

Temple Emanuel Newsletter

April 2024



Temple Emanuel



Join us for Second Night Seder on Tuesday, April 23, at 6 pm!

Our annual Second Night Seder is a longtime favorite, not just for the celebration itself, but because many families contribute a special family Pesach dish to share.

Please RSVP today—seating is limited to 65!

[Click here to register.](#)

(Temple members have priority.)

Questions? Contact Suzi Nash, our Events Coordinator, at suzinash27@gmail.com.



Try something new—a Chocolate Seder Plate!

Experience the perfect blend of tradition and sweetness with a Chocolate Seder Plate that is kosher for Passover. Gift-wrapped Seder Plates are \$32 with pickup on April 21 at Temple (lower level), 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. To order contact Dale Santay at 732-425-8300 (text or call) or DM @bloom_bakes_.

And thank you to Harris Teeter for stocking Passover foods!



Upcoming Services

- Services will be held at 7:30 p.m. on April 5, 12, 19, and 26 and on May 3.
- Yahrzeits, April 1-30, 2024 (Adar-II 22, 5784 to Nissan 22, 5784):


To be read on Friday, April 5:

John C. Sanders, remembered by Jonathan Sanders
Joseph Goldstein, remembered by Andy Osborne
Ben Lieber
Abe Slutsky, Myron Slutsky's father
Millicent Cooley Wiener

To be read on Friday, April 12:

Louise Adams, remembered by Lyn Fox
Fred Lake, Joan Brown's father
Carolyn Ballard Robinson
Beatrice Rosenbaum Mandel
Lillian Davis Cooley, Tony Marder's grandmother

<p><i>Friday, April 5, cont.</i> Rabbi David Zielonka, Debbie Stringer's father Leonard Jacobowitz, Eileen Morrell's brother Edna Nash, Alan Nash's mother Ben Planer Jane Sweetbaum Rosenberg, remembered by Andy Osborne Norman Silver, Debbye Lustig's father</p>	<p><i>Friday, April 12, cont.</i> Barry Blau, Peter Blau's father Irving Sweetbaum, remembered by Andy Osborne Ella Menchus, Marisa Rosenfeld's grandfather John Carol Robinson Wolf Schumacher Anna Sweetbaum, remembered by Andy Osborne</p>
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<p>To be read on Friday, April 19: Hannah Rossman Leo Kaufman Estelle Schwartz Bernard Belaief, Karen Rubin's uncle Herman Mandel Leah Silverstein Rose O. Weisman Mitzi Cutler Jean Weinstein Frey Michael Syrakowski Gilda Treiber</p> 	<p>To be read on Friday, April 26: Rose Belaief, Karen Rubin's grandmother Samuel Glickman Gilbert M. Selznick, Betsy Harnage's father Patricia Ann Selznick, Betsy Harnage's mother Alan David Silverman, Glenn Silverman's father Jane Scherago, Hardin Rubin's grandmother Ann Shapiro, Fred Freiburger's sister</p> <p>To be read on Friday, May 3: Victor Osborne, Andy Osborne's father Marty Zielonka, Debbie Stringer's mother Elizabeth Anselmo, Susie Schaffer's mother Babette Mayer Aronson, Caryn Aronson's mother Rabbi Jerome Mark Evelyn Osborne, Andy Osborne's mother</p>
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We are growing—and hiring!

- We hope that in the near future we will be welcoming a part-time rabbi to Temple Emanuel. You can learn more about this exciting development on pages 5-6 of this newsletter, where you will find a report from our Rabbi Search Committee.
- And, we are hiring a part-time administrator! Qualifications: outside our Temple membership; personable and organized; good management skills; flexible schedule (10-15 hrs/wk including some time on weekends). Please pass the word on! For more information, please email templemanuel18@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

- **Second Night Seder:** Space is limited. See information on page 1 or [click here to register](#).
- **Jewish Film Series:** New member Peter Blau is helping to organize our first-ever film showings at the Temple. If you're interested in being a part of this effort, please reach out to Peter at 203-434-8451 or at psblau@gmail.com.
- **New Member Meet & Greet** is coming our way on Saturday night, May 4! Everyone is invited to this event where we will welcome our new members and celebrate the growth of our Temple family. Watch your email for more information.
- **Casino Night** is coming to our congregational hall in July; details to come. Prizes, pizza, fun!

- **Adult Hebrew Instruction**—Bill Marx is a master at teaching people with no background in Hebrew. His graduates can now read beautifully from siddur and Chumash. To learn more please contact Bill at 314-749-3566 or hebrewclass85@gmail.com.

We Hope You Enjoyed It!

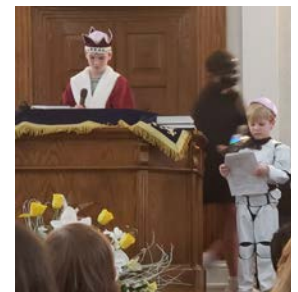
- We were honored to join **Ezra Tzaddiyq Ben Yisrael** at Friday night services on March 29 as he became bar mitzvah. Ezra did a wonderful job leading services. We congratulate him and his family and loved ones—mazel tov! מזל טוב



- And on March 30 Temple Emanuel hosted Hashabah Yisrael (Hebrew Family of Charlotte) and their affiliated congregations around the eastern US for a day-long **Shabbaton**. Our sanctuary was filled with the joyful noise of Judaism in the African tradition, a blessing to behold.



- On March 22 we celebrated **Purim**, a “time for feasting and merrymaking” (Esther 9:22) with a high-spirited potluck meal together at Temple, a Star Wars-themed Purim Spiel led by our Religious School students (thank you Morah [teacher] Rochelle and Morah Mary, for all the hard work preparing your students for the spiel!), and of course services.



- On March 10, **Rabbi Ya’aqov Walker** – presented *My Path to the Rabbinate*. path to Judaism but also a fascinating relationship to Ashkenazic and an engaging speaker with a wealth of announce that he will be a regular series.



newly ordained and a Temple member Rabbi Walker shared not only his own overview of Karaite Judaism and its Sephardic Judaism. Rabbi Walker is knowledge, and we are pleased to presenter in our Adult Education

Temple Emanuel Religious School (TERS) News

- Our **Purim Spiel** on March 22 was out of this world! The kids did an awesome job putting on the play and we all appreciate the hard work that went into making the whole night great!
- **Jewish Children's Library:** We are excited to announce the creation of a children's library, located in one of the classrooms on the lower level of the Temple. If you have any books in good condition that you would like to donate, or if you would like to make a monetary donation, please contact Rochelle Wilensky, TERS Director, at rochellerr@gmail.com. The timing is perfect for the new library, as our school's membership has multiplied quickly over the past few months!
- **Student-led Shabbat Service:** On Friday, May 17, TERS students will lead the Shabbat service. The service will begin at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be served afterwards. We hope all members of Temple Emanuel will attend and show their support for TERS. The children, along with Morah Rochelle and Morah Mary, have learned so much this year and we'd love for you to see them in action!
- **Toddler Time:** Coming soon—grown-ups and their toddlers will gather in our library on select Sunday mornings for circle time, a story, playtime and a snack. Dates TBA. We look forward to meeting Temple families with littles!
- **Religious School Registration:** It's always the right time to register your children for TERS! Children in grades K-8 attend on Sunday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We also have a Youth Group to engage our high schoolers.

For more information about any of these initiatives or about TERS in general, please contact Rochelle Wilensky, TERS Director, at rochellerr@gmail.com.

Important Information About Our Temple Members

- We are thrilled to welcome **new members** Eve and Ronnie Vickerstaff. Eve and Ronnie, we all look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to our community in person! (There's a date for that: Saturday evening, May 4, at our New Member Meet & Greet. Information TBA.) A big thank you to Mark Epstein, Membership, for helping our new congregants find their way to Temple Emanuel.
- **Happy birthday** to Marshall Rauch, father of our Board President Stephanie Rauch, who recently celebrated his 101st birthday with his (very large!) community of friends and family. Marshall has been a part of the Temple Emanuel community for over ¾'s of a century! To learn more about Marshall, the Jewish history of Gastonia, and his place in it, check out *A Bit of History* on pp. 6-7.
- **We are sad to share** that Janet Epstein's mother, Carolyn Place Grenier, passed away on March 24, 2024. Our prayers are with Janet, her husband Mark, and their family. May her memory be for a blessing. זיכרונה לברכה

Please email Barbara Blau, Newsletter Coordinator, at bjblau@gmail.com, with any news about you or your loved ones that you would like to have shared with the Temple community via the newsletter.

Recent Donations

We gratefully thank the following individuals for their donations to the Temple. תודה רבה

- Nadine Fox, in memory of F. Winton
- Beverly Green, in memory of Anna Green Litman
- Leigh Anne Lauer, in memory of Sylvia Grace Walls
- Al Reeder, general donation

Community News

- **Israel Update:** Carolina Region Small Congregations, part of the Jewish Community Legacy Project, <https://jclproject.org/>, is sharing a Zoom presentation on April 3 in which Jewish communal leaders report on their perspectives after post-Oct. 7 trips to Israel. Click here to register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkd-mvpjgjG9R5vWy33Q57blc9dASnHARc#/registration>
- **Seeing Auschwitz:** Hosted by the Stan Greenspon Center, this world-renowned exhibit's North American debut in Charlotte is located at Charlotte's Visual and Performing Arts Center. The exhibit, which incorporates 100 photographs, sketches and testimonies of the German Nazi camp Auschwitz and the Holocaust, encourages visitors to look beyond the four edges of the photograph and through the veil of seemingly ordinary faces to confront the reality of what one is seeing. Recommended for ages 12+. Runs through April 14. <https://seeingauschwitz.com/charlotte/>
- **Gaston Interfaith Trialogue:** Members of the Trialogue meet monthly to explore the three faiths of Abraham: Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. The Trialogue's Statement on the Israeli-Gaza War was issued on January 23, 2024, and is reprinted on the last page of this newsletter. Would you like to join the Trialogue's fascinating conversations? For details and a brief orientation, please contact Mark Epstein, Membership mark.epstein@totalbondvets.com, or Bill Gross, Ritual sirfranny@carolina.rr.com.

Report from our Rabbi Search Committee

For over two years our committee has been developing and executing a strategy to hire a full-time rabbi who will live in Gaston County.

The good news is we are well on our way as our congregation grows in members and vitality.

Twenty new families/individuals joined the Temple since October, we're building a Conversion Program with support from Temple Israel, our Adult Education programs fill the Board Room, Barbara Blau is editing our revived newsletter, Peter Blau is organizing an ongoing movie series, our Social Activities Committee is again conducting engaging regular events, Sisterhood is restructuring and will soon be at full throttle, and our Religious School has doubled its enrollment in the past year under the capable leadership of Morah Rochelle Wilensky.

And, at the heart of our continuing growth are regular minyans at Friday night services. In fact, we need more siddurim and are planning a campaign to raise funds to acquire them.

With new energy and engagement, along with Gaston County's growing population, we think our congregation will have the membership, programming, and funds to hire a full-time rabbi in several years.

Which brings us back to our search.

For the foreseeable future we will continue to be lay-led with Bill Marx, Bill Gross, and Rabbi Ya'akov Walker presiding over Shabbat services and Charlie Brown leading Passover seders and High Holiday services.

While most of you know the two Bills and Charlie, you may not have met Rabbi Ya'akov. Recently ordained in the Karaite Jewish tradition, he is a warm, committed, and scholarly leader who brings great joy and energy to our pulpit. He is an active member of Hebrew Family Synagogue in Charlotte, Temple Israel, and our shul.

With these resources in place, we are now working with the Small Congregation Clergy Collaborative of the Union of Reform Judaism to recruit a rabbi or cantor one weekend a month to lead Shabbat services, teach Religious School, conduct adult education, and

advise temple leadership as we prepare to recruit a full-time rabbi. We are now organizing interviews and by the time we gather for our Annual Meeting (in May or June) we expect to know if we will contract a visiting rabbi or cantor.

As there is a long road ahead and many issues to consider we invite you to ask us questions and share your suggestions.

Lee Buchanan	Bill Marx
Mark Epstein	Andy Osborne
Lyn Fox	Stephanie Rauch
Bill Gross	Glenn Silverman
Jason Gluck	

A Bit of History



Meet the Temple's Most Famous Member: Marshall Rauch

Perhaps you've seen the sign on I-85 approaching Gastonia from the east: Senator Marshall Rauch Freeway. That's **our** Marshall Rauch, who's just celebrated his 101st birthday, that they named the freeway after.

Just Google his name and you'll see Marshall's many accomplishments. Politician: 12-term North Carolina State Senator. Businessman: world's #1 manufacturer of satin and glass Christmas ornaments. College athlete: played basketball on Duke's 1941-1942 Southern Conference championship team. Combat veteran: served in World War II.

But we're here to talk about Temple Emanuel and Gastonia's small but active Jewish community over the 80 years he's been here. We spoke with him earlier this month at his cozy, memorabilia-filled apartment in Gastonia's Covenant Village. Here's an excerpt; more to come in future newsletters.

TEMPLE NEWSLETTER: Marshall, you're a native New Yorker who came to study at Duke, where you met your late wife, Jeanne. She was from Bessemer City, just a few miles west of here. Tell us about moving to Gaston County in the 1940s.

MARSHALL: Jeanne's parents [Frank and Sadie Goldberg] gave me a job in their textile business. Then Jeanne and I lived in her mother's home, and we had perfect everything, for about a year.

When Jeanne was pregnant, we decided we were going to move out. We moved to Gastonia. After all, I had a job. I believe I was making \$15,000 a year – that was good, then. Mortgage on the house, I can remember, was 54 dollars and 54 cents.

TEMPLE NEWSLETTER: What was Gastonia like at the time?

MARSHALL: We moved from Bessemer City – which really was a small, old town. Even Gastonia only had a population of 30 or 40 thousand at the time.

But the Temple was there...it was established. If you were Jewish and you were around here, you joined the Temple. It was a good gathering place. And it was good because it was a community.

TEMPLE NEWSLETTER: Why did you choose Gastonia versus Charlotte, where there's a much bigger Jewish community? Did you feel isolated?

MARSHALL: Jeanne had a sister and two brothers who lived in Gastonia. So, we never even thought about it. There was a place for us here. We did well here.

TEMPLE NEWSLETTER: At its peak, let's say late 60s, early 70s, how many families were in the Temple?

MARSHALL: I can remember when there were 60 or 70 families. Now maybe half of that. EDITOR'S NOTE: TEMPLE NOW HAS OVER 70 FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS. A lot of this is because today the merchants are gone [downtown Gastonia retail shop owners who were Jewish]. But now we do have professionals...doctors and dentists, lawyers, executives. Good people.

TEMPLE NEWSLETTER: What about the new families moving into Gaston County as suburban Charlotte expands westward? In fact, over the past six months, we added 20 new members, and two more families are in the process of joining.

MARSHALL: Today Gastonia is a city because Charlotte is there. Many of our members and friends work in Charlotte. The Temple is growing.

TEMPLE NEWSLETTER: What would you say to Jews in the process of moving here about why they should consider living in Gaston County and joining the Temple?

MARSHALL: Our Temple's over 100 years old and everybody's proud of it. Our children have all been Bar and Bat Mitzvah there. I think the Gentile friends are proud of the fact that we have this fine old Temple, too. And it looks like we're just in the beginning of growth.

For more information about the history of Gastonia's Jewish community and our Temple, visit [Encyclopedia of Southern Jewish Communities - Gastonia, North Carolina](#).

Please see the next page for the Gaston Interfaith Dialogue's Statement on the Israeli-Gaza War.

And thank you to the many members of Temple Emanuel for their contributions to this newsletter!



Temple Emanuel

Statement on the Israeli-Gaza War Gaston Interfaith Trialogue, January 23, 2023

Not since 9/11, have our hearts been as troubled and our conversations as difficult as now. Following the attacks on Israel by Hamas, and the bombardment by Israel of Gaza, we are numb, yet called to speak. There are things we, as Christians, Jews, and Muslims, need to speak *against*, and things we need to speak *for*.

First, what we must speak *against*:

We speak against using these events to promote anti-Semitism. Israel has a right to self-defense and a responsibility to protect all its citizens – Jewish, Muslim, and Christian. The Israeli government is not to be equated with all Jews, nor are Jews to be equated with the Israeli government.

We speak against using these events to promote Islamophobia. The Palestinian people both Muslim and Christian have legitimate aspirations. All Palestinians are not to be equated with any terrorist organization or any other political/military group.

We speak against using these events to pit Jews against Muslims, and Muslims against Jews. Through the centuries, Jews and Muslims have often made sacrifices to protect each other. The fight over boundaries and territories in the Middle East is not an excuse for any faith group to promote itself over others.

We therefore are called to speak out *for* the following:

The right of all civilians to live in peace. All communities must reject extremists in their midst. And no group or nation should deliberately target civilians - to protect itself, or to promote its security or cause.

The need for proportionality and restraint in warfare. War is always a last resort in the cause of peace and justice. Collateral damage and civilian casualties must always be considered and avoided if possible. The need for an immediate cease-fire to attend to humanitarian needs, should never be taken off the table, by any party.

The necessity for a long-term solution. The division of territories in the Middle East has been a continuous source of discord for all parties - Jews, Muslims, and Christians. All residents of this area should be able to live in peace and worship as people of faith and recognize the rights of each to exist. Whether through a Two-State Solution, a Single State, or other options, we need all the nations of the world to work together to find a way forward. Perhaps coming together in empathy and respect in this crisis is what the world needs to achieve a lasting peace there and here at home.

The members of our faith communities are determined to respond to this crisis not with name-calling and division, but with prayer, heartbreak, and honest discussion. The greatest tragedy would be to allow current events to destroy the good work and goodwill our communities have built. May this time of testing see the bonds that unite us only strengthened, and the faith and hope we share only deepened - as we all seek to live our lives as God's children, until God's peaceable kingdom fully comes.

Gaston Interfaith Trialogue Steering Committee

Rev. Dr. Richard Boyce	Mark Epstein	William Gross	Sam Shoukry
Cindy Buckley	Re. Steven Fuller	Rafat Hamam	
Chuck Duncan	Linda Gibbons	Rev. Dr. Joan Martin	