

## ***HIGH HOLIDAY NEWS!***

### **High Holiday Services**

We are pleased to announce that we will be offering a full slate of in-person services, led by Rabbi Jennifer Tobenstein and our very own Cantor Marc Stober. Rabbi Tobenstein is a 2000 graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary. She worked as a full-time rabbi in a large congregation in West Hartford, CT before taking some time away from the pulpit to raise her 2 daughters who recently had their bat mitzvot. She is currently working as a chaplain in two hospitals in the greater NYC area.

Rabbi Jen will be co-officiating Shabbat services on Sept 17th for the bat mitzvah of Sophie Depasse so you can meet her before the HHDs.

We will be sending out full details on holiday services and events with your September *Kol Israel*. In the interim, you may check our calendar on our website at [www.templeisraelmht.org](http://www.templeisraelmht.org).

### **New Machzors**

Temple Israel has recently purchased new machzors for the High Holidays. Machzor Lev Shalem is much more modern and is full of insightful commentary that will deepen your connection to our ancient High Holiday traditions. You may find yourself reading the commentary instead of the prayers! If you are interested in dedicating these prayer book(s) in memory or in honor of a family member or friend, please fill out and return the attached form.

### **New Sukkah**

We will be dismantling our current sukkah on the back patio and replacing it with a new one that can be easily assembled and dismantled each year. Our current sukkah has served our community well for many many years but it is time to replace it. Be on the lookout for an announcement about when we plan to do this. We will need some volunteers to help, and we will also feed you for your efforts!

### **High Holiday Honey**

Don't forget to send honey to your family, friends, and fellow TI members for a sweet new year! The deadline for free shipping for orders going to TI members has been moved to September 1<sup>st</sup>. If you need a form or information about ordering online, please contact Christine in the office at 603.622.6171 or [office@templeisraelmht.org](mailto:office@templeisraelmht.org).

### **Memorial Tzedaka**

Sharon Borak & John Crites-Borak in memory of Bernice Borak  
Ilene & Stuart Brogadir in memory of Harold Geyer  
Phyllis Levine in memory of Faiga Cohen

Renee Brenner in memory of Ida Brenner  
Rabbi Eric Cohen in memory of Eva & Gerald Cohen  
Debra Manning in memory of Sara Hirsch

### **Other Donations**

Renee Brenner in memory of Jack Gibbons  
Renee Brenner in honor of Isadora Zlotowicz  
Dr. Stephen & Marti Nathan in honor of Josh Nathan

Renee Brenner in memory of Bernie Goodman  
Carol Cohen in memory of Bill Cohen  
Elinor Green in memory of Bernie Goodman



- 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 maintaining our yahrzeit boards and Torahs
- Michael Sydney for overseeing the Hebrew Cemetery and our Hebrew School building upgrades
- The Singer/Sydney family for groundskeeping services
- John Weber for his financial acumen and continued support
- Carol Sternberg Chairperson of Kitchen Krew, Lunches and Gift Shop
- Kiddush Krew – Benay Birch, Renee Brenner, Ken Cohen, Josh Nathan, Merle Paltrow, Carol Pressman, Rachel Spierer, Carol Sternberg & David Winthrop

## A Letter to my Congregation by Ruth Chevion

Dear Readers and Friends in Temple Israel,

Some of you have encouraged me to keep writing stories about what happened to my family in the Holocaust. Thank you for that. A few of you, including our newsletter editor Christine Dame, have said I should pull them together and publish a book. I have no interest in doing that.

I have finally found the audience I've been looking for ever since we came to America in 1952. I am so happy to write these stories for you because you see in them what I see. I'm writing them for you.

It's not that I haven't tried telling the stories before. I often tell people I am a daughter of two Holocaust survivors. It tends to fall flat.

Maybe it's the times. There is so much horror at the movies. When I tell people that my parents were not in the camps, I often detect disappointment. It's as though telling a story of my mother being caught and how she got away, does not deliver the full measure of pain.

This feeling was probably the most confusing element of culture shock that I and my parents experienced when we came to America in 1952. People here knew nothing about the Holocaust. It embarrassed them to talk about it. They didn't know what to say. If I said my parents were not in Auschwitz, the conversation ended. Whereas I and my family, coming from a tight knit community of refugees living in Antwerp for 6 years after the war, knew nothing but the Holocaust.

Until we came to America, I did not know anyone who was not either a survivor, or a child of survivors. The stories of survival were everyday conversation. That was our normal.

Another reason I don't want to write a book is that I don't like to promote us as the perennial victim. Not everyone feels compassion for victims. On the contrary. Also, colorful stories of escape, like the ones my mother and father told at home, give the impression that escape was easier than it really was. It's hard to hit the right note.

Yet, there is so much to learn from Holocaust stories, so much to understand about ourselves. I'm thinking of my favorite chapter in Primo Levi's short book about Auschwitz, wherein he describes the night he is carrying the evening soup with a stick on his shoulder, the other end of the stick on his friend Jean's shoulder whom he is teaching Italian. Of course, this soup just barely keeps a man alive, but without it, there is starvation.

Levi describes the whole trudge from the barracks to the soup station, all the while reciting from Dante's Divine Comedy, the canto of Ulysses. He remembers so many stanzas...He recites aloud from memory:

*"Think of your breed; for brutish ignorance  
Your mettle was not made; you were made men,  
To follow after knowledge and excellence."*

Then suddenly his memory fails him. He searches and struggles to capture the next line, but it doesn't come. Then he says:

"I would give today's soup to know how to connect 'the like on any day' to the next two lines."

To me, the idea that a starving slave would prefer two lines of Italian poetry over his life preserving soup, is the reason to delve again into stories of the Holocaust.

We American Jews are lucky to have food, homes, and clothing, but when we are so comfortable, we can lose access to these inner strengths, these flights into the vast cosmos of the spirit. We forget how capable we are in emergency, how compassionate, how resourceful, and how intelligent. My mother's stories, and my father's too, like Primo Levi's stories from

Auschwitz, remind me of who I am for real.

Likewise, the story of my Uncle Alex and his first taste of freedom when he escaped from the Ghetto. It was not a mere physical escape. There was fear, but fear was not the main emotion. His whole being, his heart, understood freedom at a level so profound, so palpable, that I thrill to think of it. This kind of civic joy is lost for me in daily life in America. I treasure Alex's story for that reason.

So that's why I want to share these stories with you, because it's about who we are and what we have in reserve that we can call upon, and what heights of understanding we can attain, Jews and all human beings.

Please know that my parents never talked like this. They particularly cut short any conversation that seemed to touch on what skills accounted for survival, or what could be learned from the Holocaust. Writing about surviving the Holocaust, especially with pride, was not acceptable at home. My mother in particular disliked people she called "professional survivors." You can see why. Both my parents suffered terrible losses. My father lost his best friend and most of his extended family. My mother too.

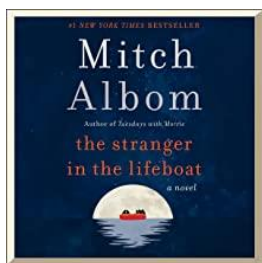
In my defense, I'm not giving extra admiration to the survivors for their perspicacity or anything like that. I'm not denying that luck was the single biggest factor. I'm just saying there is something to see in it besides the losses. Also, remember that I'm not a survivor. I'm a child of survivors, and that makes my perspective different from theirs. They were in it. I heard tell of it. I was born after the war, in 1946.

You may already know that I'm not the only child of survivors in our congregation. I hope she writes also. She approached me the other day in the Temple lobby after the Yom HaShoah service. I didn't realize she was a child of survivors before that. We immediately knew what to ask each other - was yours a talking home or a silent home? Was it your mother or was it your father? Was it in Poland? A few basic child of survivor questions like that. Then, right then and there, she told me an amazing story about her mother.

It's always great to meet another child of survivors because there is an understanding that is beyond words. We look into each other's eyes and the whole story is there.

In closing, I will tell you, that when I finally did meet an American Jew who had studied the Holocaust in detail, who as a boy had dragged newspapers to school for the war effort, who sat for hours with my mother asking her questions, I married him.

For the next issue, I'll start telling you the stories about what my father did. He was 17 when it started.



The next Jewish Book Club ZOOM meeting will be held on Wednesday September 14th at 4:30pm. The book we will be discussing is author Mitch Albom's number one *New York Times* best seller "A Stranger in the Lifeboat."

What would happen if we called on God for help and God actually appeared? In Mitch Albom's

profound new novel of hope and faith, a group of shipwrecked passengers pull a strange man from the sea. He claims to be "the Lord". And he says he can only save them if they all believe in him.

Adrift in a raft after a deadly ship explosion, 10 people struggle for survival at sea. Three days pass. Short on water, food, and hope, they spot a man floating in the waves. They pull him in.

"Thank the Lord we found you," a passenger says.

"I am the Lord," the man whispers.

So begins Mitch Albom's most beguiling and inspiring novel yet.

Albom has written of heaven in the celebrated number one best sellers *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* and *The First Phone Call from Heaven*. Now, for the first time in his fiction, he ponders what we would do if, after crying out for divine help, God actually appeared before us? What might the Lord look, sound and act like?

In *The Stranger in the Lifeboat*, Albom keeps us guessing until the end: Is this strange and quiet man really who he claims to be? What actually happened to cause the explosion? Are the survivors already in heaven, or are they in hell?



The Temple Israel Gift Shop is Open!

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



Registration for the 2022-2023 school year is open!

For more information about our school or to register, you may access the link on our website at [www.templeisraelmht.org](http://www.templeisraelmht.org) under the Hebrew School tab.

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## AV 4 TO ELUL 4



Aug 1 Denis Hammond  
 Aug 3 Emily Gaby  
 Aug 4 Bernie Gasser  
 Aug 5 Gary Singer  
 Aug 6 Stella Verbun  
 Aug 8 Bernice Silberberg  
 Aug 12 Burton Hyman

Aug 12 Lee Sinkow  
 Aug 15 Noah Bednowitz  
 Aug 17 Steve Guttman  
 Aug 21 Steven Rudman  
 Aug 22 Rebecca Berne  
 Aug 22 Rebecca Berne  
 Aug 23 Poppy Sommers

Aug 24 Margery Harrison  
 Aug 24 Zoe Nathan  
 Aug 25 Jeff Klein  
 Aug 26 Harry Shepler  
 Aug 27 Michelle Rosenthal  
 Aug 30 Arabella Cohen



Aug 3 - Ruth & Jay Zax - 53 years  
 Aug 6 - Jacob Silberberg & Rebecca Berne - 11 years  
 Aug 7 - Arielle & Michael Welch - 16 years  
 Aug 9 - Lindsay & Ami Kilchevsky - 8 years

Aug 22 - Celine & Dustin Belanger - 12 years  
 Aug 23 - Emily & Alexander Verbun - 13 years  
 Aug 26 - Rebecca & Jeffrey Singer - 43 years  
 Aug 29 - Barbara & Harry Shepler - 52 years

### Religious Services and Events at a Glance

Morning Minyan - every Wednesday at 7:00am

August 6 - 10:00am - Shabbat Service followed by Kiddush

August 19 - 6:00pm - Musical Family Shabbat with BBQ rsvp by August 12

August 27 - 10:00am - Shabbat service (1<sup>st</sup> Day of Rosh Chodesh Elul)



This summer,  
 answer the call.  
**Donate blood!**



**American  
 Red Cross**

**People's United**  
A Division of MB Bank

**The Elliot**  
A Member of SOLUTIONHEALTH

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AUTO

**MARTIGNETTI**  
COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE BROKERS  
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**HARBOR**  
GROUP  
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Help can't wait, so roll up your sleeve and give with the  
**American Red Cross at the 39th Annual Gail Singer Memorial Blood Drive!**

**Wednesday, Aug. 24 and Thursday, Aug. 25**

**9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown

700 Elm St. •Manchester, NH 03101

All presenting donors will receive a Red Cross T-shirt,  
 complimentary tote bag with vouchers and coupons from many of our partners,  
 and the chance to win a golden ticket prize! \* Parking is validated inside blood drive.

**Schedule your appointment today!**

RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

Blood Donor App | Sponsor Code: SINGER

For more information visit [GailSingerMemorial.org](https://GailSingerMemorial.org)