



Living History: Exciting New Project Tells Temple's Unfolding Story

BY SHELLEY GROSSMAN

FROM RABBI ZEMEL

..... SYNAGOGUE IS CENTRAL IN THESE EXTRAORDINARY TIMES

DEAR FRIENDS,

What should a synagogue do?

What makes something Jewish?

Why these questions now?

Last question first.

As American Jews, we have entered extraordinary times. I said in my sermon on the evening of President Trump's inauguration that this elec-

tion makes me feel as if we have gone through the looking glass. It has become very difficult to come to an understanding of our world and our own country.

Traditionally, people view a synagogue as a house of prayer, a house of learning and a communal gathering spot.

But the synagogue also is a place in which we strive—together—to make sense of our world. If not the synagogue, where? Is not the very essence of our tradition about making sense of the world? Does not Judaism offer a space where we ask the hardest questions? Rabbi Shimon Ben Gamliel taught, "The world stands on three things: "truth, justice and peace" (Pirke Avot 1:16). If we live in what some are calling a post-truth era, the synagogue must be a place that not only stands for truth, but also seeks to help us understand the complexity of what truth is in our world.

Michael Satlow, a professor at Brown University, wrote in his 2006 book, *Creating Judaism*, "For at least some of the Rabbis, divine truth was too full to be contained by language, all the more so by a single particular linguistic for-

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EVER WONDER WHY Temple Micah doesn't have a Sisterhood or Confirmation classes? How it acquired its unique four-piece mountain-shaped ark? Thinking of joining the Cooks or going on an Israel trip, but first want some background on these activities? How about getting a peek at a young Rabbi Zemel when he and recent college grad Louise first came to Micah?

All of these things are part of Micah's story, the history of the temple, its people and its special ways. Through video interviews, pictures, words and charts, a new interactive digital resource, Temple Micah – A Living History, 1963 to Today, tells the congregation's ongoing story.

The six-member team that has been working on the project for about two years, plans to launch Living History Version 1 at a special edition of Lunch & Learn at noon on Wednesday, March 1. Everybody is welcome. You can register online at this link or by calling the Micah office.

"The Living History project is a wonderful opportunity to tell our narrative—from our beginnings to our present, in an appealing digital form that can be forever and continually updated," said David Diskin, team captain. At the launch lunch, Diskin will walk attendees through the site, explaining the fine points of getting the most out of it. He

and other members of the team will describe its background and their vision of its future.

So far, the team has scrambled just to begin telling the story of Micah's first 53 years. That task will continue as long



as there are memories to be captured, pictures to be posted and facts, figures and material resources to be retrieved. Meanwhile, history marches on and Living History also will endeavor to portray the ongoing Micah story as it happens. In addition, the team is looking into a section in which members can tell their own stories, like the popular StoryCorps feature heard on NPR.

To accomplish any of this will require some form of participation from all corners of the congregation. Do you have a picture of a congregational or life cycle event? An anecdote? Are you working on something now that should be included? Living History is an all-community venture and welcomes your contribution. Did you go on an Israel trip? Do you have an adorable picture

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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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A REFORM JEWISH CONGREGATION

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AN INSPIRED MLK WEEKEND AT MICAH

By ED LAZERE

There are amazingly special things that happen at Temple Micah all the time, starting with beautiful and meaningful worship services that take me somewhere I don't get to any other part of my week. And our calendar is filled with special events—from the Lunch and Learn series featuring Micah members to book clubs to exciting speakers.



So it's with some reluctance that I highlight here just one set of events, around Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend. It was extra special.

The weekend started with a Kabbalat Shabbat service featuring participants in Operation Understanding DC, whose mission is "to build a generation of African American and Jewish community leaders who promote respect, understanding and cooperation while working to eradicate racism, anti-Semitism and all forms of discrimination." The two speakers, one black and one Jewish high school student from the DC area, spoke eloquently of their lives and how OUDC had opened their eyes. I was excited to learn that Operation Understanding DC is now led by a member of our community, Yolanda Savage-Narva (see story in the December 2016 issue of the *Vine*). Several Micah teens have participated in the past, but not this year. Teens – if you actually read the *Vine* – you should consider this great program!

The evening also included touching remarks from member Martha Adler about her mother, who died a year ago.

Martha's remarks made the memory of her mother a blessing for all of us.

Then on Saturday, the next installment of Temple Micah Reads was a gathering to discuss *March*, the moving graphic novel trilogy about the Civil Rights movement by Congressman John Lewis. I have to admit that I missed the discussion, but friends who attended said Rabbi Landau led a powerful, thought-provoking conversation.

If the weekend had ended there, it would have been enough. Dayenu. But there was more! Sunday brought a really special All-Community Machon Micah to honor Dr. King, organized entirely by congregants. There were multiple activities for adults, for older children, and for younger children, including presentations from the Gun Violence Prevention Group, a focus on affordable housing challenges in DC, more from Operation Understanding, and sandwich making to benefit the clients of Friendship Place. I want to thank all of the people who worked for months to create this thoughtful program. And I want to remind everyone that "All Community Machon Micah" events really are for the whole community. Make sure to put the next one on your calendar.

The entire weekend was built around honoring someone who was not Jewish, but lived out the Prophet Micah's entreaty as well as anyone I can think of. It was built around themes of cultural understanding, building bridges, recognizing the responsibility that comes with privilege, and having the courage to fight for human rights.

That's why it was so special for me. Thanks, Temple Micah!

THE GOSPEL OF LOVINGKINDNESS

By Marcus Gardley
Directed by Jennifer L. Nelson

TEMPLE
MICAH מִיכָה



A Concert Performance from
Mosaic Theater Company of DC
Sat. March 4, 2017 4:00pm
Temple Micah Sanctuary
202-342-9175



Temple Micah & DC's Paid Family Leave Win

BY SHIRA M. ZEMEL

IN EARLY DECEMBER, Temple Micah 10th graders Addie Alexander, Leah Ferrier, Daniel Halpert and Ruby Tucker participated in the Religious Action Center's *L'Taken* Seminar, Jewish social justice and public policy conferences which annually host thousands of Reform Jewish teens from across the country. These Micah students had the unique opportunity to advocate and lobby for a piece of legislation that was going to a committee vote in the DC City Council the very next day: the Universal Paid Leave Act, which provides for a paid family leave insurance program guaranteeing 8 weeks of parental leave, 6 weeks of family leave and 2 weeks of medical leave for all private workers. On December 20, just two weeks after the students met in the offices of Councilmembers Mary Cheh, Elissa Silverman and Chairman Phil Mendelson, the Act passed on a 9-4 vote. Mayor Muriel Bowser resisted pressure to veto the measure, but promises to work with the City Council to address concerns about its cost.

Addie Alexander shared why this was a personal issue for her. "Over the span of eight months my mom would often

take off work because my [ill] grandmother was in need of care... My mom still got paid during the days she missed, making it easier on our family's financial situation. She was very grateful for the privilege to help her mother after all her mother had done for her. On January 15, 2016, my grandmother passed away. Because of paid family leave, my mom was able to cherish the last couple months she had with her mother... Without the Universal Paid Family Leave Act, others will not have the same opportunity as my mom. Shouldn't our government be supporting workers trying to take care of their loved ones? Paid family leave should not just be a privilege, it should be a right."

The Micah connection to this effort goes much deeper than the great work of these four teens.

Key to the campaign's success is Micah member Joanna Blotner. As campaign manager for the DC Paid Family

and Medical Leave Program Coalition, Blotner said, "The timing of *L'Taken* for our Micah teens [was perfect] for advancing this campaign! They joined roughly 50 other community advocates who walked the halls of the Wilson Building throughout the day in support of paid family and medical leave. Ward 3 Councilmember Cheh was a key swing vote for restoring personal medical leave in the coverage of the bill and I know their conversation with her office made a real impact on how she voted. It was really special to have members of my own temple at the Council building with me that day making a Jewish case for DC to support the physical, emotional, and financial well-being of working families."

Commenting on the importance of this act, Ed Lazere, president of Temple Micah (and Executive Director of the DC Fiscal Policy Institute), said, "I'm so excited that thousands will now be able to care for their families at critical moments, like the birth of a child, without having to worry about facing a financial crisis. Paid leave will reduce income inequality, improve public health and draw more women in our labor market."

Rabbi Zemel applauded the effort, too, saying, "The family is the primary and most essential institution in Jewish life. Caring for family members



At the DC City Council: Micah teens Daniel Halpert, Ruby Tucker, Addie Alexander and Leah Ferrier with Noah Westreich and RAC Legislative Assistant Nathan Bennet



Micah *L'Taken*: Micah teens with Noah Westreich, Rabbi Zemel, and Shira Zemel

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

Here's a sampling of coming Micah activities. For a detailed schedule of all upcoming events and services, check out www.templemicah.org.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17 and
FRIDAY, MARCH 10 • 6 PM

Young Family Shabbat Service
For babies through first graders and their families, followed by dinner and crafts.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24-25

**Aaron Altschul Memorial
Artist-in-Residence Weekend**
See details on this page.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4 • 4 PM

**Performance: The Gospel of
Lovingkindness**

Mosaic Theater performs *The Gospel of Lovingkindness*. The play addresses the plague of gun violence in a powerful, intimate way, and is appropriate for audience members as young as middle school, if accompanied by an adult. Join us for the performance, conversation, and havdalah. Hosted by Micah's Gun Violence Prevention working group.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4 • 6 PM

**MiTY Youth Group Spring
"Lock-in"**

Please contact Noah Westreich at westreich@templemicah.org for details.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12 • 9:30 AM

All-Community Purim Spiel!

Join us in costume as we retell the Story of Esther with the Micah players. Bring a box of macaroni to use as a grogger, and to donate after the play.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29 • AFTERNOON

**SAVE THE DATE! Georgetown
Chorale Concert to Benefit
Micah House**

Details to come.

INTERESTING SPEAKERS!

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

SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES

10:30 am to noon

REPORTING THE NEWS IN A "POST-TRUTH" ERA

Join us on **March 26** for a timely panel discussion with Micah members and journalists. **Jodi Enda** (Assistant Managing Editor for Special Projects at CNN Politics) will serve as moderator for panelists **Naftali Bendavid** (Congressional reporter, *Wall Street Journal*), **Elisabeth Bumiller** (Washington bureau chief, *New York Times*), and **Dana Milbank** (columnist, *The Washington Post*) as they discuss current events and answer audience questions. This program is being supported by Temple Micah's Innovation Fund. If you have questions or would like to contribute to the Innovation Fund, please contact the office.

LUNCH & LEARN

Wednesdays from noon to 2 pm

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



Wednesday, March 8 – Dr. Muriel Wolf, on "Children and Lead Poisoning." Mimi Wolf, a longtime pediatrician, will discuss the twists of opportunity and fate that contributed to her expertise in the treatment of lead poisoning and her advocacy on behalf of children and families to prevent environmental lead exposure. She'll talk about her medical training at a time when few

women practiced medicine, her work to bring medical care to underserved parts of Washington and surrounding counties, and establishing one of the first Pediatric Nurse Practitioner programs in the U.S. **NOTE:** *This is a change from the previously published L&L schedule. Our original speaker has an unavoidable conflict and will be rescheduled at a future date.*

ALSO THIS MONTH



February 24 & 25 – Aaron Altschul Memorial Artist-in-Residence Weekend, a special musical Shabbat with **Merri Lovinger Arian**, one of Hebrew Union College's beloved faculty members in liturgical arts. Friday night, Arian will speak on "Music as a Means for Deepening Worship." Arian will lead parts of the Shabbat morning service, and will join us again Shabbat afternoon at 5 pm

for her talk, "Current Trends in Synagogue Music: To Sing or Not to Sing? That Is No Longer the Question." We will end the evening together with havdallah.

LESSONS FROM LANDAU

TURNING TO THE TREES FOR *TU B'SHVAT*

BY RABBI SUSAN LANDAU

I remember teaching religious school when I was a rabbinical student, and watching the children learn the “Tree” song in music class, singing proudly for *Tu B'Shvat*.

I remember leading *Tu B'Shvat* seder experiences in a nursing home where I worked, letting residents taste soft, sweet dates from Israel as a break from the monotony of nursing home food.

I remember being in Jerusalem and attending a *Tu B'Shvat* seder at one of the Reform synagogues, which featured the rabbi's young daughter showing off the “tree” pose she learned in her preschool yoga class for the holiday.

But, it turns out, there is more to *Tu B'Shvat* than children's songs and dried fruit. *Tu B'Shvat* — which we celebrated on February 11th this year — offers a refreshing opportunity for reflection in a cold time of the year; a chance to explore how we live our very lives. The *Tu B'Shvat* seder is a mystical creation, the fruit of our kabbalistic ancestors in 16th-century Tzfat. For the Kabbalists, the symbol of the tree is in many ways a representation of what they believed about God: it is a force with roots in our world,

and branches extending to the high heavens. The mystics envisioned different stages of holiness that are possible in all of the realms between the earth and heaven, and the ritual of the *Tu B'Shvat* seder helps us experience what each emanation is like.

Rabbi Chaim Vital, one of the early mystic rabbis, connected the four main spiritual worlds between us and God to four different categories of fruit. When we eat these fruits in the *Tu B'Shvat* seder we use our experience of taste to connect to our conceptions of ourselves. It is a great Jewish embodiment of the notion “you are what you eat.” Rabbi Vital's first serving of fruit represents *assiyah*, actualization of the physical, tangible world in which we live, and is symbolized by fruits that have soft interiors covered by a hardened peel or shell, like pomegranates, pistachios, and citrus fruits. Which parts of ourselves need protection from the outside world? In which areas of our lives could we benefit from breaking down the barriers a little more?

Yetzirah, the second realm, is one of formation, and we understand its significance by

eating fruits with hard pits but soft outsides, like dates, olives, and peaches. Sometimes, after we remove the external barriers to growth, we find that there is still hardness on the inside, holding us back. What lies just beyond our abilities at this stage of being, as our new ideas for ourselves begin to take shape?

The third realm, *Beriah*, represents the creation that is attainable when we let our guards down, clean our souls out, and open ourselves completely to change. In this realm we eat fruits that are soft throughout, like grapes, blueberries, and figs.

Atzilut represents the realm of pure divinity. This unattainable, incomprehensible way of being eludes us, and no symbolic fruit makes it more accessible. It reminds us that no matter how much we open ourselves to the world around us, there is always something infinite in the great beyond that will remain just out of reach, motivating us to continue to grow to our fullest capacity.

Through vivid symbols like the fruits of the seder, *Tu B'Shvat* is a time to use trees as a paradigm to examine our own growth: to both recon-



nect to the natural world and its woody giants, but also to look inward. Interestingly, *Tu B'Shvat* marks almost a half-way point in the Jewish calendar. Which goals did we set out for ourselves when we engaged so wholeheartedly in the process of *teshuvah*, months ago? How have we been living our lives as the seasons turned and the weather got colder and darker? Perhaps there is a natural cycle of growth that connects us to the rest of the world around us. The winter is an introspective time of hibernation, when it is only natural to look inward once more. But spring will come, and with it new growth and potential unleashed.

On February 9, Next Dor (Temple Micah's 20s/30s group) had a *Tu B'Shvat* seder with young adults from Hill Havurah. We ate and drank our way through the cycles and seasons of the year (both with the traditional fruits and wine, and with ice cream!), and built community while we reflected on our lives.

PROMOTING LITERACY THROUGH READING PARTNERS

Our favorite reading in Jewish literature identifies some of the things that we might consider crucial in the making of a full life. They include loving parents, doing deeds of lovingkindness, and making peace between one person and another and between husband and wife. Torah, it concludes, is basic to them all.

The truth is that reading is basic to them all. Too many of our children in the Greater Washington area are struggling with reading at the very beginning of their student lives. By one measure, only 15 percent of DC's fourth graders from low-income families can read proficiently, placing DC among the worst-performing cities in the country.

Temple Micah is exploring a partnership with Reading Partners, a nationwide program that has created a pathway for all of us to “teach” reading during school hours each week one-on-one. If you're interested in joining this effort or just learning more, please call the temple office at 202-342-9175, and ask Jeannelle to put you in touch with one of us. Together, we can make a difference.

— Rabbi Herb and Sharon Schwartz

MICAH HOUSE AND AN OLD FRIEND IN FAITH

BY DORIAN FRIEDMAN

TEMPLE MICAH AND Micah House were the proud recipients of a generous grant in January from Riverside Baptist Church, a small congregation in Southwest Washington, DC. The gift arose from a special bond between two houses of worship—and the enduring friendship of two men.

Twenty-five years ago, Rabbi Zemel and Reverend Michael Bledsoe, the newly hired pastor at Riverside Baptist, met at a clergy meeting. “We hit it off because we were both nodding off in the corner,” jokes Bledsoe, who admits that neither of them enjoyed such meetings. Temple Micah was then located near the waterfront in Southwest DC, where the congregation shared space with St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, and Riverside Baptist occupied a neighboring block.

Within a few years, Micah had moved to our current location on Wisconsin Avenue, but the

friendship between the two men and their families grew. Bledsoe recalls with emotion the Christian-Jewish dialogue they continue to share, and meaningful experiences like speaking at a Micah Yom HaShoah (Holocaust remembrance) service. At Rabbi Zemel’s invitation, he and a group of his congregants plan to join Micah members at a performance of *The Gospel of Lovingkindness* and a discussion about gun violence on March 4. (See details on page 4.)

Riverside Baptist, meanwhile, had been buffeted by dramatic changes in the Southwest community where it has long been an anchor. As membership declined and bills mounted, gentrification of the adjacent waterfront presented the church with the chance to secure its financial future—“to establish an endowment to safeguard our congregation for another generation,” in Bledsoe’s words. After years of consideration, the church

sold part of its property to PN Hoffman, developer of The Wharf, a massive revitalization project. Last month, Riverside Baptist was demolished to make way for a new but still modest church next door.

And then there’s that endowment. Bledsoe and a small committee from Riverside Baptist made a vow: Before they invested it, they would give away \$100,000 “to groups that are repairing our world” and standing up for marginalized sectors of society. They came up with a list of 30 worthy beneficiaries spanning a range of interests and causes—from evangelical environmentalists to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital and the Gay Christian Network; from a bilingual school in rural Honduras to a mentoring program in Southwest DC. Micah House received \$5,000, one of the largest awards, given “in honor of Rabbi Zemel and our congregations’ abiding friendship.”

On Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, the rabbi, Louise Zemel, and members of the Micah House board of directors attended a service hosted by Riverside Baptist, where Micah House accepted the gift. The civil-rights focused ceremony “was one of the most moving and deeply spiritual moments I have experienced in recent memory,” said Rabbi Zemel.

“The timing couldn’t have been better,” said Ann Sablosky, of Micah House’s board. “It turns out that we need to replace the roof, and this generous gift will cover half of our costs.”

As for Riverside Baptist, when its new church opens sometime next year, the entrance to its sanctuary will feature a handsome brown stone salvaged from the banks of the Sea of Galilee. It was a recent gift to Bledsoe and his congregants from the Zemel family, carried back from Israel by Shira Zemel’s inlaws—and a token of a friendship that has lasted a lifetime. ♦



Last Year in Jerusalem

In December, a small group of young adults from Temple Micah joined the Birthright program in Israel. From left to right: Sarah Mishkin, Elizabeth Zeichner, Gideon Blum, Melanie Stern, Ronit Zemel.

Asking Saves Kids: Micah's Gun Violence Prevention Group Launches "ASK" Effort

BY ELSIE KLUMPNER AND MEG VAN ACHTERBERG

DID YOU KNOW that one out of three households with children in America possesses a gun, and that an estimated 1.7 million of those children live in homes with guns that are *loaded* and *unlocked*? We know that kids are curious and love to explore, but when guns are in the home, that is too often a deadly combination. Harvard researchers discovered that 70 percent of kids under the age of 10 knew where the weapons in their homes were kept (even when parents thought they had "hidden" them well), and 36 percent of kids had actually handled the gun.

On Sunday, January 15, as part of Temple Micah's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day commemoration, members of Temple Micah's Gun Violence Prevention Group encouraged parents to sign a pledge to support the ASK (Asking Saves Kids) Campaign. ASK is an initiative of the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence (<http://www.bradycampaign.org/bradycenter>) to encourage parents to take a simple

pledge: Ask parents in whose homes their children will play, "Is there an unlocked gun in your home?"

To help normalize what is obviously an awkward question, experts suggest adding it to the list of other inquiries parents routinely make, such as: Is there a place for the kids to do homework? What kind of snacks do you serve the kids? What kinds of activities will my child be doing? Given the reality that 80 percent of unintentional firearm deaths of children under 15 occur in homes, the information you learn is vital to ensure that our children are playing in an environment where natural curiosity will not result in unintentional injury or worse.

Twenty-nine Micah parents signed the pledge and shared some thoughts on how to pose the question in the least threatening way, using humor and inclusive language to soften a controversial topic. Including some mention of their child's own curiosity or fascination with guns might be helpful. Some parents

have already begun asking this question, and shared that reactions have ranged from complete acceptance to mild defensiveness. More information about the ASK Campaign can be found at the website: <http://askingsaveskids.org/>.

At upcoming Temple Micah events, the GVP Committee will continue to make the ASK Pledge form available, giving more parents the opportunity to sign it. In addition, the GVP Committee welcomes new members to help support this work.

The next GVP initiative is planned for Saturday, March 4, at 4 pm. The Mosaic Theater Company of DC will perform *The Gospel of Lovingkindness*, a play by Marcus Gardley that wrestles with issues of violence, poverty and more. The performance, suitable for youngsters in middle school and older accompanied by their parents, will be followed by a discussion and Havdalah service in the sanctuary. Please watch the weekly temple newsletter for details. ♦

THE RELIGIOUS ACTION CENTER: A Critical Resource in Challenging Times

The Urgency of Now

The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC), located here in Washington, DC, works year round to engage Reform congregations on public policy issues that reflect the core Jewish values of social justice. The RAC has launched an initiative called "The Urgency of Now" (see: <http://www.rac.org/urgency-now-resource-center>), which features a valuable online Resource Center where you can sign up to receive updates and action alerts on issues of greatest concern.

Consultation on Conscience Conference: April 30 - May 2 (registration due by February 28)

Join the Temple Micah delegation at the Religious Action Center's biennial conference. The conference empowers the Reform Movement through leadership development, community building, and dialogue, and culminates with an afternoon of advocacy on Capitol Hill. Registration is filling quickly. To get group pricing of \$279 each, all Micah members must register together as a delegation through Temple Micah. Our registration deadline has been extended to February 28. Details can be found on the RAC website at www.rac.org/consultation-conscience. Please contact Jeannelle D'Isa in the temple office if you would like to attend.

Rabbi's Message FROM PAGE 1 ►

mulation. When read within the sprawling conversation comprised by their literature, the Rabbis offer the possibility of seeing truth in a proposition and its opposite, with everything in between. They offer conceptual maps of creative tensions."

This is an apt description of our new world. Micah must be a place to dissect, explain and learn how to respond to it. Our response will be most effective when it comes from within the wellsprings of our faith.

The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote, "The arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice." Archimedes wrote, "Give me a place to stand and a lever long enough and I will move the world." Judaism is the place where these two great statements meet. King's moral arc needs a long lever. The Jewish moral lever dates back to the time when God formed a covenant with Abraham and Sarah, saying, "For I have chosen Abraham,

so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of Adonai by doing what is right and just" (Genesis 18:19). Our lever reaches back to Sinai, when Moses came down from a mountain carrying a universal code for justice.

For us, justice is not a trend or a fad. Justice is in the Jewish DNA. It is an obligation that we have carried with us from land to land to land, for 4,000 years.

We have a mandate to engage in inquiry and ongoing conversation about our world. To do so, we must seek out guest teachers who will share their knowledge. We must also seek out those whose worldview may be different from that of many of us. This is also the Jewish way. The students Hillel and Shammai differed on nearly every point of Jewish law and custom, but they respected each other's learning and, by engaging in constant dialogue, became wiser. This is the meaning of discussion that is "for the sake of heaven." Our conversation at

Micah is always aimed at making a better world.

The challenges before us today are great. I urge you, as concerned Americans, to read Arlie Russell Hochschild's book, *Strangers in Their Own Land*, for our April discussion. The book is a deep exploration of rural Louisiana, its people, their customs and way of life. The book opened up a whole new world for me and fresh insight into the way fellow American citizens think about their lives.

There are so many other topics to explore. Israel, as you know, is never far from my mind. I am currently puzzling through the new American reality that one can simultaneously be a supporter of Israel and an anti-Semite, a supporter of Israel and anti-Zionist.

We have gone through the looking glass. At Temple Micah, we seek with renewed effort and urgency to make sense of our world.

Shalom,
Rabbi Daniel G. Zemel

Living History FROM PAGE 1 ►

taken at a Tashlich picnic or the Purim Spiel? Did you meet your spouse at Micah? Living History would love a picture of the wedding. Did you or your kids celebrate b'nai mitzvah here? Teach in the religious school or attend Machon Micah? Were you there at the beginning of an activity (Torah Study Group? Knit and Kvetch?) that took off or didn't make it? Temple Micah is a well-rounded community and Living History needs both breadth and depth, light episodes and dark.

Currently, the Living History site is divided into 22 sections, including such topics as history, worship,

education, rabbis, volunteers and staff, social justice, fun and the love connection. At the end of each section is a feedback box to click on and correct mistakes, fill in omissions, add to or supplement what's there and suggest other topics to explore.

"It has been an absolute joy to work on this project with what I like to call the Dream Team," Diskin said. He is the computer whiz that not only coordinates the project, but designed the site and makes everything work. Shelley Grossman, this reporter and a retired journalist, does most of the writing and editing. Three videographers conduct, tape and edit the interviews: Stu Schwartz,

retired Emmy-winning ABC producer; Jennifer Gruber, a veteran documentary maker, and Leslie Sewell, former NBC correspondent and for many years a nationally recognized documentary maker. And author Francie Schwartz does much of the historical research.

Living History grew out of the Member Recognition Task Force which in 2015 recommended that the temple board of directors find ways to acknowledge and pay tribute to its members for the often unsung work they do to make Micah Micah. So Living History is attempting to include the names of as many members as it can find who over the years

have served on the board, chaired committees, sung in the choir, coordinated onegs, edited the Vine, taught in religious school, volunteered in the office and did many jobs that no one knows about. And because people make the community, the story of Micah's people is the living history of the congregation.

"The Living History project will ensure that our past will not be forgotten but instead archived and recorded. Every generation of Micah will know what it has received from its past," Rabbi Zemel said. "Where there is no history and no memory, anything can rush in to fill the void." ♦

Family Leave FROM PAGE 3 ►

in times of need is fundamental to who we are. It was an inspiring confluence of events that saw Temple Micah students lobby on

behalf of the paid family leave legislation whose city wide effort was organized by Joanna Blotner, a passionate advocate for social justice... who many of us remember

not that many years ago as an active Micah teen herself."

This is the second year Temple Micah has sent a cohort of teens to the *L'Taken*

Social Justice Seminar. The current Temple Micah 9th grade can register for next year's seminar at the beginning of their 10th grade year in the Machon. ♦

HIGH HOLY DAYS GRATITUDE!

Thank you to those who organized and beautified our 5777 High Holiday celebrations:

HIGH HOLY DAY CO-CHAIRS

Jackie Harwood, Adam Klinger, Lisa Saks

HIGH HOLY DAY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ushers: Doug Grob

Security: Todd Jasper

Medical: Gail Povar

Rosh Hashanah Oneg: Kathlene Collins

Apples and Honey: Dorian Friedman

Yom Kippur Break the Fast: Marina Fanning

Signs: Phil Katz and Sara Morningstar

Loaner Books: Emma Spaulding

Ticket Assistance: Geri Nielsen

Hineni/Rides: Tina Coplan and Evelyn Sahr

TORAH READERS – SANCTUARY

Shayna Brotzman, Adam Burch, Benjamin Fleurence, Mia Goodman, Hero Magnus, Elena Rubens Goldfarb, Ilana Samuel, Seth Sabar, Arielle Weinstein, Sadie Wyatt

TORAH READERS – GREAT HALL

Catherine Lynch, Ben Moss, Barrett Newman, Noel Salinger, Linda Schultz, Louisa Spector, Alexi Weinberg, Paula Wolfson

HAFTARAH READERS – SANCTUARY

Sarah Carleton, Elias Diwan, Kaleo Goldstein-Coloretti, Matthew Hua, Natavan Karsh, Matthew Mande, Thomas Mande, Jordi Parry, Marina Schechter

HAFTARAH READERS – GREAT HALL

Sarah Feuer, Ben Beraha

BA'ALEI TEKIYAH – SHOFAR

Aaron Klaus, Teddy Klaus, Hero Magnus, Bill Page, Robert Weinstein, Shirit Westreich

KOL NIDRE – SANCTUARY

Jennifer Gruber, Bill Page

KOL NIDRE – GREAT HALL

Beth Rubens

AVODAH SERVICE

Larry Bachorik, Peg Blechman, Laurie Brumberg, Nani Coloretti, Liz Lerman

CHOIR

David Asher, Geoffrey Barron, Sue Baum, Nadine Braunstein, Stuart Brown, Gary Dickelman, Barbara Diskin, David Diskin, Laura Ferguson, Lora Ferguson, Ron Ferguson, Julie Galambush, Jan Greenberg, Genie Grohman, Ed Grossman, Jennifer Gruber, Betty Hollis, Barbara Klestzick, Zachary Lynch, Marjorie Marcus, William Page, Bob Rackleff, Suzanne Saunders, Alex Shilo, Michelle Turner, Sonia White, Daniel Yett

POP-UP CHOIR

David Adler, David Diskin, Laura Ferguson, Ron Ferguson, Genie Grohman, Yael Hoffman, Stephanie Kaufman, Mike Langlois, Lee McClure, Danny Moss, Colleen Prior, Emily Warheit

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Eli Blum, Lora Ferguson, Lila Klaus, Ben Moran, Ruth Simon

STATUE OF LIBERTY PINS AT MICAH

The Statue of Liberty is the perfect symbol for our time. It stands for diversity: She is the welcoming icon for so many immigrants, the “Mother of Exiles” crying, “Give me your tired, your poor.” It also stands for freedom, lifting her lamp “beside the golden door,” signaling not only prosperity ahead, but liberty and justice for all. And by extension, it stands for opposition to all forms of bigotry.

At Temple Micah, we’re encouraging all of our members to wear and distribute Statue of Liberty pins. Please pick up a free pin at the temple and wear it. Do it as a matter of pride, and as a reminder of what we stand for, and what we urge America continue to be. Learn more about the Liberty Movement at www.templemicah.org/liberty.



TZEDAKAH

BUILDING FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Irving Klaus, by Stephen Appell and Marie Danforth
Louise Wheatley, by Harvey and Susie
Blumenthal, Lora Ferguson

ENDOWMENT FUND

Jeff Passel

IN HONOR OF

Jacob Reuben Paul Mezey on his early
acceptance to Yale University, by Marilyn Paul

IN MEMORY OF

Irving Klaus, David Queller, by
Harriet and Randy Tritell
Bertha Levenson and Richard
Levenson, by Brenda Levenson
Miriam Miller, by Michelle Sender
Louise Wheatley, by Larry Bachorik and Gail Povar

GENERAL FUND

Lee Pasarew and Isabel Reiff
Aaron Karsh and Joanne Zamore

IN HONOR OF

Gregg and Stefanie Rothschild, Dylan
Rothschild, Molly Rothschild, and Carly
Rothschild, by Herbert and Marie Rothschild
The marriage of Laura Tochen and Andrew
Clerman, by Betsy Broder and David Wentworth
Temple Micah clergy and staff, by Ira Hillman

IN MEMORY OF

Corinne Asher, by David and Lucy Asher
Eva Benda, by Richard Fitz and Kathy Spiegel
Reubin From, by Al and Ginger From
Thomas Hartley Hall, IV, by Norman Blumenfeld
Miriam Miller, by David and Livia Bardin
Michael Nussbaum, by Gloria Weissberg
Lillian Chait Pose, by Marilyn Paul
Harold Sharlin, by David and Lucy Asher, David and
Livia Bardin, Vanessa Mitchell and Jonathan Tarlin
Sidney Earl Tucker, by Robert Walker
Louise Wheatley, by Tom Sahagian
and Kit Wheatley

HINENI FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Toby Passel, by Jeff Passel
Phyllis Schaffer, by Sheila Platoff

INNOVATION FUND

Margery Doppelt and Larry Rothman

IN HONOR OF

Barbara Diskin's birthday, by Larry
Bachorik and Gail Povar
Richard and Susan Lahne, by the
Isidore Grossman Foundation

IN MEMORY OF

Harold Sharlin, by Burton Greenstein,
Larry Bachorik and Gail Povar

LEARNING FUND

IN HONOR OF

Don and Nancy Elisburg, by Norman Blumenfeld
Rebecca Kanter and Rabbi Beraha; Jeannelle
D'Isa; Richard and Susan Lahne; and in
celebration of Gabriel Brumberg becoming
Bar Mitzvah, by Dan and Laurie Brumberg
Rabbi Tamara Miller and Harriett Stonehill
for their leadership of the Wise Aging group,
by Robert Effros and Sheila Platoff

Rhiannon Walsh, by Ken Goldstein

IN MEMORY OF

Max Bender, Alice Hirschmann, by
Carole and John Hirschmann
Miriam Miller, by Alan and Jannet Carpien
Benjamin Rigberg, on the 10th anniversary
of his death, by Katherine Hoyt
Harold Sharlin, by Alan and Jannet
Carpien, Harriet and Randy Tritell
Harry Wellins, by Mark and Myra Kovey

MICAH COOKS

IN MEMORY OF

Jerry Gross, by Norman Blumenfeld

MICAH HOUSE

Ellen and Stan Brand
Alan and Jannet Carpien
Kirsten Goldberg
Jack and Judy Hadley
Sheila Platoff
Aaron Karsh and Joanne Zamore

IN MEMORY OF

Eva Benda, by the State Department Office
to Monitor and Combat Trafficking Persons
Morris Sahr, by Evelyn Sahr and Marty Stern
Louise Wheatley, by Philip Katz
and Sara Morningstar

RABBI BERAHA'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Elizabeth and Maurice Weiner

RABBI LANDAU'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN MEMORY OF

Phyllis Schotz Salzberg, Ida Weinstein Schotz,
and Louis Schotz, by Ellen and Stan Brand

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Anonymous
William Nussbaum and Susan Spangler
Linda and Marc Raphael
Rosa Puech and Peter Schechter

IN MEMORY OF

Leon Goldberg, Mike Achter, and Gruine
Robinson, by Harvey and Susie Blumenthal
Myron Laipson, by David and Johanna Forman
Gilad Landsberg, by Lynn Landsberg
and Dennis Ward
Raymond E. Lang, by Trish Kent
Harold Sharlin, by Alan and Deborah Kraut

SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

IN HONOR OF

Barbara Diskin's birthday, by
Charlie and Judy Kramer
Suzannah Marina Fanning becoming Bat
Mitzvah, by Larry Bachorik and Gail Povar

IN MEMORY OF

Dora Appel, by Harriette Kinberg
Ruth Friedman Booth, Harry Wellins,
by Elka and Sidney Booth
Rhea Rockower, by Stephen
Rockower and Ann Sablosky
Alma Stone, by Norman Blumenfeld

WORSHIP FUND

Anonymous, to support the cost of the
congregation's gift of High Holy Day prayer
books to B'nai Mitzvah students
Eugene and Helene Granof

IN HONOR OF

Cantor Meryl Weiner and Teddy Klaus, by
Susan Alpern Fisch and Richard Fisch
Teddy Klaus, by Stephen Rockower
Morton and Roberta Goren's 50th
Anniversary, by Norman Blumenfeld

IN MEMORY OF

Elias Booth, by Elka and Sidney Booth
Chip Broder, by Betsy Broder
and David Wentworth
Irving Klaus, by Norman Blumenfeld,
Bobbie and Ed Wendel
Miriam Miller, by Frances and Stuart Schwartz
Hortense and Edward Platoff, by Sheila Platoff

THE RABBI DANIEL GOLDMAN ZEMEL FUND FOR ISRAEL

Marjorie Sherman

IN HONOR OF

Stephen Rockower, by Harvey
and Susie Blumenthal
Richard and Susan Lahne, by the
Isidore Grossman Foundation

IN MEMORY OF

Gloria W. Appel, by Betsy Broder
and David Wentworth
Ruth Jonas Bardin, by David Bardin

YEAR END: GIVING THANKS

Roberta Aronson and Paul Goldberg

Norman Blumenfeld
Elka and Sidney Booth
Arthur Brown
Elliot and Lauren Cafritz
Sara Ehrman
Joan and Phil Feld
Edward and Pamela Flattau
Morton Friedman
Jodi and Jonathan Gilbert
Barbara Green
Suzanne Griffith and Ed Lazere
Miriam and Sean Grogan
Andrea and James Hamos
Alison Harwood
Fred and Judy Horowitz
Judy Hurvitz
Jean Iker
Elsie Heyrman Klumpner
Lynne Landsberg and Dennis Ward
Steve Goodman and Jenny Luray
Arnold Paul Lutzker and Susan Lutzker
Marilyn Paul
Nancy Raskin
Lois Rosen and Mark Snyderman
Noel Salinger
Michael Maurer and Rachel Sher
Beverly and Harlan Sherwat
Clark and Marcia Silcox
Todd Jasper and Emma Spaulding
Jennifer Klein and Todd Stern
Gail and Seth Warner
Harriet and Louis Weiner
Gloria Weissberg
Grace Mitchell Westreich and Jonathan Westreich
Marjorie Zapruder
Daniel and Louise Zemel

*This list reflects donations received as of
January 23, 2017. Every effort has been made to
ensure its accuracy, but if there are any errors
or omissions please accept our apologies. For
corrections or clarifications, please contact
Rhiannon Walsh in the temple office. Thank you.*

B'NAI MITZVAH

PHOTO
UNAVAILABLE

RYAN SEIDMAN

JANUARY 7 / 9 TEVET

PARENTS: Joshua Seidman & Jocelyn Guyer

TORAH PORTION: Vayigash

INDEPENDENT PROJECT: RJ plans to play guitar and work with younger Machon Micah students on Jewish music on selected Sunday mornings.



NATE GEHRKE

MARCH 4 / 6 ADAR

PARENTS: Jocelyn & Michael Gehrke

TORAH PORTION: Terumah

INDEPENDENT PROJECT: In the tradition of Ldor Vador, Nate is researching his family tree with a special interest in the veterans who have served our country from the Civil War through wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is also reading books that explore Jewish identity and discussing them with his family.



SUZANNAH MARINA FANNING

JANUARY 14 / 16 TEVET

PARENT: Jennifer Fanning

TORAH PORTION: Vayechi

INDEPENDENT PROJECT: Because her Torah portion is about family, Suzy decided to focus her study project on learning as much as she can about her family tree. For her mitzvah project, she is volunteering at the Arlington Animal Welfare League to help animals that don't have a home. And to help people who don't have homes, she worked with a dinner program for D.C. homeless community members run by Youth Service Opportunity Projects.



CARLY ROTHSCHILD

MARCH 11 / 13 ADAR

PARENTS: Gregg & Stefanie Rothschild

TORAH PORTION: Tetzaveh

INDEPENDENT PROJECT: Carly has been meeting with other girls from her class this year to make Israeli dishes. On her own time, she will be volunteering at the assisted living and memory care facility in Bethesda, Sunrise at Fox Hill.

MAZAL TOV!

Cantor Meryl Weiner and George Weiner on the birth of their grandson, Sebastian Arthur Wood

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

As of January 2017: Evelyn Beck and Lee Knepfelkamp, Marcie Berg-Katcher, Susan Crockin, Andrew and Julie Klingenstein, and Brian Lipshitz



SOPHIA MIRIAM WOLF

JANUARY 28 / 1 SH'VAT

PARENTS: Erin & Brian Wolf

TORAH PORTION: Vaera

INDEPENDENT PROJECT: Sophia has been working with Friendship Circle, a wonderful organization that partners typical teens with children with special needs, to ensure that all children can celebrate their birthdays with parties at fun locations throughout Montgomery County. Her favorite extracurricular activity is helping a neighbor mom with her two adorable young children.



SETH MARTIN BERMAN

FEBRUARY 4 / 8 SH'VAT

PARENTS: Amy & Joshua Berman

TORAH PORTION: Bo

INDEPENDENT PROJECT: Seth has been involved in a variety of projects addressing immigrants and refugees, including fundraising for Syrian refugees and spending a week assisting refugees and asylum seekers on the Texas/Mexico border.



ARUNDHATI EIDINGER

FEBRUARY 18 / 22 SH'VAT

PARENTS: Adam Eiding & Alexis Baden-Mayer

TORAH PORTION: Yitro

INDEPENDENT PROJECT: Arundhati has organized a group of friends to put in 75 hours of community service at two leading homeless shelters, Calvary Women's Services and the Coalition for the Homeless. At her middle school, Oyster-Adams, where she serves as the 7th grade representative, she also plans to lead a food and clothing drive to support the shelters. Arundhati believes that volunteering is the least people in the community can do to reduce the hardships many people encounter.

CONDOLENCES

Temple Micah mourns the passing of long-time members Jeffrey Cohn and Harold Sharlin, and member Miriam Miller.

The Temple Micah community extends its deepest condolences to:

SUSAN BENDA, on the passing of her mother, Eva Benda

SUSIE BLUMENTHAL, on the passing of her brother, Harvey Goldberg

KAREN KORNBLUH, on the passing of her mother, Beatrice Braun

ELLEN LAIPSON, on the passing of her father, Myron Laipson

MARION LEVINE, on the passing of her mother, Ruth Goldman

LYNDA MULHAUSER, on the passing of her father, J. Leonard Cahan

MARIAN SHERMAN, on the passing of her father, John Libby

BEVERLY SHERWAT, on the passing of her uncle, Harry Wellins

KIT WHEATLEY, on the passing of her mother, Louise Wheatley

May their memories be for a blessing.



“We Stand with Refugees”

In January, the temple displayed this banner reflecting our commitment as Jews to America as a nation of immigrants. Special thanks to Andrea LaRue who initiated the project; Jarrett Ferrier and Sarah Schwartz, who created the banner; and Josue Portillo, who hung it.



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WASHINGTON, DC 20007-4702

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