

koleynu



February 2019 • Volume 4, Issue 6



Nancy & Don Carter Campus

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From the Co-Presidents

Judy Shuster and Elaine Feldmesser

As Judy and I reflect back on our first year as Co-Presidents of Temple Israel, we agree it has been an amazing journey for both of us. We hope you attended the Annual Meeting and were able to sit through our report and slideshow to see what a spectacular year it was. We are looking forward to an even brighter future in 2019.

This month it's my turn to write our *Koleynu* article, so I'm going to share a little about me, and my Jewish journey. I've always been proud to be Jewish. I grew up in the northern New Jersey suburbs with my sister, where there were very few other Jewish kids our age. My high school graduating class had fewer than 100 graduates and only 10 of us were Jewish. So you can understand that keeping the "Jewish" in my life had to be deliberate.

When Mark and I met and married, we turned to Reform Judaism to do just that. Though we both were raised as Conservative Jews, Reform Judaism always held a special attraction for us. I'm not sure why, but maybe because it allows us to participate in innovative services, while we still preserve our traditions. Perhaps it is because it allows us to embrace the diversity of our community while still asserting our commonality. In Reform Judaism, we can affirm our beliefs without rejecting those who doubt, and we can bring faith to sacred text without sacrificing the critical scholarship that appeals to us. I'm not sure we were so deliberate in our choice of those things at the time, but choose them we did. It was the 1960s, immediately after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and just a few years before the deaths of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Senator Bobby Kennedy. It was a hard time to be growing up. We had so much in our grasp and lost so much in the span of just five short years.

Coming of age in the 1960s made Reform Judaism very appealing to us in that it was committed to the principles of inclusion, equality and diversity. It was the Vietnam War era. We had a poster in our family room that read, "War Is Unhealthy For Children And Other Living Things," and we believed it! (You didn't know I had a little "flower child" in my blood, did you?) Though the unequal treatment of women first came to the forefront of the American conscience a bit after my coming of age, it continues to challenge us as a society today. I hope I live to see that challenge met; after all, I have a daughter, as well as a son.

Today, in 2019 ... I've certainly come of age and then some. However, these principles of equality, inclusion, the celebration of diversity and the repair of the world still burn bright in my heart and mind. If you have doubt that what we are doing at Temple Israel reflects those principles today, just watch our slide show again online, maybe a little bit slower if you can, so you will see the joy on our faces as we pray, learn and gather together (www.temple-israel.com). We are so lucky to be part of this community.

This is my story, but I know Judy echoes my sentiments, so I'm happily signing her name here too. I'm so glad the paths of our individual journeys crossed one another at this place and time.

B' Shalom.



From the Rabbi Rabbi Cookie Lea Olshein

Integrating Shabbat Observance into Our Everyday Life

As you might imagine, my life as a young lawyer was pretty busy and, consequently, I created routines to make my life easier. Most notably, I spent every Saturday morning at my office thinking that I could work and then go out to the rest of my weekend knowing I had cleaned up whatever messes I didn't handle during the week that had passed.

This means that, when I returned to the organized practice of Judaism following the loss of my parents, I literally had no Shabbat practice – sadly, other than going to work. However, as I began to attend Friday night services to say the Mourner's Kaddish, I realized that I didn't have to go to work on Saturdays – I could make a simple choice to rearrange my schedule, adapt the possibilities of observing Shabbat to my life in my own ways, and STILL get my work done by instead working on Sundays. (I was fortunate to have a job which allowed me this choice.)

As I became intentional about incorporating small *Shabbat*-focused activities into my plans, I found that I looked forward to those special *Shabbat*-only activities (this process took me a while as I had to "try different things on" to see what fit my busy lifestyle).

One of the things I "tried on" was *Shabbat* morning *Torah* study ... and it stuck. I realized that starting my Saturdays with challenging conversations about how ancient texts are still relevant (and mental stimulation that was unrelated to my job) lifted me up the rest of the weekend. As a byproduct, I learned about ancient history, different kinds of sacred literature, and how ancient ethical teachings (can and should) influence community values and action today. I started attending our synagogue's lay-led *Shabbat* morning services, where I developed service-leading skills. And, equally important, I made new friends.

Here at Temple Israel, we have had a year-round *Shabbat* morning *Torah* study group for the past 4+ years. We learn together every Saturday morning (holiday weekends included) at 9:30 a.m. and while I generally facilitate, we also have wonderful members who serve as guest facilitators including Charlie Eaton, Karen Davis and Paul Cohen. During this hour-ish of learning, we have lively discussions applying the *Torah's* lessons to our modern lives ... you never know where Torah might take us!

Additionally, about once a month, Temple Israelites celebrate *Shabbat* morning upstairs in the Media Center with a creative service called "Out of the Box Shabbat." This part of our *Shabbat* morning experience is an intentionally interactive music-centered service filled with questions (and answers) about how we can interpret and apply our faith tradition more individually meaning that, while the service follows the traditional prayer rubric, it allows us to explore the meanings of our prayers more deeply, and more personally. Further, you may already be familiar with the melodies used for this morning worship (usually provided by our volunteer lay cantorial soloist, Carol Garrett) but, if not, you will learn them quickly as they are carefully selected to be particularly inclusive.

Our next "Out of the Box Shabbat" morning worship will take place on Saturday, February 23rd. Additional dates include: March 16, April 13 (our special "Family Edition" which includes our Religious School students), and May 4. All of these morning services are followed by a light Kiddush luncheon open to all who attend the service ... no RSVP necessary.

Continued on next page...

Rabbi message continued ...

If neither of these suggestions speak to you, perhaps you might decide to try something like reading Jewish-themed books on *Shabbat*, or maybe you are intentional about taking a *Shabbat* nap. Perhaps you start listening to Jewish-themed podcasts on Shabbat (I can recommend several) or perhaps you try to be intentional about lighting *Shabbat* candles at home on Friday night. Maybe you become intentional about catching up with friends or distant relatives on *Shabbat* or maybe you simply don't open your mail.

Whatever you decide to try, remember many things can wait until Sunday – actually, almost everything can. February is a short month, which means it is a great month to set goals for trying something new ... so, just for the month of February, consider trying on something new for *Shabbat*. You never know, you might like it so much you could continue with this new habit into March! Finally, as the famous Jewish poet Ahad Ha'am said: "More than the Jewish people have kept *Shabbat*, *Shabbat* has kept the Jewish people." May you be blessed with the benefits of incorporating new and meaningful *Shabbat* rituals into your lives, and may they lead you to increased *Shabbat* peace. Please let me know how I can help you on your Jewish journey.

Join Us for a Special 3-part Sermon Series Discussing ...

"What Does It Mean to Be a Reform Jew Today?"

Reform Judaism's core teachings are based on a belief that Judaism has continuously adapted itself throughout the centuries and that we should continue to change and adapt while honoring tradition.

Join us for a series of 3 *Erev Shabbat* services this month as Rabbi Olshein speaks about Judaism's evolution – where we were, where we are, and where we are going as progressive Jews in the world today.

(Each sermon will stand on its own, so please come even if you can't attend all three nights.)

Fridays, February 8, 15, and 22 Worship at 6:30pm

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Temple Israel of West Palm Beach

Guest Speaker

Ambassador Ido Aharoni

Former Consul General of Israel in New York



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The Mussar Moment

Rabbi Emeritus Howard Shapiro

Sometimes I feel as though I am walking through the days and nights of my life as a robot. I forget to stop and pause and get lost and get found in the minutes or even seconds of what is happening outside of me. Take this flash of life and light that I wrote about when sitting one cool morning on our porch in North Carolina. I bring it to you in a *Mussar* spirit because it moves me towards the attribute of "Bitachon" - for some that word is all about faith; I hear the word and trust in its syllables.

It really looks like smoke – the mist, the visible presence of something unseen in the air. I guess I look for that reminding me there is more to life than what we see and what we think is real. Even the undersides of the leaves tell a different story than the top. Their color is fresher and newer; they show themselves as the wind and breeze sweeps in from different directions. They turn the tree from green to almost grey or white or lime or lemon depending on the time of day and direction of the sun.

To show your underside is to be vulnerable and that takes a lot of courage; that takes a lot of faith; that takes a lot of trust. Only one of those trees is doing that. Does it have the most to gain or the most to lose? This much I seem to believe: there are levels of meaning; there is God in these hills; there is God in the underbelly of these leaves; there is God in the silence outside of me and the noise inside; there is God.

The work of *Mussar* is to recognize that everything teaches and every moment, experience, happening is another opportunity to look at ourselves and appreciate all that we have been given. The work of *Mussar* is to trust that as accomplished as I am, I am still incomplete. There is room for me to reach for holiness and find in that stretching faith in myself and the God who moves through me. The work of *Mussar* is to grab the opportunity to learn from the underside of a gently swaying leaf.





President's Circle
Nancy and Barry Horowitz

We are pleased to report that we have had a tremendous response to our challenge to current President's Circle members to move up in their level of support. Six Silver Level members have moved up to Gold: an Anonymous donor; Michell and Carlos Escobar; Elaine and Mark Feldmesser; Barbara and Len Gray; Linda and Jeffrey Hirsch; and Judy and Alan Shuster. We thank them for going the extra step in supporting the synagogue. We also wish to thank Lori Ackerman for joining, taking over from her parents who were inaugural members, as well as all of the new members who joined recently.

We continue to challenge our current members to move up in their level of support. We also challenge the congregation to join the President's Circle now that more spaces have opened up at the Silver Level (of course, you can certainly join at higher levels as well)! Remember, membership is inclusive of and not in addition to your annual commitment. We will be updating the plaque outside of the social hall in February to reflect current 2019 members and a full list of members will be printed in the next Koleynu and on our website.



Temple Israel Sisterhood

Our congregation collected over \$1,600.00 in gift cards under the able direction of Ellen Goldenson and the Sisterhood this *Chanukah* season.

On behalf of Alpert Jewish Family Service, I want to thank all donors for their generosity and to share with you how the gift cards were and are being used. All identifying information has been changed.

Very vulnerable adults who have been deemed incapacitated are cared for under the auspices of AJFS's Guardianship Program, which I direct. Several of our wards received gift cards. They are under our supervision because they have no family who are able to take on that role. Many are indigent or near indigent, and their needs are very simple.

A 90 year-old woman who lives with her son, who has special needs, will be able to purchase blinds for her windows thanks to TI donations. Her blinds were old and in disrepair.

A man with few possessions, in his 80s, moved into a nursing home about a year ago. We transferred him to another nursing home recently and discovered that his few possessions had mostly disappeared. With gift cards, we were able to replace lost clothing - he was delighted.

We have a ward in her 70s who resides in a retirement community with her Shih Tzu. They live comfortably there, but have few funds to spare at the end of each month. PetSmart gift cards will provide grooming for the dog, which is much needed and not really a luxury. We were also able to purchase them a rug for their studio apartment with a gift card purchased from generous congregants at TI.



A group home resident in his 50s with intellectual disabilities received a jam box and CDs of his favorite music, which we delivered on his birthday. He was radiating with happiness upon receiving the gifts!

Several survivors of the Holocaust received gift cards to purchase items on their own. Most received Publix cards to stretch their budgets a bit. A few others were able to purchase holiday gifts for their grandchildren with our assistance. One purchased extra dog food for her Seeing Eye dog with the gift cards we provided.

Fellow congregants, you really made a difference in our community - in others' lives. We appreciate you!



Security at TI Jennifer Green Baer, Administrator

At Temple Israel, we take the personal safety of our congregants, staff and visitors as well as the security of our campus very seriously. That is why we are continuously exploring the best safety practices and security measures to put in place at our house of worship. We are in constant contact with our local and federal monitoring and law enforcement agencies to ensure that we are continuously aware of what is happening in and around our community.

You will notice on your Temple statement, a non-optional \$50.00 security fee, which was approved at the Annual Meeting, to help defray the ongoing costs of our security maintenance & improvements.

Below are a few highlights

- 1. West Palm Beach S.W.A.T. has done risk assessments of our campus and provided us with suggested improvements which we are considering. They will also be using our facility as a training space for their team members.
 - a. This will help strengthen Temple Israel's relationship with local law enforcement and encourage response time if we ever require it.
 - b. This will allow local law enforcement to become familiar with our campus and staff, which will increase our opportunity for a better outcome for our congregation and visitors if an emergency were to occur.
 - c. We are providing a safe training ground for our police department.
- Temple Israel has enhanced the lighting on the eastern side of our building facing the Intracoastal Waterway. Florida Power and Light has replaced the lights in our parking lot with LED lights for a brighter, safer area at night.
- 3. We have applied for a security grant through the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County. If accepted, we will use the funds to increase our security measures around the perimeter of our campus.
- 4. Temple Israel is restructuring its Security Committee. If you would like to participate with us to regularly evaluate and enhance all aspects of our security needs or just want to learn more, please contact our Security Chair, Marty List at marty@thelistcompanies.com.
 - a. The committee will meet to discuss security enhancements and improvements.
 - b. Develop response plans for various types of emergencies.
 - c. Create a group of Temple members who are trained to take leadership roles in following our response plans.
 - d. Have opportunities to receive leadership response training.
 - e. Make recommendations to the Board of Directors on ways to better secure our campus.





Membership Committee News

Carol Safran and Amy Jonas, Membership Co-Chairs

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, member of the British House of Lords and former Chief Rabbi of the United Congregations of the Commonwealth writes, "The beauty of creation, as we believe and as science ever more wondrously shows, is that Unity above creates diversity below, and the more complex the life form, the greater the diversity. The *Rambam (Moreh haNevuchim* 2: 40) says that though diversity applies to all life forms, it applies more to humans than any other. To which one must surely add, and among Jews more than most ... No small people is more diverse, ethnically, culturally, attitudinally and religiously...".

How do these words apply to Temple Israel?

Look around at our congregational family. We are truly a diverse group: young and old; families, empty nesters, couples, and singles; Ashkenazi and Sephardi; members for decades and members for days; Floridians for generations and newcomers to our area; even Democrats, Republicans and Independents!

Rather than separate us, the differences among us are actually a source of strength. As Rabbi Sacks continues, "So difference [is a sign] not of unhealthy division but of health. The Judaism of *Torah*, *Emunah* (*faith*) and *Halakhah* (Jewish law) continues to do what it has done for so long - to defeat the law of entropy that states, all systems lose energy over time. Not Judaism ..."

In addition, maybe that vibrancy is not just the **result** of our diversity but also the **source** of Temple Israel's ability to attract Reform Jews of all stripes. When you enter a room where everyone looks and sounds the same *except for you*, it's hard to feel at home. However, when you find yourself in a diverse group that celebrates your individuality, it's so much easier to feel part of the family. Our differences bring us together and enrich our congregation as a whole. The most important point, our love of Temple Israel and our commitment to our congregation and Reform Judaism, we are all very much alike.

Happy 2019 from the Membership Committee!

We are happy to welcome the following new members to the TI Family as of 9/15/2018: Alev Yalman Jo-Robin Hurwitz Susie & Richard Rieser Roberta Cirino Gayle Bard Hanny & Ezra Lavine

Honor a Loved One with a Leaf 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.



TI Making A Difference





Nate Frederickson, Jennifer Strauss and Marty List serving at St. George's Church on Christmas Day





Filling Rice Bags for Cros Ministries & The West Palm Beach Food Pantry

Spotlight – Jennifer StraussBoard Member & Religious School Co-Chair

1. Why do you belong to Temple Israel?

The short answer to why I belong to Temple Israel is family, but that does not fully express my feelings about our Temple membership. To fully express that, I need to go back to my childhood. Growing up, my temple always felt like my family and a place where I belonged. I grew up with the kids in my religious school, and even met my husband while in preschool at my temple. The area where I grew up did not have many Jewish kids, and although being Jewish was a large part of my identity, it was also isolating. When I went to temple, I had a built-in network of friends who also had the same shared experience and values. As an adult with children of my own, I wanted them to feel that same feeling I had of temple being a place where they were comfortable and had that network of friends. When we moved to Florida we tried out many temples and went to a lot of different services, from Chabad to Unity, but none of them felt like home. My mother suggested that we all try a service at Temple Israel, and after that first Friday night service, I knew we had found our home. Everyone was so welcoming and immediately it felt like a family. We joined Temple shortly after that, and have been part of the family since.



2. Why did you choose to become involved with the leadership of Temple Israel?

I choose to be involved with the leadership of Temple Israel for my children. My Jewish values are important to me, and I want them to be an example for my girls. I also wanted to help to make their experience the best it could be at Temple, so taking a leadership role helps me to ensure that the religious and social values that are important to me continue to be what Temple Israel represents.

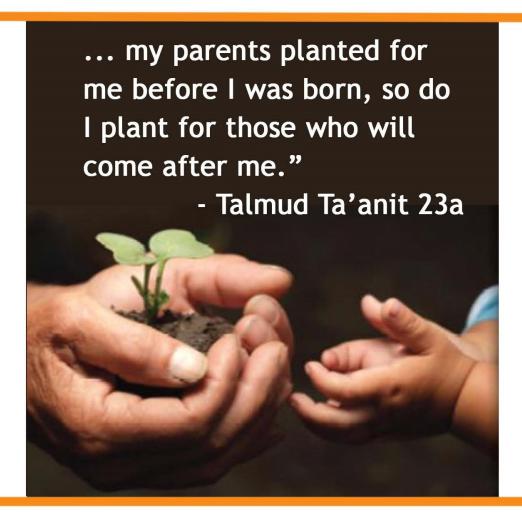
3. What is something fascinating about your family that many people do not know?

I come from a very musical family. My maternal grandfather was a drummer and my grandmother was a singer in numerous bands. My aunt is a jazz musician in Italy – she moved there in college, fell in love and never came home. My other aunt is a violinist and music teacher. She even played on Aretha Franklin's albums and with the Detroit Philharmonic. I play the violin, my sisters, who are twins, play the cello and the flute. Then there is my mom who plays the guitar, piano and sings. And the next generation is starting to get the music bug.

4. Why is it important to you for Temple Israel be here in 50 years?

It is important to me that Temple Israel is here in 50 years because I want that same sense of family and values to be present for both my children and future grandchildren. A sense of Jewish identity is important to me, but also important to the future generations. It is a tradition that dates back to our ancestors and something that I want to pass on to future generations. The traditions that have been passed down from my grandparents are something that ties me to all Jews around the world. It is a sense of home and a sense of interconnectivity. As the song goes, "Wherever you go there is always someone Jewish." Temple Israel embodies the religious and social values that are important to me, while also incorporating modern Jewish values and social issues we face today.





You can plant seeds upon which the future of Temple Israel can grow.

Leave your legacy today for our shared Jewish tomorrow



For additional information about Temple Israel's Legacy Society contact the Temple Office: 561.833.8421



Temple Israel's Legacy Society Shomrim

A gift to TI's Legacy Society ensures a strong future for our synagogue. A legacy gift is not a cash donation today, but a promise for the future. Your commitment will enable you to: Ensure that the Jewish traditions you cherish will continue in perpetuity; Express beliefs instilled in you by your parents and grandparents; Preserve the special qualities of our Temple Israel family; Set an example for your family and community; Secure a safe and progressive space for Jewish identity for future generations.

ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS

ANONYMOUS

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Jennifer & Michael Strauss

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*of blessed memory

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11 Bernard & Jacqueline Kandel

14 Fred & Sandy Fine

18 Ray & Linda Golden

20 Michael & Cherri Alexander

21 Seth Schwartz & Melissa Duncan

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AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Temple Israel of WPB every time you shop, at no cost to you.



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On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, you need to select a charitable organization – Temple Israel (location: West palm Beach, FL) to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon.com will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

February Birthdays

- 1 Cynnie S. List
- 1 Eleanor Shiffman
- 1 Irv Silver
- 2 Lisa Caplan
- 2 Liam Fine
- 3 Keren Eckstein
- 3 Adrianne Weissman
- 4 Ella Preefer
- 6 Stanley Althof
- 6 Adam Baer
- 6 Jeff Mullens
- 6 Bonnie Sax
- 6 Dick Shugarman
- 6 Gregg Weiss
- 6 Linda Yosinoff

- 7 Aden Bentolila
- 7 Noah De Chalambert
- 7 Ted Leopold
- 10 Judith Kanter
- 10 Barbara Levine
- 11 Sylvia Siegfried
- 12 Erica Maltz
- 15 Donna Fishman
- 15 Ann Small
- 15 Barbara Stern
- 17 Mara Frederiksen
- 17 Julia Rothschild
- 18 Stuart Bagatell
- 18 Rachel Green

- 19 Lynn Levy
- 19 Carol Loreto-Maddox
- 20 Janie Grackin
- 22 Carole Klein
- 23 Lauren Warshaw
- 24 Richard Baer
- 24 Rita Zabarkus
- 25 Marcie Gorman-Althof
- 26 Olivia Buhler-Lieberman
- 26 Alvin Jagoda
- 26 Irma Morris
- 27 Melissa Duncan
- 28 Marty List
- 28 Zelda Mason
- 28 Sarah Sax



Rothman Baby Naming

On December 21, 2018 the newest member of our congregation had his baby naming, Matthew Eli Rothman. Matthew is Hebrew for "gift from god", which his mom and dad both fell in love with. His middle name, Eli, comes frome his Hebrew name, Eliezer, which was the Hebrew name of David's maternal grandfather who unfortunately passed away about a year and a half ago.

Pictured: David, Jennifer, Matthew Eli and big brother, Damien Rothman with Rabbi Olshein.





Abramson Engagement

Congratulations to TI Member, Marc Abramson, to Liz Yoder. Marc is the son of TI members Larry and Patti Abramson, grandson of Ruth Abramson and nephew of Sarajane and Bob Marell.



Mitzvah Opportunity From TI's Social Action Committee

HELP THE HUNGRY

Join the Temple Israel Family in helping the Palm Beach Food Bank and CROS Ministries gather food.

WHAT: Gleaning - picking crops where they are grown

WHEN: Sunday, February 3, 2019

TIME: Meet at Temple parking lot at 7:30 a.m.

RSVPs required by January 27th. Contact Terry Resk at terryresk@aol.com.



You shall not pick your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I am Adonai your God.

-Lev. 19:10

Just Breathe: Jewish Chair Yoga Every Wednesday at 10:30 am

Combining Jewish ideology with ancient yoga tradition, we are pleased to introduce you to Jewish Chair Yoga! Framed by quotes from the Jewish mystical tradition (using the chair as our tool both sitting and standing), we will engage in gentle stretching and balance postures to strengthen our bodies and souls. The only requirement is that you must breathe! Free and open to the entire community. No RSVP necessary... just come!









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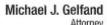


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 $February\ 2019$ Visit www.Temple-Israel.com for more information about these events and programs and for the latest calendar updates.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Erev Shabbat TI Cultural Series "Simply Jewish" Chef/Author Michael Twitty— Kosher/Soul: Black-Jewish Identity Cooking 6:00 pm - Proneg 6:30 pm - Service	2 Torah Study 9:30 am
3	4	5 Executive Committee Meeting 6:00 pm	Voga 10:30 am Hebrew School 4:00 pm	7 In-Depth Learning "Dilemmas of Faith" 7:00 pm	8 Erev Shabbat 6:00 pm - Proneg 6:30 pm - Service	9 Torah Study 9:30 am Bar Mitzvah Aden Bentolila 10:45 am
Religious School	11	Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience and Spirit 1:00 pm Mussar and Your Voice for Growth 7:00 pm	13 Yoga 10:30 am Hebrew School 4:00 pm	14	Erev Shabbat 6:00 pm - Proneg 6:30 pm - Service	Torah Study 9:30 am Writing Your Ethical Will (must RSVP by 2/13) 1:00 pm Religious School Trip Overnight @PB Zoo
17	18	Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm	20 Yoga 10:30 am Hebrew School 4:00 pm	21 In-Depth Learning "Dilemmas of Faith" 7:00 pm	22 Erev Shabbat 6:00 pm - Proneg 6:30 pm - Service	23 Torah Study 9:30 am Out-of-the-Box Shabbat 11:00 am
Religious School 9:00 am TI Film Club "School Ties" 2:00 pm	25	Vise Aging - Living with Joy, Resilience and Spirit 1:00 pm	27 Yoga 10:30 am Hebrew School 4:00 pm	28	March 1 Brotherhood Shabbat 6:00 pm - Proneg 6:30 pm - Service	





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