

# Temple Emanuel of the Merrimack Valley

Celebrating the many ways to be Jewish

## The Bulletin

Volume 65 Number 2

November 2016 – January 2017

### From the Rabbi...

*Autumn Gratuities, and Celebrating Thanksgiving Together*

Autumn always feels like an awkward, sometimes jarring, time of transition – there are brisk, windy mornings, when we step outside and nearly gasp at the unexpected chill, followed by afternoons when we peel off layers of clothing and roll down the windows on our way home to let some of the heat out of the car. Here in New England, days of abundant, autumn-dappled sunshine follow days of torrential downpours. And we sometimes experience nature's fury unleashed in the form of unexpected and early snowstorms, or hurricanes riding up through the Caribbean and wreaking destruction along our shores. As the trees shed their leaves for their long winter sleep, the grass defiantly continues to grow, flouting the oncoming winter and eking out all it can of the last bits of warmth and sun.

Whatever we may experience from day to day throughout these fall months, the overarching theme is "gratitude." We sat in our Sukkah a week or two ago, and despite the rain, were grateful for the opportunity to gather together and celebrate, freely and publicly, a Jewish holiday. We will go to the polls (please do!) next week, and appreciate that we enjoy freedoms in our land that are far from universal. Later this month, we will join friends and family for Thanksgiving to appreciate the incredible abundance in our lives.

During the T'filah, or Amidah, we say: modim anachnu lach – "we give thanks to You." While certain texts in the Amidah may change or be omitted on certain days or times, Modim is everpresent, reminding us to appreciate not only our lives and souls, but also the blessings, favors, and miracles bestowed upon us every day, morning and evening.



Not only is gratitude a sacred obligation, according to current research in the field of psychology, gratitude offers benefits in health, happiness, satisfaction, and how we relate to others. In various studies conducted in recent years, subjects who participated in "gratitude" conditions – by keeping diaries, writing letters of thanks, or otherwise focusing on blessings, experienced significant increases in happiness and satisfaction in their lives, even when they faced chronic health or personal challenges (there are many citations available; two appear below).

It's true that some among our community are struggling, financially, physically, emotionally or spiritually – and we are enjoined to reach out and welcome those who may be alone into our homes, at Sukkot, at Thanksgiving, and throughout the year.

It's true that some among our community are struggling, financially, physically, emotionally or spiritually – and we are enjoined to reach out and welcome those who may be alone into our homes, at Sukkot, at Thanksgiving, and throughout the year.

**I would like to offer everyone in our community an opportunity to be part of a gratitude mitzvah:** If you would welcome an extra person or two into your home for Thanksgiving, or if you would like to be welcomed as a guest, please phone my cell or email me and I will be very happy to act as *shadchen* (matchmaker) to ensure that ALL in our TEMV family have the opportunity to share in the warmth and joy that Thanksgiving offers us.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Robin S. Sparr

<http://www.health.harvard.edu/healthbeat/giving-thanks-can-make-you-happier>



## Presidents' Message

Dear TEMV Community

There is a momentum, spirit quietly infusing into our community—I like to call it the spirit of generosity, that permeates many of the things we do, what we say and how we treat each other.

It can be ...

- extending a smile to a newcomer;
- making a phone call to someone who is sick;
- donating money anonymously in order to enjoy our guest cellist this Kol Nidre Cameron Sawzin;
- helping a member navigate through the loss of a loved one;
- chatting with a friend after services;
- making lunches for the homeless;
- suggesting an idea for a meditation group, community program and seeing it through;
- taking the compost home with you;
- holding someone's hand.

Isn't that what we as a temple family – a community reaching out to each other and to strangers—with our time, space, money, resources?

we are all the richer for these gifts.

Turning this to a more personal note—I tend to think of myself as a fairly generous person. Overall, I can be. But I wonder, am I truly as generous as I could be? Do I give willingly and compassionately as I give time to others? To my self?

Like many of you—there are a multitude of commitments in my life – a more than full time job; my aging parents with my only sibling living across the country; a large circle of friends; volunteer responsibilities and taking space to recharge.

This year more than any other, I have heard myself say over and over again “I’m just too busy”—to come to services; reach out to a friend; make that phone call, visit my parents, have a date night with my partner. When I’m in that “too busy” mode it make me feel disconnected, annoyed and quite small. It’s a lousy feeling because that’s not the person I want to be.

So to avoid this becoming a personal mantra for 5777—I need to do more soul searching and manage how I spend my time in a way that honors not only myself, but the causes and people most important in my life.

Because I know this—when I give my time freely with love and gratitude for all that I have been given—the more generous I become—my capacity for giving is even greater. It revitalizes me, nurtures me and makes me closer to the good soul I hope to be.

I was gently reminded of this exact sentiment when I joined the board of trustees 2 years ago. Our then president Lisa Rubin shared with me “Stephanie if you think small, you’re gonna be small, but if you think big and open your heart, then...”

It is the same with our relationship with each other in this community. To further cultivate that open heart—only you can decide what you can give – and how you can give just that bit more. Is it more time you can give in response to a request for help? Is it more money to help the temple grow? Is it resources you have to offer? Maybe it’s all of these things... I can’t say. Whatever it may be, where ever you are in your heart in giving to Temple Emanuel, I ask you to consider joining me in reflecting how you can give more deeply—so that **together** our spirit of generosity carries our community—each soul that gathers here— into the new year with abundance.

Shalom and many blessings,  
Stephanie

### TEMV is:

- Sustaining for everyone, during both joyful and challenging times.
- **I**nterfaith-friendly and welcoming to all.
- **M**usical, celebratory, and reflective in our worship.
- **C**ommunicating Jewish values through education for children and adults.
- **H**onoring diversity without judgment.
- **A**ctive in working towards social justice in our community and around the world.

## TEMV Service Calendar for 5777 2016-2017

(Subject to change, check the Temple website ([www.temv.org](http://www.temv.org)) and the Weekly email blasts for the most up-to-date service schedule)

**Oneg Hosting:** Check your calendars and consider which service you wish volunteer as an oneg host. Contact [oneg@temv.org](mailto:oneg@temv.org) with your date preferences or sign up yourself on the [website](#).

### NOVEMBER 2016

11/4	Fri.	7:00 PM	New Members' Service	Bell Choir; 6:00 PM potluck dinner
11/5	Sat	10:00 AM	Blessing of the Animals	Bring your animals, including your stuffies
11/5	Sat	10:30 AM	Shabbat morning	Service and study of Parashat Noach over light brunch
11/11	Fri	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service	
11/18	Fri	6:30 PM	Family Service	7:30 potluck
11/25	Fri.	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service	<b>Lay leader</b> Alan Wolff (Thanksgiving weekend)

### DECEMBER 2016

12/2	Fri	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service	
12/9	Fri.	7:00 PM	Social Action Shabbat	Topic: homelessness, Guests from the Lowell Transitional Living Center)
12/16	Fri.	6:00 PM	Tot Shabbat	6:30 dinner for young families
12/16	Fri.	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service	Sunwheel
12/23	Fri.	6:30 PM	Shabbat Service	6:00 PM Pre-Service Oneg <b>Lay leader:</b> Stephanie K.
12/30	Fri.	7:30 PM	Shabbat/Chanuka	6:30 candlelighting and dinner

### JANUARY 2017

1/6	Fri.	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service	
1/13	Fri.	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service	<b>Lay leader</b>
1/20	Fri.	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service	
1/27	Fri.	6:30 PM	Shabbat Service	6:00 PM Oneg ("Pre-neg")
1/28	Sat	10:30 AM	Shabbat/Rosh Chodesh morning service and study	
		4:45 PM	Pajama Havdallah	craft, story, songs); concludes w/Havdallah @ 5:36

### FEBRUARY 2017

2/3	Fri.	7:30 PM	Learner's Minyan	The musical motifs of Shabbat
2/10	Fri.	6:00 PM	Tot Shabbat	<b>No dinner</b>
	Fri.	7:00 PM	Kabbalat Shabbat	
	Fri.	7:30 PM	Tu Bishvat Seder	
2/17	Fri.	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service	
2/24	Fri.	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service	<b>Lay leader</b>

### MARCH 2017

3/3	Fri.	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service	
3/10	Fri.	7:00 PM	Shabbat/Purim	7:30 Read/study Megillah/costumes encouraged
3/17	Fri.	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service	Sunwheel
3/24	Fri.	6:30 PM	Family Service / Siyum Ha-Sefer	7:30 potluck
3/31	Fri.	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service	<b>Lay leader</b>

**APRIL 2017**

4/7	Fri.	6:00 PM	Tot Shabbat	6:30 dinner for young families
	Fri.	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service	
4/14	7Fri.	7:30 PM	Shabbat Pesach	
<b>4/15</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>Passover Community Seder</b>	
4/21	Fri.	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service	<b>Lay leader</b>
4/28	Fri.	6:30 PM	Shabbat Service	6:00 PM Oneg (“Pre-neg”)

**MAY 2017**

5/5	Fri.	7:30 PM	Learner’s Minyan	Topic:TBA
5/12	Fri.	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service	
5/13	Sat	10:30 AM	Shabbat Morning Service and Study	
5/19	Fri.	6:30 PM	Family Service	7:30 potluck
5/20	Sat	10 AM	Madison Kirrane will be called to the Torah as Bat Mitzvah	
5/26	Fri.	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service	<b>Lay leader</b>

**JUNE 2017**

6/2	Fri.	6:30 PM	Shabbat Service	6:00 PM Oneg (“Pre-neg”)
6/9	Fri.	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service	
6/16	Fri.	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service	<b>Lay leader</b>
6/23	Fri.	6:30 PM	Family Shabbat Service	Sunwheel; 7:30 potluck
6/30	Fri.	7:30 PM	Shabbat Service	Last rabbi-led service until September

**Board Meetings**

Unless otherwise specified Board Meetings are the second Thursday of the month at 7 PM. Members are always welcomed and encouraged to attend.

**Upcoming Committee Meetings**

- Social Action Committee – Sunday, November 20 at noon.
- Education Committee Meeting – Sunday, December 18 at 11 am
- Ritual Committee Meeting – Wednesday, January 25 at 7 PM

**TEMV Snow Ball** – Saturday, January 14 8 – 11 pm – with the Bar Chords

**Highland Neighborhood Council**

Meets on the second Monday of the month at Temple Emanuel at 7 PM  
 Next Meeting Monday, December 12 (The November meeting will be at Crosspoint)

**Merrimack Valley Jewish Federation (MVJF) monthly meeting**

Tuesday, December 20 – 7 PM



Sukkah Setup



TEMV was an early voting location

## *Social Action*

### **Social Action Committee Meeting – everyone invited**

The next meeting is **Sunday, November 20 at noon** (after school) Please contact Frank if you want to be kept informed. Please attend and bring your ideas. We will finalize the Social Action Sabbath service for December 9 and Mitzvah Day in March and more.

### **Social Action Shabbat** (homelessness)

Friday, December 9 – 7 PM

Jayde Campbell, Executive Director of the Lowell Transitional Living Center (LTLC) and an individual with lived experience will present. They talk about what life is like as a homeless person, what services are available and what is missing. They will give us some ideas about what we as a congregation and as individuals can do to help.

### **Lunch Bag Assembly**

The first one for the year was Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. We prepared, packed and delivered 238 lunches to the Lowell Transitional Living Center. Thank you to everyone who donated food and time to this cause.

The next lunch bag assembly is **Sunday, January 8**. You can bring in donations of water, peanut butter, and jelly any time. Leave them in the kitchen – with a note saying that they are for the LB assembly.

### **Winter Clothing Collection**

There is a box in the lobby for winter clothing. Please donate:

- Coats
- Gloves / Mittens
- Hats
- Scarves

We will collect donations through the end of December. Donations have already been brought to Community Teamword Inc. (CTI)

### **Food and Toiletry Collections**

Thank you for filling the boxes in the lobby They are waiting to be filled up again. Thank you. Since representatives from the Lowell Transitional Living Center will be presenting at the Social Action Shabbat on December 9<sup>th</sup>, the next collections will be donated to them.

### **High Holiday Mobile Food Collection**

We collected 432 pounds of food for the Mobile Food Pantry. Thank you for all your contributions and for your time and energy.

Thank you all,  
Frank ([farfel43@yahoo.com](mailto:farfel43@yahoo.com))

## *Ritual Committee*

Our new Yom Kippur prayer book says “A congregation, by definition must include diverse individuals with a range of ideas, feelings, and practices. Moreover, the richest experience comes when all of us bring our full selves into the community—not only our pious thoughts and positive feelings, but the full range of our selves and our emotions, including skepticism, and anger.” (Mishkan HaNefesh Machzor for the Days of Awe Yom Kippur p. xvii)

All members of the TEMV community are called upon to inform, organize and support the practice of worship and the before and after worship gatherings. The ritual committee meets approximately every 6 weeks to ensure that that our services and activities before and after the services run smoothly. We coordinate our community volunteers that provide food for our oneg Shabbat gatherings, and coordinate and prepare members of the community to participate in and lead services. We work closely with Rabbi Sparr, as she shapes our services to ensure the services reflect our current ideals as well as honoring our long-held traditions. Your voice is important as we move past the Days of Awe and into the autumn and winter months. We also want to hear your feedback on the recent high holy day services. What are we doing well, and perhaps even more importantly, what can we do better?

Our next meeting is Wednesday January 25, 2017 at 7pm at TEMV. Please come join us as we plan for the upcoming season full of weekly Shabbat services, Rosh Chodesh, Tu Bshevat, Purim and Passover. There are opportunities for year-long commitments and one time tasks that need to be done. If you can't make the meeting, but would like to help, please contact [ritualchair@temv.org](mailto:ritualchair@temv.org)

Karen Lipshires

## **Passover Potluck Community Seder Volunteers?**

### **Saturday, April 15 – 5 PM**

This year this longstanding annual tradition will actually be on the **fifth** night of Passover instead of the traditional 2<sup>nd</sup> night of Passover.

As you might imagine there is quite a bit that goes on behind the scenes for this popular and well attended event to happen. Consider helping by taking RSVP's, setting up tables, chairs, place settings, collecting the various items needed for all the seder plates, clean up. Not sure how you can help? Contact either Karen Lipshires or Phebe Rand for the full scoop.

## Publicity Corner

### *TEMV's New & Improved Website*

Have you checked out the new website. It's at the same location, [www.temv.org](http://www.temv.org), but has a new look and organization. We hope it helps both members and non-members learn more about what makes TEMV special, find out what services and events are coming up, and discover new ways to get involved. The News section in particular is a dynamic area with regular posts about TEMV happenings (and perhaps an occasional recipe).

As with much from our Jewish heritage, the website is an ongoing project of writing, arranging, and editing. We will continue updating and adding information throughout the site in the coming weeks. If there's something you'd like to see there, please let us know by writing to [publicity@temv.org](mailto:publicity@temv.org).

Don't forget to [Like us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#) if that's where you hang out online. We'll be pushing content from our website onto social media so you'll be able to keep current with what's going on at TEMV and how you can be a part.

### *Happening at TEMV Weekly Email Blast*

Watch your Inbox for the Happening this week at TEMV Email Blast

Moving forward the bulletin will be published quarterly, so the email blast will become even more important in order to stay informed.

If you haven't been receiving these reminders, check your spam folder. To join the distribution list automatically – address an email to: [community-join@temv.org](mailto:community-join@temv.org).

### *TEMV Bulletin*

The bulletin is moving to a quarterly schedule. The next bulletin will be out at the beginning of February 2017.

**Deadline** for submissions is Monday, January 23.

Send them to [bulletin@temv.org](mailto:bulletin@temv.org).



## Membership

*We want to know how to reach you*

Do you have a new mailing address, phone number (land line or mobile), email addresses? If any of these have changed recently please let me know. Do we have your Yartzheit and Yizkor Remembrances, including the date, and whether you prefer to follow the Hebrew or the Gregorian calendar.

Email Phebe [phebe@temv.org](mailto:phebe@temv.org)

### **New Member Service**

On Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> we welcomed 10 new member families who have joined the TEMV community over the past year. The 1<sup>st</sup> Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Chelmsford Meetinghouse Bell Ringers enhanced our service with the the passionate, vibrant sounds of their silver-toned bells. Approximately 60 people attended the dinner and / or the service. Our new members are

Sara , Brenden, Rowan and Chloe Conte  
Erica Danzig-Redner and Scott Danzig and Kalmin and Peyton  
Robin, Gary and Zachary Frisch  
Linda Gilmore  
Barry and Bette Lewin  
Robin Morgasen and Susan Goley  
Howard and Susan Rashba  
Mason Sirois  
Douglas and Stephanie Wiggins  
Alan Wolff

We welcome you all.

## *Membership News*

### *R'fu-ah Sh'leymah*

*"The renewal of body, the renewal of spirit.."*

Julio Auffant  
David Gilmore  
Al Green  
Erica Kahan  
Jim Lipshires  
Nancy Rovin  
Oscar Trager  
Jonathan Vlamis

## Religious School Notes

Religious school has gotten off to a *wonderful* start this year – our newest students and teacher have quickly connected with one another and become integral to our community, and students of all ages are progressing as expected in their curricular goals.

Following Simchat Torah and the consecration of our new students, we begin a period of relative calm and “regular” scheduling. For your convenience, the **schedule** through January of school and worship events follows below. Please be sure to mark your calendars so as not to miss a moment!

Additionally, this column, event details and much more are always available on our website, [www.temv.org](http://www.temv.org) - please visit often for the most up-to-date info.

Although we are a small school, we have many opportunities for learning for both children and families, and need your input and energy to bring these to fruition. Please consider joining the **Education Committee**, which will meet on Sunday, December 18 at 11 am. All are welcome, including those who don't presently have children in the school and can offer additional perspectives and energies. Please reach out to Sue Cornelliussen at [corneller1@gmail.com](mailto:corneller1@gmail.com) to let her know of your interest and be apprised of meetings.

We have received materials from **InterfaithFamily.com** and have them available for you, including booklets for Shabbat, holidays, and more. Please stop by my office any Sunday or during my office hours so that I can offer you items that might be meet your interests.

As always, I welcome the opportunity to chat with you at any time about any aspect of our school or your child's learning. Feel free to grab me for an informal conversation, or, for a more in-depth talk, kindly be in touch to arrange a confidential meeting.

Looking forward to seeing each of you and your lovely children in the days and weeks ahead!

L'shalom,  
Rabbi Robin S. Sparr  
Director of Education



Consecration  
of new  
students

## Religious School Calendar Family Activities, and Services

### November

- 18 Erev Shabbat Family Service at 6:30 followed by dinner and oneg
- 20 School in session
- 27 NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving weekend

### December

- 4 NO SCHOOL – All are invited to attend LIMMUD BOSTON (more information elsewhere in the bulletin)
- 11 School in session; Family Education Program
- 16 Erev Shabbat: 6:00pm Tot Shabbat and dinner
- 18 School in session
- 25 NO SCHOOL – Winter Break
- 30 Erev Shabbat and Chanuka Family service and dinner

### January

- 1 NO SCHOOL – Winter Break
- 8 School in session - Lunch Bag Assembly
- 15 NO SCHOOL – MLK Weekend
- 22 School in session; Family Education Program Shabbat/Havdallah
- 28 Saturday evening Pajama Havdallah
- 29 School in session

### February

- 5 School in Session
- 10 Tot Shabbat 6 PM
- 12 School is Session Tu Bishvat Seder & Environmental Program
- 19 & 26 No School – February Break

### March

- 5 School in Session
- 10 7 pm Erev Shabbat / Purim with Megillah reading
- 12 School in Session – Purim Celebration and Megillah
- 19 School in Session – Mitzvah Day (tentative)
- 24 6:30 pm Family Service / Syum Ha-Sefer/ 7:30 potluck
- 26 School in session

### April

- 2 School in session, Model Seder
- 7 6 pm Tot Shabbat 6:30 dinner for families
- 9 School in session
- 15 Passover Community Seder – 5 PM (note not 2<sup>nd</sup> night)
- 16 & 23 – No school – April break

### May

- 7 School in session – Open House
- 14 School in session, Last Day, L'ag B'omer, luncheon
- 19 Family Shabbat Service 6:30, 7:30 potluck dinner
- 20 10 am Madison Kirrane Bat Mitzvah

## ADULT EDUCATION

Learning opportunities abound at TEMV, with several Shabbat services focused on learning and study, family education programs through the school, and formal classes.

I MOST wish to offer that which you would like to explore together! Below are several options – only those with significant interest will be scheduled. Meetings times to be determined based on availability of students. By mid-November, we'll announce which of these offerings will be available, after all have had the chance to weigh in with their interests and preferences, and will contact interested parties by email or phone to apprise you of the schedule.

### **MUSSAR (January – March or January – June)**

Open to all, whether you'd like to continue your Mussar study or join as a new learner. Can be offered as an introductory 3 unit (4 meetings) course (repeating last year's offering) or a more in-depth 20 week/10 meetings course. There is a fee for these courses.

### **HEBREW READING FOR BEGINNERS (Winter months)**

For those who've never learned to read Hebrew as well as those who feel their reading is a little rusty; 8 weeks

### **BEGINNING TEXT STUDY (Winter months)**

Learn how to unpack ancient holy texts of the TaNaCH (Torah, Prophets, Writings), and wrestle with both meaning and relevance to our modern lives.

### **ADULT BAR/BAT MITZVAH (January – ongoing)**

For those who never had the opportunity to celebrate becoming bar/bat mitzvah. This survey course will include liturgy, Torah and text study, Hebrew reading review, and basic cantillation (Torah chanting). The goal would be to celebrate an adult bar/bat mitzvah service together next year (2017-2018).

Kindly be in touch with me if there's some other topic you'd like to explore; meanwhile, please fill out the form below and return it to the temple office, or weigh in online.

-----  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in: (please number your choices to indicate level of interest)

\_\_\_\_\_ Mussar, Introductory 4 weeks

\_\_\_\_\_ Mussar, Basics 15-20 weeks

\_\_\_\_\_ Hebrew Reading 8 weeks

\_\_\_\_\_ Beginning Text Study 6 weeks

\_\_\_\_\_ Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah many weeks!

\_\_\_\_\_ Other Suggestion: \_\_\_\_\_

I am most available to meet:

\_\_\_\_\_ Sunday afternoon

\_\_\_\_\_ Monday evening

\_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday evening

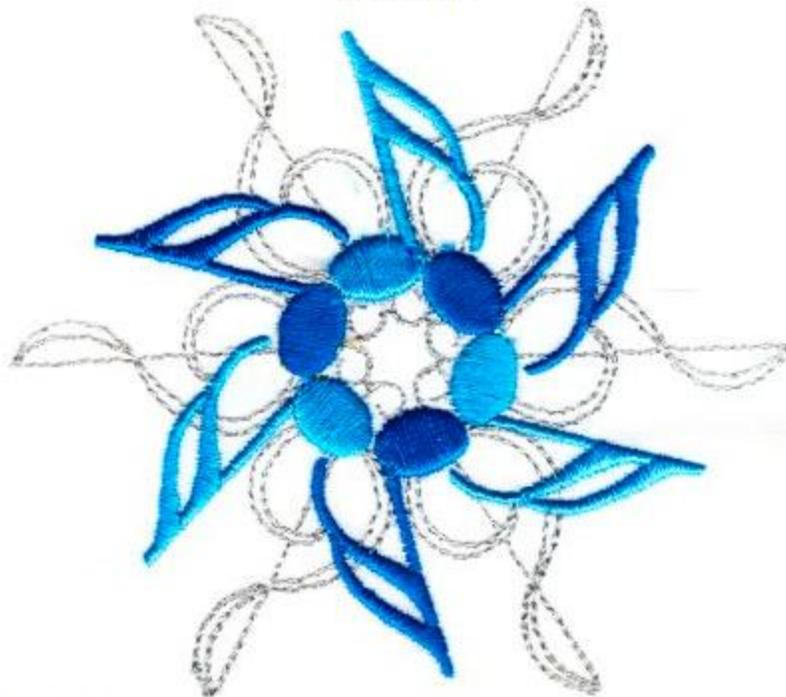
L'shalom,

Rabbi Robin S. Sparr

# *TEMV Snow Ball*

*January 14, 2017 8:00PM to 11:00 PM*

Come and dance the night away with your sweetheart or friends. Enjoy classic rock and pop music with a sampling of wines, hors d'oeuvres, and desserts.



Featuring:

*The Bar Chords*

[www.barchordsband.com](http://www.barchordsband.com)

Live classic rock dance music from the 60's 70's and 80's

## **Tickets:**

\$25 per person advance sales or \$30 at the door

Temple Emanuel, 101 West Forest St. Lowell, MA 01851  
call (978)-454-1372 or email [events@temv.org](mailto:events@temv.org) for more information  
and advance ticket sales

## Activities just for Fun

### TEMV Yoga



TEMV Yoga meets Wed. 6:30 – 8:00 pm and **Gentle Yoga, Mondays, at 8:30 am.** Everyone is welcome to join either class on a drop in basis. All levels welcome.

The Monday morning class is a great way to start the week with long deep stretches. Attendance at this class has

been dwindling, and for now will only meet when there will be at least 3 people. Contact Cornelia at [yogainfo@temv.org](mailto:yogainfo@temv.org) if you know you will be there. She will contact you directly if there are enough students. If you don't hear from her, then there will be no class.

Cost \$7 for the instructor and a \$3 donation to the temple. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat.

For more information, contact Phebe at (978) 256-2855 or email the instructor, Cornelia Dinca, at [yogainfo@temv.org](mailto:yogainfo@temv.org).

For cancellations and last minute changes join the email list by sending a blank email to [yoga-join@temv.org](mailto:yoga-join@temv.org)

### Mah Jong

**Tuesdays 6 PM & Thursdays 1 PM**



Send a blank email [mahjongg-join@temv.org](mailto:mahjongg-join@temv.org) to join the email list. We sometimes cancel at the last minute and we want to let everyone know. Send us an email or give us call to let us know you plan on being there. Spread the word; bring your friends and neighbors!

\$2 Temple donation appreciated.

Contact: [mahjong@temv.org](mailto:mahjong@temv.org) or or Phebe 978 256-2855.

### TEMV Summer 1000 mile Challenge

This past summer some folks from the TEMV community participated in a "walk" challenge. The purpose was for fun, physical fitness, and community spirit. The goal was to achieve 1000 miles via walking, (which most people opted for) biking, running, jogging, swimming, etc. This challenge ran from July 1 to Rosh Hashanah. I'm happy to report that four people reached and even surpassed the goal. Richard, Stephanie, Robin, and Shirley went the 1000 miles over the summer. Way to go for them and everyone else who participated and logged close to 10,000 miles altogether. If you missed out, look for the new and even more improved Walk Challenge 3.0 next summer. In the meantime maybe you would like to make a late sponsorship (like a donation) to the Temple on behalf of the "walkers" Thanks to all who took part. It was a beautiful summer and we had some fun.

### Bridge Club ??



Are you interested in learning bridge from an experienced tournament player? Alan Wolff can teach you? If there's enough interest we'll have a Bridge game at the temple. Contact Alan at [bridge@temv.org](mailto:bridge@temv.org). Let him know your availability and your level of experience. Times and dates will be determined by best fit of those who have expressed an interest.

### What would you like to do?

Is there something that you are interested in doing with your TEMV friends socially either at the temple or as an outing? Go for it. Check the temple [calendar](#), to avoid a conflict. Pick a date, time and location, agree to coordinate and send [Phebe](#) an email with the details so it can be sent community in the next "What's Happening" email blast, and be added to the website. It can be a one time event or an ongoing event. Some suggestions I've heard include: movie,, dinner, theater, bowling, coffee house, Trip to NYC, Boston Harbor Sunset Cruise, Sunday Brunch

### Programming Volunteers

**TEMV Snow Ball** – Saturday, January 14 – 8 PM

The Bar Chords and the dancers had such a wonderful time last year we're doing it again this year. Consider helping with decorating, setting up, food, etc. Contact Phebe at [phebe@temv.org](mailto:phebe@temv.org)



### Musical Tapestry and Auction

Tentative date: Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Is this an event you've enjoyed in the past? It's a fun night of music and fundraising.

Reach out to me if you are interested in and willing to help solicit auction donations, or any other aspect of this night.

## Hand of God

By Harriet Snyder (with Albert Glassman)

This past Spring, Dick and I carried with us to Jerusalem the brief notes (generally, prayers and wishes) that had been placed in our own "Western Wall" at TEMV (as well as a few notes given to us directly). We placed them with love and care into the actual Western Wall there. With the start of the Jewish New Year, 5777, thoughts may lead to new notes. Dick and I plan to take all available in the Spring of 2017 with us to Israel and place them into the Western Wall.

The practice of inserting notes began some hundreds of years ago. Many believe that such placement of these notes actually reaches the "hand of God." The Wall (also known as Western Wall, Wailing Wall, and Kotel) is the major remains of the Hebrew Temple of Jerusalem. The Temple was built at the top of Mt. Moriah (aka, Temple Mount). Its original planning began under King David about 3000 years ago and construction was completed by his son, King Solomon. It was destroyed by the Babylonians 2600 years ago. Over many succeeding years, the rebuilding and eventual expansion of the original Temple was accomplished. Then, around the year 70, the Temple (sometimes referred to as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple) was destroyed once more, this time by the Romans. The spoils of the Temple were carried away by the Roman soldiers after demolishing the Temple. (See the photo below displaying the Jerusalem Temple Spoils relief on the Arch of Titus; this Roman memorial was completed a couple years after the destruction of the Temple.)

Though the Wall is the holiest site for Jews worldwide, it is open (with few restrictions, e.g., respectful dress) to all people – plain folks, presidents, and Popes.

So much in Jerusalem is significant to the three major Abrahamic religions. For example, somewhat above and beyond the Wall is the Dome of the Rock, which sits in a Moslem administered area at the very top of Temple Mount, possibly, where the Temple's most holy inner portions had been situated. (See the golden cupola in the upper left of the Wall/plaza photo.) Inside the dome is the rock where Abraham was instructed by God to kill his son Isaac, the same rock from which Mohammad is believed by the faithful to have ascended to Heaven. At the bottom of the opposite side of Mt. Moriah is a valley it makes with the Mt. of Olives. In that valley is a subterranean church in which are the tombs of Mary, her parents (Joachim and Anne), and Joseph.



Wall and facing Plaza



Arch of Titus depiction of Roman soldiers looting the Temple they destroyed around the year 70



Women placing note in Wall



Pope Francis places note in the Wal

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Contact the treasurer Alix Epstein or Douglas Wiggins at [treasurer@temv.org](mailto:treasurer@temv.org) for information on any of the funds.

### Please return your 2016 -'17 Pledge Forms today

All current members should have received a pledge form in the mail with a letter from the Board. If you didn't receive a pledge form contact the treasurer, Douglas Wiggins [treasurer@temv.org](mailto:treasurer@temv.org) and he'll send you one.

## Temple Contacts

If you need to speak to someone at the Temple, here are some important contact people. (Please limit calls to home numbers to between 10:00 am and 10:00 pm except in cases of emergency or prior arrangement.)

### **Rabbi Robin Sparr**

Temple: 978-454-1372; Home: 508-736-5555

[temvrabbi@gmail.com](mailto:temvrabbi@gmail.com)

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**Rabbi Robin Sparr** [rabbi@temv.org](mailto:rabbi@temv.org)

President

**Stephanie Karakantas**, [president@temv.org](mailto:president@temv.org)

Treasurer

Douglas Wiggins

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Ritual Committee

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[ritualchair@temv.org](mailto:ritualchair@temv.org),

Caring Committee

**Karen Lipshires**, [caring@temv.org](mailto:caring@temv.org), 617-312-0393

Education Committee

**Sue Corneliussen**, [education@temv.org](mailto:education@temv.org)

Social Action

**Frank Baskin**, [farfel43@yahoo.com](mailto:farfel43@yahoo.com), 978 458-1512

Membership, Phebe Rand (978) 256-2855

[Membership@temv.org](mailto:Membership@temv.org)

Publicity **Dana Rudolph**, [publicity@temv.org](mailto:publicity@temv.org)

House **Richard Ebner**, [House@temv.org](mailto:House@temv.org), 978-761-8460

## Bereavement Info

The Temple Emanuel community is available to assist members who experience the passing of a loved one. In addition to calling **Rabbi Sparr**, please notify **Karen Lipshires** (617 312-0393) or email [caring@temv.org](mailto:caring@temv.org). We will respond to the needs of the individual members by notifying Temple members of the death, arranging for *Shiva*, or helping in any other way that we can be of service.

Thank to everyone who made a donation over the past few months.

#### High Holiday and Book of Remembrance Donations

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 Julie Gershon  
 Nancy Jacobson and Frank Lipinsky  
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#### Donation to the Children's Library

Stephanie Karakantas

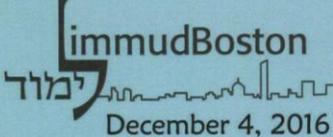
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Join us to make warm clothes for the Lowell Transitional Living Center and Community Teamwork warm clothing drives.

Come by the temple any Sunday morning during school. Watch your email for specific dates to gather after school. Contact Michelle Vlamis [mvlamis@comcast.net](mailto:mvlamis@comcast.net) if you are interested.

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