



# Vine

## FROM RABBI ZEMEL

### BANNERS TO LIVE BY INSIDE AND OUT OF TEMPLE MICAH

DEAR FRIENDS,

There is an advantage to having a small parking lot. If you enter Temple Micah directly from the parking lot, you miss the opportunity to walk past the artful facade that projects our identity onto Wisconsin Avenue. These days, I have taken to entering the synagogue by walking from my parking spot behind the building to the front of the building in order to admire our banners before I start my day.

Take a look at them. You will be inspired. You will be proud.

Walk by Temple Micah and see the banners hanging out front. I confess: I love them.

One reads:

*Love Your Neighbor: Stand Against Hate*

And the second declares:

*We Welcome*

*All Races*

*All Religions*

*All Countries of Origin*

*All Sexual Orientations*

*All Genders*

*All Ethnicities*

*All Abilities*

Each comes with a story. Jonathan Weisman's book, *(((Semitism))) Being Jewish in America in the Age of Trump*, is the inspiration for the first banner. As Weisman explores the rising voices of white supremacists and anti-Semites, he urges synagogues to publicly proclaim messages of love. I embraced this idea at Micah.

The second banner extends the message of the first. Walking past a church

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## Gun Violence Prevention Group Demonstrates Relentlessness Equal to the Task

BY FRAN DAUTH

THE SETBACKS SEEM to come daily. Then there's the relentless list of those killed by violence in Washington that appears weekly in Temple Micah Shabbat service programs. Name after name; complete with the ages and the city quadrants in which the victims lived.

Equally relentless, however, are the members of the Temple Micah Gun Violence Prevention Working Group.

"I don't think about giving up," says Elsie Klumpner, a co-leader of the group. "To look at it (each incident of gun violence) and say there is no way out . . . I just can't believe that," she adds.

Meg Van Achterberg, the other co-leader, is equally resolute. "It sounds awful to say, but these mass shootings don't surprise me anymore. I try to look at the big picture, and know that change may take many years, which, is not good enough for victims and their families."

Creation of Temple Micah's Gun Violence Prevention Working Group (often simply called GVP) in 2016, came

about, in part because of that list, which was begun a year earlier by stalwart activist Virginia Spatz, who continues to maintain it.

When the name of Carl Day-Baker, 28, of SE DC, was printed in the program of Sept. 7/8 of this year, some 475 names had been recorded on Temple Micah's list of "Those Lost to Violence in Washington, DC", since June of 2015.

The list is a painful reminder to GVP members but an important part of their work. Achterberg and Klumpner both stressed that one of the goals of the working group is to raise awareness among Micah members of what the violence wreaks on the city and the nation.

GVP member Betsy Broder acknowledges that she is discouraged by every report of a gun fatality, but stresses the "need to redouble our efforts."

She said she worried that the shocking daily violence that confronts people in Washington and across the nation, violence that seems increasingly to

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## RABBI CRAWLEY KNEW IT WAS MEANT TO BE

BY FRAN DAUTH

STEPHANIE CRAWLEY FIRST thought about becoming a rabbi when she was 12 years old.

She knew even then that being a rabbi connected all her interests – a love of learning, singing, speaking in front of people. "Being a rabbi, I didn't have

to pick, I could be all those things," she explained in a recent interview.

Eighteen years later, all those talents were evident during High Holy Days as Rabbi Crawley, now an assistant rabbi at Temple Micah, led the Next Dor Kol

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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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TEMPLE MICAH—  
A REFORM JEWISH CONGREGATION  
2829 Wisconsin Ave, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20007  
Voice: 202-342-9175  
Fax: 202-342-9179  
Email: info@templemicah.org  
vine@templemicah.org  
Web: templemicah.org

Daniel G. Zemle  
RABBI

Josh Beraha  
ASSOCIATE RABBI, DIRECTOR OF  
CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING

Stephanie Crawley  
ASSISTANT RABBI

Rachel Gross  
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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

# HOW SUMMER SHABBATS ARE UNLIKE OTHER SHABBATS

BY MARCIA FINE SILCOX

I'm thinking about Shabbat during the summer, although it is autumn when you read this. I'm thinking about summer Shabbat at Temple Micah, because like so many other efforts, Saturday morn-



ing Shabbat services are conceived, managed and led by congregants.

Think about that. From early July until late August, members of the congregation share their insight, their voices, and their support to make our Saturday services novel and meaningful. We are grateful to

them, so I wanted to highlight who they are, and why they are willing to learn a Torah or Haftorah portion, lead the service, or write a d'var Torah to share. With the able help of Teddy and Meryl on the music side, these folks made our Shabbat mornings deeply meaningful this summer:

Catherine Lynch, Shelley Grossman, Ed Grossman, Peggy Banks, Nechama Masliansky, Miriam Grogan, Ivan Sindell, Noel Salinger, Barrett Newman, Bill Page, Virginia Spatz, Robert Marvin, Barbara Green, Alan Carpien, Sonia White, Richard Lahne, Betsy Broder, Suzanne Griffith, Ed Lazere, Sarah Swatzburg, Sharon Salus, Libby Pearson.

Because we often think of summer as the time to rest or escape from the rest of the hectic year, I wondered what motivated people to spend their time this way.

First, our Torah Study program goes on all year long. It meets before services on Saturday, is open to all, and often provides the dedicated leaders and readers. Many folks who participate in summer Shabbat programming have considered it a natural extension to the Torah Study. One participant called the summer services "a more intimate opportunity to engage." These services also have great variety, owing to the styles of the leaders, chanters, and d'var Torah interpreters.

Ed Grossman, a longtime participant, said he consults the text itself, and some-

times Google, when working on his portion. Shelley Grossman uses the portion as a jumping off point, also consulting the Jewish Study Bible and other resources in her research. When she leads the service, she says, "I go over the prayers before hand and choose poems and other readings to supplement the prayers. That job has been made dramatically easier with Mishkan T'filah and its great left page of supplemental readings."

Service leader Virginia Spatz says she can't even recall when she first began. She has some lovely thoughts about her inspiration.

"I try to make the service I lead speak in a particular way – maybe focus on really awakening, or on comfort at a difficult time, or on what Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel called the "soul" of a prayer word like "bless" or "just," for example."

The casual nature of the Saturday service allows for some level of creativity. In August, a service led by Sarah Swatzburg contained some simple/complex haiku tied to a difficult Torah section.

Virginia Spatz notes that she has tried out a variety of novel teaching methods, replacing large parts of the service with psalms attributed to Korach's family, or trying to incorporate Grateful Dead lyrics into every service she has lead since 2011.

Spatz also says that it falls to the lay leader to walk us through the sometimes treacherous path between say, a community simcha, and larger-world tragedies such as the shooting at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. She says, "I will always remember how much love and support I received from the congregation at such a dreadful time."

Sonia White didn't want to lose the chanting skills she learned in Meryl Weiner's 2009 Adult B'nai Torah class, so summer chanting was a natural extension. She even taught herself to chant haftorah, and has now done so 12 times. White notes, "...by chanting and reading we are breathing life and soul into the words." Like many other summer participants, she noted our supportive community.

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## The Feast

# THE QUESADILLA, CREAMY LOX PASTA, AND ICE CREAM EDITION

BY ALEXANDRA WISOTSKY

Summer – that relaxing time when everything slows down. Evening gatherings with friends. Fireflies. Ice cream trucks.

Except, apparently, that everyone is really busy. In searching for someone to interview for this article, I spoke to several people who wanted to share a recipe, but were particularly busy over the summer. I started thinking about how busy everyone is and decided that this month I would give you some quick and easy recipes courtesy of an anonymous senior writer at The Feast (aka me).

These recipes are some of the things that I like to make when I don't have the time to make anything, but I still have to feed my children. (Dinner just happened yesterday, why am I making it again today?)

I figure that we can all use some quick go-to recipes in our back pockets for those kinds of days.

The first two recipes take advantage of those still hot days of late summer/early fall that we have here in DC. They are both favorites in our house, especially with the younger members of the family. The dessert, Ms. Marsha's Ice Cream Pie, came to me from my children's pre-school teacher, and one of my favorite people in the world. The pie is refreshingly tart yet creamy, and surprisingly elegant given its simplicity.

The third recipe, another popular quick dish in our house, works well for any time of the year, as it does not rely on any seasonal foods. The peas are optional but add nice texture and make me feel better about feeding the kids when there are no other vegetables in the house.

### ZUCCHINI QUESADILLAS

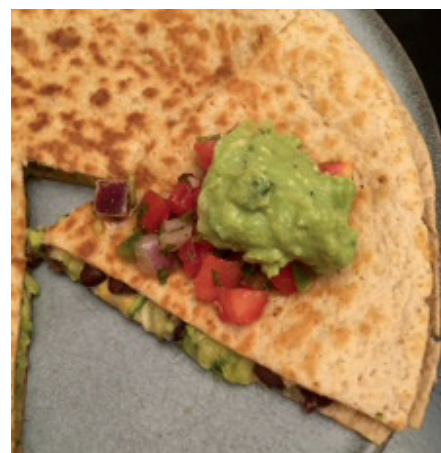
- 8 large (burrito size) flour tortillas
- 1 large or 2 medium zucchini
- 1 package shredded cheese (cheddar, Monterey jack, or Mexican blend), approximately 2 cups, divided into 4 portions
- 1 can black beans
- Olive oil
- Salt
- Salsa, as spicy as you like it (optional)
- Sour cream (optional)

**STEP 1:** Grate zucchini on the large side of a box grater. Place grated zucchini in a colander with a little salt. Mix. Let zucchini drain, about 5 minutes, over a bowl or in a clean sink.

**STEP 2:** Drain and rinse the black beans. Squeeze out any excess water in the zucchini until it is as dry as possible. Mix the zucchini and beans in a bowl.

**STEP 3:** Heat a frying pan over a medium heat. With a pastry brush, lightly coat one side of a tortilla with olive oil. Place the tortilla into the pan, oil side down. Generously spread some of the zucchini/bean mixture over the tortilla. Top with 1/4 of the cheese. Place another tortilla over the cheese and lightly brush the top with olive oil.

**STEP 4:** When the bottom tortilla starts to lightly brown (about 1 to 2 minutes), carefully turn it over in the pan. Cook the other side until it starts to brown. Remove from pan and serve with salsa, and/or guacamole and/or sour cream. Repeat with remaining tortillas and filling.



- Guacamole (optional)
- Serves 4 (easily multiplied)*

### CREAMY PASTA WITH LOX

- 12-16 oz of pasta such as fettuccini, spaghetti, linguini, or fusilli
  - 8 oz crème fraîche, sour cream, or cream cheese, softened
  - 8 oz smoked salmon
  - 8 oz frozen peas (optional)
  - Black pepper
- Serves 6 or more*

**STEP 1:** Bring a pot of water to boil. Cook the pasta until al dente or to the texture you prefer.

**STEP 2:** Boil the peas in a separate pot for 1 to 2 minutes.

**STEP 3:** Chop or shred the smoked salmon into small pieces.

**STEP 4:** Drain cooked pasta. Mix pasta, salmon, and peas in large bowl. Stir in your choice of crème fraîche, or sour cream, or cream cheese until pasta is well coated. Grind in some black pepper to taste.

### MS. MARSHA'S ICE CREAM PIE

- 1 Graham Cracker piecrust
  - 1-quart vanilla ice cream
  - 1 large can frozen lemonade
- Serves 6 or so, depending on how you slice it.*

**STEP 1:** Thaw lemonade. Soften ice cream slightly, until it can be stirred, but has not completely melted.

**STEP 2:** Mix 1/2 can of the lemonade into the ice cream. Pour mixture into the piecrust. Freeze until firm.



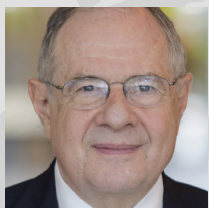
# SPEAKING AT MICAH

Temple Micah features two monthly lecture series—on Sundays and Wednesdays. For more details, go to [templemicah.org](http://templemicah.org).

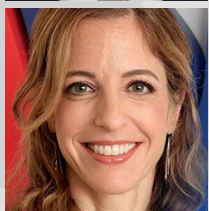
## SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES



**Oct. 14 at 4:00 p.m. – David Gregory and Jeffrey Goldberg on “A Jewish Conversation” about American Judaism today.** Gregory is a CNN political analyst, former host of *Meet the Press* and author of *How's Your Faith?* Before joining *The Atlantic*, where he is now editor in chief, Goldberg was a Middle East correspondent and is a recipient of the National Magazine Award for Reporting.



**Nov. 4 at 10:15 a.m. – Steve Weisman on his new book, *The Chosen Wars: How Judaism Became an American Religion*.** The book tells the story of how Judaism enhanced America and how America inspired Judaism. Weisman is a veteran correspondent, editor, and editorial board member at *The New York Times*, and a vice president of Peterson Institute for International Economics.



**Dec. 2 at 10:15 a.m. – Rachel Laser on “Church-State: The Challenges of Today.”** Laser is president and CEO of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State. She is the first woman and the first non-Christian to lead the organization. Formerly she was deputy director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC).

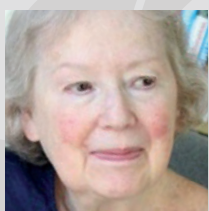
## LUNCH & LEARN

*Wednesdays from noon to 2 pm*

A monthly program sponsored by the Aging Together Team. Reserve online at [templemicah.org](http://templemicah.org). For details, contact Robin Stein at [lunchandlearn@templemicah.org](mailto:lunchandlearn@templemicah.org) or the temple office at 202-342-9175.



**Oct. 10 – Stan Shulman on “Team Alaska in Vietnam.”** Shulman's service as a dentist at a U.S. Public Health Service hospital in a remote Alaskan town in the '70s launched his circuitous route to dental care in rural Vietnam. His colleague at the hospital, Dr. Fritz Craft, later established a free dental clinic and outreach program for the children of Da Nang, Vietnam, and the surrounding villages. He will discuss the impact of the clinic on the local community in Vietnam.



**Nov. 14 – Myra Sklarew on “Through the Archives of the Feet: Holocaust Memory in Lithuania.”** Sklarew, recipient of the PEN Syndicated Fiction Award and the National Jewish Book Council Award in Poetry, was president of the Yaddo artist community. She is professor emerita in the Department of Literature at American University. She trod the path of her ancestors in Lithuania making sense of it through her poetry and the testimony of rescuers and survivors.

**Watch for these upcoming Lunch & Learn and Sunday Speaker Series:**

**Dec. 12 – Stacy Cloyd** on “Social Security: Past, Present, and Future”

**Jan. 9 – Alan Kraut** on “Anti Immigrant Sentiment throughout American History”

**Jan. 27 – Diana Butler Bass** on her new book, *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks*



# An Authoritative Presence at Our Front Door

BY FRAN DAUTH

## METROPOLITAN POLICE OFFICER

Andrea Latson grew up Catholic in El Paso, Texas. Later when she married, she began worshipping at a Baptist church. Judaism was not a part of her background.

But soon after she began also working security at Temple Micah 13 years ago, she found a connection.

Officer Latson, who has been with the Metropolitan Police Department for 24 years, is Hispanic. So the first thing she noticed was that a bar mitzvah reminded her of her culture's quinceañera party to celebrate a girl's 15th birthday, a coming-of-age rite observed in many Spanish-speaking areas of the United States.

Over the years, Latson has come to admire the respect for family and the generosity that she has seen at Temple

Micah. Members, she said, are "very respectful of everyone, regardless of race, gender or preference for partners."

Respect, and gaining it, is something Latson knows quite a bit about. She was hired on the police force nearly a quarter of a century ago as part of a campaign to hire Hispanics. Her first assignment in the 2nd District was in Georgetown where she was the only female officer and the only Hispanic. Asked what that was like, Latson offered a slight smile and shook her head.

Initially, she said, she wanted to be a firefighter, so had worked as a volunteer firefighter. She wanted a job "where I could help, something that was exciting, yet still help others." She tried to get hired on a Prince Georges County police force but was turned



down because she had not lived in the area long enough. Then the District of Columbia announced its campaign to hire Hispanics, and she got a job that has indeed been exciting.

(Today about 70 percent of the sworn members of the Metropolitan Police

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## Rabbi's Message FROM PAGE 1 ►

in my neighborhood, I noticed the "We Welcome" sign hanging in front. I took a picture and we made the banner that we now display. This sign extends our message of love and inclusion to the world. It is our contemporary restatement of Isaiah's message, "My house shall be a house of prayer for all people." (Isaiah 56:7)

Torah's message is for everyone and, in the American spirit, we strive to open our doors to all who wish to partake of the gifts and wisdom that Judaism offers the world.

These banners are outside our door, but I am equally taken and committed to the banner that has proudly stood in our lobby for a decade: Israel's Declaration of Independence of May 14, 1948. This banner has been with us so long, it is easy to overlook. This historic document con-

nects modern Israel to our historic past. It begins, "In the land of Israel, the Jewish people was born. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books."

Independence Hall in Tel Aviv, is, to this day, one of my favorite places to bring first-time visitors to Israel. The hall radiates with the historical significance, recalling the moment when the survivors of Europe came to know that they would have a home. The Declaration does more than promise a safe gathering place for Jewish refugees. It commits Israel to the historic ambitions of Judaism since the days of Abraham and Moses.

The Declaration proudly asserts the "universal signifi-

cance" of the "cultural values" our people forged in our homeland thousands of years ago. The Declaration extends those values to all who reside in Israel as it states, "The State of Israel...will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture..."

These are the very values that are under siege in Israel today. The Declaration, in explicitly using such phrases as "all of its inhabitants", "complete equality", and "freedom of...culture" casts a Zionism of ethical commitments for the non-Jewish minority. In guaran-

teeing freedom of religion, it also, I might add, gives license to various forms of Jewish interpretation – not only Orthodox.

We take these words seriously to this day. This is the Zionism of Reform Judaism. The banners on the outside and the banner inside Temple Micah are rooted in the same prophetic texts that guide us in our own time. This is who we strive to be. This is the bond we share as committed Reform Jews.

As I said on the High Holy Days, we live in days of trial on all our shores, Atlantic, Pacific and Mediterranean. Now is not the time to be shy about our tasks, the urgency of our message or the strength of our commitment.

We live by all our banners. This is Temple Micah in 5779. Shalom,  
Rabbi Daniel G. Zemel

**Stephanie FROM PAGE 1 ►**

Nidre service and gave the sermon in one of the Yom Kippur morning services.

Her 12-year-old self might have quaked a bit at speaking to more than 1,000 congregants at Yom Kippur, but 30-year-old Rabbi Crawley appeared as comfortable as she was eloquent.

Temple Micah will celebrate her appointment with a Rabbi Stephanie Crawley Welcome Service November 30. She joined the staff of Temple Micah July 1. She replaces Rabbi Susan Landau who has moved to Connecticut.

Rabbi Crawley, of course, is already known to many here. After graduating from Case Western Reserve University eight years ago, she was a Machon Micah Fellow for two years and spent a third year as outreach coordinator at Temple Micah.

"When I was here (during those post-undergraduate years), Rabbi Zemel and Rabbi (Esther) Lederman were people I looked up to as role models," she says now. "What I saw and heard from them, what they represented on the bimah . . . and now some of it feels like I am doing work of my role models. It's amazing."

That amazing journey

may have begun in earnest when she was 14 — two years after she first began contemplating becoming a rabbi, if you are keeping track. "If at 14 you want to practice being a rabbi, no one will let you. But they will let you sing and play the guitar." Those talents also have been on display at Temple Micah.

Rabbi Crawley grew up in St. Louis, Mo. Her mother is a social worker whose specialty is geriatrics; her father is a police officer in a nearby community. An older sister is an oncologist in San Antonio, Texas.

Rabbi Crawley is engaged to marry Rabbi Jesse Paikin, who is on the staff of Sixth and I.

At Case Western, Rabbi Crawley chose a major in international relations and political science with a minor in Jewish studies, because, she said, she believed a rabbi needed to understand the world. As she continued her studies she found she was much more drawn to sociology, in part because of a summer spent in Copenhagen where she studied migration and identity.

Following those three years at Temple Micah, Rabbi Crawley began her studies to become a rabbi at the Hebrew Union

College-Jewish Institute of Religion. There Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman "was a tremendous mentor...the kind of faculty member who takes the time to get to know" a student, she said. He understood, she stressed, "my sense of my self...how I felt like a square peg." He encouraged her "square peggedness," she said with a laugh, and argued against being a "cookie-cutter" rabbi.

While at HUC-JIR Rabbi Crawley was one of five "exceptional" students who are chosen each year for a Bonnie and Daniel Tisch Rabbinical Fellowship. The fellowship includes a full-tuition scholarship and intensive seminars in leadership.

For her thesis at HUC-JIR, Rabbi Crawley examined the elevated voice of female biblical characters in Sefer Ha-Yashar, a late medieval midrash. The text, she wrote in explaining the goal of her thesis "is unique in its narrative style, and its attention to women.

"On its own, the text is understudied, particularly in English, and no known work has focused on women in Sefer Ha-Yashar, she wrote.

In an effort to contribute both to the field of study on Sefer Ha-Yashar, as well as the female voice in this

midrash, Rabbi Crawley created an in-depth annotated translation and commentary of the sections dealing with the character of Sarah. In an interview, she noted that this midrash might be the first in which Sarah speaks in her own voice, as opposed to a rabbi recording what she said.

"These translations, she wrote of her thesis, "represent an effort to preserve the original Hebrew text, while retaining their folk-quality in English, with a strong preference towards readability and colloquialism in the translation.

She plans to continue working on her translation in hopes of seeing it published. Her goal remains to use the midrash "as an example of how we can see unheard voices in the Torah elevated, and give modern readers tools to see ourselves reflected back in the narrative and stories of the Torah."

She also continues to work with Rabbi Hoffman on the development of a worship center.

Now, however, Rabbi Crawley is excited to renew old friendships at Temple Micah and to meet many more new friends. "It is a privilege to be invited into people's lives" as a rabbi, she said. ♦

## IN CASE YOU MISSED THESE NOTICES

- "New-ish" members of Temple Micah are invited to lunch Nov. 4 at 12:15 p.m. Join others who have joined in the past year or so to meet people, get more involved, or just find out more about Temple Micah. Those interested are asked to register by Oct. 24 by checking the Temple website or calling the office.
- Friday, Oct. 26 Shabbat services will feature a former resident of Micah House describe her struggles with addiction and her continuing recovery process. Additionally several former and current Micah House residents as well as the case manager will be present.

# ISRAEL: FINDING ROOM FOR HOPE AMID DISAPPOINTMENT

*In sermons delivered on Kol Nidre and Rosh Hashanah Rabbi Daniel Zemel argued that while much has gone wrong with politics in America and in Israel, one must not give up on either, but work for change. Below are excerpts from his Kol Nidre sermon. The full text of both sermons may be found on the Temple Micah website.*

**"I love Israel** every time I am there. I love thinking about being there. Israel today remains a place I love as well as a cause of great worry and concern. You can ask Louise, I find myself saying too regularly about Israel: 'They have a great thing going if they just don't blow it for themselves.'"

**"The primary issue** is that the current government of Israel has turned its back on Zionism. This is it in a nutshell. If the very heart of Zionism is Jewish people hood—the idea that we are a far-flung people with a spiritual center in Israel, the current government has cast that idea and that commitment asunder. This is, to my way of thinking, Israel's first anti-Zionist government.

**"There is much here to account.** First the record itself:

The ongoing growth in a vehement ultra and ugly nationalism. The growth in an ultra-ultra-ultra-Orthodox brand of Judaism which is alien to the historical Jewish experience.... The efforts to control the Supreme Court. The harassment and detainment of those with divergent views when they seek to enter Israel. Government sponsored confiscation of Arab lands and villages. The harassment of non-profit organizations that work on behalf of pluralism and civil society...

**The current government in Jerusalem** has made common cause with the leaders of other countries including those who are Holocaust deniers, stir anti-Semitic sentiments in their own countries and made public statements in admiration of Adolf Hitler....

**"All of the above** has combined to make Israel among the most uncomfortable topics to discuss in much of what counts as polite conversation within American Jewish circles....

**"And yet, I say this evening—I love Israel** even through the pain of disappointment. I love Israel because of the sense of the Jewish past and opportunity for the future that it gives me. And today I love Israel because of the heroes that are there every single day devoting their lives to making Israel a better place....

**"We have been here** before. We know the perils of immoral leadership. Does our very own liturgy not read: 'Because of our sins we were exiled from our land.'...

**"Yet I implore us** to remain Zionists—Zionists standing on the principles of the great Zionist past. We are at one with the Bratzlaver who taught us that the world can be a narrow bridge. We stand on that bridge. We stand on the narrow bridge of ethical Zionism forged by Herzl, Bialik, Ben Gurion, Jabotinsky, Begin, and Rabin....

**"We cannot abandon** the struggle for Israel any more than we can abandon the struggle for America. It is not in our theological DNA. We cannot abandon that which we love. We are Jews—a people who measure time in the thousands of years. We are at the dawn of year 5779 on our calendar. Israel is 70. We are a people who know better than anyone else in human history that the past is not the blue print for the future. If we walk away from Israel now, we abandon the field to those whose vision for Israel is a dark one. ♦

## Authoritative FROM PAGE 5 ►

Department are black, Hispanic or Asian, according to the department's website.)

Latson, who had been working at one job or another since she was 14, found the first "five or six years" at the Metropolitan Police Department hard. But she lasted.

Over the ensuing 24 years, in her words, she was "stabbed, shot at, spit at more times than I can count, soaked in blood, kicked." And colleagues have been killed.

Latson said she really wished people could see what police officers endure. Certainly, she said there are problems that must be dealt with, but being on the street is a difficult, trying job.

The reward, she said, comes when someone thanks her, even on occasion, someone she has arrested. Recently she had occasion to see letters in her department file from people who had written her bosses about her help. "It kind of made me emotional," she said.

Today, she works at an MPD office in a unit that keeps track of and contact with people on probation because of

illegal handgun violations.

Latson, who is 51 and has three adult children, will be eligible for retirement next summer. She says she will probably stay on the police force another couple years, which means a couple more years at Temple Micah.

To Micah Board President Marcia Silcox, Officer Latson is "an elegant but authoritative presence at our front door."

When she does retire, Latson said, she'd like a job in which she greets people each day with a smile. Not unlike what she does at Temple Micah. ♦



## TZEDAKAH

### BUILDING IMPROVEMENT FUND

IN HONOR OF  
Burton Greenstein's 90th  
birthday, by Susie Blumenthal

IN MEMORY OF  
Norman Sablosky, by Helene Granof

### ENDOWMENT FUND

IN HONOR OF  
Nava Mach becoming bat mitzvah,  
by Dan Mach and Kim Parker  
The marriage of Noah Simmons  
and Emily Batt, by Michelle Sender

IN MEMORY OF  
Louis Levenson, by Brenda Levenson  
William E. Paul, by Marilyn Paul  
Norman Sablosky, by  
Michelle Sender  
Pearl Levenson Simmons, by Brenda  
Levenson, Michelle Sender  
June Solomon, by Jeff Passel  
Richard N. Wolf, by Muriel Wolf

### GENERAL FUND

Anonymous  
Scotty Brawer

IN HONOR OF  
The birth of Caleb Chaim Cutler, by  
Judith Capen and Robert Weinstein  
Barbara Diskin, Teddy Klaus, and  
the Thursday Musical Mornings for  
their kind hospitality to the New  
Horizons Band, by Bob Dorfman  
Rachel Gross and Jeannelle  
D'Isa, by Esther Lederman  
The birth of Mary Beth Schiffman  
and David Tochen's granddaughter,  
Joanna Brynn Clerman, by Marc  
Levy and Valerie Strauss

David Wentworth for his dog-  
walking prowess, by Steve  
Rockower and Ann Sablosky

IN MEMORY OF  
Barry Augenbraun, by Leslie Goldman  
Philip Blum, by Kate Kiggins  
and Jared Blum  
Dorothy Haber, by Mary Haber  
Samuel Levine, by Philip  
and Barbara Levine  
Norman Sablosky, by Arlene Brown  
and Gene Bialek, Gwen and Marc  
Pearl, Kim and Mark Schiffrin

### INNOVATION FUND

IN HONOR OF  
The Storefront Project, by  
Sara Schoen and Ari Appel

IN MEMORY OF  
Barbara Landfield, by Susan Landfield

### LEARNING FUND

IN HONOR OF  
Ed and Bobbie Wendel's 50th  
anniversary, by Myra Roney  
Adam Zemel, by Douglas Grob  
and Hiromi Maruyama

IN MEMORY OF  
Margaret Newmann, by  
Lynn N. Rothberg

### MICAH HOUSE

IN MEMORY OF  
Norman Sablosky, by Anne  
and Jeffrey Abend, Kay Hickox,  
Judy Ludwin Miller and Jim  
Miller, Gail Povar and Larry  
Bachorik, Jeff Passel, Mary Beth  
Schiffman and David Tochen  
Albert Sherwat, by Bev  
and Harlan Sherwat

### MUSIC AND WORSHIP FUND

IN HONOR OF  
Cantor Meryl Weiner, by Jeff Passel

IN MEMORY OF  
Lester Asher, by David Asher  
Dora Bender, by Carole Hirschmann  
Walter Page, by Bill Page  
Donald M. Rothberg, by Lynn  
Rothberg and Jennifer Tanzi  
Norman Sablosky, by Jannet  
and Alan Carpien

### RABBI BERAHA'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN HONOR OF  
Rachel Gross, by Ed Grossman  
and Rochelle Stanfield  
Emily and Marion Lee McClure,  
by Karen McClure

IN MEMORY OF  
Hyman Foster, by Ronna  
and Stan Foster

### RABBI CRAWLEY'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

IN HONOR OF  
Rabbi Stephanie Crawley's  
appointment as assistant rabbi, by  
Ed Grossman and Rochelle Stanfield  
Karen Mark, by Yael Traum

IN MEMORY OF  
Norman Sablosky, by Mr.  
and Mrs. Jeffrey Silow

### RABBI ZEMEL'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Maxine and Michael Mantell

IN HONOR OF  
Welcoming their new grandson,  
Lewis, into the world, by Richard  
Katz and Martha Lessman Katz  
Rabbi Zemel and his commitment  
to social justice, by Ann Cohen

IN MEMORY OF  
Herbert Blumenthal, Mace  
Broide, Norman Sablosky,  
Aaron Seidman, and Louise  
Sugarman, by Susie Blumenthal

### SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

IN MEMORY OF  
Rose Blitz, mother of Nelson  
Blitz, by Susie Blumenthal  
Hans and Frieda Hirschmann,  
Carl Hirschmann, by Carole  
and John Hirschmann  
Harry E. Rockower, by Steve  
Rockower and Ann Sablosky  
Norman Sablosky, by Judy  
and Doug Warshof  
Aaron Seidman, June  
Solomon, by Jeff Passel  
Elsie Sherwat, by Bev  
and Harlan Sherwat

### SUKKAT SHALOM

Suzanne Murphy

### THE RABBI DANIEL GOLDMAN ZEMEL FUND FOR ISRAEL

Myra and Mark Kovey

IN MEMORY OF  
Adolph Blumenfeld, by  
Norman Blumenfeld  
Howard Shea Grob, by Douglas  
Grob and Hiromi Maruyama

*This list reflects donations  
received July 12–October 3, 2018.  
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.*

## MEET THE NEW FACES IN THE MICAH OFFICE



**MIRIAM SWARTZ** is an administrative associate in charge of communications. She joined the office staff in June.



**ROBIN FENDER** is an administrative associate who assists with special events. She became a member of the office staff in July.

### President's Column FROM PAGE 2 ►

As in all Temple Micah programs, volunteer leadership ensures that roles are filled, and that there is continuity. Richard Lahne has been managing the Summer Shabbat efforts for at least 17 years, and before that, Mort Goren was in charge. I had to ask around to find out about the history, because they do this task so quietly, with grace and efficiency. Richard notes that new participants are encouraged to contact him.

Summer 2018 is in the books, as they say, and so are Temple Micah's summer leaders, readers, chanters, and interpreters ... literally in the books looking for inspiration to share. Summer 2019 seems a long way off, but they hope you will come and spend an inspiring Shabbat morning with them.

## B'NAI MITZVAH



### AVA OBOLER

**OCTOBER 6 / 27 TISHREI**

**PARENTS:** Diana and Joshua Oboler

**TORAH PORTION:** Bereshit

**INDEPENDENT PROJECT:** Ava has carried her passion for animals into a continuing independent study project on endangered species. Her Torah portion touches on humankind being given the role of stewardship for nature and its creatures. She intends to raise awareness and funding for saving a specific creature she loves: the Asian Elephant.



### NADIA STRAUSS

**OCTOBER 13 / 4 CHESHVAN**

**PARENTS:** Leanne MacDougall and Jeremy Strauss

**TORAH PORTION:** Noach

**INDEPENDENT PROJECT:** Nadia is organizing a meal for a women's shelter for women experiencing homelessness.



Ollie (left); Frederick (right)

### FREDERICK ALFONSO-FRANK OLLIE (OLLIE) ALFONSO-FRANK

**OCTOBER 27 / 18 CHESHVAN**

**PARENTS:** Lisa and Stefanie Alfonso-Frank

**TORAH PORTION:** Vayera

**INDEPENDENT PROJECT:** Frederick and Ollie will be volunteering with K9 Lifesavers, an all-volunteer rescue group dedicated to finding forever homes for dogs. Their family adopted a dog through K9 Lifesavers, and the brothers are excited to volunteer at adoption events.



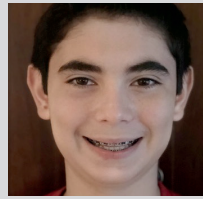
### JASPER GODFREY OKO

**NOVEMBER 3 / 25 CHESHVAN**

**PARENTS:** Jennifer and Michael Oko

**TORAH PORTION:** Chayei Sara

**INDEPENDENT PROJECT:** To be decided



### ZACHARY WOLF

**NOVEMBER 10 / 2 KISLEV**

**PARENTS:** Brian and Erin Wolf

**TORAH PORTION:** Toldot

**INDEPENDENT PROJECT:** In addition to his skills as a saxophonist and baseball and soccer player, Zachary enjoys reading and cooking, and this year he is spending time each month researching and cooking Shabbat meal recipes from around the world.

Photo  
Unavailable

### JACK FREED

**NOVEMBER 17 / 9 KISLEV**

**PARENTS:** Susan Breitkopf and Josh Freed

**TORAH PORTION:** Vayetzi

**INDEPENDENT PROJECT:** To be decided

## CONDOLENCES

The Temple Micah community extends its deepest condolences to:

EVELYN T. Beck, on the passing of her spouse,  
L. Lee Knefelkamp

DEAN BRENNER, on the passing of his mother,  
Marilyn Brenner

OWEN HERRNSTADT, on the passing of his father,  
Richard Herrnstadt

ANNIE KARABELL, on the passing of her grand-  
mother, Evelyn Mason Newbery

SANDER LURIE, on the passing of his uncle,  
Robert Lurie

ANN SABLOSKY, on the passing of her father,  
Norman Sablosky

Yael Traum, on the passing of her grandmother,  
Fannie Aizenberg

May their memories be for a blessing.

## MAZAL TOV!

Morgan Black and Jeffrey Kramer, on the  
naming of their daughter, Naomi Jay Black

Matt Cutler and Jessica Katz, on the  
birth of their son, Caleb Chaim Cutler

Lou Kolodner and Rebecca  
Perry, on their marriage

Andi and Melissa Mathis, on the birth of their  
granddaughter and niece, Caroline Thomson

Emma Spaulding and Todd Jasper, on the  
birth of their daughter, Lyla Spaulding Jasper

**Gun Violence FROM PAGE 1 ►**

be the new normal prompted her to “test the waters of the GVP” group at Temple Micah to “be a voice of outrage but (also) harness our own energy and resources to combat this problem.

“There is such frustrating inner anger politically after each of these events, but we have to continue to advocate for what we think is appropriate.”

One of Broder’s most meaningful memories from the past year was when Temple Micah’s high schoolers read the names of everyone who had died so far that year from gun violence. “Some of these students knew these people and to hear the students recite these names, I just think it was incredibly moving and motivating.”

Spatz compiles the list from information she gets from the Metropolitan Police Department’s website and posts it weekly at [SayThisName.wordpress.com](http://SayThisName.wordpress.com).

“Sometimes I’ve thought about giving it up so I wouldn’t have to focus on the deaths as much. But, in the end, I’m committed to acknowledging these losses, and typing out their names is one of the ways that I do that.”

For Spatz, who lives and works in Southeast Washington, the seemingly daily toll of gun violence in the nation’s capital is personal.

“When Amari Jenkins, age 21, was killed in front of St. Luke’s in 2015, I was waiting for the bus a few hours after

his death and still kind of dazed, so it took me awhile to realize that what I was seeing across the street was two men trying to power-wash his blood off the steps; the day after Makiyah Wilson was killed, her blood was still on the courtyard outside her home and I couldn’t help thinking how small the stain in some ways . . . and how huge,” Spatz recounted.

Makiyah Wilson, 10, was killed July 16 as she was heading to an ice cream truck when masked gunmen began firing into a crowd of about 15 to 20 people in Northeast Washington.

Spatz noted that Temple Micah’s efforts to raise gun violence awareness began before the GVP Working Group was formed. She recalled that some of the early discussions centered on that Washington, like “many other urban areas, experiences a steady stream of loss and trauma that is quite different from that of mass shootings, and the experiences of people of color are often underrepresented in some of the biggest GVP efforts around the country.”

That is why, she said, the first major event of the organizers was the screening of the documentary “Shell Shocked”, about the toll of regular gun violence on youth in New Orleans. The second event was a staged reading of “The Gospel of Lovingkindness,” about neighborhood violence in Chicago.

Klumpner said seeing “Shell Shocked” led her to get involved in the

GVP Working Group.

Van Achterberg, a child psychiatrist, says she has “seen how gun violence affects kids and teens I work with here in D.C.”

“I first realized the hold that the NRA has on our national discourse on guns when I was a pediatric intern and someone representing the top pediatric journal in the country came to our hospital to speak on this issue and told us after they published a scientific paper on gun violence, they gave space in their journal for a rebuttal by the NRA. Frankly, I was disgusted by the influence of the gun industry on our scientific information,” she said.

In addition to the task of raising awareness, the GVP Working Group seeks to support existing programs in the Washington area.

GVP members, for example, collected some 300 books for the Charnice Milton Community Bookstore in SE, named after the 27-year-old community newspaper reporter who was shot to death while at an Anacostia bus stop in 2015. They held two phone bank training sessions for Moms Demand Action, collected toiletries for the Wendt Center’s summer camp for children grieving the loss of a loved one, and joined the March for Our Lives organized by student survivors of the Parkland, Fla., school shooting.

“The most effective tool for our little group is thinking locally,” Van Achterberg said. “We think about the national debate and have taken some political action there, but primarily we have tried to shed light on the tragedy closer to home: the disproportionate effects of gun violence on poor, African American residents of our area.

“A major aim of our group is to help other Micah members keep our neighbors in their consciousness. Next, we have had the chance to meet those in the community directly affected by the violence and have had the privilege of listening to them and asking them what they need.

“We try not to force our agenda on those working on the front lines, but to learn if we can help them out.” ♦

## GVP IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

The next meeting of the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group is Thursday, Nov. 8, at 7 p.m. in the upstairs library at Temple Micah. Elsie Klumpner, one of the group’s leaders, urges Temple Micah members concerned about the tragic toll of gun violence on the city and the nation to consider joining. She notes that while this is a particularly difficult time in the nation’s history, it is a perfect time to get involved.

To learn more about GVP activities, click on the Social Justice tab on the Micah website. Once there, scroll down to the Gun Violence Prevention section, which contains a link to a resource sheet listing activities and volunteer opportunities.

To contact Elsie Klumpner or Meg Van Achterberg, go to [gvp@templemicah.org](mailto:gvp@templemicah.org).





## WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE HAVING SO MUCH FUN?

One Friday each month, a band of challah bakers gather in the Micah kitchen to bake challot for ailing Micah members. On this particular Friday in August, the bakers were Greer Goldman, Susan Bandler, Robin Stein, Kate Kiggins, and Geri Nielsen, led by challah master David

Pansegrouw. It was the irrepressible Pansegrouw who initiated the volunteer project, operated in coordination with Hineni, which identifies challah recipients. Those wishing to join in the baking or are able to deliver challot on Friday or Saturday should contact Greer Goldman. If you just like the aroma of freshly baked challah, drift by the kitchen around 2 p.m. during the next challah bake-off.







Micah Sixth Graders collect underwear items for homeless on Yom Kippur. The drive goes through October.



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