



Temple Emanuel

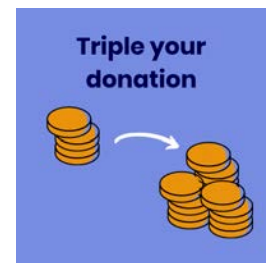


March 2025

## Keep an eye out for the Board of Trustees' letter to YOU about the renewal of our building. We're counting on 100% participation!

It's no secret our historic building needs to be refurbished. First priority - update the lighting. Next - add a restroom on the main floor. Longtime member Eric Witten has stepped up to this challenge with a generous offer: he'll donate \$2 for every \$1 our members give – up to \$17,000. No gift is too small!

[Click here](#) to read the letter. Note: There's a stamped return envelope for your convenience in the copy we mailed to you.



**Rabbi Jacqueline Marx joins us again, this time for Purim on March 14-16!**



### Plans for Friday, March 14:

6-7 pm: Potluck dinner. [Click here](#) to sign up.

7-8 pm: "A Wicked Spiel," presented by our TERS students; services led by Rabbi Jacquie.

### Plans for Saturday, March 15:

Havdalah service at 7 pm at Covenant Village, 1351 Robinwood Road in Gastonia, followed by a birthday celebration with Marshall Rauch (102 years old!).

### Plans for Sunday, March 16:

Rabbi Jacquie joins TERS on this Purim weekend, 10:15-noon in the Social Hall.

## Upcoming Services



- 7:30 pm on Friday, March 7
- 7 pm on Friday, March 14
- 7 pm Havdalah service on Saturday, March 15 (at Covenant Village in Gastonia)
- 7:30 pm on Friday, March 21
- 7:30 pm on Friday, March 28
- 10 am on Saturday, April 5 (Dasha Verhosek's bat mitzvah; no Friday night service on April 4)

## New!! Oneg Shabbat Hosting

### [Click here to sign up!](#)

We are now in the enviable position of having 20 to 30 people attend Friday night services on a regular basis—which means we can no longer get by with one person kindly bringing a box of cookies. (Although, Bill M., we love your mint cookies!)

*In order to ensure that there's enough food and drink for everyone, we are formalizing Onegs and asking people to host them.*

When you click on the link above to sign up, you will also see instructions on how to host the Oneg. (These instructions are also posted in the Temple kitchen.)

A great way to learn how to do it is by signing up for set-up or clean-up. There are slots just for this purpose.

If you are uncomfortable using the online form, please let us know (email link is below) and we will add your name on the dates you select. There is also a paper sign up sheet in the Temple kitchen.

One of the beauties of this sign-up platform is that it will email you a reminder as your date gets closer. And, you can see who else has signed up if you need to switch dates. (You are responsible for finding someone else if the original date you've chosen no longer works out for you.)

If you have any questions, please click here to email [Janet Epstein](#).

Please note these special dates:

- March 14 - Purim
- Saturday, April 5 - Dasha Verhosek Bat Mitzvah
- May 16 - Religious School Potluck



## March 2025 Yahrzeits

Members can email [Temple Emanuel](mailto: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.

### **To be read on Friday, March 7:**

Nathan Simon, Lyn Fox's grandfather-in-law  
 Morris L. Garmise  
 Barbara Gershoff  
 Jennie Kaufman  
 Ann Rose  
 Alvin T. Honigman

### **To be read on Friday, March 14:**

Anna Levine, Jerry Levine's mother  
 Sylvia "Grace" Walls, Leigh Anne Lauer's mother  
 Max Wein, Nikki Sherrill's father  
 John Honigman  
 Bella Lobel  
 Minnie K. Pearlman  
 Mike Rosenberg  
 Perry M. Sapperstein  
 Jack H. Witten

### **To be read on Friday, March 21:**

Eileen Blau, Peter Blau's mother  
 Naomi "Nonie" Marder, Tony Marder's mother  
 Russell Marder, Tony Marder's nephew  
 Wolf Rosenfeld, Marisa Rosenfeld's grandfather  
 Edward Scherr, John Scherr's father  
 Mae P. Selznick, Betsy Harnage's grandmother  
 Joseph Tomchin, Sara Tomchin's grandfather  
 Sylvia Tomchin, Sara Tomchin's mother  
 Fred Barry Winton, Nadine Fox's father  
 Fred Hillburn  
 Gloria Light  
 Israel Planer  
 Ida Garber Scher  
 Ben F. Sheftall  
 Samuel Weiss  
 Jules Witten



### **To be read on Friday, March 28:**

Michael Belaief, Karen Rubin's grandfather  
 Carolyn Place Grenier, Janet Epstein's mother  
 Irene F. Gurney, Lyn Fox's aunt-in-law, Andrew Fox's great aunt  
 Frances Nagler Kaufman, Seth Kaufman's mother  
 Anna Green Littman, Beverly Green's mother-in-law  
 Paul Margolies, Allan Margolies' father  
 Ruth Menins, Mark Schwartz's grandmother and Nancy Schwartz's mother  
 Allen E. Oringer, Suzanne Nash's father  
 Milton Tager, Lewis Tager's father  
 Bernard Schneider  
 Benjamin Solomon  
 Marion Baum Sussman  
 Marie K. Witten

### **To be read on Saturday, April 5:**

Barry Blau, Peter Blau's father  
 Jennifer Harnage, Tony and Betsy Harnage's sister-in-law  
 Irene Claire Marshall, John Marshall's stepmother  
 Max Marshall, John Marshall's grandfather  
 Ella Menchus, Marisa Rosenfeld's grandfather  
 Nettie Simon Nelson, Lyn Fox's aunt-in-law  
 Frances B. Allweiss





## And We Greatly Enjoyed...

### Our first weekend with Rabbi Jacquie Marx!

We had a wonderful weekend with Rabbi Jacquie on February 7-9. Our Shabbat services focused on our Religious School children, on Saturday she delivered moving comments at our Havdalah service about women who've shaped contemporary Judaism, and on Sunday she sang and told stories in Religious School and led the students in a Tu B'Shevat Seder.

Things we are thankful for:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ

Thank you, God!

*"I love to pet my cat, especially if I don't go ouch, and then I saw a rainbow on my way to Senator Rauch."*

*"Pizza at home is delicious and it's no bother, especially when it's shared with grandchildren and great-great grandfather."*



**Drop by for coffee and conversation at Panera! Our first meeting is on March 2nd!**

A new activity on occasional Sunday mornings from 10-11:30(ish), at [Panera Bread](#), 2625 E. Franklin Blvd, Gastonia.



**Tikkun Olam: Thank you to everyone who participated in Mitzvah Day!**

Cards and letters for IDF soldiers and families of the hostages were lovingly made and were mailed to Israel by Morah Rochelle for distribution. In addition, members brought donations for Catherine's House in Belmont, which offers transitional housing to women and children in need.



TERS students hard at work on their cards and letters.



This beautiful quilt is one of three handmade quilts donated by Janet Epstein to Catherine's House.

**Member Account Access Launched in RakefetOnline!**

*Have YOU logged in yet?*

We are excited to announce that Temple Emanuel now uses Rakefet, a secure cloud-based database system. And, you can now access your Temple Emanuel account on Rakefet! Members should have received email communications in January with instructions on how to log in. We encourage you to visit Rakefet to review and/or update your family information, yahrzeits, transaction history and more. For questions or assistance, please contact [Temple Emanuel](#).

**New Members**

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 and answer your questions. Please email [Mark Epstein](#), our Board member in charge of Membership, and he will reach out to you.

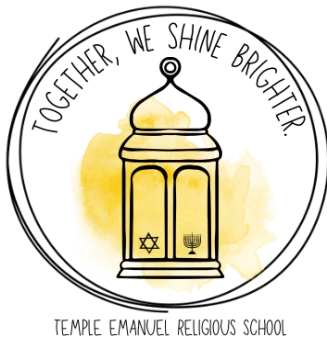


# תודה רבה

We gratefully thank the following individuals for their recent donations:

- Sue Corbin, donation for Yahrzeits
- Joel Harwich, donation to the General Fund
- Brian and Nancy Litwak, donation to renew the building
- Alton Reeder, donation to the General Fund
- Joseph & Lila Hahn, donation for the Yahrzeits of Adolph C. Hahn and Hortense F. Hahn, Joe's father and mother, and Henrietta Ochs Freud, Joe's grandmother

## News About TERS (Temple Emanuel Religious School)



Join us on Friday, March 14, at 7 pm for our Purim spiel, followed by services led by Rabbi Jacquie. TERS students will present a *Wicked* rendition of the Purim story!

**From Morah Rochelle:** The Temple's first mitzvah morning was a success (huge thanks to Suzi Nash for co-sponsoring and providing materials!). Our letters to an Israeli hostage family and Israeli soldiers were mailed off to Israel last week. Our youngest Hebrew learners are nearly finished learning their Alef-Bet. Our older students are reading/writing Hebrew words more fluently every week and just learned the Blessing Before a Torah reading. We all enjoyed learning about Parsha Yitro and deciphering which student ideas actually WERE 10 commandments - and which were not. And finally, a huge thanks to Bill Marx for donating the lovely couch for our children's library downstairs!



[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](mailto: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”!



From A to Z, from aleph to tav, Kids Corner highlights aspects of Judaism that all of our children should be familiar with—not least for when they play “Jewpardy” with Morah Rochelle!  
This month’s letter is hey.

**Hey and the Divine Presence**

According to one midrash, yod left aleph to become part of dalet, thus forming hey. Since aleph represents G-d and dalet represents broken humanity, hey is a picture of the presence of G-d within the human heart. This function of hey can be seen when Abram was renamed Abraham and Sarai was renamed Sarah.

Abram	אַבְרָם
Abraham	אַבְרָהָם
Sarai	שָׂרַי
Sarah	שָׂרָה

**Hey is for Abraham Joshua Heschel, 1907-1972**

Born in Warsaw, Poland, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel was one of the most famous Jewish theologians of the 20th century. Having arrived in America in 1940, Heschel was a professor of Jewish mysticism at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and wrote a number of widely read books on Jewish philosophy.

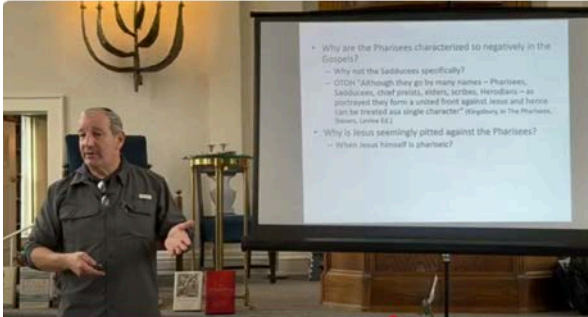
הַעֲשֵׂעַל  
Heschel



Heschel believed that the teachings of the Hebrew prophets were a call for social action in the United States. Inspired by this belief, he worked for African American civil rights. After participating in the third Selma to Montgomery march, he famously observed, “My feet were praying.” Martin Luther King called Heschel “a truly great prophet.” Rabbi Heschel also spoke out against the Vietnam War. And, at the Second Vatican Council, Heschel persuaded the Catholic Church to end nearly two millennia of hostility against Jews and Judaism.

# Adult Education

**Sunday morning presentations, 10-noon:** More adult education talks on the way—watch your email!



Please [click here to watch](#) Mark Epstein's Feb. 16th presentation on "The Early Church and Birth of Anti-Judaism."

## 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.
- **Biblical Hebrew Grammar:** Can you read Hebrew (at lightning speed, slowly and haltingly, or anywhere in between) but would like to better understand what you are reading? An introductory course in the grammar of Biblical Hebrew is underway. To learn more, contact [Barbara Blau](#).



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

- **Panera Coffee and Conversation, Sunday, March 2, 10-11:30 am,** at the Gastonia Panera Bread. We'll meet on the occasional Sunday morning to drink coffee or tea and enjoy each other's company. Join us for our first get-together!



- **Rabbi Jacquie's 2nd weekend with us:**
  - **Purim Celebration on Friday, March 14:**
    - Pre-services potluck dinner, 6-7 pm. [Click here](#) to sign up.
    - Purim spiel and services, 7-8 pm, followed by Oneg.
  - **Havdalah Service, March 15, 7 pm at Covenant Village, 1351 Robinwood Road in Gastonia:** Service led by Rabbi Jacquie, after which we will join Marshall Rauch to celebrate his 102nd birthday.
  - **March 16, 10:15-noon:** Rabbi Jacquie celebrates Purim with TERS.
- **Group outing to the musical *The Color Purple*, Sunday, March 23,** at 3 pm at the Little Theatre in Gastonia. Information coming soon about buying tickets and where we can gather for lunch before the show.



- **Sunday, March 30, 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.

- **Dasha Verhosek's Bat Mitzvah, Saturday, April 5.** A very special day for Dasha, her family, and for all of us at Temple Emanuel! (No Friday night service on April 4.)



- **Passover:** On the second night, Sunday, April 13, we will join together at Temple for a Pesach Seder led by Charlie Brown. Cost is \$18/person or \$50/family. Pre-registration is required. Join us! [Click here to register.](#)

- **Rabbi Marx Weekend, April 25-27:** Rabbi Jacquie's 3rd time with us; mark your calendar!



- **Mitzvah Project: 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 in the early evening at 425 W. Franklin Blvd, Gastonia, in the Clinic's lovely backyard garden.

- **Jewish Film Club,** date TBD, at Rob Weiss' house. We'll watch *Red Sea Diving Resort*, a 2019 film, in which international agents and brave Ethiopians use a deserted retreat in Sudan as a front to smuggle thousands of refugees to Israel in the early 1980s. Invitation with sign-up coming in April. As always, bring nosh/drink to share!



- **Tali David's Bat Mitzvah, Saturday, May 3.** We welcome Tali to our synagogue for this very special day in her life. By celebrating with us, Tali is also able to celebrate with her Carolinas family. (No Friday night service on May 2.)

## 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. Stephanie has a list of congregants who would deeply appreciate a visit.
- Two of our members, Stephanie Rauch and Charlie Brown, offer 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. Please email [Charlie Brown](#) or [Stephanie Rauch](#).

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

We now have our 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 conversion program, please email [Mark Epstein](#).



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, online course offers the opportunity to learn about next steps, where to find resources, and how to get answers to your questions. Session dates are Feb. 9, April 7, Aug. 28 and Oct. 19.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

**WANTED**  
An old-fashioned,  
fun-filled day for  
the entire family!

**COMMUNITY-WIDE  
PURIM  
CARNIVAL**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CHARLOTTE JEWISH AGENCIES

- ☑ Carnival Activities & Games!
- ☑ Prizes & Fun for the entire family
- ☑ Hamentashen for sale
- ☑ Tzedakah Project: donate to the JFS Pantry
- ☑ Food for purchase (provided by Kasher Charlotte)
- ☑ Art Markets and much more...

**Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>  
12–3pm**

SHALOM PARK  
5007 Providence Road, Charlotte NC 28226

CELEBRATE  
**PURIM**  
JERUSALEM

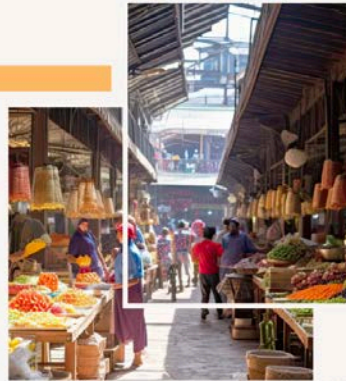
פורים  
בירושלים

03.14.2025 | 5:30 PM

- MEGILLAH READING AT THE KOTEL
- DRESS UP IN JERUSALEM THEME
- KIDS' ACTIVITIES
- ISRAELI-THEMED SHABBAT DINNER
- OPEN BAR (21+)

**RSVP**

[WWW.CHABADNC.ORG/PURIM](http://WWW.CHABADNC.ORG/PURIM)  
(704) 366-3984



**DEI:** Diversity, Equity  
& Inclusion  
AT SHALOM PARK

Powered By  
**Jewish Federation**  
of Greater Charlotte

**JOIN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN ATTENDING**



**Followed by a Reception with hors d'oeuvres  
Hosted by the Shalom Park DEI Committee**

**Sun, 3/30/25, 1:30pm, Belk Theater At Blumenthal Arts Center**

**About *Parade***

*Parade* has received overwhelming acclaim since its debut. Leo and Lucille Frank are a newlywed Jewish couple struggling to make a life in the old red hills of Georgia. When Leo is accused of an unspeakable crime, it propels them into an unimaginable test of faith, humanity, justice, and devotion. It reminds us that to love, we must truly see one another.

To purchase discounted tickets,  
scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/deiParadeTickets](https://bit.ly/deiParadeTickets)

To attend the after show reception, please RSVP by  
3/14/2025 at [Howard.Olshansky@jfscharlotte.org](mailto:Howard.Olshansky@jfscharlotte.org)





## [Click here to visit the website for the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience.](#)

Although located in New Orleans, the MSJE offers a wide range of interesting lectures online. Take a look and see what might interest you today, a month from now, next year. Here are a few of their upcoming events:

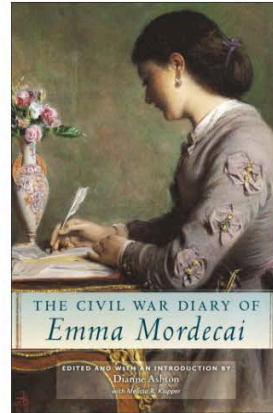
WED  
12

March 12 @ 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

### The Civil War Diary of Emma Mordecai

Virtual



Emma Mordecai was a complicated figure: both a staunch defender of Judaism, and an ardent Confederate nationalist and slaveowner. Her life, as vividly captured in her wartime diary, is a good example of the messiness of history and the ambiguous place of Jews in the antebellum and Civil War South. Join Dr. Melissa R. Klapper, ... [Read More](#)



### Talk with Author and Professional Basketball Player Dan Grunfeld



Wednesday, **March 26**, 6:00pm Central


  IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL EVENT

Dan Grunfeld shares his family's improbable journey from the Holocaust to sports stardom. Dan's dad, Ernie Grunfeld, is a University of Tennessee basketball legend and the only professional athlete in the history of major American sports whose parents survived the Holocaust. Grunfeld's story is captured in Dan's book, *By the Grace of the Game*, and Dan will discuss the lessons of survival, perseverance, and hope that are featured prominently in his family's journey.

### Flames of Freedom

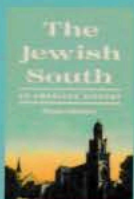


Thursday, **April 17**, 6:00pm Central



 VIRTUAL EVENT

The Flames of Freedom podcast chronicles how in 1733, a group of courageous Jews fleeing the Portuguese Inquisition, murderous pogroms of Eastern Europe, and antisemitism in England risked their lives to cross the Atlantic Ocean in search of religious freedom and economic opportunity in the American colony of Georgia. Podcast creators Richard Stone and Mark Simon will share the remarkable story and the pivotal role Jews played in the pre-Revolution colony.

### The Jewish South: An American History



Thursday, **May 22**, 6:00pm Central

  IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL EVENT

Dr. Shari Rabin's new book, *The Jewish South: An American History*, uncovers a neglected facet of the American experience, enabling readers to see the South through the eyes of people with a distinctive religious heritage and a Southern history older than the United States itself.

## Klezmer Cine Concert in Asheville, NC

*A program seen all over the US and the world!*

E.A. Dupont's once-lost, now-restored 1923 German masterpiece tells the inspired-by-fact story of a rabbi's son (Ernst Deutsch) who shuns the shtetl to become an actor, and finds temptation from an archduchess (Henny Porten). The cast is filled with Berlin's finest stage and screen actors; the exquisite design is by a group of gifted, visionary artists. The film is accompanied by a live, original score composed and performed by the world-famous klezmer violinist Alicia Svigals (co-founder of the Grammy-winning Klezmatics) and pianist Donald Sosin, a silent film music legend. A sensational evening of history, music and spectacle.

Link to buy tickets: <https://www.worthamarts.org/events/klezmer-cine/>



FUNDING FROM THE SUNRISE FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION & THE ARTS

# KLEZMER CINE CONCERT

Silent film *The Ancient Law* with an original score performed live by Alicia Svigals and Donald Sosin.

**April 22, 2025**  
**7:00 - 9:00 PM**

WORTHAM CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

- Adult Ticket \$22
- Student Ticket \$15

SPONSORED BY JSCA, JCC, CBI - THE CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES AT UNCA & WNCJF

## 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!**

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704-865-1541 Website: <https://tegastonia.org/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TempleEmanuelGastonia/>  
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