November - December 2024 Tishrei - Kislev 5785 Vol. 14 No. 2





A NOTE FROM RABBI VALERIE

"The Shabbat of the Year." This is the best way to describe Jewish sleep-away camp. I don't know if the phrase was coined by Loui Dobin, former camp director of Greene Family Camp in Texas, but he is the first person I heard it from, and it stuck.

Children who attend Jewish camp experience it as the highlight of their year, the holiest time of their year – although they may not use the word "holy" to describe it. On the day after camp ends, they start counting down the days until they will return for the next summer.

As parents, grandparents, and anyone invested in the growth and vibrancy of Judaism and the Jewish People, we should be sending more of our children to Jewish sleep-away camp. Research has shown that Jewish camping is one of the most effective ways of creating strong Jewish identity in our young people. Jewish camps also build love for and knowledge of Judaism, the Jewish people, and a commitment to Tikkun Olam (repairing the world/social justice). Especially now, with the rise of antisemitism, attending a Jewish sleep-away camp is more important than ever. Camp can provide a safe space for our children to become more confident in themselves as well as create a "village" of support.

The evidence is apparent: talk to almost anyone who attended Jewish camp, and you'll find that they created life-long Jewish friends; still celebrate Jewish holidays and participate in Jewish rituals, albeit in their own way; and are active volunteers. Where can you find camp alumni? In your home, on your social media, at a synagogue and other Jewish nstitutions, engaging in Jewish learning opportunities, at a rally expressing their values, and participating in Jewish arts and music festivals.

I have married so many people who met each other at camp, starting with the person I married – my husband! Jonathan and I met at Greene Family Camp in Texas in the early 1990s, working on staff together. Since then, I have officiated at many weddings of young adults who met at camp, and one of my favorites was of a young man whose parents met at the same camp where he met his fiancé!

Camp not only teaches Judaism and Jewish values, it also teaches our children independence, social skills, and how to have fun without a screen. Camp is the greatest gift you can give to a child. Sending them to camp is also a gift to you - parents and caregivers, and to the entire Jewish community.

We are lucky to have three excellent Jewish sleep-away camps in our region as part of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ): Crane Lake Camp and Eisner Camp, both in the Berkshires; as well as 6 Points Sci-Tech Camp, which is a Jewish specialty camp focusing on science and technology from a Jewish perspective. The URJ also has two other specialty camps with multiple locations: sports camp and a creative arts academy.

Whatever your child is interested in, they can find it at camp. And camp is so important to our community and our congregation that there are multiple scholarships available, some that are currently sitting unused. If your child wants to go to camp, we will help make it possible.

Please contact me (rabbivaleriecohen@mail.com) to learn more.

Jewish sleep-away camp is life-changing - for your child, your family, and the future of the Jewish world.









We have passed through the High Holy Days and Festivals of Sukkot and Simchat Torah. I hope you were able to attend our High Holy Day observances and Sukkot and Simchat Torah festivals as well. Organizing the services is not a small endeavor with the participation of our office staff, led by Jade Le'Jeune, our building supervisor Steve Contois, and our clergy, Rabbi Valerie and cantorial soloist Gitit Shoval, as well as a myriad of members of the congregation, finding individuals to participate in the services, the ark openers, the Torah and Haftarah readers, the ushers/greeters inside the building and the security volunteers outside the building.

These programs are not prepackaged, so to speak, but put together by our clergy and congregants. We have a variety of committees available for participation by our members, and you can make a difference in the life of the congregation. These lay led committees do the work of the congregation, whether it is managing the nuts and bolts of the building by the Properties/Technology committee, the outreach to our own members through the Caring Committee, or outreach to the community at large via the Interfaith Hospitality Network and Racial Justice Alliance and AntiSemitism Awareness groups, or putting our best image forward through Publicity and Membership efforts, or educating ourselves through the activities of the Lifelong Learning Committee, or insuring our efforts to maintain a solid financial footing through the Finance and Endowment committees, or looking to imagine what we will be in 5-10 years via the Futuring Committee, or keeping our community safe via the Security Committee.

There are many opportunities available. We know that participating in social groups makes for healthy individuals, and improves longevity. Participating in any of the synagogue committees, and attending programs facilitates this goal, and assists in G-d's work as well. Please contact the office, or talk to members of the board of trustees if something interests you, of if you have a special expertise which you feel will further the goals of the congregation.

The bimonthly bulletin, and the weekly eNews have all the information about our programs, as well as our website.

I hope this new year, 5785, is healthy, rewarding and fulfilling for all of you.

B'shalom, Gary Wolf President, Board of Trustees



MUSIC NEWS

Dear friends,

The High Holy Days services this year were truly exceptional, filled with moments that really moved and inspired me, from the deeply meaningful sermons by Rabbi Valerie to the exceptional musicians who shared the bimah with me and added richness to our prayers. Kol Halev,

our temple's very own singing group, uplifted us with their beautiful voices. It was a time of reflection and renewal. I'm always in awe of how music and words come together during this sacred time to touch our hearts and souls.

As we transition into the next season, I'm excited to announce that we have a special Chanukah event planned! Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 22nd, when we will be joined by the incredible band Jacob's Ladder. Their vibrant music will bring warmth and joy to our Chanukah celebration. I can't wait to share this special time with all of you!

I wish everyone a season of light and joy! Gitit

CARING COMMITTEE

The Caring Committee/Community recognizes our responsibility to care for one another. In times of joy and celebration, and in times of sadness, illness or mourning, Caring Committee members assist TES congregants by offering friendly phone calls and caring cards/notes.

VOLUNTEER WITH CARING COMMITTEE

We are grateful to our dedicated volunteers who serve on the Caring Committee, and we welcome interested new members.

If you would like to join us (no meetings!), please e-mail us at caring@emanuelsinai.org

Anne Sadick and Marcy Ostrow Co-Chairs, TES Caring Committee



NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2024 WORSHIP SERVICES

NOACH

Friday, November 1 Candle Lighting at 5:22pm 7:30pm Shabbat Service Saturday, November 2 10:30am Torah Study

LECH LECHA

Friday, November 8 Candle Lighting at 4:13pm 5:30pm Family Kabbalat Shabbat, Led by Grades 6/7 7:30pm Shabbat Service Saturday, November 9 10:30am Torah Study

VAYERA

Friday, November 15 Candle Lighting at 4:07pm 6:15pm New Member Shabbat, with Kol Ha'Lev Singing Group Saturday, November 16 10:30am Torah Study 6:30pm Torathan

CHAYEI SARA

Friday, November 22 Candle Lighting at 4:01pm 7:30pm Shabbat Service Saturday, November 23 10:30am Torah Study

TOLDOT

Friday, November 29 Candle Lighting at 3:58pm 7:30pm Shabbat Service Saturday, November 30 10:30am Torah Study

VAYETZEI

Friday, December 6 Candle Lighting at 3:56pm 5:30pm Tot Shabbat 7:30pm Shabbat service Saturday, December 7 10:30am Torah Study

VAYISHLACH

Friday, December 13 Candle Lighting at 3:57pm 7:30pm Shabbat Service Saturday, December 14 10:30am Torah Study

VAYESHEV

Friday, December 20 Candle Lighting at 3:59pm 7:30pm Shabbat Service Saturday, December 21 10:30am Torah Study

HANNUKAH

Sunday, December 22 Time TBD - Hanukkah Dinner and Musical Program See eNews for updates

MIKETZ

Friday, December 27 Candle Lighting at 4:04pm 7:30pm Shabbat Service Saturday, December 28 10:30am Torah Study

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

qshoval@emanuelsinai.org

Talia Mugg, Religious School Director Steve Contois, Caretaker

tmugg@emanuelsinai.org

Christa Benoit, Office Assistant cbenoit@emanuelsinai.org

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

Temple Main Phone Line 508-755-1257

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL AND YOUTH NEWS



Shalom from our Religious School!

As the secular year comes to an end, we are thrilled to share the wonderful progress happening in our Religious School! Our students have been working hard, learning and growing in their knowledge of Hebrew, preparing for Hanukkah, and engaging in acts of kindness.



Hebrew Language Progress

Our students have made great strides in their Hebrew language studies! From mastering reading the aleph-bet to reading basic words and sentences, we are proud of the dedication and enthusiasm shown by each class. In addition, students have been diligently learning and practicing key Hebrew prayers. From the Shema to the Amidah, each class is developing a deeper understanding of the prayer's meanings and significance.

Chanukah Preparation and Celebration

The festival of lights is just around the corner, and we've been busy preparing for this joyous holiday! During November and December, students will be learning about the story of Chanukah, the significance of the Hanukkiah (menorah) and the miracle of the oil. Our Chanukah preparation includes creating arts and crafts, learning blessings, practicing traditional Chanukah songs and making delicious edible dreidels.

Our school-wide Chanukah Celebration will be on Saturday, 12/21. We will light the menorah together, sing, and enjoy special Chanukah programs and treats!

Coats for Kids Donations

As the weather gets colder, we are proud to announce our annual Coats for Kids Drive! We are collecting new coats, hats, gloves, and scarves to donate to students in the Worcester Public Schools. You can send a donation with your child from now until December 15th. We will also have a collection bin at the Worcester JCC.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

November 8: Friday night early service led by grades 6/7

November 11: No school Veterans Day weekend November 27 - 30: No school. Thanksgiving break December 25 - January 1: No school. Winter break

We're looking forward to a wonderful few months filled with learning, celebration, and community! Thank you for your continued support in helping our students thrive.

B'shalom, Talia



2024/5785 Chanukah Dinner and Program

featuring Jacob's Ladder Bluegrass Band

Sunday, December 22

We invite everyone to come join us for our annual Chanukah Dinner and Music Program!



The evening begins with dinner, Chanukah candle lighting and songs, followed by activities for kids, and ending with a very special musical performance by Jacob's Ladder Bluegrass Band. This program is sure to be fun for all ages! Stay tuned to the eNews for updates on times.

Jacob's Ladder is an internationally touring band seeking to push the boundaries of contemporary Jewish music and traditional American Roots music through Jewish communal singing and prayer. In melding these two musical worlds, they tell their story through Eastern European Ashkenazic and Sephardic Jewish traditions, but also through their American heritage and its influence on their unique musical style. Their debut album "Beit El" explores genre-bending across choral and cantorial traditions finding their way into communal prayer, rock, West-African styles, bluegrass, and American folk song.



Learn more about Jacob's Ladder Bluegrass Band at jacobsladdermusic.com



New Member Shabbat

November 15

Pre-neg at 5:45pm, followed by service at 6:15pm



The Worship Committee invites everyone to this special service to welcome our newest members. Please join us for an early service to welcome all our new member families.

Let's all take part in helping our newest members feel welcome and honored, here at Temple Emanuel Sinai. Service is early so that children of all ages can join us (they can be nice and comfy in their pajamas!) Check the eNews for more updates or contact The Worship Committee at worship@emanuelsinai.org. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Please note the time change on November 15th the weekly Shabbat service will start early.

A call for action in our community!

Help families living in the IHN (In the Hour of Need) family shelter in Worcester

IHN accepts 6 families with children who don't qualify for state-funded shelter

Please contribute today! Every dollar makes an impact Your donation of time and money is needed now more than ever!

Our congregation has been supporting IHN since its inception, more than 20 years ago.



91 June St.

TES hosting period is 12/08/24 – 12/28/24. We raise crucial funds for staffing, food, case management, and operational expenses.

Volunteers play a crucial role at IHN. Between 12/8-12/28 spend an evening, (5:30 PM to 8:30 PM) or overnight (8:30 PM to 6:30 AM) at the IHN house. Overnight volunteers sleep on cots in the staff office. Volunteers may interact with families as much or as little as they choose.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering or to sign up please email **ihntes99@gmail.com**. We'll be happy to speak with you!

Please help IHN families secure a safe home! 100% of funds are donated to IHN.

- Make checks payable to **TES- IHN fund** and mail to TES
- Donate through the TES website; click on the <u>Donations & Payments tab</u>, and under Payment Details: select IHN family shelter

Donations may be made in honor of a person, special event, or in memory of a loved one.

Questions about TES involvement? Contact

Mark Birnbaum, birnbaumm@merrimack.edu or Susan Hayes, sueron01501@gmail.com

To learn more about IHN visit ihnworcester.org
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!





Worcester JCC Author Series in partnership with Temple Emanuel Sinai & the Hibernian Cultural Centre presents



Award-Winning Historian Hasia Diner

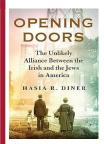
author of:

Opening Doors: The Unlikely Alliance Between the Irish and the Jews in America

In conversation with Frances Tanzer, Rose Professor of Holocaust Studies and Jewish Culture, Clark University

Sunday, November 10 at 2pm
Traditional Irish Music Seisiun will follow at 4pm
Hibernian Cultural Centre, 19 Temple Street, Worcester

FREE and open to the public Food available for purchase



In *Opening Doors*, Hasia Diner, one of the world's preeminent historians of immigration, describes how Jewish and Irish immigrants worked together to secure legitimacy in America at the turn of the 20th century. The book draws from a deep well of historical sources to show how Irish and Jewish Americans became steadfast allies in classrooms, picket lines, and political machines, helping one another to become key power players in shaping America's future.

Hasis Diner is a professor emerita of American Jewish History and former chair of the Irish Studies program at New York University. She is the author of numerous books on Jewish and Irish histories in the U.S. She has also held Guggenheim and Fulbright fellowships and served as Director of the Goren Center for American Jewish History at NYU.

For more information and to RSVP contact: Nancy Greenberg ngreenberg@worcesterjcc.org 508-756-7109 x 232





Worcester



633 Salisbury Street, Worcester P 508.756.7109 F 508.754.3373 worcesterjcc.org



Made possible by a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Central Mass

JCC Author Series at TES continues on December 15, 10am, at Temple Emanuel Sinai



Daniel Schulman, is a best-selling author and journalist whose work has appeared in publications including the Boston Globe Magazine, Politico, Vanity Fair, the Washington Post, and Mother Jones, where he is the magazine's deputy Washington, DC bureau chief.





JEWISH IDENTITY AND ANTISEMITISM

The Antisemitism Awareness Initiative, together with Lifelong Learning, has been previewing, reading, and listening to resources about Jewish identity and antisemitism. Below is a sampling of materials that you might find informative and interesting. We hope to offer some programming in the near future based on some of these resources. Keep your eyes open for more information! For comments or questions, please contact Patti Gould, pogould@yahoo.com

Resources

- 1. Who Are the Jews and Who Can We Become? a podcast with Donniel Hartman
- 2. We Need to Talk About Antisemitism, a book by Rabbi Diana Fersko
- 3. How to Fight Antisemitism, a book by Bari Weiss
- 4. Love, Hate, and Jewish Identity, an article by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks
- 5. The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store, a book by James McBride
- 6. Judaism Is About Love, a book by Rabbi Shai Held
- 7. Tablets Shattered, a book by Joshua Leifer
- 8. The Golden Age of American Jews Is Ending, an article by Jonathan Foer



INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM - REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

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This class is for you: If you are Jewish, but never attended Religious School, or don't remember any of it! If you are interested in finding a new home in Judaism. If you have Jewish family (partner, Jewish grandchildren, extended family, etc.) If you have Jewish friends and you want to learn more about them. Or if you simply want to learn about Judaism for any reason. Everyone is welcome!

The course costs: \$180

Complimentary for members of Temple Emanuel Sinai and Suburban Temple - Kol Ami Scholarships available



ADULT BEGINNER'S PATH TO BIBLICAL HEBREW

Led by Rabbi Valerie Cohen

Thursdays, 6-7pm
December 5, 2025 – February 27, 2025
In person only

Want to unlock the ancient language of the Jewish people? We have the key!

Through this beginner's course, you will learn to understand and translate Biblical Hebrew.



Knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet and vowels including the ability to pronounce/sight-read words required. We will be using as our textbook: The First Hebrew Primer, Third Edition, EKS Publishing

Classes meet weekly and are free of charge.

However, we ask that those who are not members of Temple Emanuel Sinai consider making a regular contribution.

Please contact the Temple office to register OR let us know if you are interested but cannot attend on Thursdays: office@emanuelsinai.org

TES DONATIONS: AUGUST 1, 2024 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Brotherhood Scholarship Funds

Lee & Chuck Radlo in memory of Carl Radlo

Lurier Scholarship Fund

Suzanne & Herbert Feldman in memory of Jane Rothstein

Suzanne & Herbert Feldman in memory of

Eugene Gae Feldman and Morris W. Feldman

Suzanne & Herbert Feldman in memory of Anna Shatsoff

Marsha Gordon in honor of Suzanne & Herbert Feldman's birthdays and special anniversary

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Joan & Richard Freedman and Family in memory of Frances Freedman

Joan & Richard Freedman and Family in memory of Mac Levine

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Caring Committee Fund

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Floral Fund

Davida & Joel Berman in honor of Suzanne & Herbert Feldman's special birthday and anniversary

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Debbie & Steven Feingold in memory of Melvin Lubowitz

Rhonda, Mark & Dara Feldman in honor of Suzanne & Herbert Feldman's momentous year

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Wolfson Family in memory of Cora Wolfson

High Holy Day Appeal

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Liza & John Carrigan

Rabbi Valerie & Jonathan Cohen

Barbara & Gary Englander

Ann Greenberg

Emily & James Holdstein

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Mara & Joshua Lappin

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<u> High Holy Day Appeal</u>

David Meyers

IHN Fund (In the Hour of Need)

Lynne & Steven Silver

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Ma'ot Chitim Fund

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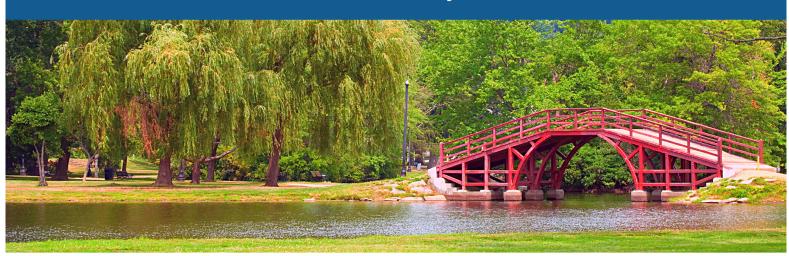






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