



May 2025

**Annual Congregational Meeting
at Temple Emanuel
SATURDAY, MAY 10, 10 a.m.
Please attend and make your voice heard!**

This has been an exciting growth year in many ways for our Temple. There are very bright days ahead, and the Board has a lot to share. Please make every effort to attend! Bagels and coffee will be served. Note that members should be in good standing in order to vote. If you're not sure about your status, please contact Sara Tomchin at templeemanuel.treasurer@gmail.com.

**Rabbi Jacquie, who just spent another wonderful weekend with us,
expresses her thanks and reminds us to vote in the World Zionist elections:**

Dear Emanuelites,



Thank you again for a wonderful weekend: sharing in the celebration of Shabbat; walking Shabbat home with Havdallah; and studying with me both Saturday evening and Sunday morning. I treasure your hospitality, your company, your questions and your voices lifted in prayer in tandem with mine.

*As I mentioned Friday evening and Saturday evening, all Jews 18 and over have the power of the vote in the World Zionist elections and the agency to effect a more egalitarian, progressively spiritual Israel. NOTE: Your 501(c)3 status, and mine as a Rabbi Cantor, proscribe telling you WHOM to vote for in any government election, but I CAN and MAY advise you on issues. This is one, and you can heal the world with it. Click [here](#) to learn more, and to vote Reform, and please pass this letter along to anyone in the congregation who may not see it. **Voting ends Sunday, May 4!***

L'shalom,

Rabbi Jacquie

May 2025 Services



Saturday, May 3, 10 am:

Join us for Tali David's bat mitzvah! This is a very special day for Tali, her family and for Temple Emanuel. An Oneg for all follows Tali's Bat Mitzvah, after which there will be a private luncheon for Tali's family.

Friday, May 9 and May 30, 7:30 pm

Friday, May 16, 6 pm service, 6:45 pm Shabbat dinner:

TERS students will help lead our Annual School Shabbat service. The entire congregation is invited to join! A catered dinner will follow the service. [RSVP for dinner here no later than May 4.](#) (Our cap is 50 people and there is no charge; for more information, see p. 8.)

No service on Friday, May 23 (Memorial Day Weekend)

Attending services? We now share hosting the Oneg. [Click here](#) to sign up.

In order to ensure that there's enough food and drink for everyone, we are formalizing Onegs and asking those who attend Shabbat services to periodically sign up to host.

When you click above to sign up, you will also see "how to do it" instructions (also posted in the Temple kitchen).

A great way to learn how to do it is to sign up for set-up or clean-up. There are slots just for this purpose. If you are uncomfortable using the online form, please email [Temple Emanuel](#) to sign up. There is also a paper sign up sheet in the Temple kitchen.

You will get 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 email [Temple Emanuel](#).

And please [click here](#) for detailed instructions on hosting an Oneg.

May 2025 Yahrzeits

Members can email [Temple Emanuel](mailto:TempleEmanuel@templeemanuel.org) 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.

<p>Friday, May 2, to be read on Saturday, May 3: Victor Osborne, Andrew, Gale & Richard Osborne's father Marty Zielonka, Debbie Stringer's mother Rosa Rosenfeld, Marisa Rosenfeld's mother Elizabeth Anselmo, Susie Schaffer's mother Evelyn Osborne, Andrew, Gale & Richard Osborne's mother Babette Mayer Aronson, Caryn Aronson's mother Rabbi Jerome Mark Morris Shved, Marisa Marder & Lonny Shved's grandfather Max N. Planer Daniel Harris Girard, Stephanie Rauch's cousin Randolph Silverstein</p>	<p>Friday, May 9: Julius Weiss, Rob Weiss' grandfather Leon Irving Schneider Pat Fox, Dale & Lyn Fox's sister-in-law Jerry Warshawsky, Mark Warshawsky's brother Dr. Sally Jo Rubin, Hardin Rubin's sister Sid Cowan Earl Scherago, Hardin Rubin's uncle Dr. Morris Scherago, Hardin Rubin's grandfather Eleanor Nazarian, Beverly Green's mother</p> 
<p>Friday, May 16: William Gross, Bill Gross' grandfather Herbert Kramer Harry Sweetbaum, Andrew Osborne's grandfather Elvin Levy, Fred Levy's father Phyllis Stone Wein, Nikki Sherrill's mother Brenda Guller, Jeffrey Guller's wife Margaret Rothschild Katzenstein, Chuck Katzenstein's mother Cy Girard, Stephanie Rauch's uncle Bailey Henny Fox, Lyn Fox's grandmother-in-law Judith Rashkow, Bill Gross' dear friend Mae Winton, Nadine Fox's grandmother Michael Kirsh, Kevin Kirsh's brother Bertha Palomino, Vicki Villamor's mother Leroy Reicher, Jill Reicher's father Israel Honigman Abe Feuer</p> <p>Friday, May 30: Howard B. Harnage, Tony Harnage's father Fred Glickman Henry Sweetbaum, Andrew Osborne's cousin Samuel R. Planer Gloria Sosne Anna Grabob Rosenthal Tillie W. Rauch, Stephanie Rauch's grandmother Katharine Gardner, Bill Gardner's mother</p>	<p>Friday, May 23, to be read on Friday, May 16: Sam Griffin Virginia Kraft Ida Anker Marder, Tony Marder's grandmother Eli Nevitt Hortense F. Hahn, Joe Hahn's mother Lillian U. Sosnik, Marilyn Edwards' grandmother John Wilson Robinson Anna Rosenthal Martin Brown, Charlie Brown's father Frederick Gross, Bill Gross' father Louis Isadore Sherman Constantine (Conny) Thymius, Barbara Thymius' husband</p> <p>Friday, May 30, continued: Philip Weinstein, Marilyn Edwards' grandfather Andrew David Freiburger, Fred & Barbara Freiburger's son Julius Maurice Fox, Lyn Fox's father-in-law and Andrew & Nicole Fox's grandfather Maxine Girard Dewhurst, Stephanie & Peter Rauch's cousin and Julian Rauch's 2nd cousin Irene B. Moskowitz, Mark Moskowitz's mother</p> <p>Friday, June 6: Rhoda Koshak, Gary Koshak's mother</p>

A spectacular "end of the beginning" for the Building Renewal Fund!



Eric Witten was not only generous enough to give \$17,000, he challenged the rest of us to give at least half as much: \$8,500. Well, guess what? We beat that goal by a cool ten grand! As of the end of April, congregants donated **\$18,498**. This comprises 37 donations, representing the majority of our member families. Combined with Eric's donation, we now have **\$35,498** in the bank to complete the building-wide lighting upgrade, and get a good start on the new and improved restrooms we need. Thank you, Eric Witten, and to all of you who rose to meet his challenge!



We thank the following individuals for their April donations to the Building Renewal Fund:

- Joanna Forester
- Ed Romney
- Eric and Debbie Stringer
- John and Aaron Marshall
- Stacy and Bobby Bhalla
- Seth Kaufman

Your Temple Account is on RakefetOnline! *Have YOU logged in yet?*

Would you like to log into Rakefet to pay your dues or to make a donation to the building fund? Well, here's a reminder on how to set up your own Rakefet account if you have not yet done so!

Go to www.rakefetonline.com, click on Sign-in, click US, then click on "Forgot Password." The system will send you a password. For questions or assistance, please email Temple Emanuel.



We gratefully thank the following individuals for their donations:

- Debbye Lustig in memory of her father Norman Silver
- Stephanie Rauch in memory of Samuel Wohl
- Rochelle & Moshe Wilensky in memory of Marshall Rauch
- Marla Brodsky in memory of Beatrice Mandel, Herman Mandel, Mitze Cutler and Gilda Treiber
- Lyn Fox in memory of Marshall Rauch
- Joel Horwich, donation to the General Fund
- Allison Kanipe in memory of Kimberly Stone
- Andy Osborne in memory of Evelyn Osborne and Victor Osborne
- Alton Reeder, donation to the General Fund
- Anita Grey in memory of Marshall Rauch
- Jacob Felton, donation to the General Fund

New Members:

Welcome to Adam and Lauren Grad and their two boys Arlo and Charlie!

Welcome to Adam and Lauren Grad, our newest members! Adam and Lauren have two young boys, 3-year old Arlo and 7-month old Charlie. Lauren is a professional artist and graphic designer working at Winthrop University, and Adam is a freight broker. They recently moved to Lake Wylie after living in Charlotte for the past 10 years and are excited to be a part of Temple Emanuel and meet everyone!

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.

April 2025 in Photos

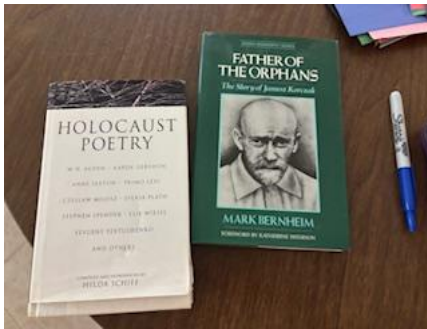
Here are pictures of our Second Night Seder—about 45 congregants celebrated Passover together, with Charlie Brown officiating. A lovely ceremony and a delicious meal. Thank you to all who brought food and who helped to set up and clean up!



And Dasha Verhosek's Bat Mitzvah! Dasha, you led the service with grace and maturity. And thank you to you and your family for the delicious luncheon afterwards. A truly special day for us all!



We so enjoyed Sue Corbin's interactive Adult Education presentation on Holocaust poetry!

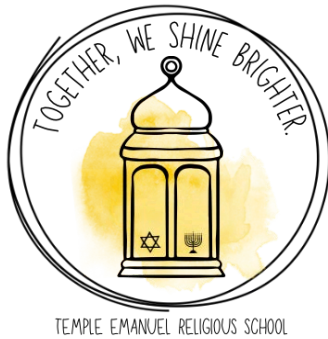


And here is a poem written by Charlie Brown after meditating on the poems about the Holocaust shared by Sue during her presentation:



***Darwin saw a wasp stinging, slowly killing, a caterpillar and stopped believing in God.
A saint challenged God and said, "Let's change places." God said, "Sure, for a minute." The man rolled on the floor in agony, howling like a wounded dog.
We choose half-death, the averted eye, the blocked ear, the numbed heart or we will drown in endless pain.
The Shoah is not unique, only a distant spot on the continuum of suffering.
If the Shoah awakens our heart, we must never forget.
If it awakens and strengthens hate, let it be forgotten for all time.***

News About TERS (Temple Emanuel Religious School)



Our Religious School students say hello, above, during their Model Seder. They learned a ton about Passover and the Seder, and enjoyed every minute of it.

Temple Emanuel Religious School invites all congregants to Shabbat services and a congregational dinner on Friday, May 16, starting at 6 pm. TERS students will help lead the service, followed by a Shabbat dinner catered by TERS parent and professional chef Sean Santay. Dinner includes chicken with a choice of three sauces, penne pasta, salad, garlic bread and dessert. The cap is 50 people and there is no charge, so please [RSVP here today](#). **Registration ends May 4.** All family members are welcome.

[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”!



The numeric value of the letter *zayin* is seven. Seven represents the seventh day of the week, which is Shabbat. It is the day G-d rested. But what does this mean? If [G-d](#) is infinite, why did He have to rest? A human, a mortal, is tired after a hard week at work, so he or she has to take a breather. But G-d, the immortal Being?

The answer is that the rest is not for G-d but for us. Since we work for six days a week and appear to be the masters of our fate, we can easily come to believe that we are the ones who have the power to determine our success. G-d therefore instructs, “On the seventh day you are to stop. You are to examine the world around you and understand that everything comes from Me.” Shabbat is the day to focus on the Creator of the universe.

Congregants' Bulletin Board

[Click here to send](#) information you'd like to share with your fellow congregants.

Did you know? Rabbi Groner, who co-officiated at Marshall Rauch's funeral with Charlie Brown (and we are so grateful to both of them for their warm and loving leadership), shared some North Carolina news with us. You may find it interesting! [Click here](#) to learn about Governor Stein's proclamation of **Education & Sharing Day on April 9th** in honor of the birthday of the late Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem Schneerson.

And, [here is the link](#) to the story about our own **Marshall Rauch in the Wall Street Journal**.



Sunday morning presentations, 10-noon:

- **May 18, Israel Today:** Harry Chernotsky visits us again to share his insights into the current situation in Israel and to offer an opportunity for discussion. Please RSVP to [Bill Gross](#) so that we know whether to set up in the Boardroom or the sanctuary (and how many bagels to buy!). Something delicious to eat is always on offer; bring your own coffee.
- Have an idea for an Adult Ed program? Or would you like to present? Please send suggestions to [Mark Epstein](#) and [Bill Gross](#), co-chairs of the Adult Education Committee.

Ongoing classes:



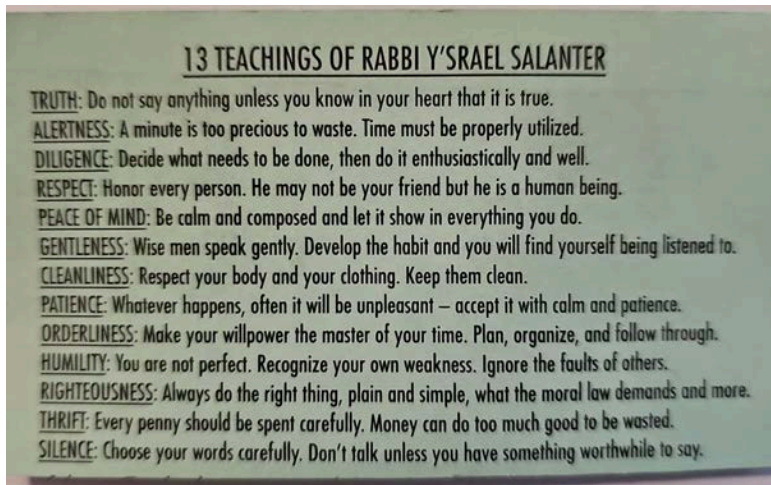
- **Adult Hebrew:** Interested in learning how to read Hebrew? No prior knowledge of Hebrew (or Judaism) is necessary. For more information, email [Bill Marx](#) or call him at 314-749-3566.

- **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](#).



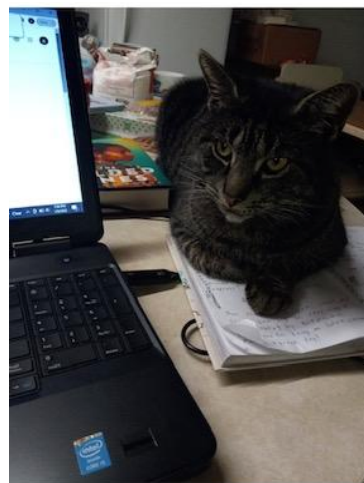
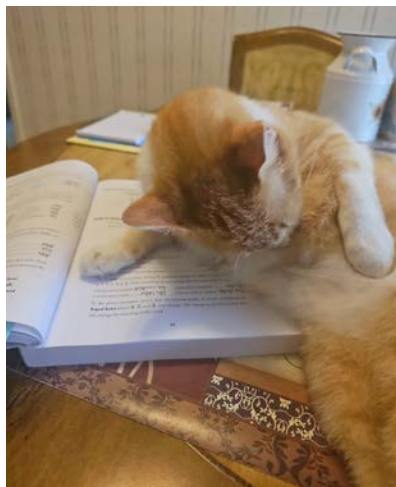
Adult Ed programs overflow into our daily lives:

Some years ago Charlie Brown led a discussion group on the Musar movement, a Jewish ethical movement developed in 19th century Lithuania and revived in the 21st century among Jews of all denominations, particularly in the United States. One of our congregants posted in her kitchen this teaching from Rabbi Israel Salanter, one of the individuals the group learned about. She wanted to share it with everyone.



Yisrael ben Ze'ev Wolf Lipkin, also known as "Israel Salanter" or "Yisroel Salanter," was a Lithuanian Talmudist and religious thinker (1810-83) and founder of the Musar movement. He is best known for stressing that the interpersonal laws of the Torah bear as much weight as Divine obligations. According to Rabbi Salanter, adhering to the ritual aspects of Judaism without developing one's relationships with others and oneself was an unpardonable parody. A gifted teacher, he encouraged his disciples not to rely on him but to work things out for themselves.

Enjoy these two photos shared by members of Temple Emanuel's Hebrew grammar class, showing their cats hard at work during a study session:



Upcoming Events



- **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.)

- **Jewish Film Club, Saturday, May 10, 6 pm** at Rob Weiss' house, 1397 Kings Grove Drive, Lake Wylie, SC. [Email Rob](#) to let him know you're coming (and so he can make sure he has enough chairs!). As always, bring nosh/drink to share. We'll watch the 2019 film *Red Sea Diving Resort*, 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.



- **Annual Congregational Meeting, Saturday, May 10, 10 am at Temple.** This has been an exciting growth year in many ways for our Temple. There are very bright days ahead, and the Board has a lot to share. Please make every effort to attend! Bagels and coffee will be served. Note that members should be in good standing in order to vote. If you're not sure about your status, please contact Sara Tomchin at templemanuel.treasurer@gmail.com.

- **Religious School Annual Shabbat Service and Congregational Dinner, Friday, May 16.** See p. 8 for more information and for the link to register for the dinner.



- **Adult Education on Sunday, May 18, 10-noon,** Harry Chernotsky speaks about the current situation in Israel.

- **Sunday, May 25, 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.



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](#).

Opportunities Outside of Gastonia to Learn, Explore, and Celebrate Being Jewish



**Free Event !
Open to the
public - must
RSVP**

Mishpacha Memories

Hebrew Cemetery of Greater Charlotte
in collaboration with the LJCC Department of Art & Culture



Take a journey back in time!
Come and learn about the fascinating
past of some of our beloved Charlotteans.
Mishpacha Memories is a guided tour that tells
the unique history of the Charlotte Jewish
Community. Reenactors in period costumes will
portray various Charlotte figures who helped
shape our Jewish community.

Sunday, May 4
10am & 12pm

Hebrew Cemetery located at:
1801 Statesville Ave, Charlotte, NC 28206

Please arrive at the Tree of Life
15 minutes before guided tour time.

RSVP and Sign up at
www.charlottejcc.org/events
Q? director@hebrewcemetery.org

McEwen Funeral Service
Pineville Chapel



And more...

On May 8 (NOT October 8!):

QUEENS
UNIVERSITY CHARLOTTE

STAN GREENSPON
HOLOCAUST AND SOCIAL
JUSTICE EDUCATION CENTER

Community Film Viewing: *October 8*



OCTOBER 8 offers a look at the explosion of antisemitism on college campuses, social media, and in the streets of America beginning the day after the October 7th attack on Israel by Hamas. Through meticulous investigation, the film also uncovers how over decades, Hamas created sophisticated networks in America to permeate U.S. institutions and examines the tsunami of online antisemitism, propaganda, and disinformation unleashed by Iran, China, and Russia – with the sole purpose of dividing American society. Learn more about the film at www.october8film.com.

After the film, the Greenspon Center will lead a 15 minute panel discussion to unpack to content.

**Queens University
Viewing:**

Thursday, May 8th, 6-8pm
Queens University Campus
1900 Selwyn Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28274

Register: bit.ly/oct8queens

****This event is free and open to the community, however prior registration is required. Photo IDs will be checked at the door.***

**Presented in
Partnership
with:**





JCRI Jewish Community Refugee Initiative
CHARLOTTE

Because our people were refugees too...

The Jewish Community Refugee Initiative invites you to hear local and national speakers address

Refugee Resettlement At Risk: Addressing Challenges and Strengthening Our Commitment

Welcoming the Stranger to the (Virtual) Table

Thursday, May 22
7:00-8:30pm



*Proceeds from this year's program will benefit several agencies in Charlotte that work with newly arrived immigrants.

***Donate Online:**
Visit tbe.shulcloud.com/form/donations
• Click Donation Type and select Pass Through
• Choose Jewish Community Refugee Initiative

By Mail: Send a check to Temple Beth El (JCRI's fiduciary agent) with JCRI in the memo line

FEATURED PANEL

Rabbi Lexi Erdheim Temple Beth El
Naomi Steinberg HIAS
Marsha Hirsch Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency
Kara Moskowitz, Cristina Ceron & Ruth Santana Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy Immigrant Justice Program

REGISTRATION:
FREE - BUT MUST REGISTER to obtain Zoom link.
Registration limited to first 100 participants; one email per household.
Register Online: www.charlottejcc.org
Or Call: LJCC Customer Service Center 704-366-5007

QUESTIONS?
Email Amy Lefkof at: lefkofamy@gmail.com













HIS 372: Southern Jewish History


Summer 2025: June 19th – July 24th
online, asynchronous



This course traces the story of Jewish southerners from Joachim Gans at the Roanoke colony to contemporary expressions of Jewish life across the American South. Together, we'll explore questions of race, class, gender and sexuality, labor, foodways, antisemitism, politics, religion, and belonging. Cognizant that there is no single "southern Jewish experience," this class highlights the wide range of identities, traditions, and perspectives that have emerged throughout history.

available to audit, contact allow@uncg.edu for more info





UNCG Jewish Studies Program

Temple Oheb Sholom in Goldsboro, NC. Circa 1886.

[Click here](#) to learn how to audit this and other courses at UNC Greensboro.

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, 2024.
- 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

320 South Street, Gastonia, NC 28052

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

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

Office email: templemanuel18@gmail.com