a bounty from the Gestapo for her as well. He had fished out a good prize. What made him give it up? I have to take him at his word. It was his conscience. Not only did he have a conscience, but he said the word for it out loud - *sumienie* (soo-myeh-nyeh) in Polish.

I hope he didn't kick himself on the way home. I hope he allowed himself to feel good about what he had done. I wish in some way I could have this conversation with him. I would tell him that the girl he let go did not get caught later that day even with the disheveled clothes. And that she made it to Krakow, and that she survived the war. And that she married her high school sweetheart, and they made it to America. And that she had a good life, and that she was generous, and she helped many people, including Polish friends she met in America. And that she lived to be 94.

I can only hope he would tell me in return that that day in May of 1943 was as important to him as it was to us. That doing the right thing changed his life, and his family's lives, for the better.



My mom with her baby girl three years after the incident.



My mother around age 90 in her apartment in New York.



Our December 13th 4:30 pm the Temple Israel book selection is "Into the Bright Sunshine" by Samuel G. Freedman, a high school classmate of Aida Koocher from Highland Park High School in New Jersey. The author is a professor at Columbia University and has written many other books.

It's a story about former vice president Hubert Humprey's life growing up in the depression era in the heart of middle America and his raise in politics and his fight for civil rights for Afro-Americans, Jews, and all oppressed Americans.

The author will join us on zoom Wednesday, December 13th 4:30pm. There will be at least two copies in the southern New Hampshire library system. I had the Goffstown library order it and Aida had the Salem library order it. Otherwise, it's available in hardcover, on kindle (\$17.99) & Amazon audible (\$0.00 with membership or free trial). – Submitted by Ken Cohn

The Gail Singer Memorial Blood Drive by Rabbi Gary Atkins

Hopefully, all congregants are aware of this Temple Israel special program that has been going on for two generations, forty years!



Tradition teaches that whoever saves one life is considered by the Holy One Blessed Be He as though s/he has saved a whole world. And this is what each donation does!

I have participated in this program whenever I could. I am always amazed at the community support that the Singer family gathers to cover the costs... and also to entice / reward a percentage of donors with the gift bags that they provide.

Alas, this year I was away on the two dates in August. But I checked and Stephen said my donation when I came back would be welcome and counted. So, I went to the Red Cross Blood Center and became either the 974th or 975th donor. As Stephen said, more donations than the Red Sox gathered!

Every year they provide a special tee shirt (along with a coupon for a free pizza and many other goodies). So, when I got home, wearing the tee-shirt from a previous year, I took some photos proudly displaying this year's shirt!

Again, a wonderful mitzvah. I look forward to the 41st year next August (and remember you can give blood every 56 days during the year as well!).



On behalf of our entire Gail Singer Memorial Blood Drive team, **THANK YOU!** Thank you for your support, donations, and for helping this fortieth-anniversary event be such a success. Thanks to this incredible community, we are thrilled to announce that we collected **974 units of blood!** This life-saving blood will help ensure those in New Hampshire and beyond have it when they need it most.



October -Elul 15 to Tishrei 15

Happy Birthday!

Oct 2 - Benjamin Felder

Oct 13 - Debbie DePasse

Oct 14 - Alex Verbun

Oct 24 - Julia Kamen

Oct 28 - Quinn Paltrow-McCole

Oct 31 - Henry Biagi

Oct 7 - Phyllis Levine

Oct 14 - Flynn Cohen

Oct 19 - Bernice Taube

Oct 24 - Madelyn Kamen

Oct 29 - Robert Sternberg

Oct 31 - Gary Lindner

Oct 10 - Daniel Oberlander

Oct 14 - Joshua Eli Preis

Oct 23 - Josh Nathan

Oct 28 - Patricia Biagi

Oct 30 - Rick Notkin

Happy Anniversary!

Oct 10 - Niza & Preis - 49 years

Oct 13 - Paula Winer-Veale & Keith Veale - 4 years

Oct 22 - Leigh & Kim Musicof - 7 years

Upcoming October Services & Events

Morning Minyans – every Wednesday at 7:00am - Contact jiklein@comcast.net

Oct 7 – 9:45am: Shemini Atzeret with yizkor

Oct 7 – 6:00pm: erev Simchat Torah with Klezmer band, Torah dancing and munchies

Oct 9 – All Day: Office closed for Columbus Day

Oct 15 – 10:00m: Schmooze & Schmear with Rabbi Marc

Oct 21 – 9:45am Shabbat Service followed by a light Kiddush

Oct 27 – 6:00pm: Shabbat Service



Kol Midre

It's not too late to donate!
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Have your bank send a check
or
Use the donations button on our website

Chanukah Gift Shop

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