

Worship in Pink 2018

**Race for The
Cure with TI's
TaTa Society**

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**The
Culture
Series**

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**Night of 100
Menorahs**

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Cookie Lea Olshein

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From the Rabbi

Rabbi Cookie Lea Olshein

Darkness With Light

Each December as we approach the shortest day of the year, I think about the shorter days and the literal darkness that fills people's lives, especially up north where they have even less sun than we do. We have learned about Seasonal Affective Disorder which doctors believe can occur because of lack of sunlight, which perhaps impacts our bodies' serotonin and melatonin levels. Yes, the literal darkness can impact how we view the world.

But today, perhaps it is the metaphorical darkness that impacts our lives more. As the Jewish people have seen a dramatic rise in anti-Semitic acts in recent years, and especially in light of the Pittsburgh massacre at Tree of Life Synagogue, we are forced to reconsider the Jewish people's place in American society. There are many who believe we had been lulled into a sense of complacency, not fully being aware of those who wish to do us harm. Further, in order to prevent future tragedies, many believe that the ongoing existential threat to Jewish peoplehood now requires us to respond with more vigilance than ever before.

Temple Israel's Board of Trustees takes all of our safety and security seriously. In these difficult times, we are studying best practices around the country, and around the world, to find the right balance between securing our facility so all can worship without fear with creating a sense of openness and welcoming required by our sacred teachings. In the months to come, you will notice some changes, while others are intended to be hidden, but please know that Temple Israel is working diligently to ensure all of our safety so we can feel comfortable in our sacred home.

Finally, I would like to remind all of us that, even in the darkest of times, Judaism requires us to bring light into the world and celebrate. As such, we will be holding our annual "Night of 100 Menorahs" Chanukah Celebration, featuring a special blessing/consecration of students new to our Religious School. There will be special musicians joining us to play Klezmer music and we will have some very cute kids participating in our worship ... indeed, as we did on the first *Shabbat* following the Pittsburgh massacre for the special "Show Up for Shabbat," coming together to celebrate as a community is one of the best ways to fight anti-Semitism. Bring a *Chanukiyah* (and 7 candles) for every member of your family and invite your friends to join us for this beautiful celebration on Friday, December 7th (and please call the Office ASAP if you want information about joining us for our annual Chanukah Family Dinner before services).

My blessing for you this month is that you may always feel safe and secure wherever you go, and particularly when you are "doing Jewish" at Temple Israel or in any other sacred space ... and may we always work together as one community to fight hatred not just against us but against all people everywhere.

My door is always open. Let me know how I can assist you on your Jewish journey.



From the Co-Presidents

Judy Shuster and Elaine Feldmesser

As we sit down to write this month's article it's early November. You're reading it some time around Thanksgiving but before Hanukkah. Judy and I bounce ideas off each other. "What should we write?" So, looking at the big picture, we decided to offer Thanksgiving that some Jews were late to services that horrible morning in Pittsburgh, that we have a system of checks and balances built into our electoral system that ensures every vote is counted and that we can no longer deny safety to our young people as they demand protection from the senseless random acts of violence occurring in our society.

We offer thanks for the dedication and caring of the chairs of our Comedy Night, Nancy Horowitz, Roslyn Leopold and Amy Devore. They made sure we had a blast and raised the funds we need to keep our Synagogue going. We are thankful to all of you who came out and supported this event. We would be remiss if we did not mention the Raffle chairs, Adrienne Weissman, Patti Abramson and Karen List. Not only did they have fabulous prizes, but a fun, different way for us to win. Congratulations to everyone. Temple Israel came away the big winner that night!

In closing we offer something we found on the web. The words present ideas worth thinking about as we celebrate Hanukkah 2018. **(continued on following page)**

Safety & Security at Temple Israel

Your Board of Directors wants you to know the safety and security of our Synagogue and its congregants are a top priority for us. We have taken these measures to help us in this matter.

- ♦ We are looking into several proposals for a stronger security presence at the temple during services and events.
- ♦ We have filed an application for a \$5,000 grant from our Jewish Federation for the installation of additional security features to our campus. This grant is not automatic, so we are waiting to hear if our application for this grant has approved.
- ♦ The URJ is encouraging congregations to seek Federal Funds and/or grants that are available for increasing security on our campuses. Marty List is the head of the Security Committee and is presently researching possibilities for this additional financial assistance. He welcomes anyone interested to join this committee.
- ♦ As a Board, we have taken a Jewish, ethical stand and approved a resolution that speaks out against the misuse of certain weapons that have been used in the killing of children and adults in places of worship, places of teaching and places of peace. As part of this resolution, your co-Presidents have appointed Michael Gelfand, Past President of TI, as our representative to communicate our position and concerns to Reform Jewish organizations, including the Union for Reform Judaism, the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Reform Action Committee.

8 NIGHTS - 8 MORAL VALUES

- **First Night: A Light for Freedom** - The Maccabees fought for the freedom to believe and live as they pleased. Freedom of expression is fragile, even when enshrined in legal documents.
- **Second Night: A Light for Tolerance** - On every night of *Chanukah* a different number of candles is lit, but is one night better than the other? Appreciating differences is a gift. Tolerating differences is an art.
- **Third Night: A Light for Peace** - The world is supported by three principles: law, truth and peace. (Ethics of Our Fathers) Peace. Shalom. "Shalom" is derived from the word for wholeness "*sha-lem*." Only with peace can our fractious world become whole. The way to peace is long and sometimes difficult, however it does begin with one kind word.
- **Fourth Night: A Light for Courage** - Who is mighty... the one who overcomes base inclinations. (Ethics of Our Fathers) The Maccabees battled a powerful army - and won, against all odds. Their might and their courage were derived from a passionate belief in the rights of man to worship, believe, and learn.
- **Fifth Night: A Light for Knowledge** - Why did the Maccabees bother... what was so attractive and important about Judaism that they were willing to risk their lives to protect? Solve the mystery by making a point of getting involved in or expanding your Jewish learning time.
- **Sixth Night: A Light for Tzedakah – Charity** - Charity is a partial translation of the Hebrew word *tzedakah*. The root sounds of *tzedaka* "tz-d-k" also form the word for justice. Giving of what you have to others is not just an act of love, as the Greek root of charity - *caritas* - would imply, but a matter of doing what is right.
- **Seventh Night: A Light for Responsibility** - In a society that worships "I, me, mine" how good are we at taking care of others' needs? "Others" may be as far as Botswana or as close as your brother.
- **Eighth Night: A Light for Continuity** - Will your grandchildren be Jewish? Influence the future by being an active, readily identifiable Jew. Take one real step toward this goal tonight.

Happy Hanukkah,



TI Annual Meeting
Tuesday, January 22 at 6:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m. – Dinner must RSVP



Become a Temple Israel Ambassador

Barry Horowitz

As our congregation grows, it becomes increasingly important to help new families make personal connections and to assist our new members in learning about all that Temple Israel has to offer. We also want our new our new members to become involved in the temple activities and learn what they can offer the synagogue. Our Membership Committee is committed to welcoming and integrating our new congregants into our community and we have therefore created the Temple Israel Ambassador program.

Our goal is to match each new member unit (individuals, couples, families) with an established Temple Israel congregant or congregant family who will help them navigate the opportunities available at the synagogue during their first year of membership. This is based on studies which show that personal connections are critical to creating meaningful engagement between an individual/family and a congregation.

Experience indicates that congregants who ultimately make a long-term connection to a congregation begin to make an emotional connection to the congregation within their first two years of membership. Our hope is that TI Ambassadors, along with efforts by the clergy, professional staff and other lay leaders, will help establish these long-term connections and ultimately cement a commitment to Temple Israel.

We are planning a training meeting after the first of the year to impart the knowledge and resources necessary for you to easily be successful TI Ambassadors. We will then match you to a new member/family that is similar to you in demographics and/or interests. Over the course of the year, you'll periodically reach out, invite them to join you at Temple activities and introduce them to other TI members.

If you are interested in becoming a TI Ambassador, please contact myself, Amy Jonas or Carol Safran, co-chairs of the Membership Committee.



Comedy Club

We Came



We Heard



We Laughed





Temple Israel Sisterhood

Ellen Goldensen - Sisterhood President

It's time once again for Mitzvah Menorah

Each year at Hanukkah time, Temple Israel partners with Alpert Jewish Family Services to provide holiday gifts for families in need.

You may recall in years past seeing a large, paper mache "Mitzvah Menorah" displayed in our ballroom. Taped to each "candle" are slips of paper, representing a requested gift card that will be used to purchase a specific item.

Congregants who wish to support this worthy cause, simply choose a slip and purchase the gift card right away from the Temple Office.

The positive responses from these families expressing gratitude for these gifts make this project a true mitzvah for all who participate.

Please join us in helping these deserving families make their holiday wishes come true.



Join us for Night of 100 Menorahs

December 7, 2018

5:30 Dinner (must RSVP by 11/27)

6:30 Service





The Mussar Moment

Rabbi Howard Shapiro

It is hard to think about anything else to write about than the Tree of Life Synagogue massacre - so many ways to talk about it; so many ways to be concerned and even afraid. Many of us believe it can't happen here, but it did and our prayer is that it is an anomaly but if you believe the ADL: "Never Again. Never is Now".

Our *Mussar* tradition would ask us to consider what is happening in the world outside by examining the world inside. It is not suggesting that we are responsible; it is not suggesting that we turn inward and build walls; it is not suggesting that we ignore what is happening around us. It speaks in a clear voice that our spiritual interior world propels us to repair and improve the country we proudly call home.

I like to remind myself that *Mussar* works through *Middot* - that means that the spiritual masters believe that we live our lives through the lens of different attributes such as patience, fear, balance, faith, trust, even anger. How we respond when we are afraid or how we live with faith or how we show trust or express anger. Almost all these attributes play into this moment.

I am struggling with some and if not all of those attributes. Some play on my spirit in a minor key; some major. For example: I am not afraid. I do not fear walking into a "Jewish" building. (Although it was comforting to see two armed police at the entrance to the synagogue last night.) I think it is faith and trust that are at the forefront of my spiritual struggle. Can I have faith in the American experience? Can I trust that America is different?

The *Mussar* way is to accept these fears and work with them. It is appropriate to be concerned. There are times when we should be wary. But every attribute is on a sliding scale and the spiritual effort is to find the right balance. We search the wisdom of the *Mussar* masters and we search the understanding we find in studying together. Ask us about our *Mussar* classes. We would welcome your joining our exploration.

Honor a Loved One with a Lead on TI's Tree of Life

Leaves are available for \$180.00. Call the Temple Office to learn more about this wonderful way to mark a special occasion in your family's life. Leave a lasting memorial for future generations.





President's Circle

Nancy and Barry Horowitz

On Friday, November 9th over 60 President's Circle members participated in Erev Shabbat services in their honor. Many members conducted parts of the service and all of the members were called up to the *Bimah* to stand in the Ark and receive a special blessing from Rabbi Olshein. Both the "Proneg" and the *Oneg* were really delicious and enjoyed by all of the congregants and their guests.

We honor the President's Circle members on an annual basis because the dues collected from this group accounts for almost a quarter of Temple Israel's entire revenue and nearly half of all the dues revenues! Support from President's Circle members enables the Temple to provide services to people in need and to embrace our members who cannot afford their annual financial commitment.

We offer our sincere gratitude to ALL of the President's Circle members, old and new, who choose to share their financial gifts with Temple Israel. In particular, we want to say a special thank you to Don Carter for his continued support of the President's Circle at the very highest level of giving. To Don, our thanks are limitless. We also want to express our sincere thanks and admiration to Zelda Mason, who along with Harvey Goldberg, of blessed memory, had the wisdom and insight to create the President's Circle in 1995.

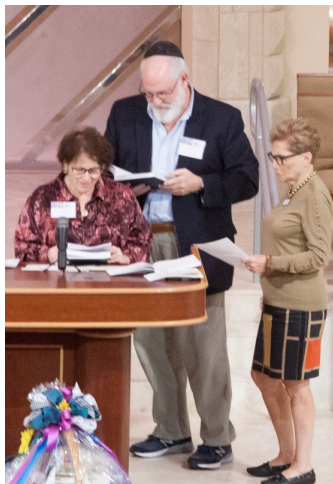
We invite everyone to look deep within and ask yourselves if you can make the extra annual financial commitment to Temple Israel for 2019, either by joining the Circle or by increasing your level of membership. We will be updating the plaque as of January. Letters will be going out in the mail with forms asking for pledges of involvement. We hope you will say "yes", if you can by responding by the end of the year. You can contact us directly or Jennifer in the Temple Office with any questions.

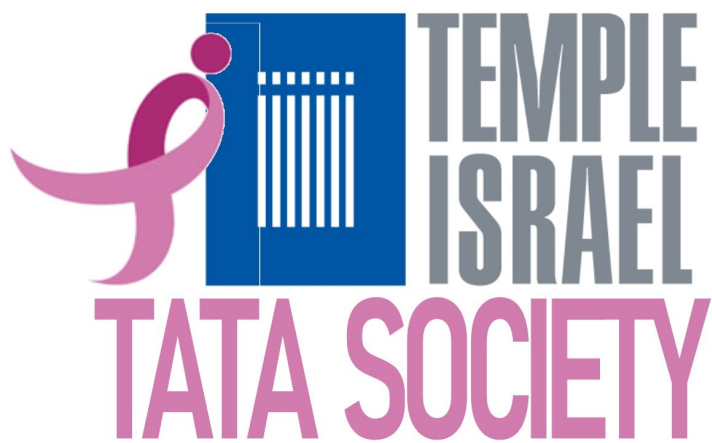
Again, thank you for your support and consideration.

Very sincerely.



President's Circle Members participate in a special *Shabbat* service in their honor





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TI Team Captain
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Survivors get ready to march to the stage for the inspiring closing ceremony.

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**FRIDAY EVENING,
FEBRUARY 1, 2019**

**MICHAEL TWITTY,
CHEF AND BLOGGER**



Kosher/Soul: "Identity Cooking"

Being African American & Jewish is a complicated combination. Thousands of Jews of color have heritage, faith and family in both Diasporas which creates a need for material that interweaves both identities. For Chef Twitty, food is one way to connect both in what he calls "identity cooking" which isn't about fusion; rather it's how we construct complex identities and then express them through how we eat.



**FRIDAY EVENING,
MARCH 29, 2019**

**SHIRA KLINE,
NY-BASED
PERFORMER &
EDUCATOR**

A Dynamic, Interactive Evening of Joy and Spirit, Story and Song

Raised in the world of music and the tradition of Torah, Shira has worked for over a decade with a diverse array of Jewish communities to enliven rituals, holiday celebrations and love for Jewish life and prayer. Blending words, story and music, she creates a rich experience for everyone.

Board Spotlight - Mark Feldmesser

Thirty-five years ago, I was recruited for a position as a CFO at a startup company in Florida. After a lot of conversation between Elaine and me, we decided to “risk” it. We knew two things about Florida: Elaine’s parents had retired there, and we spent part of our honeymoon (20 years prior to this offer) in Miami.

We have two children – Lisa recently had had her Bat Mitzvah and Alan, who was about nine, and was going to need a Hebrew school so he could have his Bar Mitzvah. So, we consulted our rabbi at our NJ temple, who was originally from Massachusetts and knew another rabbi in West Palm originally from Massachusetts. That rabbi was Rabbi Shapiro who had recently been installed at Temple Israel. The membership in our NJ temple looked like we looked at that time and TI membership looked like we do now. However, Rabbi Shapiro was very welcoming and made us feel at home. So, we stayed.

Subsequently Alan had his Bar Mitzvah at TI, Lisa was confirmed at TI and Lisa and our son-in-law, Brian were married at TI. So, we have a lot of history and great memories.

At the beginning of our membership, I was actively involved and became the budget chair. As time went on and our children were no longer actively participating in Temple activities, I became less active. I also was no longer working for the company I came here to work for and I was in the process of beginning a new CPA practice, which took a fair amount of my time. We still belonged, we still attended some Shabbat services, and of course, High Holy Day services. About 25 years after joining, Steve Schwartz brought me back as budget chair. At first, I was very reticent, but it was time to be involved again. Time to give back, at least a little bit, to the community. After two years as budget chair, I was asked to become treasurer, and I accepted, and am still in that position.

Our family is like most: they are fascinating to Elaine and me and we are not shy about telling everyone about them. We have loving kids (including our son-in-law) and we have the greatest grandchildren ever.

We have seen TI change a lot over the years, both physically, and in the makeup of the membership. We were here for TI’s 90th anniversary and we just give back, so TI is still around for its 180th anniversary.







Contributions

as of 11-10-18

GENERAL DONATION

In Honor of

The kindness of **TI Clergy, Staff & Members**
Ellen Morris & Richard Greene

The Roos new home

Ellie Shiffman

In Memory of

Joseph Eckstein

Judy & Alan Shuster
Patti & Larry Abramson
Roslyn & Ted Leopold
Pam Wiener & William Baker

Sheila Grawe

Judy & Alan Shuster
Penny & Gary Shifrin
Ellen & Ron Goldenson
Suzy & Richard Cohen
Roslyn & Ted Leopold
Terry Resk

Reva Devore

Our deepest condolences to the entire Devore family. Much love,
Michele Seltzer & Brian Stewart

S. Behr

Pam Wiener & William Baker

RCLO DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of:

Rabbi Olshein in appreciation of the magical ceremony and
for making their journey (Jacquelyn & Andrew's) towards marriage
inspiring and special.

Lisa Caplan & Irv Silver

Yoga Class

Ellie Shiffman

Rabbi Olshein

in appreciation of visit to mother
Melanie Aron

Rabbi Olshein

Patricia Matson

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

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In Memory of

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Eunice & Jim Baros

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Ruth Abramson

Sidney Frank

Sheila Lutin

John Leslie Livingstone

The Livingston Family
Trudy Livingstone

Michael Grackin

Janie Grackin

Ellen Schwartzer

Lynn Levy

December Anniversaries



- 10 Keith Braun & Traci Pincourt-Braun
- 15 Burt & Babs Stern
- 18 Steve & Nancy Schwartz
- 19 Harris & Sande Hollin
- 21 Scott & Georgia Newman
- 23 Jim Garrett & Carol Robbins-Garrett
- 24 Michael & Diane Steiner
- 25 Nate & Mara Frederiksen
- 26 Victor & Barbara Brizel
- 31 Michael & Amy Jonas

On the first Friday of month we celebrate everyone who has a birthday and/or anniversary in the month.

Come Celebrate With Us!

★ **HAPPY** ★
BIRTHDAY!

December Birthdays

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Patti Abramson | 13 Zachary Cohen | 25 Cynthia Friedman |
| 2 Sara Gould | 13 Michael Hackman | 25 Eileen Shapiro |
| 2 Benjamin Horowitz | 13 Samuel Leopold | 26 Mary Ann Ehrlich |
| 2 Ellis Kern | 13 Alyssa Lunin | 26 Mark Feldmesser |
| 3 Jack Feuer | 13 Joseph Maryuma | 28 Daniel Wacks |
| 3 Wolfgang Greiter | 14 Allison Alexander | 29 James Eisenberg |
| 4 Michael Mora | 15 Taylor Smith | 29 Sarah Lazow |
| 5 Judy Goldblatt | 17 Jeffrey Devore | 29 Isabel Lucas |
| 8 Jean Rose | 18 Angelica Sandoval | 30 Roger Hork |
| 10 Jill Douglas | 19 Suzy Cohen | 30 Bob Marell |
| 10 Allen Mason | 20 Michael Alexander | 31 Elizabeth Green |
| 12 Kenneth Aaron | 20 Joshua Simkowitz | |
| 12 Eunice Baros | 22 Hope Baros | |
| 12 Gene Devore | 23 Leslie Maurer | |



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December 2018

Visit www.Temple-Israel.com for more information about these events and programs and for the latest calendar updates.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Torah Study 9:30 am TI Learns 1:00 pm
2 Religious School 9:00 am	3	4 Executive Committee Mtg 6:00 pm TI Learns - Mussar 7:00 pm	5 Yoga 10:30 am Hebrew School 4:00 pm	6	7 Night of 100 Menorahs 5:30 pm - Dinner (must RSVP) 6:00 pm - Proneg 6:30 pm - Service	8 Torah Study 9:30 am TI Learns 1:00 pm
9	10	11 Board Meeting 7:00 pm	12 Yoga 10:30 am Hebrew School 4:00 pm	13	14 Erev Shabbat 6:00 pm - Proneg 6:30 pm - Service	15 Torah Study 9:30 am Out of the Box Shabbat 11:00 am TI Learns 1:00 pm
16 Religious School 9:00 am TI Film Club 2:00 pm	17	18	19	20 TI Reads 7:00 pm	21 Erev Shabbat 6:00 pm - Proneg 6:30 pm - Service	22 Torah Study 9:30 am
23	24 Office Closes Early	25 Office Closed	26 Yoga 10:30 am	27	28 Erev Shabbat 6:00 pm - Proneg 6:30 pm - Service	29 Torah Study 9:30 am
30	31 Office Closes Early	January 1 Office Closed				



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Want to Make a Difference with Other Reform Jews? Save the Date for the 2019 “Consultation on Conscience”!

Every two years, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism hosts a “Consultation on Conscience” (CoC) in Washington, DC ... and last year was the largest ever with over 700 people participating! The next Consultation on Conscience will be held **May 19-21, 2019**.

In 2019, Temple Israel will again have a delegation attending the CoC. While in DC, we will attend skills-strengthening sessions, learn more about the issues facing our country and our world, and connect with allies. We will conclude our visit with a day of advocacy on the Hill meeting with our own elected officials with a delegation from all over the state of Florida.

Please mark these dates on your calendar. If you would like more information about becoming part of TI’s delegation, please contact Rabbi Olshein or past attendees Maggie or Harry Kaufman for more information. We look forward to learning, and advocating, with you in DC next spring!