



A NOTE FROM RABBI VALERIE

With every new year, a refreshed sense of hope arises. Whether secular or religious, a new year inherently says: we get to start over. Although the past challenges haven't faded away, we are invited to take a deep breath and look at our landscape from a different viewpoint. A new year is a fresh start – for us, for nature, for the world – if we choose to accept it in that way.

Judaism is overflowing with blessings when it comes to “new years”. In addition to our secular new year, we have four new years. Yes – four!

Most of us know about Rosh Hashana, the head of the year, the Jewish New Year that takes place on the 1st day of the Hebrew month of Tishrei. This is our current religious New Year's Day. The 1st day of Tishrei has additional reasons for being a new year. This date is considered the New Year of kings: the new year for measuring the reigns of foreign kings, necessary because legal documents were dated by the current year of a monarch's reign. The 1st of Tishrei is also the new year for setting the Sabbatical year, during which land may not be cultivated, as well as the new year for setting the Jubilee year, the fiftieth year following seven cycles of Sabbatical years. Lastly, the 1st of Tishrei is also the new year for figuring the yearly tithe (ma'aser), or ten percent tax, on vegetables and grains.

The second new year is the 15th of Shevat, the New Year for trees, also referred to as the birthday of the trees.

The third Jewish new year is the 1st of Nisan, which corresponds to the season of the redemption from Egypt and the birth of the Israelite nation. The first of Nisan is also the New Year for the reigns of Jewish kings, the renting of houses, and the counting involved in the prohibition against delaying the fulfillment of vows.

The last new year, 1 Elul, is the New Year for the tithing of cattle.

A lot of new year celebrations, a lot of reasons for renewed hope and blessing.

Hope is one of our major values that illustrates the true character of the Jewish people, even when our attitude sounds deeply pessimistic. Every blessing and every prayer leans toward the positive. We have prayers that refer to the Messiah or a Messianic age; we have prayers recalling our past redemption and setting it as a sign of our future redemption; we have prayers mentioning our faith in God's ability to protect us, to restore our health, to bring us rain and food and good fortune. Even our prayer for mourners to speak in their time of grief uses words of praise.

Hope is not our latest “word of the year,” but rather the theme of every new year and every new day. This is why the song HaTikvah, “The Hope” became Israel's national anthem, almost organically, as it was sung year after year by Israelis and Jews around the world. Although it wasn't until 2004 that the Israeli government officially made HaTikvah the national anthem, the Jewish people had decided it long ago.

HaTikvah is Based on a 19th century Hebrew poem entitled Tikvatenu, “Our Hope” by Naftali Hertz Imber. The line in the song that shouts out to me is the first line of Imber's poem, “Our hope is not yet lost.”

Against all odds, in every difficult situation that faces us, “our hope is not yet lost”... our hope will never be lost.



MUSIC NEWS

Hello Friends,

Wow! It is winter already, Hanukkah is behind us, 2024 is right ahead, and we are getting closer to Purim. I cannot wait to start working with the kids on the Purim spiel; it is going to be great.

We have a fantastic new singing group, and I cannot tell you how happy I am to work with each and every one of our singing members. We already have two new song arrangements and the group sounds so good! I'm sure you will all be able to listen to them sing on a Friday night service in the future. If you want to join us, it's not too late - just let me know.

Additionally, we have been having some beautiful services on Shabbat mornings as a part of our religious school, and you are all invited. I'd love to see you there.

While Rabbi Valerie took her sabbatical these last couple of months, I had the chance to work with many of you, which was absolutely fantastic. I enjoyed speaking with all of you and getting to know you even better.

I want to wish you a safe winter.

Be well,
Gitit

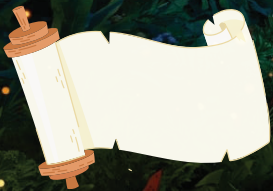
5784 Purim Spiel & Carnival

Saturday, March 23 11am - 2pm

"WE DON'T TALK ABOUT HAMAN"

A Purim Spiel Set to the Music of Encanto

An Interactive All Ages Program
Carnival Immediately Following Spiel



Open Call for Actors - No Skill or Talent Required
Contact gitit.shoval@gmail.com or the Temple office if interested

SAVE THE DATES

Antisemitism on My Mind

Saturday, January 20, 10:00am

A Shabbat morning program to gather and support one another during these unsettled times.

In person only. Registration required.

More details to follow.

Greening Committee

Pot Luck and Program

Saturday, February 10, 6:00pm

More details to follow.

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2024 WORSHIP SERVICES

SHEMOT

Friday, January 5
Candle Lighting at 4:11pm
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Saturday, January 6
Exodus 1:1-6:1

VAERA

Friday, January 12
Candle Lighting at 4:18pm
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Saturday, January 13
10:30am Torah Study
Exodus 6:2-9:35

BO

Friday, January 19
Candle Lighting at 4:26pm
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Saturday, January 20
10:30am Torah Study
Exodus 10:1-13:16

BESHALACH

Friday, January 26
Candle Lighting at 4:35pm
Shabbat Shira
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Saturday, January 27
10:30am Torah Study
Exodus 13:17-17:16

YITRO

Friday, February 2
Candle Lighting at 4:44pm
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Saturday, February 3
10:30am Torah Study
Exodus 18:1-20:23

MISHPATIM

Friday, February 9
Candle Lighting at 4:53pm
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Saturday, February 10
10:30am Torah Study
Exodus 21:1-24:18; Numbers 28:9-15

TERUMAH

Friday, February 16
Candle Lighting at 5:02pm
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Saturday, February 17
10:30am Torah Study
Exodus 25:1-27:19

TETZAVEH

Friday, February 23
Candle Lighting at 5:11pm
7:30pm Shabbat Service
Saturday, February 24
10:30am Torah Study
Exodus 27:20-30:10

All WORSHIP SERVICES are held in person and livestreamed (emanuelsinai.org)

TORAH STUDY meets in person and via Zoom.

MINYAN is held every Monday at 5:45pm (except when the office is closed) only via Zoom and Livestream
Login information can be found in eNews.

CLERGY & STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Rabbi Valerie Cohen
rabbivaleriecohen@gmail.com

Gitit Shoval, Cantorial Soloist & Music Director
gshoval@emanuelsinai.org

Talia Mugg, RS Director
tmugg@emanuelsinai.org

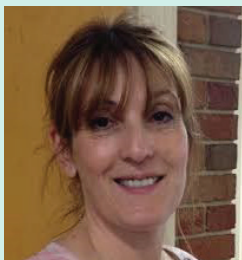
Christa Benoit, Office Assistant
cbenoit@emanuelsinai.org

Jade Le'Jeune, Temple Administrator
jlejeune@emanuelsinai.org

Sophia Schlegelmilch, Communications Administrator
sschleg@emanuelsinai.org

Steve Contois, Caretaker

Temple Main Phone Line
508-755-1257



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL AND YOUTH NEWS

Shalom from the Religious School!

Happy New Secular Year! I hope you had a nice winter vacation.

As we embrace the winter season, it's a time of deep learning and community building at Temple Emanuel Sinai Religious School. Despite the chill in the air, the warmth of our community and the dedication of our students keep our spirits high. Our students have shown remarkable progress in both Hebrew and Jewish studies. Each class, from the youngest to the oldest, is diving deeper into the language, mastering new words, and embracing the rich heritage that comes with it. The dedication of our students to their Hebrew studies is inspiring, fostering a deeper connection to our Jewish roots.

Building a strong Jewish community remains a cornerstone of our school's mission. We have seen wonderful interactions between different grades, with older students mentoring the younger ones in various aspects of Jewish life and learning. These interactions not only reinforce the sense of community but also help inculcate values of leadership and empathy among our students.

As Tu BiShvat approaches, our students will be working on individual class projects to celebrate this New Year for the Trees. These projects will not only highlight the importance of this day but also allow students to explore their creativity and connection to the environment from a Jewish perspective.

Grade 4 and 5 students are once again preparing for the much-anticipated Purim Spiel. This year's performance promises to be as entertaining and engaging as ever, with students putting in great effort to bring the story of Purim to life. The Spiel is not just a performance but a learning experience, teaching our students about the traditions and the story of Purim.

As we move through these winter months, we will continue to focus on our growth in Hebrew, Jewish studies, and community building. We look forward to sharing more updates and achievements in our next newsletter.

Please note that we are following the Worcester Public Schools snow cancellation policy. In addition, the office will send an email when there is no school due to inclement weather.

L'Shalom!

Talia



B'NAI MITZVAH SPOTLIGHT

Sofia Evelyn Rogers

Daughter of Michelle & Tim Rogers

Bat Mitzvah - February 3

Sofia is very active in sports, playing on three softball teams and two field hockey teams. She also enjoys skiing, drawing, playing video games and spending time with her friends and family. She hopes to one day become a Veterinarian.

Antisemitism in Eastern Europe: Origins, Normalization, and Aftermath

New Date Added

**Session 3:
Sunday
January 7
1:00pm**

**Join us in person
in the Beit Midrash
and virtually on
Zoom**

A three-part course series on the development of antisemitism in Eastern Europe leading up to the Holocaust, led by guest speaker Jessa Sinnott, Doctoral candidate at the Strassler Center for Holocaust Studies at Clark University.



WORCESTER CONGREGATIONS FOR CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Approximately four years ago several area faith communities joined forces to form the Worcester Congregations for Climate and Environmental Justice (WCC&EJ). Temple Emanuel Sinai is a founding member of this initiative and is currently represented by Greening Committee members Yael Savage, Margot Barnet, and David Coyne.

Our group of Worcester area interfaith communities meets monthly to discuss initiatives that focus on our respective institutional footprints, on personal and household choices, and on policy advocacy. We have helped organize and participate in a number of events, including workshops, speakers, and protests. Most recently, WCC&EJ collaborated with other environmental organizations in Worcester to encourage the Worcester City Council to adopt a new building code which ensures that new construction is wired to be electric-friendly for all appliances and HVAC systems.

TEMPLE EMANUEL SINAI'S ISRAEL ADVENTURE:

A PALETTE OF EXPERIENCES
LED BY RABBI VALERIE COHEN
NOVEMBER 7-17 2024

Registration Now Open!
Visit j2adventures.com
or scan the QR code



PASSIONATE JEWISH JOURNEYS
EDUCATIONAL & EXPERIENTIAL JOURNEYS CREATED WITH YOU IN MIND.
NYC | TLV | PRG | JHB | [J2ADVENTURES.COM](https://j2adventures.com)



B.T.'s Smokehouse

392 Main St. Sturbridge, MA
508-347-3188
www.btsmokehouse.com

B.T.'s Fried Chicken & BBQ

Corner of Park and Chandler
Worcester, MA
774-530-6152
www.btschickenandbbq.com

TES DONATIONS: OCTOBER 1, 2023 – NOVEMBER 30, 2023

Brotherhood Scholarship Funds

Lee & Chuck Radlo in memory of Carl Radlo

Lurier Scholarship Fund

Suzanne & Herbert Feldman wishing Barcy Proctor a speedy recovery

Marsha, Deborah Jeffrey & Jay Gordon in memory of Mary Gordon

Lurier Family in memory of Howard Lurier

Manuel G. Berman Scholarship Fund

David & Joel Berman in memory of Manuel Goodman Berman

Camp Scholarship Fund

Merilee & Alan Freeman in memory of Jay Flynn

Caring Committee Fund

Lori-Ann Cutler in memory of Bobbie Chase

David & Sarah Gould Musical Festival Fund

Michael Mandel & David Steinhorn in memory, love, and appreciation for Rabbi Joseph Klein, Eli Burack, Belle Cohen, and Gertrude Roger

General Fund

Joanne Kaplan Bartosik in memory of Louis K. Moranz

Nancy Benjamin in memory of Alfred Garber

Nancy Benjamin in memory of Harold Benjamin

Ruth Berman & Family in memory of Myron Berman

Tobey & Louis Burwick in memory of Herbert Nestor

Herbert Dean in memory of Joan Dean

Nancy & Steven Epstein in memory of David Garber

Saul Feingold

Ceril Fish in memory of Howard Fish

Barbara Freedman in memory of David Nemser Freedman

Paula Freeman & Jeremy Soybel in memory of William Soybel

Ann Greenberg in memory of Miriam Goldberg

Judy, Mark & Sam Hayes in memory of Lester A. Macktez

Susanna Henley in memory of Rabbi Joseph Klein

Linda Ilan in memory of Dorothy and Abbee Jaffee

Ottillie & Jeffrey Levine in memory of Benjamin Levine, Fanya

Levine, Isidore Seidman and Roger Malfiet

Beth-Ann & Steven Martunas in memory of Jacob Y. Young

Laura Myers in memory of Sol Myers

Becky & George Pins in memory of Robert Pins

Lee & Chuck Radlo in memory of Joan Ciccarone and Marion Lent

Rosalie Rose in memory of Frieda Teichman

Rosalie Rose in memory of Sidney Rose

Elana Rosenbaum & David Levitin in memory of Goldie Rosenbaum

Elana Rosenbaum & David Levitin in memory of Morris Levitin

Elana Rosenbaum & David Levitin in memory of Gertrude Levitin

David Sadick in memory of Sara Sadick

Judy & Allan Shriber

Garie & Howard Stein in memory of Syliva Stein and Jeffrey Stein

Albert Tapper in memory of Samuel Louis Tapper

Diane Westerman in memory of Herbert Aisenberg

Mara Yerow in memory of Leonard Yerow

High Holy Day Appeal

Nancy Berley & Scott Dworman

Ruth Berman

Joan & Norman Bress

Harriette Chandler

Janet & Alan Chapman

Ellen & Stephen Cutler

Joanne DeMoura & Martin Richman

Carole Dorris

Marshall Farmelant in memory of Melvin Farmelant

Deborah Feingold & David Dimenstein

Suzanne & Herbert Feldman

Marilyn Goldsmith

Erin Goldstein & German Chiriboga

Adele & Donald Gross

Lisa Gussak

Alex & Alan Hershon

Horne Family

Karen & Jeffrey Horne in honor of Susan Connolly

Patty & Don Jacobs

Eydie Kasendorf

Shelley & Gerald Kashuk

Valerie Kerxhalli & Jesse Caplan

Michelle Landry

Ellyn Lazar

Nancy & Garry Levitsky

Frances & David Lubin

Sandra Meltzer

Marcy & Matthew Ostrow

Heather & Paul Posner

Chuck Raphaelson

Eileen & Paul Robbins

Elana Rosenbaum & David Levitin

Hannah & Maurice Sachs

Anne & Jonathan Sadick

David Sadick

Marsha & Mark Scharf

Michael Sharpe

Marcy & Fred Shuster

Esta & Jeffrey Singer

Carol & Michal Sleeper

Brian Spind

Garie & Howard Stein

Howard Stempler

Carla Royak-Volturo & Gregg Volturo

Amy & Simon Waters

Carlton Watson

Joseph Weisberg

DONATIONS CONTINUED

Hour of Need Family Shelter Fund (IHN)

Elisabeth Cotton
Ronna & Jonah Cuker
Barbara & Gary Englander
Marshall Farmelant
Ceril Fish
Leslie Fish & Jerry Gurwitz
Helene & Lawrence Freed
Merilee & Alan Freeman
Ellen & Richard Gansler
Patti & Harvey Gould
Joan-Beth & Neil Gow
Lisa Gussak
Judy, Mark & Sam Hayes
Barton Kamp
Valerie Kerxhalli & Jesse Caplan
Ottillie & Jeffrey Levine
Dorothy Lurier
Abby & Don Mayou
Marlene & David Persky
Becky & George Pins
Carolyn & Dennis Powers
Lee & Chuck Radlo
Elana Rosenbaum & David Levitin
Marjorie Rosenfeld in memory of Bobbie Chase
Patricia Roy
Anne & Jonathan Sadick
Yael Savage
Paula & Dennis Selvitella
Deb & Mark Shear
Judy & Allan Shriber
Sandy Sotak
Barbara & Joel Strogoff
Karen & Tom Thomsen

Lifelong Learning Fund

TES Hiking Group in memory of Joanna Levine

Music Fund

Martha Grace in memory of Nason A. Hurowitz
Sandra Meltzer in memory of David Meltzer
Orland & Silverstein families in memory of Gail Levine Topol

Oneg Fund

Margo Austein & Steve Miller

Prayerbook Fund

Roberta Sufrin in memory of Myer Shapiro
and William Shapiro
Roberta Sufrin in memory of Lillian Shapiro
Roberta Sufrin in memory of Dora Shapiro

Rabbi's Fund

Deborah & David Bunker in memory of Irma Epstein
Trudy & Merrill Cohen in memory of Zelda Chafetz
Anne & Stuart Diamond in memory of Freda Diamond
Patti & Harvey Gould in memory of Bobbie Chase
and Dr. Phillip Schwartz
Valerie Kerxhalli & Jesse Caplan in memory of
Francis Dowgielewicz
Valerie Kerxhalli & Jesse Caplan & Family in memory of
Elaine Caplan and Steven Kerxhalli
Barcy Proctor in memory of Frank Gopen and Bessie Proctor
Elaine Rosen in memory of Herman Rosen
Deb, Mark, Erica & Alyssa Shear in memory of
Myron Berman and Gerald Shear
Judy & Allan Shriber in memory of Maurice J. Ravelson
Edward Stein & Family in memory of Sylvia Stein,
Harry Stein and Jeffrey Stein
Barbara & Joel Strogoff in memory of Stanford L. Strogoff
Lora Trotsky & Andrew Kotin in memory of Gerald Kotin

Social Action Fund

Yael Savage in memory of Robert Sarja

Willins Fund

Ron Joseph in memory of Alan Joseph

TELEPHONE
508-485-6653
FAX
508-485-1311

JEFFREY D. LEVINE, M.D.

PRACTICE LIMITED TO THE EYE

**372 CHANDLER STREET
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01602**

PATRICK

You Do Better!

Patrick Volkswagen

519 Washington St. Auburn MA
508-832-8883

Patrick Mazda

189 Washington St. Auburn, MA
508-438-1675

Patrick Subaru

247 Boston Turnpike Shrewsbury, MA
508-756-8364

Volvo Cars Worcester

519 Washington St. Auburn, MA
508-438-1675



SUBARU



mazda



WWW.PATRICKMOTORS.COM

Committed to Our Community For Over 100 Years



SEDERLAW

Scan to explore timely
and informative legal
insights from our team



SEDER & CHANDLER LLP

Worcester and Westborough

sederlaw.com (508) 757-7721

A SKILLED TEAM

Representing businesses and individuals
in both simple and complex legal matters.

FOR THE LIFE OF YOUR BUSINESS
& THE BUSINESS OF YOUR LIFE

NORTH OXFORD MILLS

Carpet and Flooring

The best values in flooring since 1970

Robert Mack Commercial/Residential Markets

3 Clara Barton Road • North Oxford, MA 01537
P: 508-987-8521 • Cell: 508-887-6656 • Fax: 508-987-3413
rob@northoxfordmills.com • www.northoxfordmills.com



Carpet • Braided Rugs • Hardwood • Ceramic • Rubber • Vinyl • Tile • Linoleum



The
FEINGOLD Companies

Feingold Insurance Agency
Feingold Financial Management
Feingold Employee Benefit Services

Saul F. Feingold

Lisa M. Hirbour

David M. Dimenstein

Two Chestnut Place

508-831-9500

22 Elm Street

800-370-1718

Worcester, MA 01608-1727

FAX: 508-797-4030

On the Web at www.Feingoldco.com

College Resource Associates

Personal Guidance for Students and Families Preparing for College



Empowering Students for College Success



LET US HELP YOU

- * Identify 'best fit' colleges
- * Understand application and testing options
- * Prepare effective essays and resumes
- * Ace admission interviews
- * Manage performing arts requirements
- * Obtain and evaluate financial aid awards

Apply with confidence to colleges that will be thrilled to have YOU as a student!

Contact us at (508) 757-8920 or

Joan@CollegeResourceAssoc.com

Assisted Living



the way it should be.

Spacious Apartments | Beautiful Courtyards | Comfortable Common Areas



- Kosher Dining
- Specialized Memory Care Unit
- Respite Care
- All Inclusive Pricing
- 24/7 Professional, Caring Staff
- Transportation to Appointments
- Social, Cultural & Educational Activities
- Housekeeping & Linen Services
- Onsite Shabbat & Religious Services

*Luxury, Convenience,
and Independence for
Seniors*



Eisenberg
Assisted Living
An Affiliate of Jewish
Healthcare Center

Open for Admissions | Schedule a Tour Today!
631 Salisbury St, Worcester, MA (508) 713-0549
www.eisenbergal.com

Levenson Smile

Experience Exceptional Dental Care
In Worcester, MA



9 LINDEN ST, WORCESTER
508-753-3105
LEVENSONSMILE.COM

OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE

YOUNG'S



TREE SERVICE

***"SPECIALIZING IN
DANGEROUS TREES"***

Fully Insured • Free Estimates

JOHN H. YOUNG, JR.
508-885-TREE
1-800-660-5358



Insurance & Risk Management

Mike Wolpert

www.wolpert.com

18 John Street Place
Worcester, MA 01609

(508) 459-4700



Now Serving
**The Greater Worcester
Jewish Community**



*The only locally-owned, full-service funeral home
providing traditional preparation on-site.*

TRADITIONAL AND
CONTEMPORARY SERVICES



Worcester, MA • (800) 854-0486 • mercadante.com

Pursue your Passions

Proudly serving the Temple Emanuel Sinai community and beyond with our Continuum of Care, including on-site services, premium amenities and exceptional programming.

SALMON at Worcester

101 Barry Road | Worcester, MA 01609

Attend a free community event, schedule a private tour or request more info.

(508) 290-6929 or salmonhealth.com/sinai

SALMON
HEALTH & RETIREMENT



Mechanical Contractor

J. J. BAFARO, INC.

Plumbing • HVAC • Sheet Metal
Design • Installation • Service
Commercial • Industrial • Residential

SERVING MASSACHUSETTS
FOR OVER FOUR DECADES!

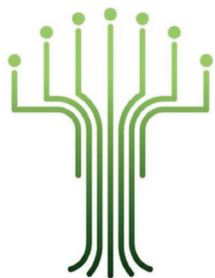


9-13 Winter St., P.O. Box 943, Worcester, MA 01613

WWW.JJBAFARO.COM

Phone: 508-757-7429 | Fax: 508-792-3922





Temple Emanuel Sinai
661 Salisbury Street
Worcester, MA 01609
www.emanuelsinai.org

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit
US Postage

PAID

Permit #1707
Worcester, MA

Miles Funeral Homes

800.983.4434 or 508.829.4434

www.milesfuneralhome.com

*Proudly Serving the Jewish Community
of Greater Worcester County and surrounding areas*

*Taharah (religious preparation) is performed on-site
by the Worcester Chevra Kadisha*

Richard Mansfield Ricky Mansfield
Funeral Directors / Owners

Richard Perlman* Bruce Wahle*
Funeral Directors