

Temple Emanuel Newsletter

June and July 2024



Temple Emanuel

On SUNDAY, JUNE 2, please attend our Annual Congregational Meeting, 11 a.m. at Temple Emanuel. See p. 3 for details.



A Letter From a Friend



A letter tucked into a gift card and slipped into a yellow envelope was recently mailed to Temple Emanuel by an individual who lives in Huntersville. At this exceedingly difficult time for Jews in Israel and all over the world, we wanted to share the sender's sentiments with all of our members. Please read the letter, set forth below. If you would like to respond to the sender, email your thoughts to your Newsletter Coordinator, Barbara Blau, at bjblau@gmail.com. They will be forwarded.

April 27, 2024

Dear Members of Temple Emanuel,

As a member of the Christian faith, I have always held the belief that the Jewish people are the "apple of God's eye." A sacred people with a rich heritage of tradition and faith. I traveled to Jerusalem to learn and discover this faith for myself. It was the most amazing experience, and I came back to Huntersville, NC with even more appreciation for the Jewish tradition and customs.

I watch the news and speak with my Jewish friends here and in Israel, and my heart breaks witnessing the complete antisemitism I am observing. I never in a million years would have thought that we would see this in America. I'm praying for those affected by the horrors on Oct. 7, for the ignorance I am seeing on college campuses and the wars being fought against the epitome of evil.

All this to say, I have your back. I love you and will continue to speak truth. My God, Your God will protect and guide you.

"The Lord Bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace."

Shalom,

[A Friend]

June and July Friday Night Services

- Services will be held at 7:30 p.m. on June 7, 14, 21 and 28 and on July 12, 19 and 26.
- We will not hold services on July 5. Yahrzeits from July 5 will be read on July 12.

June and July Yahrzeits

Members can email Lyn Fox at elsielofox@gmail.com 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.

June 1-30, 2024 (Iyar 24, 5784 to Sivan 24, 5784)

To be read on Friday, June 7:

Mae Hull, remembered by Jonathan Sanders
Jacob Cohen
Harry S. Cohen
Rose Marshall, John Marshall's grandmother
Max W. Scher
Barry Winton, Nadine Fox's grandfather
Rose Schneider Lansky
Harry Rosenthal
Tillie W. Rauch, Marshall Rauch's mother, Stephanie and Pete Rauch's grandmother
Denise Selznick, Betsy Harnage's aunt
Chris Tobison, Ruth Scherr's father

To be read on Friday, June 14:

Maxine Girard Dewhurst, Marshall Rauch's niece,
Stephanie and Pete Rauch's cousin
Mary Garber Kamins
Yetta Sande
Morris Binder
Dora M. Sherman
Philip Woolfson
Morris Kline



To be read on Friday, June 21:

Jose Victor Rosenfeld, Marisa Rosenfeld's father
Arnold Treiber
Joel Arkin
Esther Glickman
Sam Belkin
Meyer Cohen
Harry van Praagh
Seymour Miller
Myron Goldklang
Rose W. Planer



To be read on Friday, June 28:

Annie Myrick Lyerly, Elaine Lyerly's mother, Elias Rauch's grandmother
Bernard Levine
Howard Schwartz
Melva Greenspon
David Horowitz
William Schwartz
Morris Goldstein, Bill Gross' grandfather
Sylvia H. Selikowitz, Kevin Kirsh's grandmother
Joe Cutler
Lee Osborne, remembered by Andy Osborne
David Roskein, remembered by Betsy and Tony Harnage

To be read on Friday, July 12 (moved from July 5):

Rick Jenkins, Lisa Jenkins' brother
Rudolph Israel Rosenberg
Sam Solomon

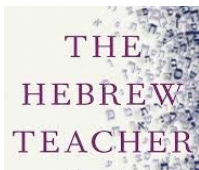
July 1-31, 2024 (Sivan 25, 5784 to Tammuz 25, 5784)

To be read on Friday, July 12 (moved from July 5): Louis Sosne Bertha Sweetbaum, remembered by Andy Osborne Ilse Freiburger, Fred Freiburger's mother Milton Handelman, Fran Long's father Freda Hayman Lewith, Marilyn Edward's great-grandmother	To be read on Friday, July 12: Simon Nevitt Hyman Greenberg, Barbara Freiburger's father 
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To be read on Friday, July 19: Bertha Silverman, Sara Tomchin and Robert Weiss' grandmother Etta Gittel Paradies Mark Alan Sosnik, Marilyn Edward's brother Mitch Appleman Arthur E. Lewith, Marilyn Edward's great-grandfather Philip Malz Anna Cotler, Marla Brodsky's grandmother Rose Florence Scher Katherine Thymius, Barbara Thymius' mother-in-law Muriel Levine	To be read on Friday, July 26: Edward Greer, Bill Gross' uncle Marvin Yelton, remembered by Deane Griffin Michael Shanker, Sondra Katzenstein's brother Edward Daniel Kahn Rebecca Lindy Morris Mike Olliff, remembered by Nikki Sherrill To be read on Friday, August 2: Joseph Erwin Shoaf Ross Charles C. Surphlis, Lyn Fox's brother-in-law Carolyn Hodsdon Kahn
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Upcoming Events

- **Annual Congregational Meeting, SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 11 a.m.** 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.
- **Women's Group Hike, Sunday, June 9, meet at 9:30 am:** Hike with us at the Seven Oaks Nature Preserve, 6500 S. New Hope Road in Belmont! No need to register; just show up. If you'd like more information, reach out to Stacey Bhalla at 704-616-4732 or staceybhalla1@gmail.com. Temple Emanuel's new Women's Group will offer periodic outings that are restorative, fun and build community among the women of Temple Emanuel. Hike with us on the 9th!
- **Casino Night** is coming to our congregational hall in August; details to come. Prizes, pizza, fun!
 - **Adult Hebrew:** Interest in starting another beginners Hebrew class is strong enough that we plan to begin a class this summer. No prior knowledge of Hebrew (or Judaism) is necessary. By the end of the course you will know the Hebrew alphabet and be reading Hebrew! For more information, contact Bill Marx at hebrewclass85@gmail.com or at 314-749-3566.



Adult Education Series

All events are on Sundays from 10 a.m. to noon.

- *Why Jews Don't Believe in Jesus*, June 23: Mark Epstein will explore why Jesus is not our Messiah.
- July, topic and date TBD.
- *Preparing for the High Holidays*, August 11: Mark Epstein and Bill Gross will discuss how we can prepare our hearts and minds for the Days of Awe.
- *Lashon Hara* (לשון הרע), September, date TBD: Stephanie Rauch will lead a conversation on why avoiding the "evil tongue" is critical both in Judaism and to good mental health.
- *Jews in Early American History*, October, date TBD: Seth Kaufman will address how Jews influenced the birth and growth of our nation.
- *Jesus in Jewish Hebrew Scripture?*, November 17: Mark Epstein will explore claims and beliefs that the life of Jesus is foretold in our holy books.
- *Our Lives as Interfaith Families*, December, date TBD: Stephanie Rauch and Janet Epstein will facilitate our second conversation on the richness of our lives as families with members who are Jewish, Christian, atheist and agnostic.

We Hope You Enjoyed It!

New Members' Night was well-attended and fun. Folks enjoyed Bloody Marys and Mimosas, talked, and laughed a lot. Webb Custom Kitchen Restaurant donated gift cards for the raffle (they doubled the amount donated in response to the events of Oct. 7 and the Israeli-Gaza war). New members received a free raffle ticket and all the guests were generous, resulting in the Temple raising over \$200.



Student-Led Shabbat Service and Potluck Supper

Morah Rochelle and our religious school students led us in prayer and song at Friday night services on May 17. What a wonderful experience it was to witness our students so competently displaying what they have learned from Morah Rochelle and Morah Mary!

A huge thank you goes to our post-b'nai mitzvah teens **Lily McGinnis, Devin Santay, Daniel Shames and Zach Silverman** and to our younger students **Aaron Dorfman, Ilana Dorfman, Maddie Pasour, Dean Santay, Nate Santay, Claire Thomas and Dasha Verhosek**.

Six students/teens couldn't join us. Claudia and Jack Beardsley, Lila and Jackson Gardner, and Annie and Sam Litwak were missed!

After the service we all joined together in the social hall for a potluck supper, which was, of course, delicious!



During the service we celebrated high school senior **Daniel Shames**, who is wrapping up his year in the Bronfman Fellowship program. This highly prestigious fellowship selects a small number of young Jewish people from across North America who strive to be community builders and future leaders. The program explores the variety and diversity of Jewish life and culture and includes a multi-week stay in Israel and several week-long sessions in the US. Daniel has formed close bonds with many young Jewish adults from the entire country and has also developed bonds with his Israeli counterparts. Daniel will matriculate at Brown University in the fall.





Adult Education Series: Presentation by Suly Chenkin, Holocaust Survivor

We were so lucky to have Suly Chenkin, born in Kovno, Lithuania in 1941, join us on Memorial Day weekend to share her experiences during and after World War II—early childhood in the Kovno Ghetto, a daring escape alone at age 3 ½, hiding from the Nazis, arrival in Palestine at age 5 ½, followed by the nearly unbelievable reunion with her mother and then her father in Cuba. Mrs. Chenkin shared a video in which she recounted the story of her life, accompanied by photos from the time, including of herself and her family. A Q&A period followed. A truly inspiring speaker, Mrs. Chenkin urged her listeners, despite all the horrors she lived through, to live a life that focuses on the good in the world.

If you missed the presentation and would like to hear Suly Chenkin speak, watch this episode from PBS Charlotte's program *The Holocaust: Carolina Stories of Remembrance*:

<https://video.wtvi.org/video/suly-chenkin-interview-89hpu7/>.



Temple Emanuel Religious School (TERS) News

- **Religious School Registration:** Register your children now for TERS starting this fall! Children in grades K-8 attend on Sunday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We also have a Youth Group to engage our high schoolers.
- **Jewish Children's Library:** Please consider donating books in good condition or making a monetary donation to our new Children's Library. The timing is perfect for the new library, as our school's membership has multiplied quickly over the past year!
- **Toddler Time:** Coming soon—grown-ups and their toddlers will gather in our library on select Sunday mornings for circle time, a story, playtime and a snack. Dates TBA. We look forward to meeting Temple families with littles!

For more information about any of the above or about TERS in general, please contact Rochelle Wilensky, TERS Director, at rochelle.rrr@gmail.com.



Birthday, a new baby, a wedding, off to college, a new home...?

Please email Barbara Blau, Newsletter Coordinator, at bjblau@gmail.com, with any news about you or your loved ones that you would like to have shared with the Temple community via the newsletter.

Recent Donations תודה רבה

We gratefully thank the following individuals for their donations to the Temple:

- Carlyn Aronson, Yahrzeit for Babette Mayer Aronson
- Beverly Green, Yahrzeit for Eleanor Nazaron
- Charles Katzenstein, contribution towards new microphone for the sanctuary
- Kevin Kirsh, in memory of his brother Michael Kirsh
- Jill Reicher, Yahrzeit for her father Leroy Reicher

Passover Volunteer Opportunity (it's never too early!)

Suzi Nash, our Events Coordinator, is hoping to find someone who would like to be “second in command” for next year’s Community Seder. Although Suzi enjoys hosting the seder and is not yet ready to step down from her post, she would like to train someone in the process (she has copious notes!) who would eventually be willing to take over. If you are interested in assisting Suzi next Passover, please reach out to her at suzinash27@gmail.com.

Peter Blau follows up on the Jewish Film Series

Hello all! At the May board meeting we discussed the relatively high cost of screening movies at the Temple, and someone suggested we start this out as a club to be held at people's homes. So, I'm reaching out to members with two questions:

1) How many of you would be interested in attending a Jewish movie club event at a fellow Temple member's home?

2) How many of you would consider hosting a movie event at your home?

Please contact me with your answers at psblau@gmail.com. Thank you!



Community News

Rowing Program for Cancer Patients and Survivors

Member Stacey Bhalla would like to spread the word about a new program she is heading up at the Belmont Rowing Center. ROAR, or Rowing for Active Recovery, is a free learn-to-row program for cancer patients and survivors. Both indoor rowing machine workouts and sessions rowing outdoors on the Catawba River will be offered. ROAR has the goal of empowering cancer patients and survivors to improve their strength, endurance, and ultimately quality of life through rowing. If you are interested, check out belmontrowing.org/roar, email ROAR@belmontrowing.org or [Click Here to Join ROAR](#).



Thank you to all who contributed to this newsletter!

