



Temple Emanuel



January 1, 2025

Important Announcement!

Dear Temple Emanuel Family,

We are pleased to announce our next step to secure a part-time rabbi. Rabbi (and Cantor!) Jacquie Marx will join us for the remainder of this fiscal year, spending a weekend with us in February, March and April.

Rabbi Marx is the next spiritual leader in the "Rabbinic history" of Temple Emanuel. Many of you know Dr. Charlie Brown led our services for nearly 25 years. Although not ordained, he was our much-loved Rabbi in all but name. Several years ago Charlie decided it was time to enter semi-retirement -- semi because, to our good fortune, he continues to lead our High Holiday services, Pesach Seder, and occasionally other ritual events.

When Charlie stepped down, several of our dedicated and skilled members stepped forward to take the reins. Since then Bill Marx, Bill Gross, Mark Epstein, Ya'akov Walker (now Rabbi Walker), Ya'akov Simmons and Lee Buchanan have lay-led our Shabbat services, never missing a Friday.

Now, we celebrate the addition of Rabbi Marx to our Temple family. During her weekend visits she will lead Shabbat services on Fridays; conduct adult and youth education on Saturdays; and co-lead religious school activities with Morah Rochelle Wilensky on Sundays. Rabbi Marx will also coach our bar and bat mitzvah students on Sundays.

Please mark your calendars to attend Friday night services and the other events (TBA!) with Rabbi

Marx. She will join us on February 7-9, March 14-16 and April 25-27. We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities to pray and learn with this very talented Rabbi and Cantor.

Very warmly,

Stephanie Rauch, Board President, and the Temple Board of Trustees

P.S. Please [click here](#) to see and hear Rabbi Marx during her visit in November.



On the evening of January 1st we celebrate the last night of Chanukah. [Click here](#) to listen to *Bohemian Chanukah* (a Queen adaptation) by professional Jewish a cappella group Six13. Anchored by a strong Jewish identity and driven by a mission to connect Jews around the globe with their heritage through music, Six13 created this Chanukah tribute to one of the greatest and most epic songs of all time. Kindle the lights, remember the Maccabees, and rock on. CHAG SAMEACH!

P.S. [Here's Elton Johnukah](#), a Six13 mashup of Elton John songs in honor of Chanukah. Enjoy!

January Shabbat Services



- Shabbat services will be held in the sanctuary at 7:30 pm **every Friday** in January.
- On **Friday, Jan. 10**, the confirmation class from **First United Methodist Church** will attend Shabbat services. Please join us in welcoming them!
- Please plan to attend Friday night services on February 7 to help us welcome Rabbi Jacquie Marx as our part-time rabbi for the first of three weekends.

January 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 January 2025 (28 Kislev, 5785 to 17 Tevet, 5785)

To be read on Friday, January 3:

Elaine Belaief Brown, Karen Rubin's mother
Jacob Kahn
Allen Joseph Greenspon
Irene W. Planer
Dora Luchen
Millard Corbin, Sue Corbin's father
Rose Tallman, Bill Gross' aunt
Frances Worthy Stringer, Eric Stringer's mother
Lena Lebovitz
MD Witten
Rose Weiss, Rob Weiss' grandmother
Mina Rosenfeld, Marisa
Rosenfeld's grandmother



To be read on Friday, January 10:

Herbert A. Girard, Stephanie Rauch's uncle and
Marshall Rauch's brother-in-law
Sarah Rachel Margolies, Allan Margolies'
mother
Harold Tomchin, Sara Tomchin's father
Leona Gross, Bill Gross' aunt
Cecile Solomon
Geraldine H. Reynolds, Vicki Rauch's mother
Ruth Lake Shorr, Joan Brown's mother
Jerry Marder, Tony Marder's father
Neil Aronson, Caryn Aronson's father
Abraham Rossman
Tadeusz Gierymski, Barbara Blau's father
Ferne Levy, Fred Levy's mother
Irving Weisman
Hadassah Ruth Birnbaum

To be read on Friday, January 17:

Nancy Schwartz, Mark Schwartz's mother
Harry Hershman, Lee Buchanan's grandfather
Sidney H. Cohen
Dorothea Bresnick Oringer, Suzi Nash's mother
Evelyn Warshawsky, Mark Warshawsky's mother
Pauline Ramler Halperin

To be read on Friday, January 31:

Joseph Cohen
Jacqueline Rauch Gottlieb, Stephanie Rauch's
aunt
Oscar Szego, Nadine Fox's grandfather
Sophie Kline
Samuel (Sonny) Sherman
Ethel Wohl, Stephanie Rauch's
great-grandmother and Marshall Rauch's
grandmother
Herbert Kirsh, Kevin Kirsh's father
Irma Lerner Silverman, Glenn Silverman's mother
Gordon Sherman
George Gluck, Jason Gluck's
father



To be read on Friday, January 24:

Helen Green, Bill Gross' aunt
Miriam Koble
Carole Jon Nachamie, David Nachamie's wife,
Dierdra and Eric Nachamie's mother
Phyllis S. Girard, Stephanie Rauch's aunt and
Marshall Rauch's sister-in-law
Martin Scheer, remembered by Joe and Beth
McMurray
Victor Manuel Palomino, Vicki Villamor's father
Yetta P. Kirsh, Kevin Kirsh's grandmother
Harry Moskowitz, Mark Moskowitz's father
Elaine Needell, Jim Needell's mother
Sylvia Schachter, Bill and Heide Marx's friend
Chassa Esther Planer
Edward Freiberger, Fred Freiberger's father
Anna Goldstein, Andy Osborne's great-aunt
Teresa Blievernicht, Barbara Moskowitz's mother
Nat Menins, Nancy Schwartz's father and Mark
Schwartz's grandfather
Sadie Paradies Goldberg, Stephanie Rauch's
grandmother and Marshall Rauch's
mother-in-law
Louis I. Selikowitz, Kevin Kirsh's grandfather
Minna Greer, Bill Gross' aunt
Isaac Garmise

New Members in 2024—How We Have Grown!

Over 15 families and individuals joined Temple Emanuel in 2024, numbering over 30 individuals in all! Are you interested in joining us? 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](#), our Board member in charge of Membership, and he will reach out to you.

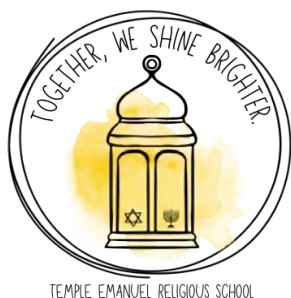
Donations תודה רבה

We gratefully thank the following individuals:

- Rev. and Mrs. Robert Crawford in memory of their son Michael Crawford
- Fred & Barbara Freiberger in memory of Andrew David Freiberger, Jerry Greenberg and Libby Greenberg
- Seth Kaufman, donation to the General Fund
- Moshe & Rochelle Wilensky, donation to the General Fund

Caring For Congregants

- 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)

There will be no TERS on Sunday, January 5, due to multiple school district winter break schedules. TERS resumes on January 12.

If you have an **ottoman** (preferably rectangular) in great condition that you could donate to the children's library, please contact Morah Rochelle at 202-747-4630.

Volunteer Weekend

Morah Rochelle, TERS Director, and Suzi Nash, Activities Director for the Board, are working together to create a volunteer weekend in February. There will be multiple volunteer opportunities in the wider community to sign up for, suitable for both children and adults. More information coming your way via email!



[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”!

Hey Kalli, Rory, Nate, Dean, Dasha, Jackson, Maddie, Claudia, Aaron, Ilana, Claire, Sam and Annie (and parents)!

Here's your next installment of...



From A to Z, from aleph to aspects of Judaism that all of with—not least for when they School with Morah Rochelle!



tav, TERS Kids Corner highlights our children should be familiar play “Jewpardy” at Religious Let’s continue with bet....

Bet for the Tower of Babel (מגדל בבל)

[Click here](#) to watch an informative and genuinely engaging video for kids about the Tower of Babel. The video explores an alternative ending for the story—“an ending so good it’ll give you goosebumps just to think about it.” What do your children think about the alternative ending? Do they agree or disagree with the video’s conclusion?

Bet for Judy Blume



Judy Blume is a prolific Jewish American writer of children’s, young adult, and adult fiction. Two of her books, *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* and *Starring Sally J. Freedman As Herself*, explore the complex question of what it means to be Jewish in America. If your kids have read the books or plan to, [click here](#) to read an essay from the Jewish Book Council’s website: *Searching for Jewish Identity in Two Judy Blume Novels*. You will find plenty to jumpstart a conversation!

Adult Education

Sunday morning presentations:

- Our 2025 offerings will be announced soon!

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? An introductory course in the grammar of Biblical Hebrew will be offered starting Jan. 7. 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



- **Jewish Film Club, Saturday, Jan. 25, 6:30 pm:** We had a great time at our launch event in September watching the Coen Brothers' "A Serious Man." Our second film is "A Real Pain," in which mismatched cousins David and Benji tour Poland to honor their grandmother. Their adventure becomes complicated as old tensions resurface while exploring their family history. Released in November of 2024, the film stars Jesse Eisenberg and Kieran Culkin. We'll meet at Peter and Barbara Blau's house in Belmont. Please [email Peter Blau here](#) to say you're coming.
- **Sunday, Jan. 26, 10 am:** The Temple Emanuel Women's Club invites **everyone** to join them on a hike at Belmont's [Seven Oaks Preserve Trail](#). We hike the trail on the 4th Sunday of each month! Please RSVP to Lisa Jenkins 980-833-6299, Stacey Bhalla 704-616-4732, Lee Buchanan 704-661-9685, or Stephanie Rauch 704-609-8425.
- **Volunteer Weekend in February, exact dates TBA!** Morah Rochelle, our TERS Director, and Suzi Nash, our Activities Director, are co-planning a weekend with a variety of volunteer options in the larger community, suitable for both children and adults. Please plan to participate. Watch for more information to come!
- **Rabbi Marx Weekend, February 7-9:** Please plan to attend Friday night services on Feb. 7. Although plans have not been finalized, under consideration is a potluck dinner and early start for services, along with the opportunity on Saturday to worship and learn together followed by pizza and a movie (one both kids and grownups will enjoy). More information will come later this month via email and in the February newsletter. For now, save the dates!

- **Rabbi Marx Weekend, March 14-16:** Information forthcoming; mark your calendar!
- **Group outing to the musical *The Color Purple*, Sunday, March 23** at 3 pm, at the Little Theatre in Gastonia. We'll have lunch together first—restaurant TBD.
- **Dasha Verhosek's Bat Mitzvah, Saturday, April 5.** A very special day for Dasha, her family, and for all of us at Temple Emanuel!
- **Rabbi Marx Weekend, April 25-27:** Information forthcoming; mark your calendar!
- **Silent Auction fundraiser, Saturday, April 26,** to benefit the Gaston Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic. Please bring a donation (ex. pet food, snacks, bedding) as your entrance fee. [Find out more here](#) about the clinic. The silent auction will be on site at 425 W. Franklin Blvd, Gastonia.



And We Greatly Enjoyed....

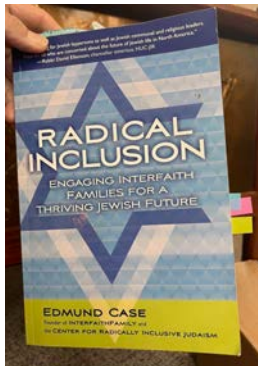
Our Silent Auction to support TE and TERS.... A huge thank you goes to Suzi Nash and Andy Osborne for bringing us this grand event, with food, drink, companionship, and the opportunity to contribute to our Jewish community.



Our Special Oneg in honor of Chuck Katzenstein's 90th birthday...



Our Sunday morning discussion about living life as an interfaith family, led by Stephanie Rauch and Janet Epstein...



And the TERS Chanukah party...which was so much fun! Thank you to Morah Rochelle and Morah Mary and to all the parents who helped make it happen—food, crafts, prayer, song, and above all Jewish learning and community. The kids loved it!



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](mailto:Mark.Epstein@templeemmanuel.org).



You can also [click here](#) to register for *Becoming Jewish: An Info Session About Conversion to Judaism*. Sponsored by the Union of Reform Judaism, this free, no-commitment, 75-minute online session offers the opportunity to learn about the next steps, where to find resources, and how to get answers to your questions. Session dates in 2025 are Feb. 9, April 7, Aug. 28 and Oct. 19.

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.](#)



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

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