

December 2024

We enjoyed getting to know Rabbi Jacquie Marx!



Rabbi Marx, who is also a Cantor and lives near Chapel Hill, spent a weekend with us in early November under the auspices of the Small Congregation Clergy Collaborative, a program of the Union of Reform Judaism that brings part-time rabbis and cantors to small congregations like ours. Rabbi Marx led Shabbat services (see her with our own Charlie Brown and Lyn Fox to the left), observed Havdalah with us, and led our children in prayer and song during Religious School. Please stay tuned for more information about whether she will visit us again. And in the meantime, if you weren't able to meet Rabbi Marx, [click here](#) to hear her beautiful voice!

And please join us in welcoming Kamina Young, our new Temple Emanuel administrator!

Kamina Young is originally from Brooklyn, New York, and has lived in Gaston County for over 20 years. Some of her interests include kayaking, exploring wineries, skiing, and traveling domestically and internationally. She has a professional background in Human Resources, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and Information Technology, with additional extensive nonprofit board experience in the Charlotte area. Kamina is excited and ready to support the needs of Temple Emanuel! Welcome, Kamina!





Fundraiser and Chanukah Celebration
Saturday, Dec. 7th, 7:30-10:00 p.m. at Temple Emanuel
Make it a special night out with family and friends!

[Sign up here so that we know how much food and drink is needed!](#)

We hope to see our whole Temple family at our Dec. 7th Silent Auction, as we celebrate Chanukah together (a little early but that's OK) and also raise money to support our religious school, adult education program, special activities and more. There will be filling appetizers, elegant desserts and drinks—all at no charge except for wine and beer.

On the previous page and below are some of the auction items you can bid for!



Two nights at the McKinley Edwards Inn!



Chanukah
Dinnerware—11
sets!



Baroque pearl necklace!



Join us! [Click here NOW to register!](#)



Please email Silent Auction chairs [Suzi Nash](#) or [Andy Osborne](#) to volunteer to help. You can also call or text Andy at 704-854-1010 or Suzi at 617-510-1332.

December Shabbat Services



- Friday night services will be held in the sanctuary on **December 6, 13 and 20** at 7:30 pm.
- **Birthday Oneg on December 13!** After services there will be a special Oneg for “vintage” member **Chuck Katzenstein** who turns 90 this month. Please celebrate Chuck’s birthday with us on the 13th!
- There will be no services on Friday, Dec. 27.
- The first night of Chanukah is Wednesday, Dec. 25, and the 8th night is Wednesday, Jan. 1.

December Yahrzeits

Members can email [Temple Emanuel](#) to add a loved one’s name to the list of yahrzeits read aloud at Shabbat services. Loved ones do not need to be Jewish.

**[Yahrzeits for December 2024 \(30 Cheshvan, 5785 to 30 Kislev, 5785\).
To be read during Friday night services in December and on January 3, 2025.](#)**

To be read on Friday, December 6:

Gertrude Ornstein, Andrew Osborne’s grandmother
Rose Wohl Marks, Marshall Rauch’s aunt and Stephanie Rauch’s great-aunt
Lester Cutler, Marla Brodsky’s father
Stefan Owen Silverman, Glenn Silverman’s brother
Vera Fox, Lyn Fox’s mother-in-law, Andrew and Nicole Fox’s grandmother
Saul Mandel
Shaya Raphael Paradies



To be read on Friday, December 13:

Rebecca Hirshman Honigman
Robert Leland Winton, Nadine Fox’s brother
Rebecca Wishnefsky
Janice Annenberg, Andrew Osborne’s aunt
Solomon Halpert, Barbara Thymius’ father
David Sussman, Michael Sussman’s father
Joseph Essec Slutsky
Cheryl Ann Sosnik, Marilyn Edwards’ sister
Eliezer Otto Falkenstein, Talia Wucherer’s father
Samuel Benveniste, Rebecca Benveniste’s husband
Joseph Feuer
Rachel Morganstein Solomon

Friday, December 6, cont:

Elke Garber Kaminsky
Minnie Efron Shanker, Sondra Katzenstein's
mother
Tillie W. Silverstein
Rose Szego, Nadine Fox's grandmother
Sylvia Williams, Amanda Gardner's mother

Friday, December 13, cont:

Meilech Spectorman
Dr. Donald E. Kobley



To be read on Friday, December 20:

Nicholas Zechariah Crawford, Robert and Betty
Crawford's son
Mike Planer
Avraham Abby Witten
Edward Baker
Dora Belkin
Frank Henry Goldberg, Marshall Rauch's
father-in-law, Stephanie Rauch's grandfather
Miriam E. Girard, Stephanie Rauch's aunt,
Marshall Rauch's sister-in-law
Maurice H. Silverstein
Eli Nachamson



***Yahrzeits from Dec. 21-31, to be read on Friday,
January 3:***

Rosetta Dopkin
Robert Richard Planer, remembered by Joel and
Toni Planer
Minnie Hoffman Ross
Elias Sonnenshein
Henrietta Ochs Fried, Joe Hahn's grandmother
Abraham H. Garmise
Dennis Johnston, Karen Sussman's father
Helen Goldberg Jacobowitz, Eileen Morrell's
mother
Marcia Miller, Lynne Shoaf's mother
Rebecca Goldstein Honigman
Sylvia Topal Cohen
Hattie van Praagh
Elaine Belaief Brown, Karen Rubin's mother
Jacob Kahn
Allen Joseph Greenspon
Irene W. Planer
Dora Luchen
Rose Tallman, Bill Gross' aunt
Fraances Worthy Stringer, Eric Stringer's mother
Lena Lebovitz
MD Witten

New Members

- Brooke Shein—originally from Napa, CA, relocated to Spencer Mountain and soon to be a UNCC student.
- Jordan & Matt Steele and their children Kalli age 10, Rory age 6, and Wyatt age 4. The Steele family lives in Shelby. Many thanks to Matt for his service in uniform to our country and to Jordan for her contributions already to various Temple events.
- Sue Corbin—a semi-retired educator who recently moved to our area from Ohio.

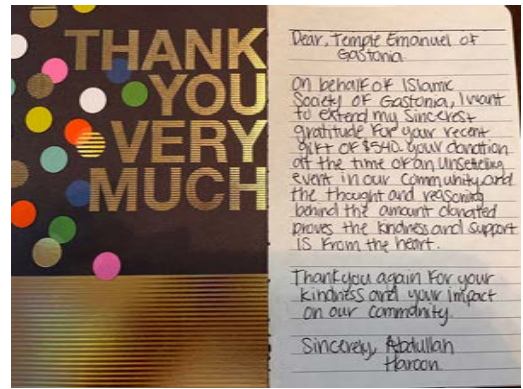
Please say hello and welcome when you see our new members!

Are you interested in joining Temple Emanuel? Do you have children you might want to enroll in our Religious School? We would love to talk with you about it and answer your questions. Please email [Mark Epstein](mailto:Mark.Epstein@templeemanuel.org), our Board member in charge of Membership, and he will reach out to you.

Donations תודה רבה

We gratefully thank the following individuals:

- Chuck & Paula Grad, High Holy Days donation
- Beverly Green, in memory of Don Green
- Anonymous donation to Temple Emanuel Religious School
- Peter & Barbara Blau, Yiskor readings
- Kevin Kirsh, donation to our yearly Crisis Area Ministries Drive
- Zak & Nicole Mayne, donation to the General Fund
- Greg Tomchin, High Holy Days donation

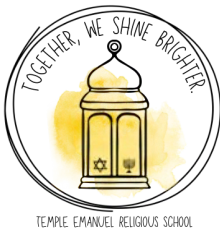


Caring For Congregants

A new Temple initiative

- Volunteers provide home or hospital visits and deliver meals to congregants who are ill. Please contact [Stephanie Rauch](#) to become a volunteer.
- Two of our members, Stephanie Rauch and Charlie Brown, are offering pastoral counseling to congregants (charging only what insurance will pay or a fee based on a sliding scale). Both are licensed therapists with years of experience. Stephanie offers her services in-person and virtually; Charlie is available virtually. For more information please email [Charlie Brown](#) or [Stephanie Rauch](#).

News About TERS (Temple Emanuel Religious School)



[Click here for comprehensive information](#) about our Religious School and for all the news about our 2024-2025 school year!

If you are interested in joining our wonderful school, contact Rochelle Wilensky, TERS Director, at rochelle.rrr@gmail.com or 202-747-4630. You are welcome to join us as a prospective family on a Sunday for a “Taste of TERS”!

Temple Emanuel and TERS welcome blended families! Parents, please join on Sunday, Dec. 15, from 10:15-12:15, when Stephanie Rauch and Janet Epstein will facilitate a second conversation on the richness of our lives as families with members who are Jewish, Christian, atheist and agnostic. Our first conversation went so well that it ended with “Let’s do this again!” And so we are! Parents, after you drop off your children at TERS on the 15th, please join us upstairs in the Boardroom.



TERS Hanukkah Party—Sunday, Dec. 15, during Religious School.

Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend: Mark your calendars and save-the-date! All congregants are invited to join together to volunteer in the wider community on Sunday, Jan. 19 and Monday, Jan. 20 in honor of MLK Day. There will be multiple events over the two days that one can sign up for. Watch for more details as the weekend approaches.

There will be **no TERS on the following Sundays**, in honor of multiple school district winter break schedules: Dec. 22 and 29 and Jan. 5.

If you have a couch/sofa in great condition that you would like to donate for the children's library, please contact Morah Rochelle directly at 202-747-4630.

News from Morah Rochelle: TERS students are excelling in Hebrew reading and writing. Our younger students are 2/3's of the way through the Hebrew alphabet and its vowels, while our older and more advanced students continue to improve greatly with their Hebrew literacy skills. During Tefillah in the sanctuary in November, all students learned the Mi Shebeirach, our prayer for healing, and they learned about how we pray for and greet those in our community who are ill. TERS students have also enjoyed playing "Jewpardy," competing to earn points by displaying their knowledge of Hebrew consonants, vowels, reading, and writing, along with their knowledge of Jewish holidays and culture.

*Hey, Devin, Nate, Dean, Dasha, Jackson, Maddie, Claudia, Aaron, Ilana, Claire, Sam and Annie!
Kids Corner is for you!*

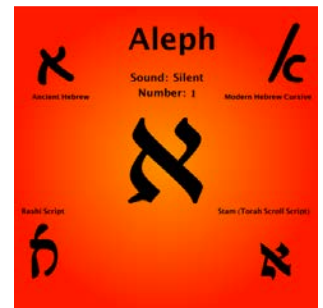


From A to Z, from aleph to tav, TERS Kids Corner highlights Jews who have made a difference in our world, Jews whom all of our children should be familiar with—not least for when they play “Jewpardy” at Religious School with Morah Rochelle! We start with aleph:

From Abram to Abraham:

אָבְרָם
↓
אַבְרָהָם

[Click here](#) to watch an informative and genuinely engaging video for kids about Abraham. The video explores why G-d chose Abraham to לֵלְכָךָ "lech lecha" ("Get going!", as Rabbi Marx translated it). After watching the video, ask your children to explain what our teaching in *Pirkei Avot* 1:5 means: "Let your house be open wide." They'll be able to do it!



Pirkei Avot, Ethics (or Chapters) of the Fathers, is a compilation of the ethical teachings and maxims from Rabbinic Jewish tradition. It is found in the Mishnah, the code of Jewish law compiled in the early 3rd century CE.

אָדָם Suggested by our TERS bat mitzvah student Dasha Verhosek!

Adam Sandler: A contemporary aleph! A celebrated actor and comedian, Adam Sandler wrote a Chanukah song, first performed in 1994 on Saturday Night Live, celebrating famous people who are Jewish, including Leonard Nimoy, William Shatner (whose parents fled Eastern Europe), Paul Newman, Goldie Hawn, the Three Stooges and many others.

Adult Education

Sunday morning presentations:

- ***Our Lives as Interfaith Families***, December 15, **new time of 10:15-12:15**: Stephanie Rauch and Janet Epstein will facilitate a second conversation on the richness of our lives as families with members who are Jewish, Christian, atheist and agnostic. If you are a member of a blended family, join us and enrich our discussion!
- ***Jews in Early American History***, date TBD: Seth Kaufman will describe how Jews influenced the birth and growth of our nation.
- ***Jesus in Jewish Hebrew Scripture?***: If you missed Mark Epstein's truly excellent presentation in November, [click here to watch it on YouTube](#). And to the right is new member Jordan Steele conversing with Mark after his talk.



Ongoing classes:

- **Adult Hebrew**: Interested in learning how to read Hebrew? No prior knowledge of Hebrew (or Judaism) is necessary. For more information, email [Bill Marx](#) or call him at 314-749-3566.
- **New! Biblical Hebrew Grammar**: Can you read Hebrew (whether at lightning speed or slowly and haltingly) but would like to better understand what you are reading? Starting in January 2025, an introductory course in the grammar of Biblical Hebrew will be offered at Temple Emanuel. Email [Barbara Blau](#) to find out more.



We are always looking for great speakers and topics for future programs on Sunday mornings. Please send suggestions to [Mark Epstein](#) and [Bill Gross](#), co-chairs of the Adult Education Committee.

Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, Dec. 7, 7:30 pm**: Silent Auction and Chanukah Celebration. [Register here](#)
- **Friday, Dec. 13**: Join us for Shabbat services and a special Oneg for “vintage” member Chuck Katzenstein, who turns 90 this month.
- **Sunday, Dec. 29, 10 am**: The Temple Emanuel Women’s Club invites you to join them on a hike at Belmont’s [Seven Oaks Preserve Trail](#). We hike the trail on the 4th Sunday of each month! Questions? Reach out to [Stacey Bhalla](#). Here are some pictures from our November hike!



- **SAVE-THE-DATE, Jan. 19 and 20, Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend!** Morah Rochelle, our TERS Director, and Suzi Nash, our Activities Director, are co-planning a volunteering weekend for all congregants to participate in. There will be a variety of volunteer options over the two days—something for everybody! Please save the date and plan to participate. Watch for more information to come!
- **Jewish Film Club, Saturday evening, Jan. 25:** We had a great time at our launch event in September watching the Coen Brothers’ “A Serious Man.” The Film Club will show a film four times a year, with the next film and location (a member’s house) TBD—but coming your way on January 25. For information, please reach out to [Peter Blau](#).

Are You (Or Is Someone You Know) Interested in Conversion to Judaism?

After years of referring individuals to conversion classes at Temple Beth El in Charlotte, Temple Emanuel now has its own program for those interested in converting to Judaism. [Please click here to read more about it.](#) If you have decided to convert, are thinking about it, or would like to speak with someone about our new conversion program, please email [Mark Epstein](#).

Since announcing this program five individuals have signed up for the conversion classes. The Temple Emanuel community welcomes you with open arms!

Community News



Join us for Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte's Super Event, featuring Eylon Levy as guest speaker.

Levy, a prominent voice for Israel during the 2023 Israel– Hamas war, served as an official Israeli government spokesperson until March 2024. Previously, he was the international media advisor to President Isaac Herzog and now channels his advocacy efforts into his podcast, *Israel: State of a Nation*.

This event serves as the kickoff to our 2025 Annual Campaign.

[Click here to register.](#)



Join us December 5, 7-8:30 PM, in the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts in honor of Jewish Book Month as we welcome Israeli author and Ha'aretz journalist Lee Yaron for a powerful discussion on her new book, *10/7: 100 Human Stories*. This gripping account shares the voices of victims and communities affected by the October 7 tragedy, from first responders to pregnant women to Arab Israelis and more. The event is free admission, but registration is required.

[Click here to register.](#)



Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte is committed to playing a role in both the immediate relief and the long-term rebuilding efforts of areas affected by Hurricane Helene.

Our Federation has established an Emergency Relief Fund to provide immediate assistance to those in need.

[Please click here to donate now.](#) 100% of your donations will aid Jewish organizations and their communities directly impacted by this catastrophic storm.

Support for Israel

From the Jewish Community Relations Council's "Action Dispatch":

While still acknowledging the tragic suffering of the Palestinian people, to equip our community with the tools and knowledge needed to combat misinformation and disinformation, Jewish Federation

of Greater Charlotte suggests that we arm ourselves with accurate information and expert insights, so that we are better equipped to respond to the rise in antisemitism and to stand up for Israel in an informed and meaningful way.

Sources of information:

- Explore the [Israel Facts, Not Fiction](#) webpage, curated by the Jewish United Fund of Chicago to fight the fiction and misinformation that has been running rampant since October 7.
- Fact-check your news using this [Media Literacy Guide](#), created by Jewish Democracy. Remember, misinformation is everywhere, even in commonly trusted news outlets.
- Read and share the [open letter](#) where the American Jewish Committee (AJC) and Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) call out media organizations for continued flaws in Israel coverage.
- [Make your voice heard](#). For too long, media outlets have inadequately covered stories about Israel, putting the Jewish state, Israelis, and Jews around the world at risk. Join the AJC and JFNA in calling on the media to start reporting honestly.



Thank you to all who contributed to this newsletter!



Temple Emanuel

704-865-1541 Website: <https://tegastonia.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TempleEmanuelGastonia/>

Office email: templemanuel18@gmail.com