

FROM RABBI ZEMEL

JEWISH IDENTITY ALSO ROOTED IN STORIES, RITUALS, AND THE MEMORIES WE CREATE



DEAR FRIENDS,

I want to continue the conversation I started in the last *Vine* regarding the basis for Jewish identity today, in a world in which that identity is post-ethnic. You might recall that I posited four faith principles that I believe most American Jews share:

1. Each human life is of infinite value and, therefore, sacred. This is a bedrock of our moral vision.
2. The gift of life carries with it certain responsibilities. Life is not without purpose. Being human entails a kind of implicit “project,” a human project. We are asked to reflect on what our lives are about and we are challenged to contribute to the world around us.
3. This human project is not without joy. Life has serious demands, but life is also to be celebrated. We do this through the personal life cycle and the annual holiday cycle of Jewish life, both of which combine celebration with a kind of contemplation and a broadening of vision. Sheer celebration, however, is not to be overlooked. Laughter and joy are essential to our humanity.
4. The richness of life is to be explored in as vigorous a way as possible, and each generation has an obligation to teach and equip the next for this purpose.

Were I to use Jewish language to describe the above “faith principles,” I would say:

1. God is the guarantor that all human life is priceless.

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Long-Time Friend of Temple Micah Tapped for Assistant Rabbi Post

BY FRAN DAUTH

THE BOARD OF Directors announced March 7 it had invited Stephanie Crawley, who will be ordained in May, to become an assistant rabbi at Temple Micah. She will replace Rabbi Susan Landau.

“Stephanie is a long-time friend of Temple Micah, having been a Machon Micah Fellow and Outreach Fellow over a several year period. Her accomplishments at Temple Micah left a lasting impression, and her academic record is spectacular, including a stint as a research assistant to Rabbi Larry Hoffman,” Rabbi Daniel G. Zemel and Board President Marcia Silcox said in announcing her selection.

The board announcement noted that Stephanie’s selection was based on the recommendation of a 10-member search committee that conducted a wide-ranging



national search. The search committee members in addition to Rabbi Zemel and President Silcox are Marc Levy (chair), Martha Adler, Amy Berman, Jodi Enda, Aurie Hall, Rich Harwood, Zach Howell and Mary Beth Schiffman.

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How Reform Temples Hire Rabbis

BY FRAN DAUTH

IN SELECTING STEPHANIE Crawley to join Temple Micah as an assistant rabbi, the congregation’s leaders followed a specific timetable in accordance with strict rules put in place by national Reform leaders.

While the rules are meant to create a system of fairness for all involved, there is a specific point in which the process becomes quite nerve wracking. Maybe it does not involve drama at the level of the NFL Draft (certainly the salaries involved are much different), but one that could lead to some fingernail biting.

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"Every person shall sit under
his grapevine or fig tree with
no one to make him afraid."
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TEMPLE MICAH—
A REFORM JEWISH CONGREGATION
2829 Wisconsin Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20007
Voice: 202-342-9175
Fax: 202-342-9179
Email: info@templemicah.org
vine@templemicah.org
Web: templemicah.org

Daniel G. Zemel
RABBI

Josh Beraha
ASSOCIATE RABBI, DIRECTOR OF
CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING

Susan Landau
ASSISTANT RABBI

Rachel Gross
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Meryl Weiner
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I FOUND A HOME 23 YEARS AGO, AND I AM NOW A FIERCE PROPONENT

BY MARCIA FINE SILCOX

In 1995, my family joined Temple Micah, just as it moved to the present location. In my first High Holy Day worship (at the UDC auditorium), I was deeply moved by the teenage Torah



and Haftorah chanters – their poise and skill, and willingness to participate so fully in the service. I decided that Temple Micah was where I wanted my family to be. It's a decision that has had deep and lasting impact for all of us. I'm excited to serve the board as

president, hoping to maintain the high standards set by past presidents who guided this congregation.

My husband Clark and I live on Capitol Hill, in the same house we bought more than 30 years ago. We schlepped Sasha (now living in the Boston area) and Cal (in San Francisco) to thrice a week Hebrew school (in the pre-Machon era). They too were High Holy Day chanters, b'nai mitzvah, Micah high school graduates, and MiTY members. And so I was caught up in working on committees, tutoring, and trying to be an occasional participant in Micah life. Like many, my participation dropped off when I no longer was driving the car pool across town. It took 20 years until the board found me to fill a position, and I found that I loved advocating for all that Temple Micah is and can be.

Recently, Marc Levy, the rabbinic search committee chair, Rabbi Zemel, and I traveled to Cincinnati to interview many qualified candidates. Clearly, Temple Micah was a known and coveted congregation. At the end of the interview, the students often asked us what

we liked about Temple Micah. The question forced me to articulate why I am a fierce proponent and willing to take on a time-consuming leadership role: Temple Micah respects and values each member, and celebrates the diversity of its congregation. We have easy access to unparalleled clergy, staff, and music leaders. These professionals provide an exciting and evolving place to worship, think, help and repair, and experiment. We have a warm place to gather, and a sense of deep community.

So as my leadership journey begins, I invite you to share it. Once, my New Year's resolution was to try all the classes at my gym. From Ab Strength to Zumba. I ended up liking weightlifting. Who knew? So I plan to deepen my dive into Micah by trying programs, meeting and engaging with members, reading more (I highly recommend "Paris in the Present Tense" by Mark Helprin). This fall, I took my first trip to Israel, with Rabbi and Louise Zemel. It was a typically outstanding Micah endeavor. Each traveler tried to understand what Israel is and can be to American Jews. Again, by taking an unaccustomed step, a new world opened. Being a board greeter on a sleepy summer Shabbat led me into a place of cool beauty and reflection, despite the Washington August swelter. Providing an oneg or an auction dinner put me side by side with new Micah friends.

I'm a daily knitter and an occasional runner. I love to bake and travel. I'm a volunteer gardener at the National Arboretum. I'll go to any farmer's market, buy more vegetables than I can fit on my bike, and try every new restaurant. If you want to join me in any of these activities, or if you have thoughts or ideas about Temple Micah, please contact me at president@templemicah.org.



JOIN THE MICAH HOUSE WALK on Apr. 29 at 11:30 a.m.,
to celebrate 29 years of helping women reclaim their lives.
Walkers gather in the sanctuary. Refreshments to follow.
More info and registration at templemicah.org.

THE FEAST: THE WWI CAKE AND BUTTER MELT EDITION

BY ALEXANDRA WISOTSKY

ANYONE WHO HAS been around Temple Micah for a few years knows Peggy Banks, her leadership and her Dark Spice Cake and her Butter Melts.

I spent a few hours recently at Peggy's house talking about recipes, Brazil (her son and his family live there), and Micah.

Peggy and her family joined Temple Micah in the early '80s, when her son Pete was in kindergarten, and she has been active ever since. She served on the Temple Board for seven years, two as president. She taught in the Sunday school. She has been a member of Micah Cooks for 20 years. She organized the 25

Year Club service and leads one service every summer.

And she cooks for several of the Saturday morning kiddushim. "I love to bake, so I always bake. And I love her-ring, so I always bring a jar. I have made mock chopped liver and I make my own hummus."

Anyone who has been to a kiddush that Peggy helped to host will have had her Dark Spice Cake, her mother's and aunt's recipe from WWI. Her mother called it "Poor Man's Cake" because it does not contain eggs or butter. "It was vegan before vegan was a thing," she said. Peggy then showed me a recipe card, written in her mother's

handwriting, with the recipe. "You must use Crisco, and not the liquid kind." And, lucky me, she had baked one for me to taste. It was dark, rich, sweet (but not overly so), and fruity.

After I had inhaled a generous slice, Peggy gave me the recipe. Now, let me say that I can't stand raisins, especially in baked goods where I can't easily pick them out. But this cake had raisins, and was absolutely delicious. Peggy had accomplished the impossible—getting me to eat and enjoy something with raisins, without even realizing they were there. It is a versatile recipe—Peggy did say that you can



throw in anything—she has made it with pecans when she did not have raisins. I imagine that dried cranberries would be good in it, too. It will certainly become one of my regular recipes, raisins and all.

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Meet Lesley Levin, Micah Educator and Grilled Cheese Maven

BY FRAN DAUTH

WHEN LESLEY LEVIN accepted the job of Educator at Temple Micah it was in a way a decision to come home since she grew up in Rockville. But in another way, it meant staying on the



path she had been on for years.

Prior to joining the education staff at Micah in June of 2017, Levin, 33, was the Jewish Student Life Coordinator at the University of Maryland Baltimore County Hillel. Before that she was at the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County's Jewish Teen Initiative. At Ohio State University she got her degree from the Melton Center for Jewish Studies. And in her words she has attended Jewish camps her whole life, saying, "It is your happy place."

Jewish education and learning has been her focus

most of her life.

At Temple Micah, Educator Levin works with Associate Rabbi Josh Beraha, director of congregational learning, to oversee the daily operation of Machon Micah, not a small task.

Consider these numbers: 159 students are enrolled in Sunday classes for pre-kindergarten through sixth grade; on Tuesdays 83 students take part in classes for fifth, sixth and seventh graders; and there is Skype tutoring for 145 students from third grade through seventh grade. Then add 21 teachers on Sunday, 14 on Tuesdays and nine Skype tutors.

Lesley says many of the

teachers, who are hired each summer, are graduate students. She notes the area's Jewish population, the many colleges in the area and the number of students who want to give something back eases the job of finding replacements annually. You won't be surprised to learn Sunday teaching was something Lesley did when she was a student.

Try to follow behind Lesley on a Sunday morning. It is exhausting. A testimony to her inventiveness are the times parents come early to pick up their children who protest: they want to finish whatever puzzle or game she

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 ►

UPCOMING SPEAKER EVENTS

Temple Micah features two monthly lecture series—on Sundays and Wednesdays. For more details, go to templemicah.org.

See below for a new series of events related to the 70th anniversary of Israel.

SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES



April 29 at 10:15 am – Leon R. Kass on “The Ten Commandments: Moral Political Significance.” Kass is the Resident Scholar and Madden-Jewett Chair at American Enterprise Institute. Originally trained in medicine and biochemistry, he shifted directions from doing science to thinking about its human meaning, and he has been engaged for 50 years with ethical and philosophical issues raised by biomedical advance, and with broader moral and cultural issues.

LUNCH & LEARN

Wednesdays from noon to 2 pm

A monthly program sponsored by the Aging Together Team. Reserve online at templemicah.org. Contact Cecelia Weinheimer via email, lunchandlearn@templemicah.org, or call the temple office, 202-342-9175, for details.



April 11 – Jared Blum on “The Anti-Defamation League: Fighting Intolerance and Extremism.” Blum has served as a leader with the Anti-Defamation League for the past 35 years, both as a regional chair of the board of directors, and in the national executive committee of the organization. He will give an overview of the ADL mission, specific programs that would be of interest to Temple Micah congregants, and discuss the challenges for the American Jewish community in confronting the continuing reality of anti-Semitism in this country.



May 9 – Erica Perl on “Carving Out Space for Creativity.” Perl, the author of novels and picture books for young readers, was a trial lawyer first. Perl will discuss how she carved out space for her creative life before, during, and after her professional shift away from legal practice and how imagination can be a friend at any stage of life.

ISRAEL AT 70

A third series this year, Israel at 70, will feature speakers during services and at other events. For more details, go online to templemicah.org.

April 13 at 6:30 pm – Yaniv Sagee, executive director of Givat Haviva will speak at Kabbalat Shabbat on the effort to create a shared society in Israel between Jewish and Arab-Palestinian citizens.

April 20 at 6:30 pm – Rabbi Zemel on The Significance of Israel at 70 at Kabbalat Shabbat celebrating Yom Ha-atzmaut.

May 13 at 4:00 pm – Rabbi Esther Lederman will moderate a Sunday conversation on “The Future Of Israel In The American Jewish Mind” between **Bari Weiss**, a New York Times columnist, and **Rabbi Eric Yoffie**, past president of the Union for Reform Judaism. Temple Micah’s Innovation Fund supports this program. If you have questions or would like to contribute to the Innovation Fund, please contact the office.

LESSONS FROM LANDAU

RELYING ON THE POWER OF 'SHABBATLUCK'

BY RABBI SUSAN LANDAU

One of the hats I love to wear at Temple Micah is when I am the Rabbi "Next Dor." But with the privilege of designing programming for our community's young adults comes the pressure of always trying to be creative and offer new programs and events. We have gone to theater, explored after-hours at the National Gallery, done ice cream tastings, and more. But one classic staple remains. Nothing can top the feeling of a good old fashioned Shabbat dinner! Creative programming has its time and place, but we will never move beyond the need to gather on Friday nights, decompress from the week, and celebrate Shabbat together.

I called Shabbat dinner "good" and "old fashioned" just now, but maybe it's actually the contemporary take that makes it so successful for us in Next Dor. Rather than a traditional dinner for which the host must clean and cook and prepare everything, we in Next Dor are more likely to rely on the power of the

potluck or "Shabbatluck," as we like to say. When the meal is collaborative, it lowers the bar for hosting. Most of our Next Dor hosts report that they didn't realize how easy and comfortable it could be to host Shabbat dinner; had they known they might have done it more often.

I have also spoken about Rev. Jack King's fantastic concept of "scruffy hospitality" (the brilliant revelation that if everyone waited until the house was perfectly clean and the meal was perfectly balanced, they would never invite any guests), and we embrace it fully. Judaism is meant to be a social way of life, but it doesn't say anywhere that we need to be Martha Stewart to make it happen.

The power of the potluck not only eases the burden on hosts, but it has Jewish significance as well. As much as potlucks lower the bar to hosting, they also create space for a higher degree of buy-in, and a greater sense of communal ownership and belonging as many people contribute

integral parts to the whole. As we have recently read in Torah so many descriptions of the building of the Mishkan (the Tabernacle our ancestors were commanded to construct in the wilderness), I read it as a promotion of potlucking. Look closely at these *parashiyot*: everyone contributes something to the construction; the overall structure is adaptable and flexible; it creates a space for God to be among the people, because they are all a part of it. In my mind, the Mishkan has Shabbatluck written all over it!

And while the scruffiness of a Shabbatluck seems perfect for busy, hardworking young adults who might not have tons of space or matching dishes, it works for everyone. Shabbat dinners in general are having a moment. Did you see Vogue's March 2017 piece, "How to Host a Shabbat Dinner and Why You Should — Even if You Aren't Celebrating"? Popular publications are suggesting the benefit of a Shabbat dinner for non-Jews. Who wouldn't



appreciate a tech-free time to end the week and focus on what really matters? While I do encourage the traditional blessings and even some Torah learning at our Next Dor Shabbatluck meals, my goal is to make the process and its rituals accessible and un intimidating. The message is: anyone can enjoy an authentic Shabbat experience. And have you seen the viral video of octo-and-non-oGENERATIONS enjoying a weekly ritual of Shabbat dinner at a local Wendy's in California? You are never too old for Shabbat dinner.

So take this advice to heart. Relieve yourself of the pressure that is so often the excuse we give for not sharing Shabbat meals. Come as you are; eat what you'd like, but make sure to try to do it together sometime. You won't regret it.

Assistant Rabbi FROM PAGE 1 ►

"In the end, the committee and the senior staff wholeheartedly agreed that Stephanie was the best candidate for Temple Micah. She is smart, thoughtful and caring. She is eager to learn and to try new things. And she is very excited to be part of a congregation that embraces innovation, experimentation and fun," Rabbi Zemel and President Silcox said.

"More importantly, she likes tacos and baseball. We think she will fit in very well here," they said.

Stephanie's appointment must be ratified by the Micah membership at the annual meeting June 3. She is expected to assume the post July 1. ♦



DC MARCH FOR OUR LIVES

Getting ready to "pray with their feet" during the DC March for Our Lives are (left to right): Shira Zemel, Ilana Samuel, and Hero Magnus.

How Reform Temples Hire FROM PAGE 1 ►

The placement office of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), in cooperation with the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) and Hebrew Union College (HUC), administers the hiring process.

The process began with Micah telling the CCAR it had an opening. The notification included a description of the job and of the synagogue's membership, past projects and accomplishments, as well as current challenges.

The next step is for those interested to send resumes, not to Temple Micah, but to the CCAR.

This year, Rabbi Zemel said, HUC campuses in New York, Cincinnati, and Los Angeles are ordaining about 25 or 26 rabbinical students, 18 of whom are looking for pulpit jobs. Thirteen of those graduating students asked the CCAR to forward their resumes to Temple Micah.

For this kind of position, very few resumes come from rabbis already "out in the field," he said.

"It's either a buyers' market or a sellers' market," Rabbi Zemel noted, pointing out that this year there were many more openings at synagogues across the country than were students in the graduating class. Among the openings, he said, were ones at synagogues in Atlanta, Denver, San Francisco, Boston, two in Manhattan, Rochester, N.Y., other smaller cities, and another Washington, D.C. congregation.

Three years ago there was a larger graduating class. Temple Micah got 19 resumes and agreed to interview 10 of the 19 candidates. This year with a smaller class, Micah decided to interview all 13 who had their resumes forwarded. "It didn't seem right to eliminate two or three applicants, so we said we would interview all 13," Rabbi Zemel said.

The next step came the first week-end of February when all the candidates were gathered at the Cincinnati campus of HUC. Rabbi Zemel, Board President Marcia Silcox and Marc Levy, the chair of the search committee, flew to Ohio to conduct interviews.

Before the first interview, representatives of all the synagogues involved met to go over the rules.

Asked recently what he was looking for in a candidate, Rabbi Zemel said, "I'm looking for intellectual heft and intellectual curiosity...I'm looking for someone people will want to be with." He rejected the idea that the committee had specific qualifications in mind. "If people express a preference to me, it falls on deaf ears," he said.

Then came the nearly non-stop interviews. Rabbi Zemel, Silcox and Levy interviewed five students on Sunday, five on Monday and three on Tuesday.

From those interviews, three candidates were selected to come to Washington at separate times in February. The full search committee interviewed each during the visit, read their writings and essays, and contacted

their official references, teachers, employers and others.

Each member of the Temple Micah senior staff also met with each candidate.

The candidates, of course, were also conducting their own research, and considering more than one synagogue.

And this is where it gets tricky.

Each synagogue with an opening decides on its order of preference among the finalists. And each applicant decides on his or her first, second and third choice. Neither side knows whether the first call will result in the desired first choice match for job seeker and job offer.

What if a synagogue's first choice has another synagogue as his or her first choice? Does the applicant say no thanks in hopes that the next call is from the first choice?

Rabbi Susan Landau, whose planned departure in June created the opening at Temple Micah, went through the process three years ago. She confided that the year she took part in this prolonged job fair of sorts, the candidates created a Google document that all applicants had access to so that when one person accepted a job, he or she would mark it. That way someone waiting for a call from that synagogue would know not to turn down a synagogue second on the applicant's list.

The calls went out March 6. The announcement that Temple Micah had selected Stephanie Crawley was made March 7, a fairly good sign that there was no trouble in matching up first choices. ♦



MICAH FOLKS IN ISRAEL

Shown here at the annual Debbie Friedman Memorial Concert are (left to right): Noah Westreich, former Micah youth advisor who is studying in Israel for his first year of rabbinical school; Leah Ferrier, Temple Micah high school student studying in Israel; Ruby Tucker, Temple Micah high school student studying in Israel; and Caitlin Brazner, former Micah youth advisor who is studying in Israel for her first year of rabbinical school.

Lesley Levin FROM PAGE 3 ►

has devised for their learning.

As part of the All Community Hanukkah program, for example, Machon Micah's fourth to seventh graders solved Hanukkah-themed puzzles and challenges to get out of a "Hanukkah Escape Room."

Kids in Pre-K through the third grade sang songs, saw an olive oil press demonstration and later used the oil to light a hanukkah, and did menorah crafts. Dreidels were everywhere. Another theme was trivia, a particular interest of Lesley. She stressed that "all the Machon teachers and education team" were a major part of the Hanukkah program. "It was awesome," she added.

A measure of the program's success

came from kids who again balked at leaving early with cries of "no, no, I want to finish."

"I am thrilled to be working with Lesley. She brings so much to the table in terms of her ability to relate to families, to our Machon teachers, and most importantly to our kids," Rabbi Beraha said.

Lesley says her aim is "to inspire students so that they look forward to coming to synagogue ... to see that it is more than a building, that it is a little bit of everything."

Now about that cheese. "Nothing beats classic grilled cheese and tomato soup," she says, but her favorite grilled cheese is the kind she makes for herself. At the time of this interview it was Gouda cheese and pears. But check with Lesley, if you can keep up. ♦

WHILE VISITING ISRAEL...

Martha Adler and Rabbi Zemel found a Sukkat Shalom Street!

**The Feast FROM PAGE 3 ►****DARK SPICE CAKE**

Makes 1 loaf

Time to prepare: about 10 minutes

Time to bake: 1 hour

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup Crisco (solid)
- 1/2 teaspoon cloves
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- dash of ginger (optional)
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup raisins
- dash of salt
- 2 cups flour, sifted
- 1 teaspoon baking soda

Preheat oven to 325. Line a loaf pan with parchment paper.

Step 1: Place all ingredients except flour and baking soda into a large pot. Bring to a boil over a medium-high heat, and boil for 2 minutes until the Crisco melts. Let cool slightly.

Step 2: Sift together the 2 cups flour and 1 teaspoon baking soda. Add to the raisin-Crisco mixture and stir until mixed.

Step 3: Pour into prepared loaf pan.

Bake for 1 hour.

Recipe may be doubled for two loaves.

BUTTER MELTS

Makes approximately 4 dozen cookies

Time to prepare: about 15 minutes

Time to bake: 9 to 12 minutes

- 1/4 lb. (1 stick) margarine or butter (softened)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon vanilla or almond extract
- 2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 4 tablespoons (or more) cocoa powder (optional)
- slivered almonds (optional)

Step 1: Whip softened margarine (or butter) together with sugar and salt.

Step 2: Whip in vegetable oil and vanilla or almond extract – whip for 4 minutes. It should look like mayonnaise when you finish.

Step 3: Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda and optional cocoa powder. Add to butter mixture and stir until it becomes a soft dough.

Step 4: Roll into 1-inch balls and place on parchment-lined baking sheet. Flatten each ball with a fork, in a criss-cross pattern. If using almonds, place a slivered almond on top of each cookie.

Bake at 350 for 9 to 12 minutes.

These cookies do not brown, but will get ever so slightly less pale in color.

TZEDAKAH

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Walsh for all their kindness and
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and Paulette Shulman

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Gerstenblith families

IN MEMORY OF
Rose Berman, by Ed and
Shelley Grossman

RABBI LANDAU'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Sheila Krumholz and Daniel Oshtry
Rabbi Marc and Linda Raphael

IN HONOR OF
Rabbi Landau for officiating at
our wedding, by Joseph Komisar
Rabbi Landau for leading the service
at Donald Weisman's shiva, by the
Weisman and Gerstenblith families

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Maxine and Michael Mantell
Rabbi Marc and Linda Raphael
Paul Shapiro and Peg Blechman
Marjorie Sherman

IN HONOR OF
Rabbi Daniel Zemel for his
kind and loving services to
us and the community, by
Susan and Richard Lahne
Rabbi Zemel and the 2017 Berlin-
Israel Trip, by Susan and Lash LaRue
Rabbi Zemel's celebration of
our wedding, by Eliot Levinson
and Bryna Brennan
Rabbi Zemel on the occasion of
Ben Stern becoming Bar Mitzvah,
by Todd Stern and Jennifer Klein

IN MEMORY OF
Renee Achter, by Susan Blumenthal
Dora Appel, by Harriette Kinberg

Rose Berman, by Richard
and Susan Lahne
Marvin Broder, by Susan Blumenthal
Mace Broide, by Beverly and Stan
Frye, Hall Sisson and Wendi Levine
Gilad Landsberg, by Rabbi Lynne
Landsberg z"l and Dennis Ward
Louise Pasarew, by Lee Pasarew
Etta Sugarman Weisman,
by Steven Weisman

SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

IN HONOR OF
Shoshana Ferguson becoming
Bat Mitzvah, by Learita
Scott and Bob Friedman
Barbara Green's birthday, by
Learita Scott and Bob Friedman
The birth of George Sylvan Grotte,
by Jeff and Margaret Grotte

IN MEMORY OF
Rose Berman, by Sidney
and Elka Booth
Paul Booth, by Martha and David
Adler, Skip and Barbara Halpern,
Cheryl and Harris Schwartz
Adele Fell, by Milton Socolar
Stanley Grossman, by Martha
and David Adler, Sid and Elka
Booth, David and Barbara
Diskin, Natalie Pelavin
Rabbi Lynne Landsberg, by Susie
Blumenthal, Sidney and Elka Booth,
Arlene Brown and Gene Bialek,
Holly Hexter, Rabbi Gerald Serotta,
Beverly and Harlan Sherwat,
Cecelia and Mark Weinheimer
Vivian Liebenau, by Arlene
and Pete Reiniger
Hannah Lipman, by Martha
and David Adler
Shigemitsu Nakashima,
by Ellen Nakashima
Phyllis Schotz Salzberg, Louis E.
Schotz, by Ellen and Stan Brand
Rebecca Socolar, by Milton Socolar
John C. Ward, by Alice M. Greenwald
Jean Wentworth, by David
and Martha Adler

SUKKAT SHALOM

Dana Milbank

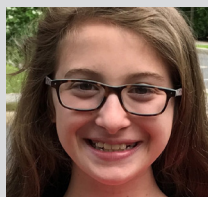
IN MEMORY OF
Jerome Hahn, by Martha
and David Adler

RABBI DANIEL GOLDMAN ZEMEL FUND FOR ISRAEL

IN HONOR OF
Barbara Green's special birthday,
by Sidney and Elka Booth
Lash LaRue, by David Wentworth
and Betsy Broder

IN MEMORY OF
Gloria Waldman Appel, by Betsy
Broder and David Wentworth
Stanley Grossman, by Livia Bardin
Donald Weisman, by Martha
and David Adler

B'NAI MITZVAH



CHLOE ROSENBAUM

MARCH 10 / 23 ADAR

PARENTS: Wendy Meltzer and Josh Rosenbaum

TORAH PORTION: Vayakhel-Pekudei

INDEPENDENT PROJECT: For her study project, Chloe plans to do a review of various "Tzedakah apps" available online.



HANNAH ZAPRUDER

MARCH 24 / 8 NISAN

PARENTS: Alexandra Zapruder and Craig Dye

TORAH PORTION: Tzav

INDEPENDENT PROJECT: For her project, she plans to volunteer at an animal shelter working with abused, abandoned, or neglected animals.



PIERSON EMMANUEL COOPER

APRIL 7 / 22 NISAN

PARENTS: Debby and Bob Cooper

TORAH PORTION: Shmini

INDEPENDENT PROJECT: Pierson has been studying Jewish life in Eastern Europe, from the shtetls through the Holocaust, by watching numerous documentaries and films. He is learning about his ancestors' lives, and the areas where they lived, in preparation for a Heritage Tour that he is taking with his family this summer. They plan to visit Poland, Germany, and Ukraine.



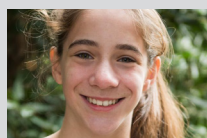
ANNIE SALLICK

APRIL 14 / 29 NISAN

PARENTS: Daniel Sallick and Elizabeth Hayes Miller

TORAH PORTION: Tazaria-Metzora

INDEPENDENT PROJECT: Annie is looking forward to befriending Temple Micah's "adopted" family from Afghanistan and to helping the three young children learn American customs.



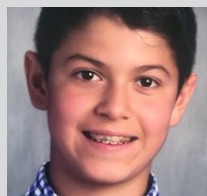
AVA GREGORY and JED GREGORY

APRIL 21 / 6 IYYAR

PARENTS: David Gregory and Beth Wilkinson

TORAH PORTION: Achrei Mot-Kedoshim

INDEPENDENT PROJECTS: Jed is volunteering with DC Special Olympics, working in the organization's basketball league and learning more about its mission. Ava will be traveling to the Texas/Mexico border to assist agencies supporting refugees and immigrants.



EMMITT GERSTEIN

APRIL 28 / 13 IYYAR

PARENTS: Aliza and Jim Gerstein

TORAH PORTION: Emor

INDEPENDENT PROJECT: Emmitt is dedicated to increasing awareness of CHARGE syndrome and raising money for the CHARGE Syndrome Foundation. He is leading a CHARGE team in a 5k run in April and asking for donations to the foundation, which supports medical research and provides assistance for individuals with this genetic syndrome, including Emmitt's brother.

CONDOLENCES

The Temple Micah community extends its deepest condolences to:

SHERYL AARON, on the passing of her grandmother, Rita Golub

RABBI JOSHUA BERAHA, on the passing of his grandmother, Lorraine Beraha

HOWARD AND JILL BERMAN, on the passing of Howard's mother, Rose Berman

SIDNEY BOOTH, on the passing of his cousin, Paul Booth

ANNIE KARABELL, on the passing of her grandfather, Thomas L. Newbery

AMY ROYDEN-BLOOM, on the passing of her mother, Karen Linett

DENNIS WARD, on the passing of his wife, longtime Temple Micah member, Rabbi Lynne Landsberg

MARCIA WOLFF, on the passing of her father, Gilbert Cranberg^o

LIZ POLINER, on the passing of her father, Myron Jacob Poliner

May their memories be for a blessing.

Did you know?

The March Lunch & Learn program featuring Dana Milbank, the Washington Post columnist who is a Temple Micah member, drew some 130 people. So many folks reserved a spot that after the lunch, Milbank's talk was held in the sanctuary. The usual attendance is about half that for the middle of week, noon time talks.

MAZAL TOV!

Lawrence Bachorik and Gail Povar, on the birth of their grandson, Simon Alexander, son of Justin Bachorik and Ashley Bear

Diana and Robert Seasonwein, on the birth of their grandson, Alexander Eli Fraser

Sukkot in Spring: You, Too, Can Find Friends Over a Can of Paint

BY SHELLEY GROSSMAN

YES, THERE REALLY is a hammer for justice as the old song goes and members of the Temple Micah community can swing it on Sunday, May 6.

The hammer—along with paint brushes, spackling knives, brooms and sponges—will be among the tools wielded by volunteers from synagogues and other Jewish organizations throughout the metropolitan area during Yachad's annual Sukkot in Spring housing repair program. (Yachad is Washington's Jewish housing and community development organization.)

For more than 20 years, Micah members have rolled up their sleeves

and helped to repair, spiff up and—most important—make safe the houses of low-income homeowners, thereby enabling them to live comfortably and securely in their homes. In the process, doing this mitzvah preserves affordable housing and helps to revitalize DC neighborhoods.

"Not only is this a good deed, Sukkot in Spring is lots of fun," said Roberta Goren, Micah's Sukkot in Spring House Captain. There's nothing like working side by side painting a wall to make new friends and get to know acquaintances better. And when the job is finished, the room sparkles!

No special DIY skills are required,

although painting experience is a plus. All that is needed is enthusiasm and the willingness to get a little dirty.

"After the paint dries, the furniture is back in place and the dust resettles, the Yachad volunteers and the homeowners will remember that on one special day, a group of strangers descended on a house and magic happened," Audrey Lyon, Yachad's executive director, added. "Relationships formed over scraping old paint, pulling up kitchen tiles and caulking bathtubs. Strangers became friends over a bucket of paint."

To learn more or volunteer, email sukkotinspring@templemicah.org. ♦

Rabbi's Message FROM PAGE 1 ►

2. Mitzvah is the language of Jewish purpose and obligation.

3. Simcha is the understanding that we revel in the gift of life.

4. Torah study, in its many facets, is crucial and vital, and we yearn to teach this to our children diligently.

Having said this, I believe the term "identity" is itself one of the more challenging terms to define. Philosopher and author Charles Taylor describes our deepest form of identity – our fundamental sense of who and what we are – as "moral space." It is the internal, gravitational-like pull that guides our behavior. It is what alternatively motivates us or gnaws at us. We live in an era in which identity is, to a great extent, self formed. More than ever before, we can choose to be who we wish to be, largely unconstrained by our inherited past.

While I ascribe to Taylor's definition, in the case of American Jews, I would add to it. For us, there is another

voice within, a Jewish voice. We are pulled by our shared memories—the experiences we recall. We are moved, for example, by the Passover table, and the words we repeat each year: "Once we were slaves, now we are free..." We are moved, too, by our traditions of lighting Hanukkah candles, eating in the succah, struggling to learn our bar/bat mitzvah portions, even—at Temple Micah—collecting underwear for the homeless during the High Holidays. Each of these experiences comes with a story of Moses and Miriam, of the Maccabees, of wandering in the desert, of the need for tzedakah and more. In other words, our identity is rooted in the shared stories we tell, as well as in the shared experience of how the story is told. Jews share memories. Indeed, part of what makes a Jewish person "Jewish" are the memories that inform who he or she is.

Our memories help form our identity, and the shared experience we have of celebrating Passover or Hanukkah or Shabbat creates a thickness

among us—Jews connecting to other Jews. Two Jews may not know each other personally, but they share a story and an experience. For us, this is how Taylor's moral space is created.

I then ask myself a related question. What counts for important, formative Jewish knowledge today? The significant Jewish knowledge of my own upbringing was a kind of skills-based knowledge. Simply by living in the home in which I was raised, I learned how to keep kosher, observe Shabbat and pray. There were no lessons. It was the lived ethnic life.

Today, as I contemplate what constitutes the lived, adult Jewish life on a daily or weekly basis, I struggle to find a satisfactory answer. Many American Jews don't keep kosher, observe Shabbat or even pray. So how can we create the contours of Taylor's moral space?

I believe that one answer is to continue to tell Jewish stories because embedded within them are the values that Judaism prizes: Moses smashing the Golden Calf is a

value lesson on idolatry. Hillel summarizing the Torah while standing on one foot is a value lesson on the essence of Torah, about the patience required in teaching and learning, about being open to the world. Akiba learning to read at the age of 40 is a value lesson on the importance of learning at any age. The Baal Shem Tov leading the children through the forest is a lesson about living for the future.

Stories can be the meeting place of Jewish learning and identity formation. Creating home rituals where Jewish stories are told at bedtime, around the Shabbat table, at Havdalah as Shabbat is ending can make the stories full experiences providing the context of the moral space of Jewish identity.

The American synagogue should be a place to share stories, experience vibrant rituals and create lasting memories that serve to inform our lives. That is our challenge as we work to define our Jewish identity in 21st-century America.

Shalom,
Rabbi Daniel G. Zemel

RABBI ZEMEL DECRIES THREATENED EXPULSION OF AFRICAN ASYLUM SEEKERS

Below is a copy of the open letter to Israel's Prime Minister from Rabbi Zemel. It was printed in the Washington Jewish Week on Feb. 28, 2018.

(On April 2, Netanyahu announced he had reached an understanding with the United Nations to resettle some of the migrants to Western countries and some would remain in Israel. Hours later, he said in a message on Facebook, that the new plan had been suspended.)

Dear Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu,

I am writing to express my anguish and dismay over your government's stated plan to either deport or imprison the approximately 38,000 African asylum seekers who are currently in Israel.

The thought of deporting anyone who has come to Israel seeking refuge from persecution is horrifying to me as a Jew. It is painful. It feels like a grave sin.

How can a country founded in large measure as a haven for refugees and survivors now move to deport asylum seekers to what we know will be imprisonment, torture and death? Such a move defies the ethical heart of Judaism. God cried out that Abel's blood screamed from the soil into which it was spilled. The blood of every asylum seeker that you deport will be on your hands.

I write to you as a lifelong American Zionist. I come from a great American Zionist lineage of which I am very proud. My grandfather, Rabbi Solomon Goldman, was one of the outstanding leaders of American Zionism, serving as president of the Zionist Organization of America from 1938 to 1941. In that role, he was a co-chair of the World Zionist Congress in Zurich in 1939. He sent my mother and my aunt to study at Haifa's Rial School when they were young girls. My earliest education was at the Zionist-oriented Anshe Emet Day School in Chicago, which he founded in 1946.

I was raised as a committed Zionist and remain one today, a passionate lover of Israel and all she represents in Jewish history and to world Jewry.

There is much in the policies of your government with which I disagree. I find the theological notion of a "God-given Greater Israel" to be both a dangerous fantasy as well as a destructive religious idea. Religious fervor is not the way to make sound governmental policy.

I likewise find the security rationale for the settlement project on the territories gained in the 1967 war to be unwise and an impediment to both peace and desired security.

Please try to not paint me as a naive American lefty who is out of touch with the grim realities of the Middle East. I know that yours is a "tough neighborhood," as you are fond of saying, and I have no illusions in this regard. I simply view the occupation with settlements and the Palestinian conflict as two distinct realities.

The settlements stain Israel's moral standing in the world. They promote violence between settlers and Palestinian Arabs as they corrode the internal fabric of Israeli society. I harbor no illusions that curbing the settlement project will end the larger conflict.

Even as I disagree with many of your government policies, I have never written you a letter before. I am a passionate believer in democracy and although I do believe that American Jews have an obligation and right to raise their voice about Israel, with whom we have a special relationship, I also understand that democracy means learning to live with results with which you strongly disagree.

Ultimately, it is Israelis who must be responsible for the decisions that Israeli governments make.

However, with the threatened deportation of African refugees, I believe your government is crossing a line. You arguably have the right to claim the Palestinian conflict as a security issue for Israelis to decide. The African refugee issue is simply a moral question.

These asylum seekers pose no threat to Israel.

At a time when your country is importing foreign workers to work in agriculture and the hospitality industry, your plan to deport African refugees is profoundly un-Jewish and hints of a most unbecoming racism. Let Israel be a beacon to the world. Give us a policy of which world Jewry can be proud. Let us point to Israel as a country that gives voice to our ancient teaching about saving a life.

The very core of Jewish civilization is the devotion with which our people have explored the challenge of how to create a just society. The Bible screams one value above all others — "one law for citizen and stranger alike." Your government policy is an ultimate corruption of the legacy with which you have been entrusted.

Prime Minister Netanyahu, as I write this, I carry the cry of Abraham, who pleaded for the lives of the righteous residents of Sodom and Gemorrah; of Nathan the prophet, who challenged his king; and of the ancient rabbis who taught that "those who fail to protest the injustice in the world are responsible for that injustice." Please, heed their voices and stand with the justice and compassion demanded by our people's history. ♦

.....
"The thought of deporting anyone who has come to Israel seeking refuge from persecution is horrifying to me as a Jew."

PEOPLE (AND KIDS) OF THE BOOK FAIR

Machon Micah, which always opens with a joyful boker tov, will take on an even more festive air Sunday, May 6, as Temple Micah's annual People of the Book fair, a celebration of books and reading, gets underway.

After the morning song session, students will hear from three local Jewish authors, followed by various activities outside including "moon bounces, food trucks, more music, and a book mobile," according to Associate Rabbi Josh Beraha, the director of congregational learning.

The authors, who will have signed copies of their books for sale, are:

Laura Gehl – Her books include "One Big Pair of Underwear," "Hare and Tortoise Race Across Israel," and a number of books in the "Peep and Egg" series.

Madelyn Rosenberg – Her latest book, "Take Care," advises kids that kindness to the world is as easy as planting trees, tending flowers, and being nice to animals. Among her ear-

lier books are "How to Behave at a Dog Show" and "How to Behave at a Tea Party."

Pamela Ehrenberg – She is the author of novels and picture books for young readers, including "Ethan, Suspended," "Tillmon County Fire," and most recently, "Queen of the Hanukkah Dosas."

Adults will hear from **Jonathan Weisman**, an editor in the Washington bureau of the New York Times and a member of Temple Micah, who has a new book, "(((Semitism)))": Being Jewish in the Age of Trump."

In a recent interview in the Forward, Weisman said while anti-Semitism is not new, the alt-right has combined ancient tropes with "online hipsterism, and the savvy of how to use the Internet to spread its ideology." He will be speaking and signing books from 10:15 a.m. to 11:30.

All the events will take place from 9:30 a.m. to noon.



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