



November 2025

Allison Kanipe, Clark Simon and Claudia Dorfman have been studying for over a year in preparation to join the Jewish people. They learned to read Hebrew fluently with Bill Marx, took the Union of Reform Judaism's online "Introduction to Judaism" course, and attended classes at Temple Emanuel with Rabbi Walker, assisted by Mark Epstein and Bill Gross, that prepared them to lead a Jewish life with confidence and joy. Their Beit Din and subsequent official conversion took place in October at Charlotte's Temple Israel. Please join us at services at 7:30 pm on Friday, Nov. 21 when we will officially welcome Allison, Clark and Claudia into the Jewish family.
Your formal invitation is on the next page!



בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהַחַיִּינוּ וְקִיָּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְמַן הַזֶּה.

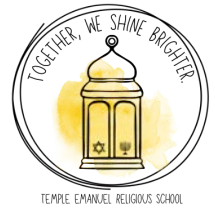
Blessed are You, Lord our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.

Invitation designed by Dale Santay



An important message from Morah Rochelle Wilensky, Director of our Religious School

“Last winter Activities Director Suzi Nash and I sponsored Mitzvah Day on a Sunday morning. Those who attended – congregants, religious school students and their families – made cards sending love and support to the family of David Cunio, a hostage being held in Gaza by Hamas.



A dear friend of mine is the best friend of David's wife, Sharon. Sharon, and their twin daughters Emma and Yuli (then three years old), had also all been taken hostage. Sharon and the twins were released after 51 days, but on Mitzvah Day David was still a prisoner in Gaza.

I am so very pleased to be able to announce that David was among the 20 still-living hostages recently released from Gaza. He has been reunited with Sharon and the twins, and they are finally once again a family of four - together.

David has a long physical and psychological recovery ahead, but he is overjoyed to be home. I do believe that the prayers and cards of those who attended Mitzvah Day helped his family through their agonizing wait for their husband and father to come home.

Suzi and I sincerely hope that you join us on Mitzvah Day in January 2026, when we will all have another opportunity to put our hearts and minds together to help others.” Signed, *Morah Rochelle*

בְּרוּךְ הַטוֹב וְהַמַּעֲשִׂיב

Blessed is the One Who is good and Who does good!



Friday Night Services in November

Please join us on **Nov. 14 and 21** for Shabbat services at 7:30 pm, followed by oneg. No services on Nov. 28.

And! Please join us on **Nov. 7** for our regular *First Friday of the Month Potluck Supper and Service*.

–5:45-6:45 pm Potluck Supper. [Click here](#) to let us know what you can contribute to share.

–7:00-8:00 pm Shabbat Service

–8:00-9:00 pm Oneg



Please [click here](#) to sign up to host an oneg on Nov. 14 or Nov. 21. In particular, we invite those observing a yahrzeit to consider hosting the oneg. This used to be a tradition at Temple Emanuel, and we hope to see it revitalized! An oneg need not be fancy nor need it be a lot of work. Something as simple as cookies, fruit and some seltzer water from the Temple's refrigerator make a lovely oneg!



[Click here](#) to sign up to host or to help with set up or clean up. Basic instructions are in the link and posted in the Temple kitchen. More detailed instructions are [here](#).

We welcome our new members Brad and Tina Stollow! Brad and Tina recently moved here from Long Island. They have settled in Belmont (where our membership continues to grow!).

Interested in joining Temple Emanuel? Do you have children you might want to enroll in our Religious School? Please email [Mark Epstein](#), our Board member in charge of Membership, and he will reach out to you.



Rabbi Jackie Marx to return!

The Board is pleased to announce that Temple Emanuel has renewed its contract with Rabbi Jackie Marx for 2025-2026. Rabbi Jackie will be with us on the following weekends: Dec. 12-14 (Chanukah), Feb. 7-8 (Jackson Gardner's bar mitzvah), March 27-29, and May 22-24 (Shavuot). Welcome back, Rabbi Jackie!

Come one, come all!
Save the date for our

2nd Annual Holiday Silent Auction

Saturday, December 6, 2025
7 pm
Temple Emanuel Social Hall
\$10 entrance fee



Enjoy heavy apps & sangria while shopping for exciting finds!

Funds raised will be used to
help pay for the fixtures/detailing
of our future restroom on the first floor.

Interested in donating an item or a service yourself?
Do you have “a connection in the right place” who
might be willing to donate something?

Wanted!
**SILENT
AUCTION
ITEMS**

Please help us find some great
items for the auction!

Contact Suzi Nash
(617-510-1332)
or Andy Osborne (704-854-1010)



Temple Emanuel will celebrate 6 B'NAI MITZVAH from February to July 2026!

- February 7, 2026: **Jackson Gardner** (son of Amanda and Bill Gardner)
- April 11, 2026: **Aaron Dorfman** (son of Denny and Claudia Dorfman)
- June 27, 2026: **Maddie Pasour** (daughter of Emily and Eric Pasour) and **Nate Santay** (son of Dale and Sean Santay) with parent **Dale Santay**
- July 18, 2026: **Nora Bradenburg** (Pete and Vicki Rauch's granddaughter)

**Paying your dues? Making a donation?
Use Rakefet!**

To set up your Rakefet account: Go to <https://us.rakefetonline.com> and enter the email address on file for you at the Temple. Click on "Forgot Password" to get a temporary password emailed to you. (Check your spam folder if it's not in your inbox.) To set up a payment account and to schedule or make payments, click on "Payments" on the Dashboard. For questions or assistance, please email [our Treasurer](#).



**We gratefully thank the following individuals
for their donations in November:**

Beverly Green, in memory of Donald Green
Alton Reeder, donation to the General Fund
Elaine Lyerly, in memory of JM Lyerly
James & Katie Needell, in memory of Marvin Needell
Dorothy Scher, in memory of Louis Scher
Dorothy Scher, memorial plaque for Louis Scher
Linda Leviel, donation to the General Fund
Augustina Ince, donation for the New Year
Joel Horwich, donation for the New Year
Jason & Dawn Gluck, donation for Yiskor
Warren & Janice Epstein, donation for the New Year
Lee Buchanan, donation for Yiskor
Peter & Barbara Blau, donation to the General Fund

DISCOVER JEWISH SUMMER CAMPS AT THE CAMP FAIR!

Looking for the perfect summer experience for your child?

When: Wednesday, November 12 | 6:00–7:30 PM
Where: Sam Lerner Center at Shalom Park
Come early! Inizio Pizza Truck on site starting at 5:00 PM

What to expect:

- Meet camp directors and representatives — all in one place!
- Learn about programs, scholarships, and registration details
- Kids enjoy camp-style games, crafts, and a candy bar!
- Discover the perfect camp fit for your family

✨ Featured camps include: Camp Barney Medintz • URJ Camp Coleman • Camp Judaea • Ramah Darom • URJ 6 Points Sports Academy - North Carolina • BBYO Summer Programs • Levine JCC's Camp Katan and Camp Mindy • Ballantyne Jewish Center's Camp Gan Israel!

This event is free and open to all families, so bring your questions and your summer spirit — and get ready to make this the best camp summer yet!

Why wait for January's Mitzvah Day? Do a mitzvah today!



With the government shut down and SNAP benefits ending, there is a great need for donations to the food pantry at Gastonia's Crisis Assistance Ministry (CAM).

CAM in Gastonia serves approximately 250 families a month. Its food pantry depends on donations from the community—which includes us!

[Click here](#) to find out more about giving, either by writing a check or by donating food. If you choose to write a check, be sure to write "Temple Emanuel" on the check. And if you'd like to donate food, you can drop it off M-Th, 9 am to 2 pm, at 805 W. Airline Ave, Gastonia. For after hours donations, call 704-867-8901. Currently CAM especially needs jelly, canned green beans and canned pasta.

Please feel free to leave food donations at Temple or on Janet Epstein's front porch. She will deliver them to CAM. Janet is on our Board and also on the Board of CAM; her number is 704-860-5653.

Upcoming Events:

- **First Friday of the Month Potluck Supper and Service, Nov. 7:** 5:45-6:45 pm supper; 7-8 pm Shabbat service; 8-9 pm oneg. [Click here](#) to let us know what you can contribute to share. Join us on this Friday and on every First Friday for an early dinner and service. We especially love to see our younger members!
- **Special Shabbat Service, Nov. 21, 7:30 pm:** We will celebrate the conversion to Judaism of three beloved individuals, Allison Kanipe, Clark Simon and Claudia Dorfman. Please join us for this very special event – for services and for oneg afterwards.
- **Jewish Film Club, Sat. Nov. 22, 6:30 pm:** Join us at the Blau's house for our next movie night. Bring something to eat/drink and to share if you wish. Movie TBA, although we're leaning towards a comedy. Let Peter and Barbara know you're coming [by clicking here](#).
- **4th Sunday of the Month Women's Club Hike: Nov. 23, 10 am:** Join us as we hike Belmont's [Seven Oaks Preserve Trail](#). RSVP to Lisa Jenkins 980-833-6299, Stacey Bhalla 704-616-4732, Lee Buchanan 704-661-9685 or Stephanie Rauch 704-609-8425.



- **2nd Annual Holiday Silent Auction,**

Sat. Dec. 6, 7 pm: Enjoy heavy apps and sangria while shopping and schmoozing. \$10 entrance fee. Please call Suzi Nash (617-510-1332) or Andy Osborne (704-854-1010) to donate an item to be auctioned off – or to share the name of a friend or organization that might donate. Funds raised will go towards the fixtures and detailing of the restroom planned for the main floor of the synagogue.

- **Rabbi Jacque Marx joins us for the weekend of Dec. 12-14:** We will celebrate Hanukkah as Rabbi Jacque leads us in services and more. Stay tuned for more information!
- **Festival of Lights Hanukkah Concert with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, Thurs. Dec. 18, 7:30 pm:** Celebrate the joy of Hanukkah with an uplifting evening of music, light, and community. This festive concert brings together voices from Charlotte's Jewish communities for a heartwarming night filled with the spirit of the Festival of Lights -- featuring cantors and a children's choir from local congregations, music



from across the centuries, and a lively sing-along of favorite Hanukkah songs. It's a celebration for all ages at the Knight Theater in Uptown Charlotte. [Click here](#) for more information and to purchase tickets.

- **Hockey & Hanukkah Night, Sun. Dec. 21, 4 pm:** The Charlotte Checkers would love to welcome Temple Emanuel to a special evening for their Hockey and Hanukkah game at Bojangles Coliseum. This festive night will feature:
 - A menorah lighting ceremony on the ice
 - A special Checkers group gift
 - Discounted tickets

It's a great way to bring families and friends together to celebrate Hanukkah and enjoy some exciting hockey action. You can find the special offer here: [Hockey & Hanukkah Special Offer](#). We hope you can join this meaningful and memorable celebration!



We Have a Temple Calendar!



Forgotten when an event is or want to know the time of an event? Sign in to your account on [Rakefet](#) and find out on our brand-new Temple Emanuel calendar.



If you have an idea for an Adult Ed program or would like to present, please contact [Mark Epstein](#) or [Bill Gross](#), co-chairs of the Adult Education Committee.

Ongoing classes:

- Want to learn to read Hebrew? Join our Adult Hebrew class! Email [Bill Marx](#) or call him at 314-749-3566 for more information.
- Want to learn Biblical Hebrew grammar and vocabulary? Contact [Barbara Blau](#).

November 2025 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.

To be read on Friday, November 7:

Emily Scherago Rubin, Dr. Hardin Rubin's mother
 Ethel Ross, Stephanie Rauch's aunt
 Sara Schiller Garmise
 Sarah Cohen
 Hetty Benson
 Aida Garfinkel, Marisa Rosenfeld's aunt
 Morris Mandel
 Elsie F. Outwater, Lyn Fox's mother
 Donald Anselmo, Susie Schaffer's father
 Eugene Silverstein
 Kenny Girard, Stephanie Rauch's cousin
 Esther Fine Simon, Lyn Fox's grandmother-in-law

To be read on Friday, November 21:

Stuart Shaw
 Leah Roskein, Betsy Harnage's grandmother
 Naomi N. Schneider
 Charles Martin Reynolds, Vicki Rauch's father
 Isaac Rauch, Stephanie Rauch's great grandfather
 Charles H. Sosnik, Marilyn Edwards's grandfather
 Jack Mendick
 Minnie Goldstein, remembered by Andrew Osborne
 Samuel Horwich, Joel Horwich's father
 William Franklin Birnbaum
 Susan B. Sherman
 Martin Shorr, Joan Brown's stepfather
 Clarence Alfred Ross, Stephanie Rauch's uncle

To be read on Friday, November 14:

Esther S. Rauch, Stephanie Rauch's great grandmother
 Tekla Gross, Bill Gross's grandmother
 Seymour "Sy" Shved, Marisa Marder's and Lonny Shved's father
 Joseph Gordon Kraft
 Esther Blake
 Constance Eaton Girard, Stephanie Rauch's cousin
 Carl Cutler

To be read on Friday, December 5:

Richard Selznick, Betsy Harnage's uncle
 Ralph P. Weiss, Rob Weiss's father
 Dorothy Corbin, Sue Corbin's mother
 Max Katz, Bill Marx's grandfather



To be read on Friday, November 21, cont:

Merrill S. Witten, Erik Witten's mother
 Phyllis Reicher, Jill Reicher's mother
 Madalyn Schneider Witten
 Dr. Arthur Brown, Dr. Karen Rubin's father
 Rose Wohl Marks, Stephanie Rauch's great aunt
 David Lee Szyperski
 Toby Tobison, Ruth Scherr's mother
 Shaya Raphael Paradies
 Frieda Halpert, Barbara Thymius's mother
 Bruce Kirsh, Kevin Kirsh's brother
 Eric Marx, Bill Marx's father
 Irene Fisher, Lee Buchanan's aunt
 Melvyn Michael Fox, Lyn Fox's brother; Andrew and Dr. Nicole Fox's father
 Harry Schneider
 Jean-Alexandre de Rothschild Cohen

Just for Fun!

[Take a look by clicking here](#) at a compilation of photos and video clips from Temple Emanuel Religious School circa 2011-2012. You will love watching this blast from the past, whether your family was part of the school back then or you know some of those folks (and having watched the video I guarantee that if you are reading this, you at least fall into the latter category).

Temple Emanuel Religious School 2011-2012

**Janet Epstein, thank you so much
for sharing this video with us!**



And back to the present - October 2025 in Photos

Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot



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. These visits are deeply appreciated.
- 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. Please email [Charlie](#) or [Stephanie](#).



A Second Conversion Class bat Temple Emanuel!

Our second conversion class has started its course of study. Students first take the Union of Reform Judaism's [online course](#). They then attend class with our own Rabbi Yaaqov Walker (and occasionally other Temple Emanuel instructors) every 1-2 Sunday mornings. They also will learn Hebrew reading skills with congregant and lay leader Bill Marx. Once study is complete, around the spring of 2026, students will participate in a Beit Din and Conservative conversion at Temple Israel in Charlotte.

Modest fees apply (scholarships are available). If you, a family member, or a friend might be interested in enrolling or would like to discuss the possibility, please contact [Mark Epstein](#) and/or [Bill Gross](#).



Upcoming Community Events in the Greater Gaston Area: Learn, Participate, Celebrate, Support

Fall Signature Jewish Studies Community Course: *Lessons in Reconciliation - From Torah to Today*

Wednesdays from 12:30-2

October 29 - December 10, 2025

This course will explore the concept of reconciliation through theological, philosophical, and historical lenses and will trace the evolution of reconciliation in the aftermath of atrocity, including topics such as post-Holocaust interfaith efforts.

This course will be taught by Rabbi Judy Schindler and Judy LaPietra. It will be offered in person (with a Zoom link and recording for those who are traveling).

The fee for the semester is \$245. Proceeds support the Stan Greenspon Holocaust Education Center and Jewish Life at Queens University. Space is limited.

Register: engage.queens.edu/register/FallSignatureClass25

QUEENS
UNIVERSITY CHARLOTTE

**STAN GREENSPON
HOLOCAUST
EDUCATION CENTER**

MISTER G

**An Intergenerational Concert Program
Geared for Kids (age 2-8) Along With Their
Parents, Grandparents, or Caregivers**

SAVE THE DATE: LIVE CONCERT & BOOK SIGNING
Sunday, November 9th • 4-6pm
Registration info & details coming soon!

A collaboration between

Ben Gundersheimer
"MISTER G"
 is a Latin GRAMMY Award-winning artist, author, and educator. Hailed as "a bilingual rock star" by The Washington Post, and "irresistible" by People magazine, he tours internationally playing everywhere from Lollapalooza and Lincoln Center to climate change rallies on Capitol Hill. His spirited bilingual performances aim to help children see each other across borders and foster cross-cultural connections.

DISCOVER JEWISH SUMMER CAMPS AT THE CAMP FAIR!

Looking for the perfect summer experience for your child?

When: Wednesday, November 12 | 6:00–7:30 PM
Where: Sam Lerner Center at Shalom Park
Come early! Inizio Pizza Truck on site starting at 5:00 PM

What to expect:

- Meet camp directors and representatives — all in one place!
- Learn about programs, scholarships, and registration details
- Kids enjoy camp-style games, crafts, and a candy bar!
- Discover the perfect camp fit for your family



CHARLOTTE
JEWISH 2025
FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTS



BAD SHABBOS



Join us for a night of laughter and outrageous family dynamics with **Bad Shabbos**, a hilarious comedy that turns a traditional Shabbat dinner into absolute chaos. Director Daniel Robbins will be joining us for a virtual Q & A after the film. Childcare (up to 5th Grade) provided during the screening so parents can relax and enjoy the film! Register by 11/7 to secure your spot in JKID Club childcare.

November 15 at 6pm

Sam Lerner Center at Shalom Park

\$18 per person (includes 1 raffle ticket to win an all-festival pass)

\$18 dinner (add on)

\$25 per child at JKID Club (\$10 each additional child - includes pizza dinner)



Director
Daniel Robbins



SCAN QR CODE to purchase tickets,
dinner, and childcare or follow this link:
<https://artsatthejudus.com/200499455>

ב"ה

10TH
ANNIVERSARY
SAVE THE DATE
11.16.25
KEYNOTE: DR. TEMPLE GRANDIN



Hey, Charlotte!

The Camp Judaea team
is coming to town.

Join us for an
Open House to
learn more about
Summer 2026.

Sunday
November 16, 2025
1:30PM

Address provided upon RSVP



RSVP at campjudaea.org



מחנה יהודה
**CAMP
JUDAEA**
HENDERSONVILLE, NC



UNPACKING ISRAEL MASTERCLASS SERIES

Thursday, Nov. 20,
7 PM
Sam Lerner Center
for Cultural Arts



**Jewish
Federation**
of Greater Charlotte

Jewish
Community
Relations
Council

www.jewishcharlotte.org



**Outshine
HATE**





Charlotte
Symphony
Orchestra

*Celebrate Hanukkah with
Music, Light, and Community*

Festival of Lights

A HANUKKAH CONCERT

Thursday, December 18, 2025
7:30 pm • Knight Theater



Christopher James Lees
conductor



Benjamin Geller
viola

On the fifth night of Hanukkah, join the Charlotte Symphony as we bring together voices from Jewish congregations across the region — for the first time — for a joyful celebration of music and light.

Enjoy inspiring performances by cantors and a children's choir, plus a lively sing-along of favorite Hanukkah songs.

Presented by the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra in collaboration with the Charlotte Jewish Community.

BUY TICKETS NOW!
charlottesymphony.org

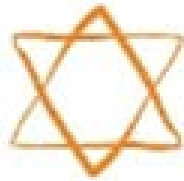


Cantor Shira Lissek
vocalist



Cantor Danielle Rodnizki
vocalist





Temple Emanuel

320 S. South Street, Gastonia, NC 28052

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

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

Office email: [Temple Emanuel](mailto:TempleEmanuel@gmail.com)

**Proudly affiliated with
the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and the Union for Reform Judaism**

