



**Renewed Connections**

*Rabbi Elizabeth Zeller*



Shalom! I am so thrilled to be writing for the first time for our re-newed *Connections* newsletter. The previous *Connections* was sunsetting just as I was arriving at Temple Chaverim to begin my tenure as your Senior Rabbi. So, it is with great joy that I get to write to you now, in this capacity.

What an interesting few years it has been! I could have never predicted that just a few months into coming here, the world would be turned upside down with an unprecedented pandemic. And yet, it turned not just our world, but also our community on its head. And we had to pivot, quickly. But what I've loved most about our community has been the resiliency and adaptability that has been our most sacred quality during these last few years. We moved quickly and seamlessly into technology to continue to worship and have life-cycle events. We checked in on one another and activated our volunteer network.

We cared for the well-being of one another and made sure that we stayed connected. We truly embraced the words of Rabbi Hillel from Pirke Avot who said, "Do not separate yourself from the community", no matter the barriers to gathering in person.

One of the things I love most about Chaverim is the truly warm and genuine community that we've built. Over the last few years, even as we've weathered change and uncertainty, this community has shown us, time and again, what matters most — being in relationship with one another and building towards a meaningful Jewish community. As we renew our *Connections* newsletter, I hope to continue to connect with each of you on a deeply personal level, as we continue to deepen our connections with one another. That is what true community is made from.

L'shalom,  
Rabbi Elizabeth S. Zeller  
Senior Rabbi



***\*Shabbat Honoring Gary Schreiber  
March 17 at 7:30 pm***

***\*Cooking for Comfort March 19th***

***\*Feed the Need March 21st***

***\*Sisterhood Women's Seder March 23rd***

**WE WANT TO KNOW!**

What can we do to accommodate you?

## President's Message

*Michael Zutler, President*



I am proud to wish Temple Chaverim, Mazel Tov! Sure, there are so many reasons to be happy about being part of Temple Chaverim. However, today I say congratulations for being members of a strong and well-respected Jewish Congregation. Why NOW do I

congratulate you? Because NOW, more than ever, being a member of Temple Chaverim gives you something that many other Jews in our world don't have: affiliation to a vibrant, robust and STRONG Jewish family and institution to rely on.

The recent "National Day of Hate" organized by neo-Nazi and white supremacy groups— heavily reported on in the news— proved to be much of a non-event. Why, because Jewish organizations of strength greatly thwarted the organizers' efforts to ignite fear and hatred. From Synagogues to Broadway productions, Jews across America came together to tell those that would hope to instill fear and misinformation, NOT NOW, NOT HERE. Instead, in some circles, that Saturday (2/25/23) became known as a "Shabbat of Peace". Outside the Broadway show, "Parade" the people drew strength and walked right past

Neo-Nazis who were trying to intimidate them. Rather, theatergoers recognized the importance of a show about a Southern couple in 1912 in which the husband was a victim of an anti-Semitic trial and later lynched by a mob and how anti-Semitism can permeate society... So, instead of deterring patrons, the haters emboldened the community to stand up to them. Temples all around the country continued their Shabbat Services as a sign of strength, including Temple Chaverim.

Part of what makes Temple Chaverim so special is our connection to the community at large. Temple Chaverim is an influential member of our local Interfaith Clergy Council – a group of spiritual leaders from many religions that foster the ideas of embracing our similarities and respecting our differences. I am inspired by a comment by a pastor at the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City regarding supporting Shabbat Services at a neighboring temple on 2/25, "I think there is power and beauty in solidarity; on a strange, awful day like this, we need to be here". If we lay the foundation of a vibrant Jewish community, one in which we set good examples of being a supportive member of our greater community, and educate our children and our neighbors, we build strength and promote the theme of Tikkun Olam— repairing the world.

As we cooperate with the Plainview Reform Church on the Feed the Need initiative (providing warm meals for those who are hungry) we help repair the world. When we provide coats or prom dresses for those who need, we are contributing to Tikkun Olam. While being respectful and setting a good example is very important, we must remain vigilant! According to the Anti-Defamation League, anti-Semitic incidents are at an all-time high. In 2021, there were 2,717 recorded incidents. That's between 7 and 8 incidents every day throughout this country. How do we weaken those that would do us harm? We build our strength. I invite you to be an active participant at keeping Temple Chaverim strong. Come feel the tranquility of Friday Night Services; participate in our educational, social and entertaining programming; join one of our fun "Small Group Initiatives" (I participated in a whisky tasting group) or play cards with the Men's Club or Sisterhood.

Chaverim, each of us is an important brick in the wall that blocks hatred. So again, CONGRATULATIONS on being a brick in the strong foundation that Temple Chaverim provides to all of us. I hope you share the pride that I have in fostering a dynamic pillar of our community! #Chaverim Strong



### 25 YEARS

Amateau, Steve & Carin  
Epstein, Harvey & Susan  
Feller, Michael & Alyssa  
Fieland, Lori

### 20 YEARS

Brenner, Steven & Bonnie  
Frankle, Brian & Susan  
Harris, Wayne & Laurie  
Kimmel, Joan  
Schein, Joan & Alvin  
Warrack, Gail

### 10 YEARS

Antonucci, Melissa  
Gilman, Ian & Paula  
Goldberg, Adam & Sharon  
Goldklang, Carol  
Keschner, Mitchell & Lori  
Mathis, Scott & Erica  
Milgrim, Eric & Randi  
Miller, Neil & Susan  
Reifer, Tracy & Aimee  
Rosenberg, Michael & Rachel  
Sosin, Wayne & Audrey  
Wigler, Harry & Elysa  
Wolfson, Craig & Susan

### 5 YEARS

Adler, Mitchell & Lauren  
Fischer, Michael & Deborah  
Glassman, Adam & Sarah  
Haft, Jason & Rachel  
Landler, Michael & Carrie  
Maultasch, Jayme & Erica  
Mergentime, Larry & Melanie  
Newman, Jason & Samantha  
Pick, Jason & Heather  
Ruziecki, Pete & Shari  
Samuelson, Adam & Michelle  
Spolansky, Matt & Beth  
Vine, Aaron & Jaime  
Waldman, David & Dana  
Weisbach, Evan & Stefanie

Cantor's Corner

Cantor Mariel Ashkenazy



When I've asked what one's favorite Jewish holiday is, "Passover" is a response that I've gotten a lot from people. Even after many years, it continues to surprise me. Pesach doesn't have the pageantry and frivolity of Purim, nor the presents and fried confectioneries of

Chanukah, so I ask myself, "Why?" *Mah nishtanah, ha lilah hazeh?* What is different about this night- this holiday?

I believe it has a lot to do with an ingathering of family members to celebrate the Seder and the special time spent together with recurring family traditions. In my own family, we celebrate holidays like Shabbat, Chanukah and Rosh Hashanah more intimately, with just a few family members gathered around our kitchen table- but on Passover, it's a different story. Every year, we all go to my aunt and uncle's house to celebrate together (barring any pandemics). It may be the one time of the year besides a simcha like a wedding or bat mitzvah, that we will all be in the same room together, and because of that, it takes on even more meaning. The youngest generations act out the story of our Exodus and at some point, we pelt one another with styrofoam hail.

I also wonder if one of the reasons Pesach is such a popular holiday is because it happens at a wonderful time of the year. The days have gotten longer and greener. This is by design; from the Torah we learn that

we "shall keep Chag haMatzot... each spring, for it was then that you left Egypt." Unsurprisingly, Passover is also known as Chag Ha-Aviv, the *Spring Holiday*. The season of spring is all about rebirth; flowers bud through the decaying leaves and grass which give them the nutrients they need to grow forth from the earth and blossom.

The story of Passover— our exodus from Egypt— is a narrative about our origins as Israelites. When the Hebrews escaped, among them were also a mixed multitude of people, an "erev rav." Representing a birth of a nation, the group of Hebrews joined by others, passed through Mitzrayim (Egypt)— from the root tzar— (meaning narrow)— and emerged as a free people. This narrow place was both literal and figurative, representing trials and tribulations, but also the birth canal. The tribe emerges together on the other side connected now as Israelites, having experienced not only God's miracles but saving power. They experience a transition and come out the other side differently. Not only are they free from slavery, but are a changed people. They are reborn.

How will this year's Pesach and spring represent a rebirth for you? It may not be a time for new year's resolutions, but it *is* a time when we can reassess the "chametz" we've collected this year and rid ourselves of it, whether it be spiritually, mentally or physically. We can think of it as spring cleaning from what keeps us in bondage.

May you have a meaningful Passover surrounded by loved ones and delicious food and may you find a way through a narrow place and re-emerge renewed.



**2023  
GOLF OUTING**

**Monday, July 17th!**

Last year's golf outing at Bethpage State Park was a Hole in One!

We had a wonderful turn out and a great time.

This year's outing will take place on Monday, July 17th at Bethpage State Park. We look forward to seeing you there!

Keep an eye out for further details.



# INSTALLATION 2022 – WELCOME CANTOR ASHKENAZY!



*Welcome to our newest Temple members!*

## 2023

Baker, Jeri & Edward  
 Berfond, Nan & Jeffrey  
 Brennan, Eric & Lee-Brennan, Sandy  
 Caro, Bartholomew (Barry) & Jessica  
 Cohen, Ehud & Gutstein-Cohen, Lauren  
 Densky, Jessica & Adam  
 Gaffan, Steven & Susan  
 Galimidi, Jessica & Daniel  
 Goldman, Shanna & Brian  
 Goldstein, Beth & Brett  
 Gottlieb, Melissa & Matthew

Harris, Alexandra & Michael  
 Hollander, Mark & Susan  
 Holtz, Fred & Guo, Joanne  
 Katz, Michael & Suzanne  
 Klein, Richard & Amy  
 Levine, Lindsay & Adam  
 Limowski, Lisa  
 Marks, Jonathan & Alana  
 Miller, Nicole & Michael  
 Parker, Gayle & Goldstein, Joel  
 Perlmutter, Eric & Rachel

Pickus, Robert & Lynn  
 Richman, Fred & Shauna  
 Rudes, Jamie & Lauren  
 Ruthizer, Tyler & Rhea  
 Schwartz, Jason & Tara  
 Schwartz, Liba & Brett  
 Simon, Emanuel & Marissa  
 Solarsh, Eva & Andrew  
 Stern, Laura & Jason  
 Syskrot, Florence  
 Wolfson, Donald

# Religious School Committee News

*Craig Wolfson, Chair and 2nd Vice President*

We have had a great start to our Religious School year. The students, teachers and parents are all working well together, and the growth and learning that is happening is beautiful to observe. There are many programs that children of all ages are taking advantage of.

Our very youngest kids experience both PJs and Prayers, and Circle Time. These are free events for children from 2 to 5, and their families. It is a great introduction to our Religious School. The children sing songs, hear stories and of course have snacks. These events are always a fun time, and the smiles and laughter are a joy to see and hear.

Our new Chadash program for 3rd and 4th graders has been a big success. The program focuses on small group Hebrew learning, and an exploration of Judaism through various types of learning such as STEM and the arts. The students are building a strong foundation as they continue their growth into Jewish adults.

Each of the grades have been participating in special Friday night shabbat services. The children sing songs and prayers in the service. It is a wonderful way to bring the students and their families to services, and their teachers are always there leading the cheers.

Another amazing program that we have been doing is the Parents and Children Teacher (PACT) Program. These are grade specific interactive Jewish learning experiences. Recently the 6th grade students and their families explored their Jewish heritage and family history by bringing in a family heirloom and discussed Jewish immigration. This was an incredibly moving and educational experience for all involved.

We thank all of our families, teachers and students for all that you do to make Temple Chaverim's Religious School such a dynamic element of our Temple.



## PJ's and Prayers

A special Shabbat filled with songs and stories for our congregation's youngest members (with an adult)

**DON'T FORGET TO WEAR YOUR PAJAMAS!**

Friday, April 7  
Friday, May 5  
Friday, June 2

[Register Here](#)



## Chaverim Circle Time

Sunday, April 23  
Sunday, May 14

[Register Here](#)

Stories, crafts, activities and songs!  
For toddlers and up  
(accompanied by an adult)  
Meets monthly on Sunday mornings.

**Members and Non-Members are welcome!**





# Religious School Highlights

*Rabbi Debra Bennet*  
*Rabbi Educator, Director of Religious School*



## A New Approach to Jewish Learning

If you were to come upon one of our 3rd and 4th grade classes on any Sunday morning or any Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon, you will find something remarkable happening. All of our 3rd and 4th grade students are part of Chadash, our new learning experience at Chaverim. They may be building a tower out of cups to experience the story of the Tower of Babel learning how to build it with and without talking to one another. They may be creating their very own covenant with God after the flood, acting as Noah did to reestablish trust with God. Or, they may be envisioning standing on the bimah on the day of their Bar or Bat Mitzvah and how they might feel. Through art, music, science and more our students are exploring what it means to be Jewish in all sorts of new ways. And, through experiential education, our tradition comes alive!



## PACT Programs are Back!

As we began our school year, we were thrilled to announce a return to PACT Programs, Parents and Children Together. All of our 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Graders have an opportunity to explore Judaism with their parents in different ways.

In December, our 3rd and 4th Graders focused on the Jewish heroes of our Torah stories, learning about the incredible things our forefathers and foremothers did. They acted out a dispute between Abraham and Lot and how it was resolved. They explored the action of a patriarch or matriarch that they admired. Additionally, they began to question where our ancestors found God and where we can find God in our lives.

In February, our 6th Graders learned about their families' immigration experience. Through exploring their own family history and traditions, they were able to learn about what it was like for immigrants to come to the United States and begin a new life. Within this program, they were also able to share family recipes and heirlooms. We had an incredible few days of learning.

In March, our 5th Graders will be exploring Jewish Heroes in their own families and beyond. Through the lens of kedushah, or holiness, our families will be examining what it means to be a part of a holy people and to have a relationship with God.

YOUTH PROGRAMMING

# CHATY

CHAvErIm TeMpLe YouTh

Temple Chaverim’s youth group — CHATY (CHAvErIm TeMpLe YouTh) — provides our youth an opportunity to engage in interesting and meaningful activities with their Jewish peers.

CHATY is divided into a senior youth group (for grades 9-12) and a junior youth group JCHATY (for grades 3-7). They have their own programming and activities appropriate for that age group. CHATY is proud to be a part of NFTY, the North American Federation of Temple Youth, and is part of the worldwide Reform Jewish youth organization of NetZer.

Our calendar consists of an array of fun-filled events, social action projects, and holiday celebrations that seek to strengthen their

connection to Judaism by building upon past Jewish experiences while creating new ones.

The bonds formed in youth group often last a lifetime! CHATY’s past events have included trips to Broadway shows, a visit to the Carnegie Deli, a NYC Scavenger Hunt, Gaga for Tzedakah, and our amazing Purim Carnival. Rabbi Debra Bennet, the congregation’s Associate Rabbi, oversees all youth programming, joined by Temple Chaverim’s enthusiastic and outgoing youth engagement staff led by Youth Engagement Specialist Dana Holzer. Rabbi Bennet will be working with CHATY, while Dana focuses on JCHATY.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

March 28th - JCHATY  
Chocolate Seder  
(grades 3-6)

*Register [HERE](#)*

March 29th - JCHATY  
Chocolate Seder  
(TNL)

## TUESDAY NIGHTLIVE



*Making Chanukah donuts!*

## Teens at CHAVERIM

6:15-8:00 pm  
Pizza Served



*Sorting food and toiletries for the Rudman Family Food Pantry at the Mid-Island Y JCC*



*Board Meeting fun!*



*Making sandwiches for the Mercy Soup Kitchen*



*Cooking for the Rudman Family Food Pantry at the Mid-Island Y JCC*

## Teens Lobby Congress

During the last weekend of January, I went on the RAC L'Taken Social Justice Program in Washington D.C. For the four days that we were there, we learned about many social issues such as anti-semitism, gun violence, and economic justice. On Sunday night, we got into our groups and wrote our speeches together. It was very cool because everyone in the program was in pajamas and comfortable clothes sitting in every possible open space writing their speeches. And on Monday, the last day of the trip, we used what we learned to speak to our state and district representatives at Capitol Hill. We met with people from Senator Schumer's and Senator Gillibrand's offices, as well as Representative D'Esposito, and told our speeches to them.

Outside of the political world, we visited many exciting and interesting places throughout the country's capitol. On Saturday we visited the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial. After that, we visited the Holocaust Museum, where we saw many things that occurred during the Holocaust. Then, we visited Georgetown for dinner and shopping. But one of my favorite parts from the trip was the Havdalah service at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Everybody in the program had a candle and was sitting on the steps of the Memorial, singing songs and celebrating Shabbat. On Sunday, we got to visit a Smithsonian museum of our choice. Our group chose the Museum of American History. After, we went to Pentagon Row for dinner.

Throughout the 4 days, we attended seminars teaching us about different problems throughout the world and coming up with ideas to help solve them. For example, we had a lobbying simulation where each person had a job to encourage politicians to support a bill, and at the end, everyone was standing on chairs cheering for their respective side. It was very fun!

All in all, the trip was extremely fun and I encourage anyone who has the chance to go, that they do so because it really is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

*Josh Grossfeld, 10th grade*



## Men's Club

*Andrew Bernstein, President*

Men's Club meets the last Wednesday of each month for Poker Night from 7:30-11. Dinner, beverages and dessert are included and it is always a fun night so please reach out to Men's Club President Andrew Bernstein at 516-480-6809 to join. Men's Club's other activities include summer barbeques before Friday night services, ushering during the High Holidays, building the Sukkah which is a great family event, and being a major sponsor of the Temple summer golf outing as well as all other Temple Events. Looking forward to having more members join our Men's Club.





# CHANUKAH 2022





## LATKES AND VODKA

## THANK YOU SISTERHOOD FOR AN AWESOME EVENT!



# Community Action

## Chaverim Heroes

**Our monthly family volunteering program for children of all ages!**

### CHILDREN'S BOOK EVENT!



March 26 at 11 am

- Special Guest Readers
- Crafts & Snacks
- Pajamas Welcome
- Raffle Prizes!

**Donate a Book!**

Donation Bin in lobby

March 13-26

Click to [Register](#)

Our first event was partnering with Cereal4all to bring cereal boxes to food pantries across Long Island. 76 boxes of cereal donated for Island Harvest! Fun was had by all, especially playing dominos with the cereal boxes!



## Ronald McDonald House

Please join us and help cook a meal at the Ronald McDonald House, which keeps families seeking medical treatment for their sick children near the care they need and the families they love.

Sunday April 9, 2023 267-07 76th Avenue  
9:30 am New Hyde Park

- \* Chefs ages 16 and over
- \* Brunch ingredients provided

Space is limited

Click here to register



## Feed the Need

Help those who live at the Hicksville train station and a local motel get a warm and delicious meal.

Congregants make and assemble food for about 50 people along with members of a local Church. The Church is responsible for the delivery but the food is up to us.

Three ways to help:

- 1) **Donate** - even \$18 or \$36 goes a long way in helping to feed those with food insecurity. Your donations ensure we have the quality ingredients we need to make their food.
- 2) **Shop** - help shop for those items needed to prepare the delicious menu.
- 3) **Cook** - In our temple's kitchen, help to cook and assemble the meals that will be delivered. Help cook, package and clean up.

**Our next event:** [Click here to donate or register](#)  
March 21

For additional information, contact the temple office: 516-367-6100  
**Michael Wright, Social Action Committee Chair**

## Justice League

Calling all...

8th-12th Graders

An opportunity to come together once a month to plan and participate in community service projects

Sunday, March 19th 11:30-12:30 pm  
Sunday, April 23th 11:30-12:30 pm  
Sunday, May 14th 11:30-12:30 pm

For any questions, please contact Rabbi Bennet at (516) 367-6100.



# Small Groups Initiative

*Small Groups are peer-led groups of 6-10 people that come together around a shared interest or topic in an ongoing way, for a specific length of time.*

*Some groups may meet biweekly for 8 weeks or weekly for 4. The goal is to get together with other members, to interact, connect, have fun and to create a closer-knit community.*

*This program runs on a first-come/first-served basis. If you are not able to be included in this round of small groups, please let us know and we will include you in the next set of sessions. It is imperative that we keep the groups small but we are always able to add more groups.*

*Please keep an eye out for future Small Groups this spring.*

## Small Group Info!

### L'dor Vador: The Holocaust Collective

This group is working to create an archive of stories whose families were touched by the Holocaust. The aim is to create a library collection to preserve this history. Our wish is to create something beautiful that helps us to keep these memories alive so we never forget. Our hope is that it will also be a resource for our Hebrew School to help our youngest members remember. It is important to this group that we don't let our past determine the future of our children.

Please share your stories with us so we can begin the task of curating our library.

If you have any questions please reach out to **Judy Weiss** ([jw1957@optonline.net](mailto:jw1957@optonline.net)), **Sherri Winick** ([winicksherri@gmail.com](mailto:winicksherri@gmail.com)) or **Rabbi Zeller** ([rabbi@templechaverim.org](mailto:rabbi@templechaverim.org))

### Join us for what is going to be an evening of learning and discussion with regards to the Holocaust.

April 19th: See Page 20 for further details  
Dr. Bernice Lerner -

Educator, Speaker on the Holocaust, and  
Author of "The Triumph of Wounded Souls and All the Horrors of War".

### Museum Hopping Group

#### Allen Wood, Leader

We are fifteen members strong, and although we do not need to hop, we do enjoy visiting museums. After an initial zoom meeting at which time we determined a few possible sites for a January visit, we selected the Heckscher Museum of Art. We attended on January 29<sup>th</sup>, and saw two new exhibits -- "Raise the Roof: The Home in Art," and "Viewfinders: Photographers Frame Nature." Everybody seemed to have a good time, and we had a lot of discussion as we viewed the exhibits. The next visit was on February 26<sup>th</sup>, at which time we attended the Nassau County Museum of Art, and saw the exhibit "The Big Picture." Future museum possibilities will soon be selected. "Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life" Picasso



# More Small Groups!

**Thank you to all of our facilitators!**

*Please keep an eye out for future Small Groups this spring!*

**Backyard Happy Hour**

*(Cori Cohen and Lauren Malkoff)*

*Connect and socialize with new friends while enjoying cocktails (weekends).*

**Chaverim outdoors**

*(Sherri Winick and John Pagliaro)*

*Meet at different outdoor locations to hike, ski, bike, or kayak and experience the natural environment.*

**Gardening Green-thumbs**

*(Ron Samuel)*

*Come learn how to garden or improve your skills.*

**Walking and Wagging**

*(Aimee Reifer, Rabbi Zeller and Rabbi Bennet)*

*Bring your dog for a walk in the neighborhood with some Chaverim friends*

**Holocaust L'dor V'dor**

*(Judy Weiss)*

*Are you the (grown) child or grandchild of someone who went through the Holocaust?*

*Join us as we begin sharing our family stories with the wider community and connecting with one another to learn, teach, and explore with future generations.*

*Meeting times vary throughout the year.*

**Museum Hopping**

*(Allen Wood)*

*Looking for culture or to try something new? Come tour local and NYC museums with Allen Wood.*

*Museums will be decided upon once everyone registers!*

**Quick Conversational Hebrew**

*(Debbye Brandell)*

*Start speaking Hebrew today. Learn basic words and phrases for travel or the love of the language. Enjoy tasty Israeli treats and make new friends all*

*while learning a new language. No previous knowledge required.*

*Dates and times will be confirmed based on everyone's availability so sign up today!*

**Spirits and Sampling**

*(Jon Bressner)*

*Enjoy Happy Hour whenever this small group gets together to sample different high-end whiskey.*



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## Classes with the Clergy



### Weekly Torah Class

Sunday  
Mornings  
9:15am-10:30am  
*See Shabbat Blast for zoom link*

### Jewish Women in Books

Join Rabbi Zeller in virtual classes exploring various contemporary settings of Jewish women in books. Each month we will be reading a new book on our own and coming together to explore, understand and share ideas on these various works of fiction, nonfiction, and historical fiction.

**COMING SOON!**

SUMMER 2023

**"The Weight of Ink" by Rachel Kadish**

More Information to follow.



## Chaverim News

To submit your noteworthy news to share with your fellow chaverim -- births, engagements and marriages; special awards at school and work; promotions, honors and awards; college acceptances, graduations and degrees conferred; book signings, gallery shows and other special accomplishments [CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT](#)

**Lori Fieland** announces the birth of her granddaughter Summer on December 1, 2023. Parents Brandon and Raina Fieland and big brother Jett are thrilled to add to their family.

**It's a Girl!**



Kaity Berg and Alex Kam were married on February 19, 2023. Alex is the son of Debra and Paul Kam and the grandson of **Carol and Burton Minov**.



*Do you have a program suggestion you would like to share with us?*



**Click [here](#) to share your suggestion.**

**We want to hear from you!**

# DID YOU KNOW?

## Benefits of donating funds from your IRA account (A message from Lloyd Abramowitz, Immediate Past President)

Dear Temple members:

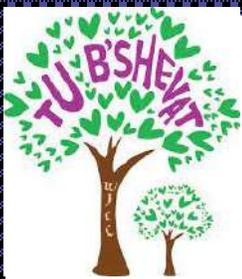
As we approach the end of another fiscal year (June 30th), I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits. This time of year is also a time to reflect and make plans for the future. I am writing to you today to discuss a unique opportunity for you to make a meaningful and impactful donation to our temple.

I would like to share with you the benefits of donating funds from your IRA account. By doing so, you can make a charitable contribution without having to pay income tax on the distribution. This is especially advantageous for those who are required to take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from their IRA account. Instead of having the RMD increase your taxable income, you can direct that money to a charitable organization, such as Temple Chaverim, and reduce your taxable income while supporting a cause that you care about.

This opportunity is a win-win for both you and Temple Chaverim. Your generosity will provide much-needed support for our temple and its programs, and you will be able to maximize the impact of your donation. I strongly encourage you to consider making a charitable contribution from your IRA account, and if you have any questions or would like more information, please don't hesitate to reach out to our office. Please make sure to consult your tax advisor as well.

Thank you for your continued support of Temple Chaverim. Wishing you and your loved ones the very best in health and prosperity.

Sincerely, Lloyd Abramowitz, Immediate Past President

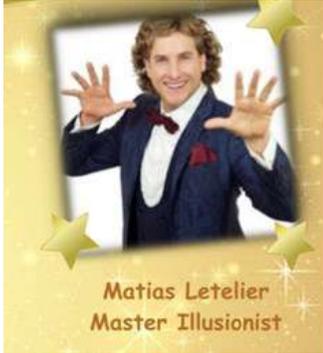


# Seder



# ☆☆ A TRULY MAGICAL EVENING ☆☆

*Many thanks to Judy Weiss and our Special Events Committee for planning such a fun night!*



Matias Letelier  
Master Illusionist





# Purim Schpiel

*Gaga Pit, Games and Prizes  
DJ Music & Dancing  
Hamantashen and Mini Bagels  
Face Painting and more...*



*Special thank you to our sponsors:*

- *Temple Chaverim Sisterhood and Men's Club*
- *Crestwood Country Day School and Camp*
- *Driftwood Day Camp*
- *Party Harty*



# Meet the STAFF



**JULIE FEINMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*I started my journey here at Temple Chaverim in July 2020. I am proud to be a part of our Chaverim family of friends. As your Executive Director, I supervise all day to day temple functions as well as non-clergy staff and so much more. I am here for your membership questions and synagogue needs. My door is always open so please feel free to stop by. I look forward to sharing in your simchas and all life cycle events.*

julie@templechaverim.org

*L'shalom, Julie*

**STEPHANIE MIDDENDORF**  
TEMPLE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



Hi my name is Stephanie and I am the Administrative Assistant for the Temple. I will start my second year here in October. I am married to my husband Adam and have three children, Daniela and Nicolette my twins and youngest son Robert (RJ).

stephanie@templechaverim.org

**RONNIE DILLER**  
CLERGY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



My name is Ronnie Diller and I have been the Clergy Administrative Assistant for the past 9 years, here to help you with anything clergy related. I am your guide through the Bar/Bat Mitzvah process, setting up your child's lessons, Rabbi appointments and answering any questions you might have along the way. I have three children of my own who have been through this experience so I am personally familiar with all the joys and angst surrounding this milestone. Welcome!

ronnie@templechaverim.org

**VICKY GLADOWSKY**  
BOOKKEEPER



Hi! My name is Vicky Gladowsky and I have been the bookkeeper at Temple Chaverim for 16 years. Family is a very important part of my life. Barry and I are fortunate to have a wonderful

family. My children (Arielle and Josh, Danielle and Nate) and my four grandchildren (Jordyn, Abby, Eli and Ryder) are members of Temple Chaverim. You can usually find me at Temple Chaverim on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays but you can leave me a message or email any time.

vicky@templechaverim.org



Meet the  
**STAFF**

CONTINUED

**LYNNE KURTZMAN**

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ADMIN ASSISTANT,  
TEACHER



Hi my name is Lynne Kurtzman. I have worked at Temple Chaverim for 12 years as a Religious school teacher and presently I'm the Religious School administrator. I'm here to help you and your children with questions concerning school. I also teach K1,2 on Tuesday and Wednesday. It is wonderful working with the children and getting to know the Chaverim families.

lynn@templechaverim.org

**DANA HOLZER**

ASST DIRECTOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



Hi! I'm Dana Holzer, the Assistant Director of Youth Engagement here at Temple Chaverim. I have my masters in art education. I love to work with children and teach them new and creative things. I also enjoy hanging out with my husband, 2 children and 2 dogs.

dana@templechaverim.org



**MARK TAYLOR, MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR**

My name is Mark Taylor and I have been the Building Maintenance Manager at Temple Chaverim for over 21 years.

I am responsible for maintaining the building's appearance and supervising the maintenance staff.

**Sisterhood Women's Seder**

Thursday, March 23rd  
6:00 PM

Bat Mitzvah age and up are welcome

Dinner and Dessert  
provided by Lessing's

\*Giveaways and more

There's still time!  
Register Here

\$55.00 for Members (per person)

\$65.00 for Non Members (per person)

Please bring feminine products for the Rudman Family Food Pantry at the Mid- Island Y JCC.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The temple directory can now be found on our website.

Create a user login and have access to your chaverim... email, phone, and addresses. Simply click on "View Directory".



**Support Temple Chaverim!  
It's easy—1-2-3—at NO COST**

*iGive* donates a percentage of your purchase to the charity of your choice at no additional cost to you or your charity.

Simply register **Temple Chaverim** as your charity of choice to have your donation automatically sent to us.



# Super Bowl Pool



**Mazel Tov to the Winners!**

**\$50 BOX / \$25 BOX**

**FIRST QUARTER:** Marty Cohen / Michael Marinoff

**HALF TIME:** Lloyd Abramowitz / Joan Kimmel

**THIRD QUARTER:** Steve Hershkowitz/Vicky Gladowsky

**FINAL SCORE:** Eric Horowitz / Mark Stuckhardt

Sponsored by the Men's Club and a special thank you to Andrew Bernstein for making these two pools a huge success!

## TEMPLE CHAVERIM WANTS YOU!

All members are welcome to join any committee. List of committees can be found on the last page of this newsletter. For more information, please contact Julie Feinman in the temple office.

Do that "one thing" to help the temple thrive!



A program of L'dor Vador:  
The Holocaust Collective

Coming soon on zoom!  
**APRIL 19**  
**Author Bernice Lerner**  
**Speaks to Chaverim**

## About the talk!

**About the Author:** Bernice Lerner is the author of *All the Horrors of War: A Jewish Girl, a British Doctor, and the Liberation of Bergen-Belsen*, and other writings on the Holocaust and on virtue ethics. As director of Boston University's Center for Character and Social Responsibility, Bernice lectured widely, conducted professional development for educators, and taught courses on character education and on the Holocaust. As dean of adult learning at Hebrew College, she created a host of adult learning programs, including the acclaimed *Me'ah*, a two-year journey through Jewish history.



Bernice Lerner will describe how a small group of rescuers went about trying to save lives. She will share astonishing "behind-the-scenes" stories about the unprecedented liberation--from the perspectives of both liberators and survivors, including her mother, then fifteen-year-old Rachel Genuth. Like Rachel, Bernice's aunt and mother of Temple Chaverim member Judy Weiss, Esther Weiss, was among those at death's door in Bergen-Belsen.

**[Click here to register](#)**



# Mazel Tov Bar / Bat Mitzvah



<b>Maya Schiffman</b>	Stuart & Caryn	9/9/2022
<b>Noah Greenblatt</b>	Evan & Shira	9/10/2022
<b>Hayley Maultasch</b>	Jayne & Erica	9/10/2022
<b>Dina Adler</b>	Mitchell & Lauren	9/17/2022
<b>Alex Hemmerdinger</b>	Mark & Jessica	10/8/2022
<b>Sage Rosenberg</b>	Michael & Rachel	10/8/2022
<b>Hayden Charles Sutter</b>	Steven & Erica	10/15/2022
<b>Samuel Holzer</b>	Douglas & Dana	10/22/2022
<b>Hannah Waldman</b>	David & Dana	10/22/2022

<b>Eytan Bennet</b>	Marc & Debra	10/29/2022
<b>Robert Simon</b>	Rhonda	11/5/2022
<b>Serena Novins</b>	Andrew & Jessica	11/5/2022
<b>Ashton Levenstien</b>	Damon & Dina	11/12/2022
<b>Madison Berman</b>	David & Helene	11/12/2022
<b>Alexa Weisbach</b>	Evan & Stefanie	11/19/2022
<b>Hailey Goldberg</b>	Adam & Sharon	11/26/2022
<b>Harper Lax</b>	Josh and Julie	12/10/2022
<b>Zoey Spolansky</b>	Matt & Beth	12/17/2022
<b>Isabella Meyer</b>	Lance & Tracey	12/17/2022

<b>Tyler Walowitz</b>	Neil & Danielle	1/7/2023
<b>Hailey Vine</b>	Aaron & Jaime	1/14/2023
<b>Gabriel Sontag</b>	Eric & April	1/14/2023
<b>Emily Levy</b>	Rob & Leslie	1/21/2023
<b>Eliana Glassman</b>	Adam & Sarah	1/28/2023
<b>Jordan Krilov</b>	Leonard & Barbara	2/4/2023
<b>Ryder Josefsberg</b>	Bobby & Wendy	2/11/2023
<b>Max Levitt</b>	Andrew & Andrea	3/11/2023
<b>Jake Keil</b>	Russell & Jaime	3/25/2023
<b>Ethan Atkin</b>	Brian & Marla	4/1/2023

<b>Jacob Feldman</b>	Evan & Jennifer	4/29/2023
<b>Hayley Bernstein</b>	Eric & Wendy	4/29/2023
<b>Lucy Wilensky</b>	Neil & Robin	5/6/2023
<b>Alexa Silver</b>	Glenn & Ronni	5/13/2023
<b>Dylan Solarsh</b>	Andrew and Eva	5/20/2023
<b>Ava Ormond</b>	Bruce & Adrienne	6/10/2023
<b>Zoe Ormond</b>	Bruce & Adrienne	6/10/2023
<b>Nina Brickel</b>	Kenny & Stacy	6/10/2023
<b>Graydon Brenner</b>	Larry & Betsy	6/17/2023
<b>Brooke Vernick</b>	Jason & Kim	6/17/2023

## Circles of Giving



Thank you  
to our  
Circles Donors  
5782

**Circles of Giving** is a vital pledge program whereby congregants voluntarily increase their annual support to Temple Chaverim by a minimum of \$500. While our dues are in line with other local Reform synagogues, they do not completely cover the cost of running our Temple.

At Temple Chaverim, we are committed to excellence in all of our religious, social and educational programming, as well as outstanding professional leadership. Your gift ensures that all children and adults in our congregation will continue to enjoy all the benefits of membership, in addition to providing scholarships to those in need.

### **CIRCLE OF LIGHT**

A donation of \$5,000 or more above the basic dues:

- All Circle of Excellence recognitions
- After 5 consecutive years of Circle of Light status, a permanent plaque will be dedicated at the \$25,000 level on the Capital Campaign Wall

### **CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE**

A donation of \$1,500 or more above the basic dues:

- All Circle of Distinction recognitions
- A personalized plaque

### **CIRCLE OF DISTINCTION**

A donation between \$1,000 to \$1,499 above the basic dues:

- All Circle of Honor recognitions
- An honor at a Friday night service

### **CIRCLE OF HONOR**

A donation between \$500 to \$999 above the basic dues:

- Listing on Circles plaque in the Temple lobby
- Listing in *Connections* throughout the program year
- A Certificate of Appreciation presented at the Circles donors wine & cheese reception

### **CIRCLE OF LIGHT**

Lloyd & Pamela Abramowitz  
David & Lisa Heymann  
Gary E. & Hilary Schreiber

### **CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE**

Jeffrey Bass  
Jon & Karen Bressner  
Allen & Linda Greenbaum  
Scott & Gayle Grossfeld  
Robert & Leslie Herenstein  
Harris & Carrie Herman  
Allen & Elizabeth Mayer  
Men's Club  
Sisterhood  
William & Carolyn Tucker  
Laurence & Marlene Wald  
Elliot Wittenberg  
Allen Wood  
Mark & Sarane Wolf

### **CIRCLE OF DISTINCTION**

Mark & Fran Freeman  
Barry & Vicky Gladowsky  
Mark & Jessica Hemmerdinger  
David & Jenny Jackson  
David Marx & Karen Yang-Marx  
Elan & Gail Wurtzel  
David & Rabbi Elizabeth Zeller

### **CIRCLE OF HONOR**

Robert & Lauren Bier  
Laurence & Donna Bloom  
Alan & Susan Borko  
William Burstein & Barbara Yacker-Burstein  
David & Florence Halperin  
Jonathan & Tara Isler  
Jo Kay  
Rick & Ariann Lewis  
Ron & Ilene Samuel  
Roger & Sheila Schroeder  
Jeffrey & Stephanie Stern  
Aaron & Dana Wahrsager  
Aaron & Gayle Zwebach

5783 donors will be  
listed in our Fall  
publication.

There's still time! Join or renew your  
participation in Circles  
today!

[Click here to donate](#)

# Connections

**Gayle Grossfeld, Editor, Design & Layout**  
**Julie Feinman, Jessica Novins, Pamela Polevoy,**  
**Sheila Schroeder, Proofreaders**  
**Alan Borko, Scott Grossfeld, Photographers**



## OFFICE DIRECTORY

516-367-6100

- |   |  |
|---|--|
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| <b>Rabbi Debra Bennet</b><br><i>Rabbi Educator</i><br><i>Director of Religious School</i> | rabbibennet@templechaverim.org<br>ext. 109 |
| <b>Cantor Mariel Ashkenazy</b><br><i>Cantor</i>   | cantor@templechaverim.org<br>ext. 105      |
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| <b>Ronnie Diller</b><br><i>Clergy Administrative Assistant</i>                            | ronnie@templechaverim.org<br>ext. 112      |
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## TEMPLE CHAVERIM OFFICERS, TRUSTEES, PAST PRESIDENTS & BOARD MEMBERS 2022-2023

### OFFICERS

- |                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>President</i>                | Michael Zutler   |
| <i>1st Vice President</i>       | Aimee Reifer     |
| <i>2nd Vice President</i>       | Craig Wolfson    |
| <i>3rd Vice President</i>       | Andrew Bernstein |
| <i>Treasurer</i>                | Scott Grossfeld  |
| <i>Secretary</i>                | Pamela Polevoy   |
| <i>Immediate Past President</i> | Lloyd Abramowitz |

### TRUSTEES

Florence Halperin, Eric Horowitz, Sheila Schroeder  
 Mark Freeman, *Hon. Trustee*

### PAST PRESIDENTS

Russell Willens, Gary Schreiber, Karen Bressner, Bruce Steifman,  
 Fredric Gladstone, David Heymann, Alan Borko, Steven Pinsky,  
 Art Angstreich, Shelly Wool, Burton Minov, Allen Greenbaum,  
 Stuart Burton, Stephen Tamber, Mel Kantor

### COMMITTEES

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <i>Bar/Bat Mitzvah</i>            | Susan Wolfson, <i>Chair</i>               |
| <i>Communications</i>             | <i>Position open</i>                      |
| <i>Community Action</i>           | Michael Wright, <i>Chair</i>              |
| <i>Congregant Relations</i>       | Gayle Grossfeld, <i>Chair</i>             |
| <i>Caring Corps</i>               | Lise Mayer, June Prisand, <i>Liaisons</i> |
| <i>Finance</i>                    | Jason Blumkin, <i>Chair</i>               |
| <i>Financial Resources Dev.</i>   | Lloyd Abramowitz, <i>Chair</i>            |
| <i>House</i>                      | Jon Bressner, <i>Chair</i>                |
| <i>Long Range Planning</i>        | Jeffrey Bass, <i>Chair</i>                |
| <i>Men's Club</i>                 | Andrew Bernstein, <i>President</i>        |
| <i>Membership Recruitment</i>     | Gayle Grossfeld, <i>Chair</i>             |
| <i>Religious Practices</i>        | David Jackson, <i>Chair</i>               |
| <i>Religious School Education</i> | Craig Wolfson, <i>Chair</i>               |
| <i>Sisterhood</i>                 | Sharon Goldberg, <i>President</i>         |
| <i>Special Events</i>             | Judith Weiss, <i>Chair</i>                |



**TEMPLE OFFICE HOURS:**  
 9am - 5pm Monday – Thursday  
 9am – 2pm Friday

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HOURS:**  
 4:15 – 6pm Tuesday  
 4:15 – 6pm Wednesday  
 6:20 – 8pm Wednesday  
 9:15 – 11am Sunday

## TEXT ALERTS – SET UP

Text (855) 923-3186 and put chaverim in the message section and press send.  
 It's that easy!!



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Your donations are appreciated!



# What's next?!!

[Click here for our upcoming events](#)

