



Exciting gift to help renew our building!
Eric Witten will match member donations 2 to 1

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. For example: if member donations total \$8,500, Eric chips in \$17,000 more, for a total of \$25,500. That's enough for the lighting and to get plans drawn for the new restroom.

As if that weren't enough, Eric is also donating his late father's religious book collection. We will be reorganizing our library to accommodate these volumes and renaming it the Alvin Witten Memorial Library, in honor of Eric's late father.



Details coming soon by mail on how you can participate and help renew Temple Emanuel.

Come to our first weekend with Rabbi Jacqueline Marx, Feb. 7-9!

Worship, sing, dine, learn, do a mitzvah!

- Friday, Feb. 7:** Potluck dinner 6-7 pm; services 7-8 pm; Oneg and D'var Torah 8 pm
- Saturday, Feb. 8:** Havdalah service 7:30 pm, followed by singing and dessert
- Sunday, Feb. 9:** Adults and children invited to join Mitzvah Morning, 10:15-noon

A message from Rabbi Jacque about our 7 pm service on Feb. 7:



Shalom, everyone!

In times of uncertainty, we Jews have relied on the strengths that make us who we are: our history, our language, our music, our food, our families, our congregations, our ability to come together in support and celebration. No matter what, we can always celebrate. Shabbat is never more than six days away.

Friday, February 7 is **Shabbat Shirah** - the Shabbat of Song - so-called because the Torah portion for that week, Exodus Chapter 15, is "Song of the Sea," in which we Israelites crossed the Sea of Reeds from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the desert - crossing that split sea on dry land. Our Shabbat Shirah will be filled with song and, I hope, with your voices (I can hear myself anytime!).

Will our **Shabbat Shirah** be geared for adults, or for children? The answer is: Yes, and Yes. Family Shabbat is for families, and families can range from one person to a dozen or more. I guarantee a lively time for all. We'll begin at 6 pm with dinner, start the service at 7 pm, and make it to the Oneg by 8 pm, give or take a few minutes.

I hope to see AND HEAR many of you for Family Shabbat Shirah. Let's raise the roof and make some joyful noise together!

B'shalom, **Rabbi Jacque**
Rabbi Cantor Jacqueline Marx

Potluck dinner before Friday, Feb. 7 services! [Click here to register.](#)

Plans for Saturday, Feb. 8:

Havdalah service at 7:30 pm, followed by singing and dessert.

Plans for Sunday, Feb. 9:

Mitzvah Morning, 10:15-noon in the Social Hall: Morah Rochelle, TERS Director, and Suzi Nash, Activities Director for the Board, invite all congregants to join together for Mitzvah Morning. Participate in one or both of the following volunteer opportunities:

- Write letters to Israeli soldiers or to the families of hostages. All supplies provided. We welcome drawings from our TERS children!
- Bring new linens, blankets and towels to donate to residents of Catherine's House, which offers transitional housing for women and children. These supplies will provide warmth and dignity as they begin the journey of starting their lives anew. (If you are not able to come to Temple on Mitzvah Morning, you can bring your donation to Temple earlier in the weekend or directly to [Catherine's House](#) in Belmont.)



Happy 102nd Birthday Marshall Rauch!

On February 2nd, Marshall Rauch will celebrate his 102nd birthday. There is much to celebrate on this milestone, including Marshall's health, good cheer, and continued work that embodies his values. A beloved State Senator and businessman, Marshall often advised members of the community as they worked to build a better Gaston County. He often focused on racial harmony, improving our schools, and enhancing the local economy.

Marshall will freely tell you the body of his life's work reflects on his deeply held Jewish beliefs and their focus on pursuing justice. As an example, deeply inspired by Maimonides' Eight Levels of Charity, he has provided a hand up to hundreds of people, especially those looking to complete college and university.

Closer to home, Marshall is, for many of us, synonymous with Temple Emanuel. For over 70 years he has been a member, a leader, and a friend. Among his many generous acts on our behalf, in the early 1990's he and the Rauch family organized and provided seed funds for the Rauch Temple Emanuel Endowment Fund. The value of the Endowment provides the promise of security to the Temple and its members through lean times. As our congregation is actively building our membership and programs, knowing we have "rainy day" funds has helped us avoid the pessimism that can stop us from being ambitious and taking the risks to build a strong future.

Today, as we see a brighter future, we are deeply grateful to Marshall for all that he is and has done for us, and the generations of Temple Emanuel members to come.

Marshall ... with gratitude and love, we wish you a very happy birthday!

The Temple Emanuel Board of Trustees on behalf of the entire Temple Emanuel congregation



February Services—please note 7 pm start time on Feb. 7!

- Feb. 7: Shabbat services from 7-8 pm led by Rabbi Marx, preceded by a potluck dinner from 6-7 pm and followed by an Oneg and D'Var Torah at 8 pm.
- Feb. 8: Havdalah service at 7:30 pm, followed by singing and dessert.
- Shabbat services start at 7:30 pm on Feb. 14, 21 and 28.

February 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 February 2025

To be read on Friday, February 7:

Julian J. Hirshfeld
 Martha Glickman
 Robert J. Gurney, Stephanie Rauch's great-uncle and
 Marshall Rauch's uncle-in-law
 Charles Miller, John Marshall's grandfather
 Emma Levin
 Sarah Solomon
 Abraham Katz, Karen Sussman's grandfather
 Sidney Warshawsky, Mark Warshawsky's father
 Zeal Fisher, Lee Buchanan's father
 Robert Michael Faulds, Marisa Rosenfeld's
 husband
 Sylvia van Praagh
 Manny Guller, Jeffrey Guller's father
 Sonia Kaplan
 Fannie Brodsky
 Abram Woolfson
 Helen Kass
 Jacob Goldstein, Andy Osborne's great-uncle
 Peter Lodge, Dorothy Lodge's husband
 Herbert Sosnik, Marilyn Edwards' father

To be read on Friday, February 14:

Betty B Rose
 Daniel T. Koshak, Gary Koshak's father
 Maurice Schaller
 Anne Herman
 Blume Peshie Garmise
 Alex R. Sherman
 Simon Ennis
 Fannie Slutsky
 William Michaels, Karen Rubin's uncle
 Ruth Gross, Bill Gross' mother



To be read on Friday, February 21:

Tillie Miller, John Marshall's grandmother
 Jennie Stein
 Fred Marx, Bill Marx's grandfather
 Jac Borgenicht
 Morris Friedman
 Adolph C. Hahn, Joe Hahn's father
 Maurice Honigman
 Frank Thymius, Barbara Thymius' father-in-law
 Mathilde Marx, Bill Marx's grandmother
 Gail Phillips, Lyn Fox's sister
 Margaret Ewing, Sue Corbin's grandmother
 Jennie Luchen Solomon
 Braine Schumacher

To be read on Friday, February 28:

Sue Kirsh, Kevin Kirsh's mother
 Bernice Harnage, Tony Harnage's mother
 Gerta Sara Rosenberg, John Rosenberg's
 mother
 Michael Max Fox, Lyn Fox's grandfather-in-law
 Sol Nash, Alan Nash's father
 Joseph Green, Bill Gross' uncle
 Philip Louis Pearlman
 James Rose
 Carolyn Weinstein Sosnik, Marilyn Edwards'
 mother
 Rabbi Joseph Utschen
 Sarah Paley
 Jean Greenspon



Member Account Access Launched in RakefetOnline!

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](#).

Member News

- We mourn the loss of **Leslie Powell**, a past member and beloved part of our community, who passed away recently. A memorial service for Leslie was held in early January. Leslie cherished her family deeply and found immense joy in spending time with her beloved grandchildren. She also held a special place in her heart for her cherished cats, who brought her great comfort and happiness. Leslie was an active volunteer, contributing to local food charities, including Crisis Assistance Ministries, to help those in need. May her memory be for a blessing.



- Congratulations to congregant **Zachary Silverman**, member of Boy Scout Troop 21 of Gastonia, who recently successfully completed the requirements and Board of Review to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. Eagle Scout is the highest rank in Scouting, and only 4% of Boy Scouts earn it. Zach was a bar mitzvah at Temple Emanuel in 2019 and a member of our Sunday school and youth group. He plans to attend pharmacy school at either Western or Campbell University. Congratulations Zach!

(That's big brother Noah in the photos, also an Eagle Scout, and proud dad Glenn!)

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.

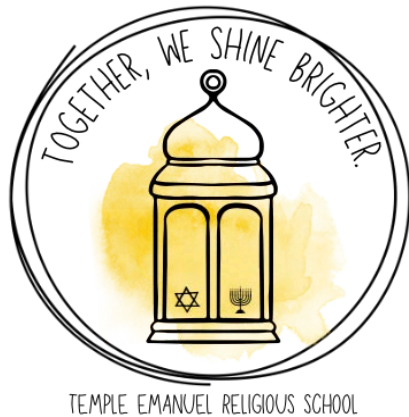
Recent Donations

תודה רבה

We gratefully thank the following individuals:

- Alton Reeder, donation to the general fund.
- Jason & Jenny Shanker, donation in memory of their mother Sondra Shanker's passing.
- Eric Witten, donation to establish the Alvin Witten Memorial Library and to underwrite the cost of additional repairs and upgrades to the synagogue.

News About TERS (Temple Emanuel Religious School)



Mitzvah Morning, Sunday, Feb. 9, 10:15-noon: Morah Rochelle and Suzi Nash, Activities Director for the Temple Board, invite ALL congregants to join together for Mitzvah Morning in the Social Hall during Religious School. Participate in one or both of the following volunteer opportunities:

- Write letters to Israeli soldiers or to the families of hostages. All supplies provided. We encourage drawings from our TERS students!
- Bring new linens, blankets and towels to donate to residents of Catherine's House, which offers transitional housing for women and children. These supplies will provide warmth and dignity as they begin the journey of starting their lives anew. (If you are not able to come to Temple on Mitzvah Morning, you can bring your donation to Temple earlier in the weekend or directly to [Catherine's House](#) in Belmont.)



All TERS students receive their own siddur as part of their tuition. We are elated that our newest students (and their friends) just received theirs!

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.

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

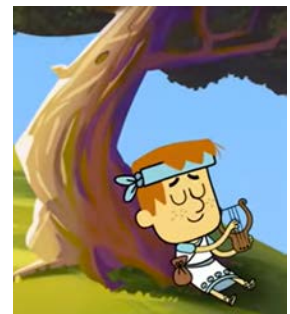
If you are interested in joining our wonderful school, contact Rochelle Wilensky, TERS Director, at rochelle.rrr@gmail.com or 202-747-4630. You are welcome to join us as a prospective family on a Sunday for a "Taste of TERS"!



From A to Z, from aleph to tav, TERS Kids Corner highlights aspects of Judaism that all of our children should be familiar with—not least for when they play “Jewpardy” at Religious School with Morah Rochelle! Let’s continue with dalet.


Dalet is for King David

David is just a simple shepherd when the Prophet Samuel clues him in that he’ll become the next King of Israel. Meanwhile King Saul is having a pretty tough time with evil spirits and Philistines. Does David have what it takes to be King? Will he help defeat the Philistines? [Click here \(and scroll down\)](#) to get answers by watching an informative and genuinely engaging video for kids about King David, Part 1 of a four-part animated series produced by BimBam, Watch Something Jewish. BimBam uses digital storytelling to spark connections to Judaism for all ages.



Dalet is for Daveed Diggs

Daveed Daniele Diggs is an American actor, rapper, singer-songwriter, and the vocalist for the experimental hip hop group Clipping. He's best known for originating the dual roles of Thomas Jefferson and the Marquis de Lafayette in the Broadway musical *Hamilton*, winning a Tony Award for his performance. Diggs has also appeared in the ABC sitcom *Black-ish* and Baz Luhrmann's *The Get Down*.

Diggs is Jewish, and his parents named him Daveed to reflect the Hebrew pronunciation of David: 



[Click here to watch](#) Daveed Diggs’ music video *Puppy for Hanukkah*. Funny and sweet!

Adult Education

You may know Robert Crawford—and if you don't, you can meet him at most Friday night services and Sunday adult education programs. Robert is the retired minister of the Bethel Baptist Church in Rock Hill, a poet, and a beloved regular at Temple Emanuel. As we embark upon a New Year full of opportunities at Temple Emanuel to worship and to learn, you may find inspiration in Robert's poem:

Go to the Jews and Learn! **by Robert Crawford, written in the early morning of 12.12.2016**

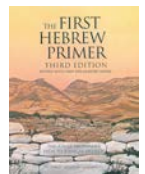
He heard the Lord's voice when He spoke to him,
Saying, "Go unto the Jews, and learn from them."
At first, he did hesitate and would not obey,
"Will the Jews receive me? Will I be okay?"
The Lord spoke again, "Go to Temple Emanuel, and learn.
You'll find biblical Hebrew and the knowledge you yearn."
So he went to Temple Emanuel and met the spiritual leader.
He heard him chant the Torah; he thought, *Oh, what a reader!*
With open arms, the Jews embraced him with love and with grace,
They treated him as their brother, and they did not despise his race.
He met Jews who were willing to tutor him
and help him with his quest,
He thanked and praised the God of Abraham
and committed to do his best.
Soon he met a Jewish teacher, her name is Morah Hannah.
As she taught him Hebrew, he received the heavenly manna.
Holy Scriptures declare, the Lord is the God of the Hebrews.
Now he's happy to sit and learn from God's people, the Jews.

Sunday morning presentations, 10-noon:

- On Feb. 16, Mark Epstein will enlighten us on "**The Early Church and Birth of Anti-Judaism.**"
- More adult education talks on the way—stay tuned!

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 (at lightning speed, slowly and haltingly, or somewhere inbetween) 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

- **Pre-services Potluck Dinner, Feb. 7, 6-7 pm:** [Please click here to register.](#)
- **Havdalah Service, Feb. 8, 7:30 pm:** Followed by singing and dessert; led by Rabbi Jacque.
- **Mitzvah Morning, Feb. 9, 10:15-noon:** Morah Rochelle, TERS Director, and Suzi Nash, Activities Director, invite congregants young and old to join together for Mitzvah Morning in the Social Hall. Participate in one or both of the following volunteer opportunities:
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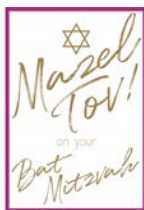
- **Sunday, Feb. 23, 10 am:** The Temple Emanuel Women's Club invites **everyone** to join them on a hike at Belmont's [Seven Oaks Preserve Trail](#). We hike the trail on the 4th Sunday of each month! Please RSVP to Lisa Jenkins 980-833-6299, Stacey Bhalla 704-616-4732, Lee Buchanan 704-661-9685, or Stephanie Rauch 704-609-8425.



- **Purim celebration, Friday, March 14.** Stay tuned for information!



- **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!



- **Passover:** On the second night, Sunday, April 13, we will join together at Temple for a Pesach Seder. Tickets will be sold in advance and reservations are required. More information to come.



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



- **Jewish Film Club,** April date and film TBD. But one thing we do know—we'll meet at Rob Weiss' house!
- **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.

And We Greatly Enjoyed....

Watching *A Real Pain* at the Jan. 25th meeting of Temple Emanuel's Jewish Film Club...



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, 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](#).

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](#).



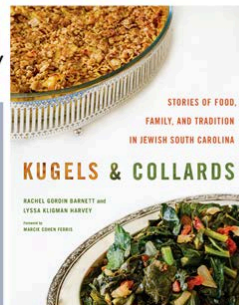
You can also [click here](#) to register for *Becoming Jewish: An Info Session About Conversion to Judaism*. Sponsored by the Union of Reform Judaism, this free, no-commitment, 75-minute online session offers the opportunity to learn about the next steps, where to find resources, and how to get answers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



KUGELS AND COLLARDS: PRESERVING AND SHARING STORIES OF FOOD, FAMILY, AND TRADITION IN JEWISH SOUTH CAROLINA

with Rachel Gordin Barnett and Lyssa Kligman Harvey

Explore South Carolina's Jewish history through the lens of food and memory. Hear from the authors about their lively collection of South Carolina Jewish family and community stories and recipes.



[Click here](#) to register for *Kugels and Collards*, which will be presented on Zoom.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



Tuesday, February 4, 2025
7:00 pm
Register today!

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!



Temple Emanuel

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