

Vine

A Shelter of Peace

Temple Micah to Support a Refugee Family in Need

BY DORIAN FRIEDMAN

TEMPLE MICAH MEMBERS take pride in being part of “a teaching, caring and doing congregation,” one that embraces a set of defining values including “acts of love and kindness.” Our mission statement reminds us that the pursuit of social justice is both a communal and individual Jewish obligation and a primary expression of a religious life. Now, we have an opportunity to live out those values in an unusually tangible and resonant way through a new Micah project called *Sukkat Shalom* or Shelter of Peace.

What this means is that Temple Micah has pledged to sponsor and

help resettle a refugee family, most likely from Afghanistan or Syria, in our community.

This initiative arose from a belief that this is something we must do.

Rabbi Zemel put it this way: “The world-wide refugee situation is tragic and an embarrassment to humanity. How can we not do our small part? The Jewish story from the very beginning is the story of refugees. Adam and Eve were banished from their home. Abraham and Sarah were migrants in search of a home. Jacob and his family leave their home due to famine. Every

TO HELP, SEE BOX ON PAGE 11.

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FROM RABBI ZEMEL

TIME TO READ, THINK, AND EAT ICE CREAM

DEAR FRIENDS,

Summer.

The word captures more than a season. Summer is a mood, a feeling, a state of mind and heart.

Summer is time with fewer commitments, long weekends, blank white spaces in day planners or their virtual counterparts. It is mountain hikes, the beach and the barbeque.

Summer is reading. That's right. Summer reading and all that entails. For many years now, I have begun my summer vacation by reading the previous year's Daniel Silva novel featuring that Israeli super spy, Gabriel Allon. I deliberately stay one year behind in this series for two reasons: I can read each book after it has appeared in paperback and, when Mr. Silva stops churning these page-turning thrillers out, I will have a year to adjust and chart a new course for my start of summer. This last is a task to which I do not at all look forward.

This year, after Gabriel Allon, my summer list includes:

“Judas,” by Amos Oz

“The Vanishing Neighbor:

The Transformation of American Community,” by Marc J. Dunkelman

“Thank You For Being Late,” by Thomas Friedman

“The Religion of Democracy,” by Amy Kittelstrom

“Why? Explaining the Holocaust,” by Peter Hayes

This summer will be different than most. It will hopefully be a time for much-needed perspective and a more

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WIT, GRIT, SPUNK AND LOVE ALL AROUND

BY FRAN DAUTH

SARA EHRLMAN LOVED Temple Micah and Temple Micah loved her.

The intelligence and grit that won Ms. Ehrman international acclaim was often on display at Temple Micah as well as her generosity, wit, and playfulness, according to those who were close to her.

Ms. Ehrman died June 3 at the age of 98. Her memorial service was at Temple Micah June 15.

Here's how Rabbi Zemel described how he came to know her. “In my

very first private conversation of any length with

Sara, she looked at me and said with her charming definitive certainty, ‘you know there is no God. My father told me that.’ Sara was the prototype of a self proclaimed secular Jew who loved coming to the synagogue on Shabbat.

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"Every person shall sit under
his grapevine or fig tree with
no one to make him afraid."
MICAH, CHAPTER 4, VERSE 4

Vine

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

2017: WITH APOLOGIES TO FRANK, IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR

BY ED LAZERE

Some told me I was crazy to take on the role of board president (including that voice in my head). Others have been admiring, and I even got a few fake bows. There's no doubt that it is a lot of work,



but it also is a great honor to help an institution that I love and that has been such an important part of my family for two decades.

My wife Suzanne and I often talk about the beautiful and meaningful experiences we have at Temple

Micah, special moments that we just don't have anywhere else. It's a wonderful place to be Jewish and part of a community. In just the past month, I was moved by our B'nai Mitzvah class making a group donation to HIAS and the Trevor Project and the adult B'nai Torah class called to the bimah to chant beautifully from the Torah after two years of study.

And I am fortunate my first year featured little drama or crisis. We are a strong congregation – growing, financially stable, amazingly staffed. I take the limited number of angry emails as a good sign.

There are a number of important contributions over the last year I want to point out:

- Our addition of a second High Holy Days service: We had outgrown the Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church sanctuary we had used in the past. We struggled with what to do, and started the daunting task of trying to find a new space. When we decided to have a second service at MMUMC, we worried about maintaining unity and even what to call it: The "fresh service"? Nah. No name worked, so we just called it the Great Hall Service. We hired musicians and brought on student rabbi Danny Moss to help. Our rabbis worked tirelessly to ensure it was just as special as the main hall service, Rachel Gross's husband Doug made an ark, and it all

worked out really well! This will allow us to grow and keep our high holiday home.

- Our new website: A good website is not something to take for granted. Ours is beautiful and informative.
- Even more music: We brought in musicians once a month to join Cantor Meryl Weiner and Music Director Teddy Klaus on Friday nights.
- Innovation: We launched our first Innovation Fund project, with a great panel of Micah-based journalists. Innovation #2 is in the works.
- Our living history project: A group of congregants worked tirelessly to create the digital "Micah Story." Check it out at themicahstory.org.
- New staff: We welcomed Ronit Zemel as our education associate and Sue Alpern-Fisch as our development consultant. Samantha Frank is the rabbinic intern this summer.
- Outgoing staff: We are immensely grateful for the work of staff members Maggie Heidema, Lincoln Sklar, and Noah Westreich, who are all moving on to new adventures.

In the coming year, we will have even more new staff. Among them, a cantorial intern for the High Holy Days and then once a month for the rest of the year. Yosef Webb becomes communications director.

And we have three new board members: Josh Berman, Shellie Bressler, and Sonia Pearson White. Welcome! And thanks so much to our departing board members for their terrific service: Larry Bachorik, Patty Brink, and Joel Korn.

Also thanks to Vine editors Dorian Friedman and Shelley Grossman who have done a great job for the past three years. Fran Dauth and Kate Kiggins are succeeding them.

Temple Micah hums because of the efforts of so many people, the staff and our volunteers. Thank you all; especially for not sending too many angry emails, but mostly for all that all of you do to make Micah special.

ANNUAL MEETING

ARE WE AGENTS OF CHANGE AND HEALING?

BY FRAN DAUTH

TEMPLE MICAH'S ANNUAL meeting on the first Sunday in June featured the election of new members of the Board of Directors, an update on the synagogue's finances, a discussion on the recurring topic of purchasing the property adjacent to Micah, and lots and lots of bagels.

The most passionate remarks, however, came from Rabbi Zemel who said this year is different, "defined by the presidential campaign of 2016, the election of seven months ago and the inauguration just 135 days ago. We live in a world that feels so different and one of the questions that I have been considering deeply is what is the role of the American synagogue in this world, this country, this America that feels so different."

He said that difference informs his thinking about what he does as a rabbi, what he reads and what he speaks about.

"I ask and wonder how the synagogue does the work of righting the ship of America and healing the wound that is felt across our great land—different wounds in different places.

"How are we God's *Shlichim* in America today?" he asked. "

Are we agents of change, agents of *tikkun*, of healing and repair, agents of Torah wisdom and ethics and deep resonant truths?" he continued.

"We have to create today what we will need to sustain us tomorrow. That has always been the Jewish way," he said.

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Five members of Temple Micah were elected to the Board of Directors. Two of those selected are current members of the board who now begin a second term.

The three truly new board members are Joshua Berman, Shellie Bressler and Sonia Pearson White.

Berman is an attorney who has worked in private practice and at the Department of Justice and the Department of Commerce. His wife, Amy, is currently the president of the

Micah House Board. Berman has been an active supporter of Machon Micah and the synagogue's gun violence prevention efforts. The couple's older son, Seth, celebrated becoming a Bar Mitzvah in February. The Bermans joined Temple Micah in 2011.

Shellie Bressler, the co-chair of the Temple Micah Spring Auction for the past two years, is a staff member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. She previously worked for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Senate Banking Committee. She and her husband, Andy, live on Capitol Hill with their twin sons, Adam and Casey. She joined Temple Micah 12 years ago.

Sonia Pearson White is a scientist with expertise in cell biology, molecular biology and cancer research. She currently works at Social & Scientific Systems in Silver Spring. She previously was at the National Institutes of Health Biomarkers Consortium in Bethesda and has been an associate professor at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville. White joined Temple Micah in 2007. She participates in the Friday night pick-up band, Shabbat Shirah orchestra, and the volunteer choir. Her older daughter, Libby Pearson, also is a Temple Micah member. Another daughter, Jen Pearson, lives in Richmond, VA.

The returning board members are Jeff Davis and Marcia Silcox.

Davis, who leads a global team of attorneys at the NASDAQ Stock Market, will serve as treasurer on the Temple Micah Board of Directors. He has been the assistant treasurer. His wife, Sharon, has served two terms on the board as well. Their children, Rebecca and JJ, both became B'nai Mitzvah at Temple Micah.

Silcox has served as consultant to the food, beverage, pharmaceutical, and other industries for more than 30 years. She owns her own firm, Silcox Communications. She and her husband, Clark, joined temple Micah in

1995, and their children, Sasha and Cal, became B'nai Mitzvah at Micah. Silcox became the board vice president in 2016.

The three members of the board who are leaving are Larry Bachorik, Joel Korn and Patty Brink.

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It was Rabbi Zemel who brought up the possibility of Temple Micah purchasing the house immediately to the north on Wisconsin Avenue.

There are times, he said, that the current building becomes crowded. "Sunday mornings can be crazy. Shabbat services can be standing room only," he said, also noting that 14 staff members work in offices designed for nine people.

"The house next door is for sale and the board is considering the steps it would take to purchase that house for the congregation's use.

"We may have a proposal to bring to the congregation this summer as our by-laws require a congregational vote for the purchase of the property.

"This is a very exciting opportunity for us," Zemel said.

(Since the annual meeting it was learned the house had been sold to a private buyer who submitted a higher offer than the one from Temple Micah. The board of directors said it was committed to addressing the short and long-term needs of the congregation.)

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Micah treasurer Joel Korn outlined highlights of the fiscal 2017 budget by saying the projected year-end revenues are expected to exceed the budgeted amount by more than \$125,000, while projected expenses should be below budget by about \$15,000. The main source of the surplus is related to an increase in dues collection. The expense side of the budget benefited by less snow last winter, he noted.

For President Ed Lazere's remarks, see his column on page 2. ♦

INTERESTING SPEAKERS!

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

SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES

Our Sunday Speaker Series is on its annual summer hiatus.

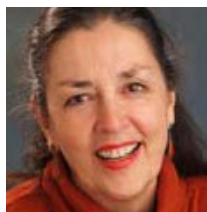
LUNCH & LEARN

Wednesdays from noon to 2 pm

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



July 12 – Daniel Brumberg, the director of Democracy and Governance Studies at Georgetown University, will discuss the link between Iran's domestic politics and its foreign policy in the Middle East and beyond. Brumberg will explore the constraints and opportunities faced by reformist President Hassan Rouhani and his allies, especially in the context of an American president who is determined to support an anti-Iranian "Sunni coalition."



August 9 – Karen Rosenbaum, a serious amateur photographer for more than 50 years, will discuss the nature of photography as art, a topic debated for the last 180 years. She will show examples of her work, as well as fine art photographs that have inspired her.

Upcoming Lunch and Learn Events

September 13 – Herman and Mary Schwartz on the "Music of Exile"

October 11 – Stuart Schwartz on "Behind the Scenes of Broadcast News"



Support Temple Micah: High Holy Day Honey

Wish your family and friends a sweet and healthy New Year by sending a jar of honey from Honey from the Heart.

The \$11, 8-oz jar of kosher honey arrives in time for Rosh Hashanah, and includes a personalized card reading, "L'Shana Tova! Wishing you a Healthy and Happy New Year."

This message also lets recipients know that a donation has been made in their honor to Temple Micah. For each jar you send, Temple Micah receives \$4.25. Order at Orthoney.com/MIC by July 24 to receive free shipping!

LESSONS FROM LANDAU

MISSING THOSE MELONS, LEEKS, AND GARLIC OR... WHY INDEPENDENCE CAN BE SCARY

BY RABBI SUSAN LANDAU

Nearly ten months after my wonderful sister first got us tickets, I finally saw "Hamilton" on Broadway, and the performance was even better than my usual "Hamilton" experience of solo sing-alongs in my car. Perhaps unsurprisingly, seeing the show in person made me think of many things Jewish. In particular, King George's rock-n-roll taunt to the revolting colonies, "You'll Be Back," piqued my interest. (If you can, sing these lyrics in your head—they are brilliant!) "You'll be back, soon you'll see; you'll remember you belong to me. You'll be back, time will tell; you'll remember that I served you well. Oceans rise; empires fall. We have seen each other through it all. And when push comes to shove I will send a fully armed battalion to remind you of my love."

This trope is a familiar one, if we transpose colonial Britain to biblical Egyptian slavery. At the start of the American Revolution, the colonists' relationship with the king was strained at best, but he feared their absence and was willing to go to great lengths to convince them to remain "sweet, submissive subjects." Likewise, our ancestral Israelites knew

that slavery was an unethical, unpleasant, and inhumane way to be treated, and yet in their early months of freedom they looked back on the experience with an unwarranted sense of nostalgia.

Not long after the Israelites danced triumphantly on the other side of the Sea of Reeds they started complaining again, and wishing they had simply died while enslaved in Egypt. Their whining becomes a pattern throughout the book of Exodus, and it even continues in the book we are reading now in the spring and into summer. In Numbers, chapter 11, the wandering Israelites miss the fish, cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic they used to eat for free in Egypt, conveniently glossing over the fact that their labor in Egypt was also free. In chapter 14, when the ten pessimistic spies convince the Israelites that they will never be able to conquer the Promised Land, they lament, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt...or if only we might die in this wilderness! Why is the Eternal taking us to that land to fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be carried off! It would be better for us to go back to

Egypt!" (Num 14:2-4).

The Israelites' longing for the good ol' days in Egypt is a front to disguise their fear of freedom and independence, and all the risk and responsibility that accompany those virtues. They might have felt nostalgic, but really, they were scared. There were also plenty of Loyalists in the colonies, like "Hamilton's" Samuel Seabury, who sings the warning, "Heed not the rabble who scream 'revolution.' They have not your interest at heart!" He represents those who sided with the king, with what was familiar, safe, and reliable. Life in the colonies ensured protection and even certain luxuries. Sure, living in the colonies was not always easy, and the rules coming from across the ocean were not always easy to swallow, but at least someone was in charge. Egypt might mean slavery, but it was home.

Of course, the shared lesson of these two narratives is that the journey to freedom does not leave us in a land of unfettered free choice, unlimited autonomy, and complete independence. True freedom is managed and bound—both for the early Americans who spent the first



years of independence arguing about how to govern and contain the people, and for the Israelites, who were delivered from Egyptian bondage only to receive the law from God, the ultimate sovereign. In fact, God explains that the Israelites remain very much bound to sacred servitude. The Eternal makes our relationship starkly clear in saying, "For it is to Me that the Israelites are slaves; they are My slaves, whom I feed from the land of Egypt, I, the Lord, your God." (Lev 25:55) Unlike in Egypt, being slaves to God is not inhumane; rather it is a realization of the highest human potential of an independent nation.

In the process of gaining independence people pass through the inevitable stage in which the world order is "turned upside down." It might seem counterproductive to celebrate the declaration of new rules just after tyrannical laws have been shed, but in the end, a stable independence can only rest on solid laws and regulations. And the Israelites, like our founding fathers, teach us to never look back.

Rabbi's Message FROM PAGE 1 ►

considered look back on the fraught year that produced so much political and social upheaval. The country is unsettled. The world is unsettled. We face myriad challenges and questions critical to our future that have been building for way too long but which all now seem to be crying out before us: global warming, economic uncertainty, employ-

ment uncertainty, immigration reform, infrastructure deterioration requiring rebuilding and renewal, public education issues that require new approaches, regionalism and nationalism, race relations and more. It is as if we have gone through the looking glass. Nothing makes sense.

What institutions are currently functioning well? The entertainment industry seems to be thriving. Silicon Valley and high tech is going strong.

Journalism has never been more important. Beyond that, everything seems in need of fresh thinking.

How do we sort all this out? How do we make sense of the world we find ourselves in? This is one role of the synagogue. It is here that we can find ourselves and our place in relation to all that is going on around us. It is also here that we can find a place in which to do the good that is needed—to make even a small differ-

ence in the world.

This short letter reflects my own anticipation of quiet time and great desire for summer rest.

My advice and hope for each of you?

Take advantage of summer. Go for a walk. Eat ice cream. Enjoy the long days. Read a good book. Renew yourself. Think about where to find your own place to begin.

Shalom,
Rabbi Daniel G. Zemel

A SPRING AUCTION TO REMEMBER

BY FRAN DAUTH

THE FIRST-TIME AUCTIONEER was nervous. But the famous Micah Punch was flowing, and the bidding was lively. Who could resist two orchestra tickets to the Broadway hit *Hamilton* or an assigned parking space for a year at the temple?

Those offerings and a wide variety of others made the annual Spring Auction on May 13 a huge success, according to the co-chairs, Shellie Bressler and Alexandra Wisotsky, who report about 190 people bought tickets. Executive Director Rachel Gross said while a final tally hasn't been made, it appears the gross will be about \$80,000 and the net about \$70,000, both figures exceeding budget projections. The revenue goes to the general fund.

Donated offerings ranged from a bottle of Dom Perignon to behind-the-scene tours at museums to a dinner with a reservation at Rose's Luxury, one of D.C.'s hottest restaurants, which doesn't take reservations. Meals prepared by several temple members, certificates

to neighborhood cafes, and even ice cream made to order by Rabbi Susan Landau were among the popular items. Bidders wanting something stronger could choose a Scotch, bourbon or mesquite tasting organized by Rabbi Josh Beraha. Also on offer were services such as estate planning, dental work and career counseling.

Micah's long-time auctioneer, Heather Moran, was not available this year, so Jodi Enda was asked to fill in. Enda, a past temple president and a full-time journalist, said her first step was to seek Moran's advice. The two met at breakfast but "while we chowed down on lox and bagels, someone broke into her car," Enda recounted. "I told her it was a sign from God that she, Moran, was supposed to be the auctioneer," Enda said. Moran, however, saw another proof. "See," she told Enda, "You're funny already."

Enda says she got some jokes ready, had a little wine and jumped into her new role as an auctioneer.

Wisotsky and Bressler

both noted that a first-time photo booth was popular with many taking the opportunity for a memento of the evening. The catering firm Pinstripes of Georgetown provided a buffet of salmon and pasta. Laurel Goldberg and her mother-in-law, Dana Goldberg, were in charge of the decorations, which featured giant gold balloons that spelled MICAH.

Classical music was provided before the bidding began by the Red Line



Jodi Enda gets into her new and unexpected role as Micah auctioneer

Strings with Temple Micah member Eli Blum on cello, Dana Connors on violin and Andrew Maddocks on viola. Blum is the son of Kate

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Lots of bids on this offering

PHOTOS BY DAVID ADLER

HOW MAYBE BECOMES YES, WHEN RABBI ZEMEL ASKS

By Jodi Enda

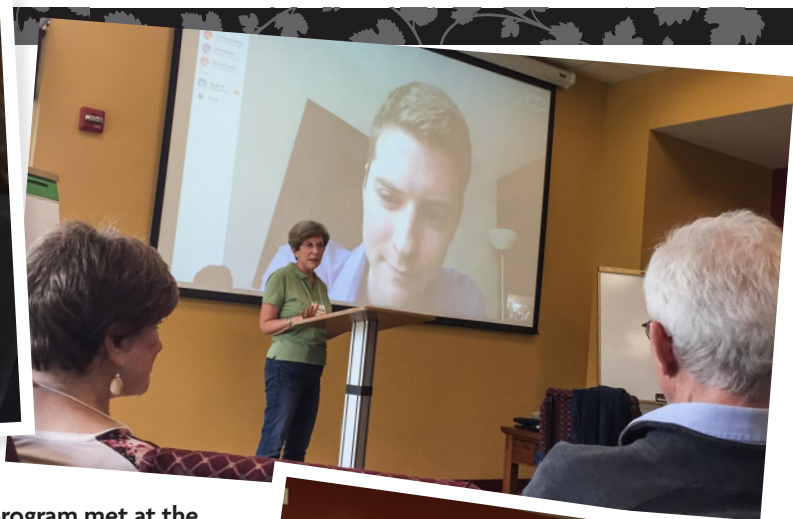
When Rabbi Zemel asked me to be the auctioneer at the annual Micah fundraiser, I was shocked. After all, I'm not a performer. So I told him I'd think about it and get back to him.

The next night, at Shabbat services, Rabbi Beraha rushed over to me and said, "Congratulations, I hear you're going to be the auctioneer." No, I said, I'm just

thinking about it. Then Rabbi Landau said the same thing. Then Meryl Weiner and Teddy Klaus.

Obviously, something fishy was going on. I mentioned this to Rabbi Zemel, reminding him that I said I would think about it, not that I would necessarily do it.

"Oh," he said with a chuckle, "I might have left that part out."



Thirty-five members of the Temple Micah Wise Aging program met at the Pearlstone Retreat Center in Maryland over the Memorial Day weekend to explore the challenges and exciting possibilities of growing older. Leaders of the two-year-old program hope this first retreat will become an annual event. If these photos are any indication, it will.

Registration is now underway for the 2017-2018 year. The deadline for signing up for nine sessions beginning in the fall closes July 30. Wise Aging is a program designed to meet the social, emotional, and spiritual needs of Jewish seekers entering a second adulthood. To learn more, email wiseaging@templemicah.org or leave a message at the temple office for a facilitator to call you with more information.

Photos by Chaz Kerschner



Auction FROM PREVIOUS PAGE ►

Kiggins and Jared Blum. The Red Line Strings' appearance was underwritten by the Alpern-Fisch family.

This year's auction was the 41st iteration of the event, according to an email survey of long-time members assembled by Temple Micah's development consultant, Susan Alpern-Fisch.

"The consensus seems to be the first one was held in February, 1977," succeeding

a previous tradition of an art show, she reported, citing detailed comments from Ed and Shelley Grossman and Sid Booth.

Alpern-Fisch said Shelley Grossman's research showed "the first event raised \$1,000 and the auctioneer was Shelly Tromberg."

Nancy Elisburg and Adrienne Umansky, who also participated in the email round robin, both recalled Showcase, the earlier art show,

"didn't bring in a lot of money."

Umansky remembers that the auctions began in the basement of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church (the space Temple Micah shared in Southwest). One year, she wrote, Aaron Altschul told the auction crowd that he and his wife Ruth had donated their old TV because they had bought a new one with "something called a remote."

Sid Booth also recalled

that the auction was initially a Purim auction, which led to it becoming an annual spring event.

Clearly, the fun continues. And so does the planning. "We are already thinking ahead to auction 2018, said co-chair Bressler. "We would love feedback and could use additional members on the auction committee. Contact auction@templemicah.org with your thoughts or areas you would like to help with," she said. ♦

TZEDAKAH

BUILDING IMPROVEMENT FUND

IN HONOR OF

Zev Natan Goldstein, by Karen and Nathan Beraha

IN MEMORY OF

Ben Appel, by Harriette Kinberg
Ruth Gruber, Julius Marcus, by
Lora and Frank Ferguson

ENDOWMENT FUND

IN HONOR OF

Temple Micah, by Elyas F. Isaacs
Rabbi Zemel becoming a grandfather,
by Brenda Levenson

IN MEMORY OF

Reuben Heller, by Marilyn Paul
Bezalel Herschkovitz, by Brenda Levenson
Fred Jacob, by Susie Blumenthal
Julien Mezey, by Marilyn Paul

GENERAL FUND

Anna and Seymour Gitenstein Foundation
Patricia Lieba
Betty and Semih Ustun

IN HONOR OF

Peter Gluck on his 75th birthday, by
Kathy Spiegel and Richard Fitz
Zev Natan Goldstein, by David and Lucy
Asher, Jeff Blattner, Lynne Landsberg and
Dennis Ward, Jim and Judy Miller

IN MEMORY OF

Sarah Blumenfeld, by Norman Blumenfeld
Marielani Coloretto, by Nani
Coloretto and David Goldstein
Jeanne Dillon, by Rich Lehmann
Morton and Bernice Gordon, by Janet Gordon
Ruth Gruenberg, by Martha and David
Adler, Arlene Brown and Gene Bialek
Glen and Mildred Kiggins, by Kate
Kiggins and Jared Blum
Sylvia B. Lang, by Trish Kent
Julius Marcus, by David and Lucy Asher
Selma Rubin, by Paula Rubin
Robert Salzberg, by Ellen and Stanley Brand
Joan Soloway, by Stan and Kathy Soloway
Harris Tarlin, by Jonathan Tarlin
and Vanessa Mitchell
Marcia Yanofsky and Robert Yanofsky,
by Nancy Yanofsky and Ed Brown

INNOVATION FUND

Amy and Alan Meltzer

IN HONOR OF

Peg Blechman, by Joshua and Nan Kaufman
Peter Gluck's special birthday, by Ronna
and Stan Foster, Nancy Raskin
Zev Natan Goldstein, by Ronna and Stan
Foster, Gail Povar and Larry Bachorik,
Beverly and Harlan Sherwat
Zev Natan Goldstein joining the Temple
Micah Family, by Norman Blumenfeld
Rabbi Daniel and Louise Zemel, by
Richard Fitz and Kathy Spiegel
Shira Zemel and Adam Goldstein, and the
birth of their son Zev Natan Goldstein,
by Richard Fitz and Kathy Spiegel

IN MEMORY OF

David Goldberg, by Nancy Raskin
Bruce Landfield and Sidney
Landfield, by Susan Landfield
Marty Obrand, by Lorri Manasse
and Russ Misheloff

LEARNING FUND

IN HONOR OF

The 2015-2017 Adult B'nai Torah Class,
by Sidney and Elka Booth
Zev Natan Goldstein, by Jeff and Margaret
Grotte, Skip and Barbara Halpern
The arrival of Evan John Lehker, by
Gail Povar and Larry Bachorik

IN MEMORY OF

Evelyn Donenfeld, by Felicia Kolodner
Ruth Gruenberg, by Marcia Bordman, Kathy Forth

MICAH HOUSE

David and Livia Bardin

IN HONOR OF

Nita and George Beckman, by
Lesley and Robert Landau
Nancy Piness' birthday, by
Helene and Gene Granof

IN MEMORY OF

Sidney H. Closter, by Harold and Betsi Closter
Gail Shandler, by Celia Shapiro and Bob Dorfman

RABBI LANDAU'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Amy Schussheim

IN HONOR OF

Ivan and Kathy Sindell, by Ed Koren
and Claudine Schweber

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Melissa and Michael Goldstein
Amy Schussheim

IN HONOR OF

Zev Natan Goldstein, by David and Livia Bardin,
Gene Bialek and Arlene Brown, Marilyn Paul
The birth of Beryl Saginaw, first grandchild of Bob
and Joyce Saginaw, by Bob and Lesley Kamenshine

IN MEMORY OF

Peter Feuer, by Elka and Sidney Booth,
Jeffrey and Maxine Freund
Ruth Gruenberg, by Susie Blumenthal
Sally Schwartz, by Frances and Stuart Schwartz
Gail Shandler, by Susie Blumenthal
Steven Mark Stein, by Kevin Stein
Elbert Evans Ward, by Lynne
Landsberg and Dennis Ward
Joseph Weisman, by Elisabeth
Bumiller and Steven Weisman

SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

Weslie Janeway

IN HONOR OF

Peter Gluck's 75th birthday, by
Barbara and David Diskin
Nancy Piness' birthday, by Elka and Sidney Booth

IN MEMORY OF

Belle Chernak, by Beverly and Harlan Sherwat
Peter Feuer, by Marc Levy and Valerie Strauss
Howard Garlick, by Pamela Garlick
Ruth Gruenberg, by Elka and Sidney Booth,
Betsi and Harold Closter, Jack and Judy Hadley
Louise Mach, by Daniel Mach and Kim Parker
Julius Marcus, by Pam Edelman
and Randy Lieberman
Morris Sahr, by Evelyn Sahr and Marty Stern
Irene Wolfson, by Paula Wolfson Stevenson

WORSHIP FUND

IN HONOR OF

Zev Natan Goldstein, by Sue Baum
Max Levine becoming Bar Mitzvah; Natalie Sipress
becoming Bat Mitzvah, by Alan and Jannet Carpien
George and Meryl Weiner's grandson,
Sebastian, by Norman Blumenfeld

IN MEMORY OF

Susie Blumenfeld, by Norman Blumenfeld
Ruth Gruenberg, by Norman Blumenfeld,
Alan and Jannet Carpien

THE RABBI DANIEL GOLDMAN ZEMEL FUND FOR ISRAEL

Geri Nielsen

IN HONOR OF

Zev Natan Goldstein, by Tom, Randy, Henry,
and Elisa Edelstein; Marc Levy and Valerie
Strauss; Frances and Stuart Schwartz

IN MEMORY OF

Shlomo Chaim Bardin, by David
Jonas Bardin and Livia Bardin
Doris Brown, by David and Martha Adler
Peter Feuer, by David and Martha Adler,
Bea Birman and Mary Malgoire
Peter Feuer and Doris Brown, by
Marjorie Sherman, anonymous
Ruth Gruber, by Kenneth Liberstein

This list reflects donations received as of June 5, 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



KAYLA FREEDMAN

JUNE 3 / 9 SIVAN

PARENTS: Andrew Freedman and Mimi Laver
TORAH PORTION: Naso

INDEPENDENT PROJECT: Kayla loves to read and write, so she has volunteered to be a "Library Ambassador" for Jewish Women International. She will be raising money to purchase children's books for kids living with their mothers at a shelter for victims of domestic violence. Once JWI buys the books, Kayla will help organize the shelter's library.

PHOTO
UNAVAILABLE

JOHN KOUNTZ

JUNE 10 / 16 SIVAN

PARENTS: Patrick and Sabra Kountz
TORAH PORTION: B'haalot'cha

INDEPENDENT PROJECT: To be decided



ILAN ZIV

JUNE 17 / 23 SIVAN

PARENTS: Blanche and Gil Ziv
TORAH PORTION: Sh'lach L'cha

INDEPENDENT PROJECT: Ilan is working with Charlie's Place near Dupont Circle, which provides homeless neighbors with meals, health care, education and employment services, and more. As a volunteer, Ilan helps serve food, sort clothing, and respond to client requests, and is gaining a deep understanding of the challenges of homelessness and the support the local community can provide.

Ehrman FROM PAGE 1 ►

"Sara listened to the sermons and offered unabashed unfiltered critique. After one sermon where I quoted at length from an early Zionist leader, A.D. Gordon, Sara said to me, 'I have not heard his name mentioned in years and never from a bimah. If you talk about him next week, I'll come back.'

"Sara was a proud liberal. She could spot a phony a mile away. She was an inspiration."

Jodi Enda, a close friend of Ms. Ehrman, said, "Sara might not have believed in God, but she did believe – strongly – in Temple Micah.

"She loved going to services, listening to the music and just being with what she called 'my people.' Toward

the end of her life, she said what she missed most was going to temple, not only to attend services, but to fully engage with the community. This was her home."

Enda said Ms. Ehrman also felt passionately that Temple Micah should be a leader in the quest for peace in the Middle East, which to her meant a two-state solution.

"She was not only a proud liberal, she was a vocal one, and she helped ensure that Micah heard from a number of high-level speakers from Israel and the United States who were working to further that goal," Enda said.

While Ms. Ehrman was reluctant to be in the spotlight, Enda said, she was persuaded to speak to a session

MAZAL TOV!

Liz Lerman, on winning the 2017 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award;
Bruce and Susan Turnbull, on the March 24 birth of their grandson, John Sol Turnbull;
Dawn Feldman Lehker and Michael Lehker on the arrival of their son, Evan John Lehker, born March 30;
Walter Jacob and Alice Yates on their May 27 marriage in Milwaukee

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER

Frances Kutcher Dauth

CONDOLENCES

The Temple Micah community extends its deepest condolences to:

EVAN BLOOM, on the passing of his father, Martin Bloom

BETSY BRODER, on the passing of her father, Marvin K. Broder

MICHAEL FEUER, on the passing of his sister, Doris Brown

REGINE FEUER, on the passing of her aunt, Lucette Cohen

HANNAH GOULD, on the passing of her cousin, Gail Shandler

MARK GRUENBERG, on the passing of his mother, Ruth Gruenberg

WALTER JACOB, on the passing of his father, longtime member Fred Jacob

LEESA KLEPPER, on the passing of her grandmother, Eleanor Golden

CATHERINE SALSMAN, on the passing of her grandfather, James Nelson

RICHARD TOWNEND, on the passing of his mother, Jan Townend

THE CONGREGATION, on the passing of longtime member Sara Ehrman

May their memories be for a blessing.

of Lunch and Learn. Some 70 people turned out, one of the largest crowds at Lunch and Learn, organizers said.

Last year, Ms. Ehrman

hosted a brunch for Micah members in her Kalorama home to raise money for the annual Spring Auction. "She

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE ►

Shelter FROM PAGE 1 ►

biblical story it seems is a story of displacement. Again, how can we not do our part to resettle others? Their story is our story.”

Earlier this year, a group of concerned Micah members began discussing how the congregation might support international refugees fleeing violence and persecution, as well as immigrants in the United States suddenly facing a ramped-up deportation policy from the new administration.

A few congregants visited All Souls Unitarian Church in Adams Morgan to learn how other faith communities are offering sanctuary to local immigrants. Soon after, a larger Micah contingent attended a spirited pro-refugee rally at Adas Israel Congregation that was organized by HIAS, the world's oldest refugee organization, and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington. With new resolve to engage more directly, the

Micah group held more conversations, met with Micah rabbis, and as volunteer leaders began stepping forward, *Sukkat Shalom* was born.

Once the decision was made, the project began to take shape with Elizabeth Drye and Jennifer Oko agreeing to become co-chairs. Other volunteers were named to lead committees to carry out the necessary tasks.

Temple Micah formalized a partnership with Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area, the organization designated by the U.S. State Department to oversee resettlement in the greater Washington area. Through *Sukkat Shalom*, we have signed a letter of intent to secure housing, furnish the accommodations, and help cover rental costs for the first 12 months. We've also pledged to help meet the new family's other needs, which will likely range from assisting with health and dental issues; employment options, including job referrals and counseling; education

for children and adults, including English instruction; enrollment in social service programs such as Medicaid, food assistance, and transportation.

The goal is to raise \$45,000 from the Micah community to support this effort. A letter from Rabbi Zemel to all members of the congregation appealing for contributions went out in June.

As of publication of the current *Vine*, Temple Micah is on Lutheran Social Services' waiting list for a newly arriving refugee family. And that may be the biggest challenge: anticipating the housing, education, employment and other needs of the new immigrants without knowing when they will arrive or who they are.

Lutheran Social Services representatives have said the family may arrive directly from their home country or may have been living in a refugee camp elsewhere. One parent—typically the father—may have been connected to the

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE ►

Ehrman FROM PREVIOUS PAGE ►

was shocked that anyone would want to hear what she had to say, but they hung on her every word. She was a master storyteller,” Enda said.

One of those who were there, Debbie Billet-Roumell, said she was “just amazed” by Ms. Ehrman. “She was so modest about her accomplishments,” Billet-Roumell said, adding she was impressed with Ms. Ehrman's spunk and her warmth.

Billet-Roumell said she left believing she had met someone incredible, and now is “so glad I got to meet her.”

Enda recalled Ms. Ehrman also loved to be around the younger generations at Micah. “She especially loved to watch the small kids at the Hanukkah service, her favorite. When they light-

their hanukkiot, she joined them by kindling her own—an oversize, crystal hanukiah that was actually the Americans for Peace Now Shimon Peres Peace Award, which she won in 1997.”

Ms. Ehrman was a founder and board member of both Americans for Peace Now and American Friends of the Yitzhak Rabin Center. She was a senior adviser to the S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace. The New York Times obituary on Ms. Ehrman noted she spent “decades pushing for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,” adding Ms. Ehrman's advocacy took her on numerous trips to the Middle East, “where her moxie was on full display in meetings with dozens of heads of state, including multiple sessions with Yasir Arafat.”

In her recollection of Ms.

Ehrman's campaign to educate Temple Micah on securing peace in the Middle East, Enda said her friend “sometimes felt that Micah fell short and she said so.” But, Enda said, she also held dear the strong and cohesive sense of community at Micah and “didn't want anything to tear it apart.”

Ms. Ehrman often described herself as “first a Jew, second a Democrat, and above all a feminist,” according to the New York Times.

Indeed, Ms. Ehrman was a fixture in Democratic politics. The Washington Jewish Week once called her the “doyenne of Jewish Democrats.”

She worked on the George McGovern presidential campaign, and later Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign. She had been a deputy political director

of the Democratic National Committee.

But perhaps she is most known as the woman who in 1974 famously tried to talk Hillary Rodham out of marrying Bill Clinton. Ms. Ehrman would later say she was worried the career of her protégé would falter in Arkansas, an early sign of her life-long feminism.

Less than a year before her death, Ms. Ehrman was in the friends-and-family booth at the Democratic convention of July 2016 to watch Hillary Clinton become the Democratic nominee for president.

Both Clintons were at her memorial service at Temple Micah. Hillary Clinton was one of many of speakers who spoke lovingly of Ms. Ehrman's strength, humor and of her importance in their lives. ♦

Shelter FROM PREVIOUS PAGE ►

U.S. military or American embassy in his home country, as a translator or support personnel. Families resettled in our area usually have two or three children, likely of school age. Their levels of education and English proficiency vary widely, as do their familiarity with urban life. And regardless of circumstances, they often arrive with all of their worldly possessions crammed into two modest suitcases per person.

Still under discussion is where the family should be resettled. *Sukkat Shalom* currently favors housing the family in Montgomery County, although Prince Georges County is also under consideration. The factors that will influence

that decision include where there are the strongest public schools, public benefits and access to public transportation. Lutheran Social Services does not place families in the District of Columbia.

While the commitment might sound daunting, *Sukkat Shalom* will rely on the close partnership and expertise of Lutheran Social Services and its experienced resettlement team. Moreover, the volunteers have gotten invaluable advice from other congregations well ahead of Temple Micah in this effort. At a May meeting, the *Sukkat Shalom* committee heard from organizers of resettlement efforts at Temple Shalom in Chevy Chase, which sponsors a Syrian family of six, and St. Columba's

Episcopal Church in Tenleytown, which supports an Afghan family of five. Both congregations described the range of emotions they've lived through—from frustration over mundane challenges with passports and language barriers to profound pride as their adopted family members secure jobs or discover a favorite new book at the local library.

Sukkat Shalom members also were heartened by a letter shared by members of Adas Israel Congregation, which earlier this spring sponsored a Syrian refugee family with three young children. "While it is clear that this family feels love and gratitude for our community, those of us who have spent time with them share

an [even greater] level of love and gratitude that they are in *our* lives," write the organizers. "It is hard not to feel joy in this family's presence. They are indeed extraordinary people."

In reflecting on what helping a refugee family means to him, Rabbi Zemel said, "I think not only of my own grandparents who came through Ellis Island to reach the haven that was and is America but also of the thousands of others who came. I think also of those who could not come, who were not let in. Helping family and others is simply our way of honoring our grandparents, our past, and our Torah. We continue the American and the Jewish story." ♦

How To Help *Sukkat Shalom*: A Way of Honoring Our Past and Our Torah

This is something we can do. As Martha Adler, a member of the *Sukkat Shalom* steering committee, put it: "Every member of Temple Micah has skills and expertise they can loan to this effort. To help our new family succeed, we'll need to leverage the vast resources of the temple community."

Are you an ESL instructor or an employment counselor? Maybe you are a doctor, dentist, or health policy expert? Maybe you are knowledgeable about who to deal with in a public school system or how to navigate social service bureaucracy, or can help drive family members to appointments. Once the family is identified, we'll have a much better sense of priorities.

Please join the scores of Temple Micah members who have already pledged their support. Jennifer

Oko and Elizabeth Drye are co-chairs of the *Sukkat Shalom* project. Contact them at sukkatshalom@templemicah.org.

Here is list of the committees and their leaders:

- FURNISHINGS: Alex Zapruder, Deborah Raviv, and Hannah Matthews
- HOUSING: Ricki Green and Jessica Kaplan
- FRIENDSHIP/TRANSPORTATION: Karen Mark and Dorian Friedman
- FOOD/CLOTHING: Yael Traum and Leesa Klepper
- FINANCE: Janet Gordon and James Hamos
- EMPLOYMENT: Robin Shaffert and Sunny Kaplan

Because we may have to act quickly it is important to get volunteers signed up now. To get involved please visit templemicah.org or contact the office and ask for a volunteer form.

Delegates from Temple Micah and across North America at RAC's "Consultation on Conscience 2017"

The Consultation is the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism's biennial social justice leadership conference, held this year on April 30 to May 2 in Arlington, VA. Discussion topics ranged from how Jews can confront racial justice, combat voter suppression, respond to the global refugee crisis, address climate change, and even avoid polarization in a synagogue.

Cecelia Weinheimer, one of the Micah attendees, said one of the things she took away from the conference was to remember how much words matter:

"How we describe an individual or a situation or a problem affects the response from a listener," she said. "Scapegoating, demonizing, and assuming wrong motives can only slow efforts to solve problems at every level," she said.

One of the workshops Susan Landfield attended focused on fostering respect and diversity in the congregation. Echoing Weinheimer's comments, Landfield said she learned how "destructive polarization can unfold in a synagogue because of differing perspectives and values."

Another Micah attendee, Rabbi Tamara Miller, said she

was particularly inspired by the remarks of Rep. Joseph Kennedy III (D-Mass) who spoke at Sixth & I Historic Synagogue before conference participants lobbied on Capitol Hill. "I thought I heard the voice of the Prophet Micah and the spirit of President John F. Kennedy fill the sanctuary. He prepared us to speak truth to power and to walk the halls of the Capitol with purpose and passion."

Landfield also spent time at a workshop that "dealt with addressing climate change and its impact on the most vulnerable and how, as a result, *l'dor v'dor*, the continuity of generations, is at risk."

Other members of the Micah delegation were Rabbi Esther Lederman, Robert Seasonwein and Rabbi Susan Landau.

Landfield said she was "grateful for having had the opportunity to attend the Consultation as a representative of Temple Micah. I hope that our congregation will participate in ongoing social action campaigns being promoted by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism."



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