



## Member Spotlight: *Trudy Agress*

Trudy Agress (née Weiner), a Temple Emanuel member since 1949, turns 99 years old this month. A Boston native, her family settled in Brookline where she belonged to Kehilleth Israel. She began working at just 12 years old, managing the books for her father's business. As a young adult, she became fluent in both French and Spanish, performed as a classical pianist on the radio, and worked in the Harvard Medical School laboratories.

Trudy met her husband, Al, on the train, when they sat in adjacent seats. After a brief conversation, she gave him her "calling card" before parting. Trudy and Al joined TE when they moved to Newton, where they raised their family, and she lives today. Her house holds many treasures from the past, including telegrams received at her wedding, festive holiday murals that she made for decoration, and a TE bulletin from 1950's, commemorating her son's Hebrew School accomplishments.

For many years, Trudy was an active member of TE Sisterhood and the head of the Golden Age seniors group (now called *L'Chaim*). Trudy and members would do volunteer work for Beth Israel Hospital (now called BIDMC), like preparing surgical kits, making baby hats, and collating papers. When BIDMC first opened, it was all Jewish, and Trudy's mother went door to door to raise money for the hospital.

As the TE volunteer group grew, Trudy moved the operation to the BIDMC campus, where she oversaw the "Senior Volunteer Workshop" for 50+ years. Trudy's group remained known for its meaningful Jewish roots and connection to TE. Trudy set the hospital's volunteer service record –55 years– and was frequently recognized for her dedication and leadership, evident from the many awards hanging in her home. Trudy's late husband, Al, is the runner-up with 54 years volunteering; he joined her for weekly Tuesday trips to work at the hospital.

Under Trudy's leadership, her volunteers celebrated all the Jewish holidays. For Chanukah, Trudy made and brought latkes for her group. Her secret recipe included grinding the potatoes in a meat grinder to get the correct consistency. Her grandson continued the tradition in his own way; while teaching at Newton South High School, he arranged to make latkes with a group of students in the school cafeteria during Chanukah, which were sold at lunch with a side of applesauce – and sold out!



Trudy with her grandson, Jason

Diagnosed with cancer in 1969, Trudy was given six months to live. She told her husband that, for their anniversary, before she died, she wanted to go to Israel. Subsequently they took their first trip to Israel, and 49 years later, Trudy is enthusiastically still with us. She loves nothing more than spending time with her grandchildren, Jason and Max, whose father, Bruce, became a bar mitzvah at TE (a memory which Trudy recalls with pride). Limited mobility prevents Trudy from attending services at TE, but she celebrates holidays with her cherished family – occasionally via FaceTime on her iPad to get everyone together!

## A Well Traveled Siddur

by Leora Finkel

It is hard for me to believe I have only been a member of Temple Emanuel's USY chapter for a year and a half because of all that I have experienced with the youth group in that short amount of time. I had major reservations about attending my first USY event, Encampment, a weeklong leadership program, when I learned my mom had registered me without asking first. Yet, today I feel it was one of the best things to happen to me. Since then I have participated in regional and international events, including two International Conventions, the March to End Gun Violence in Boston, as well as Shabbatons, leadership retreats and fun social events.

A highlight of my USY involvement was my participation last summer on the 6 week USY on Wheels program. Along with 40 other USYers from across the country and Israel, we visited over 22 states, learned about Jewish studies, American history, and saw amazing sights, while doing community service projects along our way.

Upon arrival, I was given a siddur to use for the multiple times a day we would daven. Little did I know what a meaningful souvenir of my summer this siddur would become. At first, I wondered where I would fit into this group of new faces. Yet, as we davened *Mincha* together, at the end of our first day, I found assurance in our shared voices that all would be okay. These services would quickly become a predictable routine no matter where we were.

We all set "t'fillot goals" for the summer, a benchmark of what we wanted to learn or lead over the next six weeks. I was so impressed by some of the teens who could learn a Torah portion in a day or two. For me, I was more comfortable leading *Birkat Hamazon*, but it was totally okay that we all came to this trip with different strengths and abilities when it comes to prayer. We were all given encouragement and supported to meet our own personal t'fillot goals. Prayer led this way was such a positive experience, since each role, big or small, was appreciated and congratulated with a warm *Yasher Koach*.

As we traveled across the country, we collected stickers from the sights we visited, and used them to make "custom" covers for our siddurim. Our siddurim were all we needed to transform parking lots, National Parks, even hotel lobbies into holy prayer space. There were many memorable locations we davened in, such as Crater Lake in Oregon, when in the middle of the Torah service a rainbow spread across the sky. Yet for me, the place where I felt most moved by prayer was at Buffollo Bill State Park in Wyoming. We were praying outside, and as we moved through the service there was suddenly a strong wind, which took us all by surprise. In that moment of silent prayer of the *Amidah*, it was like God was there with us, letting us feel a holy presence in the wind.

Over the course of the six week trip the meaning of prayer changed for me. Because I prayed every day, I found myself more focused on the t'fillot I was reciting. As a child, I never fully appreciated the *Amidah*, as it was so many pages and seemed to last forever. Yet, over the course of the trip I came to welcome this prayer. It became the time when I prayed for my people—my family, friends and even acquaintances, like my high school classmate who recently had a heart transplant. I also came to love the morning prayer and tune of *Or Chadash*. While we were often groggy in the morning, the tune of *Or Chadash* always woke us up and would get us going. I mean who needs coffee when you can sing *Or Chadash* each morning?

Praying together with my USY friends, I can't help but feel a strong sense of *ruach*, spirit and community. It is particularly meaningful to me that at USY programs, the teens lead the services. When I see a teen up there, I feel like it is me up there, it is my community.

This summer I'll pack my siddur and travel to Israel with USY on the *L'Takan Olam* trip where I will participate in community service projects all over the country. I can't wait to continue my journey in prayer, and collect more USY memories (and stickers) to add to my siddur along the way.

For more information about USY's summer experiences, please visit: <https://usy.org/escape/>



Leora Finkel with her siddur



USY on Wheels group at Mt. Rushmore



# From the Gates

Affiliated with the UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM  
and SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL OF MASSACHUSETTS

## Contact Information

Temple Office..... 617/558-8100  
Youth Office..... 617/558-8121  
Nursery School Office..... 617/558-8130  
Religious School Office..... 617/558-8120  
[www.templemanuel.com](http://www.templemanuel.com)

For the full January/February calendar, go to:  
[CALENDAR.TEMPLEEMANUEL.COM](http://CALENDAR.TEMPLEEMANUEL.COM)

## Community Prayer: January (Tevet/Shevat) February (Shevat/Adar I) 5779 – 2019

DAILY SERVICES	SHABBAT SERVICES
Sundays at 8:00 am & 7:30 pm	Fridays at 6:30 pm Saturdays at 6:45 am & 9:30 am
Monday through Thursday at 7:00 am & 7:30 pm Fridays at 7:00 am	Childcare at 10:00 am
Rosh Chodesh Shevat – January 7th Tu B'Shevat – January 21st Rosh Chodesh Adar I – February 5th & 6th	
<b>Saturday, January 5</b> Parshat Va'era	<b>Saturday, February 2</b> Parshat Mishpatim
<b>Saturday, January 12</b> Parshat Bo	Sisterhood-sponsored Shabbat
Bat Mitzvah: Mikaela Cafaro, daughter of Kira Cafaro	<b>Saturday, February 9</b> Parshat Terumah
<b>Saturday, January 19</b> Parshat Beshallah	<b>Saturday, February 16</b> Parshat Tetzaveh
Shabbat Shirah Musical Shabbat	<b>Saturday, February 23</b> Parshat Ki Tisa
<b>Saturday, January 26</b> Parshat Yitro	

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES	MINCHA TIMES
1/4.....4:08	1/5.....4:10
1/11.....4:11	1/12.....4:15
1/18.....4:23	2/19.....4:25
1/25.....4:32	1/26.....4:30
2/1.....4:41	2/2.....4:40
2/8.....4:50	2/9.....4:50
2/15.....4:59	2/16.....5:00
2/22.....5:08	2/23.....5:10

## SISTERHOOD SHABBAT Saturday, February 2, 2019

Guest speaker Lisa Fishbain Joffe  
The Shulamit Reinharz Director of the  
Hadassah-Brandeis Institute;  
Director, Project on Gender, Culture, Religion and Law

## BROTHERHOOD/SOCIAL ACTION SHABBAT Saturday, March 2, 2019

Guest speaker Irwin Harris  
Regional President of FJMC Tristate region and current  
President of Tree of Life Congregation Men's Club

## TE COMMUNITY CHALLAH BAKE Sunday, February 10, 2019 1:00 pm

Join together for our first community-wide (all ages/stages/genders) Challah Bake! Hands on instruction. Make dough from scratch, learn to braid challah and more. Take home your challah and impress your family and friends.

Children under 10 must be accompanied by a parent.  
\$18/adult, \$10/kids & teens.

Register at [www.templemanuel.com/ChallahBake](http://www.templemanuel.com/ChallahBake)

Be part of the planning team! Contact Terri at  
[tswartzrussell@templemanuel.com](mailto:tswartzrussell@templemanuel.com)



Temple Emanuel  
**Challah Bake**

## TE ADULT/COMMUNITY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### ME'AH SELECT WINTER/SPRING 2019 COURSES – Classes begin in February

It's time to register at  
[www.templemanuel.com](http://www.templemanuel.com)  
Fee: \$325 for one course/\$625 for fall & winter/spring. Financial aid available.

### THE MODERN JEWISH EXPERIENCE THROUGH THE LENS OF SHORT STORIES with Dr. Jacob Meskin

Wednesday mornings February 6, 13, 27, March 6, 13, 27, April 3, 10, May 1, 8 | 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

This course uses Jewish short stories to explore the experiences of Jews facing modernity's exciting opportunities and often agonizing trials.

### THRICE-TOLD TALES: BIBLICAL STORIES IN CHRISTIAN, JEWISH, AND MUSLIM TRADITIONS WITH RABBI MICHA'EL ROSENBERG, PHD

Monday evenings – February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 29, May 6, 13 | 7:45 pm – 9:45 pm

In this course, we will consider stories from both the Hebrew Bible and the Gospels to see how Jews, Christians, and Muslims have told and retold these tales in antiquity and the early medieval period.

### JEWISH MINDFULNESS AND MEDITATION – ONGOING MONTHLY

Learn how to bring deeper meaning to your Judaism through meditation.  
January 5, February 2, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1, 2019

### LEARNING TO READ HEBREW WITH YONA ROSENMAN

10 sessions: January 9, 16, 23, 30, February 6, 13, 27, March 6, 13, 20 | 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Learn to read the Hebrew letters and vowels and then be introduced to sidder (prayer book) reading.  
Fee: \$75/TE member, \$150 non-member  
Register at [www.templemanuel.com/learnreadhebrew](http://www.templemanuel.com/learnreadhebrew)

### HAVDALAH & MOVIE NIGHT Saturday, January 12, 2019

Join us for a light dinner and a beautiful, participatory Havdalah service. Then it's movie night with refreshments for ALL! A selection of movie options for different ages and tastes will be shown. Free and open to ALL Temple Emanuel members. RSVP by January 4 at [www.templemanuel.com/event/community-havdalah-and-movie-night](http://www.templemanuel.com/event/community-havdalah-and-movie-night).

### TE READS

Tuesday evening, January 22, 2019 | 8:00 – 9:00pm

Read *Amy and Isabelle* by Elizabeth Strout and join in the discussion with Rabbi Gardenzwartz. Read the book then come for the conversation!

### UNLIKELY PARTNERS FOR PEACE Monday, January 28, 2019 | 7:45 – 9:15pm

Join Temple Emanuel and Boston Partners for Peace for a conversation with Shadi Abu Awad, a Palestinian activist, and Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger, an Israeli settler, as they share personal stories of transformation and cross-cultural partnership towards nonviolence and reconciliation.  
RSVP at [www.templemanuel.com/ROOTS](http://www.templemanuel.com/ROOTS)

### LATIN-AMERICAN CLERGY TALK

Wednesday, February 13, 2019 | 7:45 pm

Join Hazzan Elias Rosemberg and clergy with connections to Latin-America for a conversation.

### DISCOVERING MUSSAR

Session 2 beginning February 14

Class is currently full. To be placed on the waitlist, email [tswartzrussell@templemanuel.com](mailto:tswartzrussell@templemanuel.com).

## SENIOR ACTIVITIES

### SENIOR ADAPTED CHAIR YOGA

January 7, 14, & 28 | 1:00 – 2:00 pm

### HEALTHY LIVING TALKS

January 7 | 2:00 – 3:00 pm

Celebration of Reiki following exercise.  
Sponsored by Sisterhood Temple Emanuel and co-presented by the Newton Senior Center.

### RSVP FOR ALL PROGRAMS TO TRACY SCHNEIDER AT 617-959-4928.

## Mezuzah Magic: Here and in Israel

by Ilene Beckman and Ruth Tepper

Every year, our Religious School Alef (1st grade) students participate in a special family education program called Mezuzah Magic. On Sunday morning, December 9th, the children gathered together with their parents and grandparents to learn about *mezuzot*. Some of the children were especially excited because, as one student commented, "My brother did this when he was in Kitah Alef and I remember when he came home with his mezuzah. I could hardly wait and now it's my turn!"

The program started with families thinking about what makes their homes Jewish. They discovered that their homes are filled with all sorts of Jewish objects. Since it was still Hanukkah many listed menorahs, candles, dreidels, and gelt. They added kiddush cups, wine, grape juice, challah covers, candlesticks, and tzedakah boxes.

The families then learned about the passage in the Torah that instructs us to "inscribe them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:9, 11:20). The children inspected a variety of mezuzah cases made of olivewood, glass, delft, and even one made from a saguaro cactus from Arizona. They learned about the parchment (*klaf*) with the Shema and blessings written by a *sofer*, a scribe. Each child then decorated a cover for their own mezuzah which they took home.

The best part of the morning was the temple-wide *mezuzah* hunt where families inspect the doorways on all three floors of the building. They made note of the beautiful *mezuzot* hanging on some doorposts and those that don't yet have one. The morning culminated with the children affixing a *mezuzah* which they had decorated together to a doorpost at TE and reciting the *brachot* "*likbòa mezuzah*" (to affix the mezuzah) and, because it was their first time doing this, the *shehechyanu*.

The Mezuzah Magic program is graciously funded by Diane and David (z"l) Feinzig, longtime members of TE. Diane explained that some years ago, with a special anniversary coming up, the couple decided that, instead of gifts and parties, they would start a fund at the Temple. Education was always a high priority and they had always given generously to universities. Since their two daughters were graduates of the Religious School and they were pleased with the Jewish education they received, they decided to give back by earmarking the fund to be one that would educate children in a fun, hands-on way. When the Mezuzah Magic program came along, it was a perfect fit!

In a timely coincidence, on the same day, a beautiful Temple Emanuel 7 Gates mezuzah was being affixed to a doorway at our 5th grade partner school, Zichron Yosef, in Haifa. Their teacher, Shirli Tocker, who has been our beloved and dedicated partner as part of the CJP Boston-Haifa School-to-School partnership for 10 years, had recently visited TE as part of an educators' delegation from Haifa. At Shabbat services here, Shirli was presented with the TE mezuzah which the entire Zichron Yosef school community hung with pride. This mezuzah stands as a visual reminder of a long and ongoing beautiful relationship that has inspired so many of our students and families over the years through personal connections, pen pals and shared learning.

Wherever we find them, may the mezuzah always be a symbol of Jewish connection and pride.



Shirli Tocker with the TE mezuzah for the Zichron Yosef School



Zachary Vitullo affixing the mezuzah on a TE doorway

Cradles to Crayons partners with TEMPLE EMANUEL

2 hours volunteered. 1,000 kids served.  
This is the power of community.

Eighty-five adults and students collected 200 coats along with warm clothes, mittens, shoes, boots, and toys at the 3rd Annual Temple Emanuel Community Volunteer Event on December 16, 2018.



### L'CHAIM GROUP

January 8, 15, 22 & 29 | 1:00 – 2:30 pm

### MEMORY CAFÉ

January 10 | 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Baseball with Rick Thau.

February 7 | 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Make a trinket box. Sponsored by NewBridge.

### ARTFUL AFTERNOONS

January 17 | 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Chinese Brush Painting. Sponsored by Senior TE Fund and Newbridge.

To RSVP please call Tracy at 617-959-4928.

Community welcome. No charge. Dessert served.

### IMPROV FOR SENIORS

January 24 & January 31 | 1:00 – 2:30 pm

IMPROV workshop from IMPROV BOSTON. Sponsored by Senior TE Fund.

## Members' Milestones and Donations

### MEMBERS' MILESTONES ENGAGEMENTS

Bonnie and Leonard Hausman announce the engagement of their daughter, Naomi to Boris Shochat

### BIRTHS

Barsha Kantor announces the birth of her great-grandson, Jacob Lewis Kantor

Sybil Edelstein announces the birth of her great-grandson, Andrew Maxwell Scott

### SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

#### 50 YEARS

Barbara and Les Gore

#### 45 YEARS

Dr. Margaret and David Link

#### 40 YEARS

Phyllis and Larry Brody

Joanne Linowes and Lee Alinsky

#### 35 YEARS

Judy and Rabbi Josh Elkin

Barbara and Arthur Safran

#### 30 YEARS

Marisa and Jeffrey Cohen

Sibel and Naim Benmayor

#### 20 YEARS

Meredith and Joe Verdore

Sharon Bialy-Cohen and Jacques Cohen

#### 5 YEARS

Shoko and Jeremy Buchman

Lea and Ari Stern

#### DONATIONS

Temple Emanuel gratefully acknowledges the generous donations to our synagogue funds. To learn more about the variety of funds and ways of supporting the synagogue's ongoing efforts, please call the office at (617) 558-8100.

#### Aaron Bell Student Cantorial Arts Fund

Harriet E. Bell in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Steinberg and in memory of Rebecca Goldstein

#### Abraham and Rose Freedman Education Fund

Mitchell and Barbara Freedman in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Ora Zipporah Guttmacher, Dr. Joseph Greenbaum, Ruth Sherman and Al Kaplan in honor of the special

#### Adult Education Fund

Wiki Isman in memory of Herbert Kurtzman; Goldie and Eric Ungar in memory of Shirley Frant

#### Anita and David Granoff Fund to Encourage Teen Torah Readers

Anita and David Granoff in memory of Marc Slotnick; Esther Feldberg in memory of Harry Granofsky

#### Barouh and Channah Berkovits Daily Minyan Fund

Eli Schneider in memory of Mary Schneider; Ray Mady Donoff in memory of Marc Slotnick; Lauren and David Mamon in appreciation of Cantor Rosemberg; Kimberly and Gary Cream in memory of Sheila Shuch; Judie Strauss in honor of the marriage of Marissa Mamon and in honor of Danny Mandeau "Keeper of the Flame"; Joanne and Richard Kazarian in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Joe Gann; Drs. Judith Feldman and Norman Spack, Pauline Smith in appreciation of Cantor Rosemberg; Eleanor Jaffe in memory of Sidney Wikentowski; Beverly and Donald Bavly in honor of the special anniversary of Dr. Paul and Syrilie Rosman; Susan Kahn in memory of Sylvia Becker; Dr. Robert Kennison in memory of Ida Kennison; Susan Miron in appreciation of Cantor Rosemberg; Phyllis Robbins in honor of the special birthday of Dr. Alfred Kaplan; Syrilie and Paul Rosman in honor of Larry Bacow; Josephine Schneider in memory of Leonard Kaplan; Dr. Robert D. Stacks in memory of Judith Stacks Ostrovitz; Sharon Steinberg in memory of Phillip Mindlin; David Steinberg in memory of William Steinberg

#### Berkson Garden Fund

Sandra Levy in honor and appreciation of Fran Feldman and in honor of the special birthday of Denise Teitel

#### Brezniaik Chapel Fund

Cynthia Shulman in honor of the marriage of Kyle Sharaf, in honor of the special anniversary of Ruth and Alan Ades and in honor of Mady Donoff; Nancy Rosengard in memory of Ida Rosengard

#### Cantor's Music Fund

Susan Miron and Burton Fine, Joan and Norton Hight in honor of the

#### David and Diane Feinzig Education Fund

Diane Feinzig in memory of Fanny Feinzig and Benjamin Labell and Marc Slotnick; Goldie and Eric Ungar, Barbara Holzman in memory of Marc Slotnick

#### Linowes Alinsky Fund for Leadership

Merle Hass and Sylvain Korzennik, Michel and Howard Greene in honor of the special birthday of Joanne Linowes Alinsky; Michele and Howard Greene in honor of the special birthday of Joanne Linowes Alinsky

#### Roslyn and Martin Gold Youth Leadership Fund

Susan and Bruce Gold in honor of Danny Mandeau "Keeper of the Flame" and in honor of the marriage of Danny Paisner and Nancy Medoff and in memory of Marc Slotnick

#### Israel and Camp Scholarship Fund

Shirley Saunders, Marcia and Alan Leifer in memory of Ruth Preuss; David Schuller in memory of Gary Schuller; Varda and Neal Farber in honor of the marriage of Danny Paisner and Nancy Medoff, the marriage of Drs. Judy Feldman and Norman Spack and in memory of Marc Slotnick

#### Elizabeth and Simon Cohen Fund

Saul Cohen in memory of Simon Cohen

#### Israel Action

Annette Needle and Peter Meyersohn in memory of Marc Slotnick

#### Dr. Trudy Karger Family Education Fund

Jane Goldman in memory of Susan Ellen Goldman

#### Nancy and Harold Parritz Israel Action Fund

Debbie Buchman in memory of Lieba Wainer

#### Percy Lightman Award Fund

Cynthia and Harvey Cream in memory of Ida Stone

#### Prayer Book Fund

The Waleky Family in memory of Sheila Shuch

#### Ritual Director's Fund

Dr. Dennis Beer in memory of Abraham Beer; Annette

#### Needle in memory of Harry Stuart Needle

#### Rosamond and Harvey Grant Fund in memory of Michele Esta Grant-Epstein

Goldie and Eric Ungar in memory of Beverly Becker, Lorraine Weltman and Irwin Ungar; Rosamond Grant in appreciation of Dr. Gil Daniels

#### Rosenblatt Stars of David Fund

Dr. Lester Shoap in memory of Gary Shoap and Elsie Shoap; Thomas Goldberger and Sue Sand in honor of children Gabby and Jamie and in appreciation for Honor received; Sheril and Steven Dropkin in honor of Paula Appell for receiving the "Lifetime Achievement Award"; Renee Krafchick in memory of Bella Krafchick and Minnie Brooks

#### Ninth Grade Israel Trip

Mindy Peckler in memory of Gerald M. Pollack

#### Rabbi Samuel Chiel Kallah Fund

Elizabeth Dreben and Hillel Chiel in memory of Ruth Preuss; Trudy and Barry Karger in memory of Marc Slotnick

#### Robert Provisor Scholarship Fund

Robert Halperin in memory of Belle Snider

#### Samuel Diengott Scholarship Fund

Marilyn Goldman in memory of Harry Goldman

#### Sherter Memorial Fund

Arlene London in memory of David Sherter

#### Smith Holocaust Fund

Goldie and Eric Ungar in honor of Danny Mandeau "Keeper of the Flame"

#### Sylvia and Mort Grossman Person-to-Person Fund

Linda Polivy in memory of Morton Grossman; Dr. Kenneth Polivy in memory of Charles Polivy

#### Syrlie Rosman Art Fund

Karin Specher in memory of Pauline Goodman; Marlene Katz in memory of Aaron Burrows

#### Temple Daily Minyan Fund

Jonathan Tepper in memory of Lester Tepper; Jeffrey Wolf in memory of

#### Merton Wolf, Jeanette Chiel in memory of Rabbi Samuel Chiel; Diane Richler in memory of Shoshana R. Comet; Channah Berkovits, Barbara Poplack, Ann Kostant, Louise Citron, Sheila Decter, Margot Kann in appreciation of Temple Daily Minyan; Susan Vishner in memory of Everett Gruber; Susan Permut in memory of Jack Permut; Ruth and Don Freedman in memory of Ruth Preuss and Marc Slotnick and in honor of the special birthday of Butch Penstein; Rita and Herb Gann in memory of Ruth Preuss, and Kaplan, Yanes, Gann and Perkins Families; Rhoda and Ronald Sarver in memory of Samuel Sarver; Margaret and David Link in memory of Raina Bornstein, and Eliana Gish and in honor of the marriage of Drs. Judy Feldman and Norman Spack; Linda and Maxwell Rosenbaum for honors received; Judy Garber in memory of Marvin Levine; Jeffrey Wolfe in memory of his beloved father, Alan C. Ornstein

#### Temple Emanuel General Fund

Sandra and Ronald Levy, Simon Gottlieb, Sandy and Rick Thau, Ruth and Howard Smith, Ruth Gold, Roselyn and Edwin Kolodny, Rosanne and Harvey Greenstein, Natalie K. Slater, Marilyn and Paul Kalis, Marcia and Alan Leifer, Mady, Bruce, Liz and Dan, Donoff, Debbie and Alan Rottenberg, Deanna and Sidney Wolk, Adele and Edith Mamskohn; Renata Bralovsky in memory of Zina Gorgevsky; Marvin Rosenbloom in memory of Sheila Shuch; Temple Emanuel Board of Directors, Clergy and Senior Staff to Aron Ain in appreciation for his motivating and inspiring presentation at LEAD; Mady and Bruce Donoff in honor of the special anniversary of Dottie and Fred Sternburg, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Ilana Sternburg, in honor of Mazole and Joel Berkowitz on their 50th wedding anniversary, in memory of Wesley Theodore, Arnold Zaff, and Ina Perlmutter; Joyce Bohnen in memory of Ora Zipporah Guttmacher, Dr. David Ariel, Irving Dropkin, Minna Aronson, Manfried





# From the Gates

## Mussar

*The Jewish Road to Character*

by Rachel Miller

The rave reviews continue to pour in for Rabbi Eric Gurvis' Mussar class.

*"The most rewarding class I've taken in my 34+ years at TE."*

*"A wonderful introduction...into the world of Jewish mindfulness."*

*"A practical, down to earth approach which helps us to achieve our potential to become the best version of our most authentic selves."*

*"Having studied and practiced Mussar for more than a year now, I cannot conceive of ever stopping. It brings me an improved awareness of who I am, how I behave, and how I am seen. It is always percolating in the back--and increasingly--in the forefront of my mind, influencing how I go through life day by day. Studying and practicing Mussar without doubt has changed me."*

Mussar is an introduction into the world of Jewish mindfulness. It presents a systematic approach to improving those areas of our character which need refinement. The class introduces *middot* or soul traits, such as *Kavod* (dignity and honor), *Savlanut* (patience) and *Anava* (humility) and takes a few weeks to focus on each one.

The classes usually include some meditation, some reflection, some Jewish text study, and some discussion. In between classes, the students meet with their *chevruta* to discuss the *Middah* further and how it's applied to their lives. They also keep journals and develop focus phrases to help them work on each soul trait. The goal is to be in balance within each trait, and to understand how each trait is interrelated to other traits.

Mussar became a movement in the 18th–19th century and in the last two decades, has been given new life, especially through the work of Rabbi Ira Stone, and Alan Morinis, founder of The Mussar Institute. Rabbi Eric Gurvis, formerly the senior Rabbi at Temple Shalom, has been teaching Mussar for about six years. If you are interested in learning more, but are on the waiting list for this popular class, he suggests reading Alan Morinis' book, *"Everyday Holiness."*

## Fun with Fiddler

by Ruth Tepper

What do the Temple Emanuel's executive director, past Sisterhood presidents, board members, choir members, and religious school students have in common?

They all have roles in the upcoming performance of *Fiddler on the Roof*, the second musical produced by the "very talented" TE member Melissa Bernstein. What made her take on another play? Melissa explained, "Because we had so much fun doing *Joseph* two years ago, we decided to do another. We picked *Fiddler* because it is a wonderful story with amazing music and it is loved the world over! According to cast member Bonnie Greenberg (Yente), "the play gives me great insight into my grandparents' lives before immigrating to America. The universal themes reach every ethnic group."

When asked why they tried out for parts, the answers varied. Some "actors" had participated in many musicals previously and saw this as the perfect opportunity to get back into performing. Some saw it as a bonding experience, (a group of Sisterhood friends refer to themselves as the Fiddle Sisters), or as an opportunity to meet new people at the temple, or to try something new and out of their comfort zones. Many love the intergenerational nature of this production!

Barbara Grossman (Golde) has been in many musicals including playing Tzeitel over 50 years ago at camp! Barbara, a Professor of Theatre at Tufts University, has directed several musicals but notes that "it is thrilling to be returning as Tzeitel's mother" this time!

Favorite scenes range from the opening "Tradition" to the "Sabbath Prayer" with all the families on stage singing this beautiful and peaceful melody. Sheryl Kalis (Chava), Cheryl Stober (Hodel), and Jordana Alford (Tzeitel) are partial to their joint performance as the sisters waiting for the perfect match in "Matchmaker, Matchmaker." Some participants say hearing new TE member, Aaron Ganz (Motel) singing "Miracle of Miracles" is amazing. With musical training and appearances in many musicals and Light Opera and a 7-time Florida All-State Singer, this was the perfect balance to Aaron's career in finance. And who doesn't love the "Dream Scene" where Lisa Cohen (Fruma Sarah) "loves coming back from the dead, yelling and carrying on and scaring everyone!"

Suzanne Afergan, 9, (Rose the villager) said that it has been her dream to be in a play. Max Stober, 11, (Mordcha the innkeeper) is one of five parent-child teams performing. He has been in six musicals including *Joseph*, and does not get nervous anymore because he has been on stage so many times. After watching his friends in *Joseph*, Ethan Peller, 10, (Mendel) "couldn't wait to try out for *Fiddler*!" Talia Joffe, 10, a villager, has been in musicals at the JCC, camp and school and like many others, loves the dream scene. Naomi Weitzman (Nama the villager) took part in *Joseph*, acts at school, dances and plays the harp. She is totally comfortable on stage! Sarah, 6 ½, and Becky, 9, Gasner love musicals! They have acted before in camp productions and "get just a tiny bit nervous."

## WHAT'S HAPPENING 2019

Tuesday, January 1	New Year's Day observed
Monday, January 21	MLK Jr. Day observed
Monday, January 21	Tu B'Shevat
Sunday, January 27	International Holocaust Remembrance Day
Saturday, February 2	Sisterhood-sponsored Shabbat
Sunday, February 3	World-wide Wrap
Monday, February 18	Presidents' Day observed
Saturday, March 2	Brotherhood/Social Action Shabbat



Temple Emanuel  
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Temple Emanuel Proudly Presents:

**Saturday  
January 26  
@ 7:00 pm**

**Sunday  
January 27  
@ 3:00 pm**

**Fiddler  
on the Roof JR.**

Temple Emanuel  
385 Ward Street  
Newton Centre

*An all Temple Emanuel cast with adults, children and Clergy!  
Director Melissa Bernstein, Musical Director Neil Miller,  
Produced by Cantor Elias Rosemberg  
The show is co-sponsored by Sisterhood Temple Emanuel*

Tickets: \$15; Please visit  
[www.templeemanuel.com/fiddler](http://www.templeemanuel.com/fiddler)

Rebecca Gonzalez, 11, aspires to be an actress when she grows up. Busy as Yussel in *Fiddler* in January, she will be Tinkerbell in Countryside School's production of *Peter Pan* in February! Her mom, Leslie (Fyedka), was inspired by Rebecca. This parent-child duo thought it would be fun to participate together. Leslie says "she gets nervous just talking in front of a group, never mind on stage!" She plays many roles at TE and in the community and now she can add this to her credits!

Gustavo Mostoslavsky (Villager and bottle dancer) brings over ten years of performing with Israeli dance troupes while son Eitan (Avram the librarian) brings his acting talents learned at The Rashi School drama program.

Don't miss this upcoming production. Then go home and pencil in October 2020 on your calendar. You will definitely want to "get in the act" for the next TE production!