

Honoring Rabbi Olshein






Nancy & Don Carter Campus

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RABBI

Cookie Lea Olshein

CANTOR

Michael Kruk

RABBI EMERITUS

Howard Shapiro, D.D.

TEMPLE ADMINISTRATOR/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Karen Szteinberg

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From the Rabbi

Rabbi Cookie Lea Olshein

How Do You Measure a Year, Much Less Eight?

Adventures – I have been blessed with many.

As I now prepare to move forward towards my next adventure, a dear friend reminded me of the song “Seasons of Love” from “Rent,” one of the most celebrated musicals of all time. The song talks about different ways we can measure time, beginning with the suggestion that it is not enough to simply measure time in numerical increments, as it says, “525,600 minutes, how do you measure, measure a year?”

The long list following includes not only daylights, sunsets, and midnights, but measuring time via cups of coffee, laughter, and strife. But how can I measure eight years?

I choose to measure my eight years in the blessings I have received and the adventures I have experienced.

I have been blessed to stand with your families to name your babies (and grandbabies), help your children (and grandchildren) become *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, marry your children, walk with you through physical and mental challenges, hold your hands when your loved ones were dying and, saddest of all, to say goodbye as we buried them.

Thank you for trusting me to be present with you during these extraordinary moments in your lives. You have allowed me to teach your children, both informally and formally as the Religious School Music Teacher and as the Director of the Religious School ... and many of you have joined me for one of the many adult education programs (including our weekly *Shabbat* morning *Torah* Study) to continue your Jewish education. Thank you for being a model to your families and our sacred community.

You have joined me for our sacred worship, which has included not only our special *Shabbatot* and the High Holy Days, where we have thoughtfully introduced multiple new prayer books to our community as well as creative worship unlike anything experienced at Temple Israel (including *Shabbat* worship ON the beach away from Temple Israel).

And then there was the small, but mighty, group which traveled with me to Israel, while so many others traveled into a neighborhood they might not otherwise visit, by helping create the WPB Food Pantry, right here in our neighborhood.

To those of you who opened your hearts to me, I thank you. To those of you who shared your time with me, I thank you. To those of you who shared your families with me, I thank you.

I hope you will be excited for me as I embark on my next adventure, returning to my much beloved Las Vegas home for at least one year to write (and I do hope I will invite me to come back and share when I finish my first book). I will also be doing some teaching at my home synagogue and leading Scholar-in-Residence experiences around the country. As I have seen time and time again while burying people, life is short and we should not be afraid to try new experiences while we can – I really do believe I am “walking my talk” as I move forward to my next adventure.

Finally, to all of you who have been so kind to me over these eight years, please remember that *g'milut chasadim*, acts of lovingkindness, are included in the *Mishnah's* list of actions whose worth cannot be measured – just like I can never really measure the impact these past years have had on me other than to say it has been my honor to be your Rabbi.

Who knows what our next 525,600 minutes will look like? May we each be blessed with many meaning-filled adventures as we find out!



From the President

Marty List

In this issue of the *Koleynu*, you will find many memories of Rabbi Olshein's eight years of service to Temple Israel and its congregants. Rabbi was prophetic in a 2012 article in the Palm Beach Daily News, when, upon her arrival, she said "One of my biggest goals is helping people find their place in the Jewish community." She certainly accomplished that, with great intention.

She forged a path of Social Justice at Temple Israel and in the community, touching many lives along the way, while always being a positive influence as the face of Reform Judaism. Our congregation's awareness of those on the fringes of our society has been greatly increased by her example and she led us to greater levels of inclusion for everyone.

She worked tirelessly to improve the lives of those in our community. Where she saw a need, she tried to fill it. Whether by stepping in as our Religious School Director or by leading the way for TI volunteers at the Cros Ministries Food Pantry in West Palm Beach, she has always been "all in".

She brought "out-of-the-box" approaches to Religious and Cultural programming throughout her time with us. The weekly Torah Study sessions on Saturday mornings have been the place for lively "Jewish" thought since her arrival, her "*Hineini*" mid-day service on *Yom Kippur* was so meaningful for us as we approached the conclusion of our High Holy Days, and who could ever forget her facilitation of the appearance of world renown Chef, Michael Twitty, through our "Simply Jewish Series".

The list of her accomplishments goes on and on. But the time has come to say our "Goodbye". Please join me in thanking Rabbi Olshein for these past eight years. My hope is that, among the many opportunities in this *Koleynu*, you will find ways to voice your personal farewell to her and wish her well on the next stage of her Jewish Journey.



Temple Israel Brotherhood

Mike Strauss, Brotherhood President

The brotherhood would like to thank Rabbi Olshein for all the support that she has shown to us. Rabbi has always been supportive of the Brotherhood and our events, whether giving a prayer before eating, catching some sunshine and possible a stray ball at our day at the ballpark, or just relaxing outside during our dinner in the *Sukkah*.

Rabbi, your help, wisdom and dedication will always be remembered here at Temple Israel and especially in the Brotherhood. We wish you all the best on your next steps.





From the Executive Director

Karen Szteinberg, Temple Administrator/Executive Director

This month I dedicate my article to my father in honor of Father's Day in June, and I extend my thoughts and gratitude to others who, similar to our dads, have shaped our lives.

I give accolades to our teachers who provide us with knowledge; the best ones also inspire and encourage us. Our families and friends teach us as well, including about sharing and compassion. In business we have mentors who disperse their wisdom upon us. For me, this was my father who steered me into being cumulative in thought, to never bring up a problem without also suggesting a resolution. And of course there is our spiritual counselor to whom we turn for both religious and personal guidance.

When I was 12 years old, my family moved to South Merrick, Long Island, which was predominantly Jewish, much more so than my previous address. My sister and I were excited to speak with the Rabbi about becoming B'not Mitzvah. We explained that we had lived too far from our last temple and our parents worked full-time. Instead of attending Hebrew School, we were tutored privately. The Rabbi replied that wasn't good enough; in order to become B'not Mitzvah, we would need to attend the temple's Hebrew School starting in Aleph class with the 8 year olds. He did not inquire into what we already knew. He was cold and discouraging with a wave of his hand, and my sister and I never pursued our studies. Our temple wasn't a social synagogue and it rarely had any programs. I attended temple only on the High Holy Days and still recall some of the Rabbi's sermons including a lengthy lecture on why women shouldn't wear taffeta dresses to temple, berating our affluent congregants. As my mother would say, he had little *tzeke!*

Over 40 years later, I have now experienced a very different feel that a temple can offer, one that embraces all who enter. Rabbi Olshein has been welcoming us into the temple, sanctuary and her office for the last eight years. She has provided us with Torah studies, rabbinical wisdom and sermons on how to look around the world and better ourselves. She has piloted and taught countless diverse programs for all ages, stages and backgrounds. She has directed our Religious School and works with our students one-on-one. Her Social Action mission is evident in almost all she does including our involvement with CROS Ministries and her association with various community leaders (integrating our *Martin Luther King Jr. Shabbat* among other programs). For me personally, she has held my hand guiding me through every holiday, imparted institutional memory, instructed me on social media and so much more. I could not have performed as well in my position this past year if it wasn't for Rabbi Olshein.

The actions of one Rabbi years ago made me disheartened with attending temple and pursuing my studies. The actions of one Rabbi now has reinvigorated my desire to learn and I attend *Erev Shabbat* services almost every Friday. And for this I say, thank you, Rabbi Olshein, for helping me bring back Torah into my life.

But as much as Rabbi's influence has my utmost appreciation, my belief in Judaism was instilled long before. From my earliest memories, I was taught to lead a righteous life and adhere to *tikkun olam*. I was guided by our traditions. And the one who led me was my father who, hand-in-hand, brought me to shul every Friday night. *L'dor v'dor*. Thank you, dad, with all my heart.

Wishing all of our fathers, grandfathers, uncles, sons, brothers and other paternal figures a very Happy Father's Day!



Temple Israel Sisterhood

Carol Garrett, Sisterhood President

Summer is almost upon us, and although we still must be physically distant, the Sisterhood is coming together as a community to support one another, make outreach calls, support the temple and plan for our upcoming year of events. As a temple family, we wish Rabbi Olshein “Adieu” and welcome Rabbi Salkin as our new interim Rabbi. We look forward to a new journey and a renewed purpose!



I am honored and blessed to be your Sisterhood President and to have such a strong and capable Sisterhood board and group of advisors. We are ready to create interesting programs to support the members and the congregation! Hopefully all of our sisters will be looking out for our scheduled events! Creating the calendar for the upcoming year will be my first order of business. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas and know that I am open to listen, grab a coffee or share ideas. You can always contact me at 561-827-1646 or at TIWPBSisterhood@gmail.com



Religious School

Jackie Klein, Religious School Director

Wow. It has been quite an eventful first year as Director of our youth and Religious School. Truly it could not have been done without our devoted teachers who continually showed how much they care and are always willing to lend a hand.



There is much I could reflect upon in this first year but I'd prefer to share what I'm looking forward to instead. I've always found comfort and excitement in the practice of exploring our sacred texts and even more interesting to be part of the process of learning from one's students. We have recently celebrated the holiday of *Shavuot*. This holiday that doesn't get the most attention in Religious School because it often occurs after school ends. One of my favorite *Shavuot* traditions is to stay up all night long and eat lots of ice cream and cheesecake. This is my way to bring the sweetness of Torah to life while learning for no other reason other than to learn with one another. I look forward to bringing ice cream to all of our Religious School families right before *Shavuot* to share some sweetness of Torah with them.

In the spirit of learning and the Torah, I hope that you had the chance to join your Temple Israel family on Zoom while we learned about the Ten Commandments from ten of our congregants.

Although the religious school year has officially ended, we look forward to extending our programming year for our youth group throughout the summer with both online and in-person socially distanced programs (the latter assuming its feasibility among today's health concerns.) Keep an eye out for future emails detailing more information!

Last, I wish to thank Rabbi Olshein who has been my mentor this last year. She has gone out of the way to make me feel comfortable and confident in my role. The Temple Israel students and youth will surely miss her in all that she has contributed to our programs.





The *Mussar* Moment

Barry Horowitz, M.D.

I received a gift this morning.
 I had set my timer for five minutes and closed my eyes.
 I first focused on experiencing just my sense of taste (toothpaste),
 then switched to hearing (the fan, birds, a hum),
 then smell (coffee),
 then touch (my shorts on my legs, my back touching the couch),
 then sight (some floaties, splotches of color).
 Then, gratitude.
 Reminded of that idea from Teilhard de Chardin:
 We are not physical beings having a spiritual experience,
 but spiritual beings having a physical experience.
 Inspired to try something I'd never gotten to click before:
 To notice whatever it is that is doing the noticing.
 If we are not our senses,
 if each of us is not what happens to us,
 or our emotions,
 or our perceptions,
 then who are we?
 As if sneaking behind a curtain,
 I twisted my mind's eye inside out
 to see what it was seeing.
 There it was.
 A beam of light.
 A flickering glow stick of electricity
 with no start
 and no end.
 Remarkable, Transcendent Flow.
 When we read "Let There Be Light,"
 or see a *Ner Tamid*,
 or dream of an *Or Hadash*,
 we don't tend to think of ourselves.
 But maybe, when we are focused on blessing,
 on the wholeness of the universe,
 on the Source,
 we have the possibility to see the light within,
 connecting all things,
 creating all possibilities.
 As it is said in Psalms:
 By your light do we see light.

Dr. Andrew K. Mandel is a rabbinical student at HUC in New York and founder of Yom HaTzedek.



2020 PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE MEMBERS

as of 05/20/20

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Bernard Weinstein
Anonymous

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Sherry and Steve Jacobs
Harriet Miller

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Donna Fishman
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Linda and Jeffrey Hirsch
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Karen and Marty List
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Adrianne and Fred Weissman
Anonymous
Anonymous

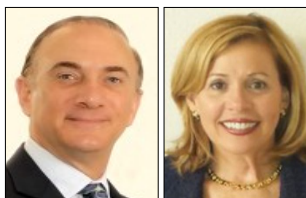
SILVER

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Ruth Abramson
Lori Ackerman

SILVER (continued)

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Fred Apel
Rikki and Stuart Bagatell
Eunice and Jim Baros
Edith and Gerard Belilty
Bill Bone
Barbara and Victor* Brizel
Joan Chorney
Suzy and Richard Cohen
Amy and Jeffrey Devore
Valerie and Charles Eaton
Georgene and Jim Eisenberg
Suzanne and Edward Elson
Joy FeBland
Cynthia Friedman
Mary Arpe and Michael J. Gelfand
Judith Goldblatt*
Ellen Goldenson
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Terry and Roger Hork
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Ruth Smith
Cathy Solomon
Barbara and Burton* Stern

** in blessed memory*



President's Circle

Michael and Amy Jonas, Co-chairs

Much has changed since January when we first assumed the chairmanship of President's Circle following Nancy and Barry Horowitz's leadership. As the year began, we were starting to plan for a springtime event in the Waterview Courtyard to thank our PC donors and were thinking of creative ways to celebrate the President's Circle turning twenty-five in 2020. We decided to commemorate the Silver Anniversary by setting an aspirational goal of obtaining twenty-five positive President's Circle movements.

While plans for a reception in May needed to be put on hold given the situation with the Coronavirus, we still want to thank all our President's Circle donors. We also have not given up the goal of increasing both the number of members who commit to a President's Circle level of support as well as the total amount that is raised by the President's Circle. To date, there have been seven increases to a higher level and one brand new commitment. As the year progresses, we hope to be able to announce others. Not only will that mean that we are closer to the goal of 25 for the 25th, but it will also mean that Temple Israel will be stronger.

It is during challenging times that the support of our generous donors is most important. On behalf of the Temple, we thank all our President's Circle members.

In 2019, President's Circle commitments accounted for approximately 23% of our overall annual revenues and about 40% of our annual commitments. We literally could not operate without the President's Circle in balancing the Temple's budget, achieving all of our amazing operations and programs and assisting those members who cannot afford their annual financial commitment.

Please consider joining the ranks of your fellow congregants by joining our President's Circle and adding your name to our plaque in the List Lobby. The levels of support are below. For more information, contact Karen Szteinberg at (561) 833-8421 or karen@temple-israel.com.

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE LEVELS

Titanium \$ 25,000

Pearl \$ 10,000

Opal \$ 7,500

Diamond \$ 5,000

Platinum \$ 4,000

Gold \$ 3,400

Silver \$ 2,500





Social Action

Mary Arpe and Terry Resk, Co-Chairs

Somehow, Rabbi Olshein knew more people in our community after just one year here than many of us knew after decades in the area. Throughout her time with us, regardless of with whom you were speaking, as soon as Temple Israel was mentioned, you so often heard: "that's Rabbi Cookie's synagogue; I love Rabbi Cookie."

Whether it's strengthening Temple's bonds with other Jewish organizations, with people of other faiths or with secular community organizations, Rabbi Olshein has made Temple Israel a name in which we can take pride.

From her position as the first female president of the Palm Beach County Board of Rabbis to her role of giving hugs and hope to the homeless, she is equally comfortable with those of all walks of life. She truly "walks the walk" as a rabbi – both literally and figuratively – through such activities as her participation in the "Peace Walks" within "at risk" neighborhoods.

We hesitate to try to explain the scope of Rabbi's reach within the local community, as we will inevitably omit more examples than we include. Similarly, it would be impossible to identify all of those people whose lives she has enriched. Suffice it to say that supporters and clients of local, national and international organizations have benefited from her involvement – CROS Ministries, the Lord's Place, West Palm Beach's Mayor's Interfaith Advisory Council and the American Jewish World Congress, to name just a few. She has forged relationships with countless other congregations and cultures, the most visible result of which may be our annual MLK Interfaith Freedom Shabbat Celebration.

Best of all, we were lucky enough to have Rabbi Olshein bring the breadth of her social justice knowledge and the benefits of her contacts to Temple Israel. Programs included those on such a wide range of topics as poverty, gun safety, racial, gender and sexual discrimination, and the restoration of voters' rights. From Rabbi Jonah Pesner of RAC to Michael Twitty of Kosher Soul Food fame; from local dreamers to an Israeli "Woman of the Wall", Rabbi Olshein broadened our horizons, challenged us to confront our own limitations, and encouraged us to think "outside of the box".

Rabbi Olshein personifies many of our precepts and prayers, but the one that immediately comes to mind is that she has truly "strengthened the bonds of friendship and fellowship" throughout the Palm Beaches. It is no wonder that she was awarded the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County's inaugural "Tikkun Olam"- Community Service Award!

Thank you, Rabbi Olshein, for your leadership in Social Action.



A Message from Your Transition Team

As we take the first steps in our transition, we continue our Temple's tradition of honoring our past while looking towards our future. Unfortunately our COVID-19 reality of 2020 seriously limits how we can honor Rabbi Olshein's tenure with us. Our Campus is on lock-down and we are all practicing social distancing. Our intention was to have a lovely *Shabbat* dinner and *Oneg* at her final *erev Shabbat* worship service but in today's climate, that is impossible. In its place, we give you Plan B. Choose from any or all of these opportunities to participate virtually and safely in our farewell to Rabbi.

FAREWELL COMMITTEE – Chair: Carol Garrett – 561-827-1646

Events:

- **Private ZOOM Conversation with Rabbi Olshein** – Call the Temple Office (561-833-8421) by June 1st to receive an invitation with your appointment time for an approximately 5-10 minute private meeting with Rabbi (time allowed dependent upon availability) during the following days and times:
 - Tuesday, June 9, 2020, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm
 - or
 - Thursday, June 11, 2020, 4:30 – 5:30 pm
- **Erev Shabbat**, Friday June 12, 2020, 6:15 pm. Rabbi will lead us in her final *erev Shabbat* service at Temple Israel. Show your support by being present.

Gifts & Mementos

Deadline for Submissions: May 29th. Reach out to each of these contacts for more information.

- **A Video Presentation** of personal memories
 - Charlie Eaton – 561-346-2526
- **A Scrapbook** collection of personal notes and pictures
 - Mail submissions to:
Maggie Kaufman, 2000 Presidential Way #1104, West Palm Beach, FL 33401
- **Gift from the Congregation** – Selection of a meaningful gift Rabbi can remember us by.
 - Mary Arpe – 561-818-7161 / Esther Perman – 917-330-3209
- **Gift from the Board of Directors** – A leaf will be placed on our Tree of Life in the List Lobby in recognition of Rabbi's time with us.

Tributes

- The Congregation has commissioned the creation of a *Tzedakah* Box in Rabbi Olshein's honor that will remain at Temple Israel. The idea of *Tzedakah* embraces the many passions of Rabbi Olshein. To participate in its creation, contact Karen List: 561-762-5555.
- If you wish to support Temple Israel by honoring Rabbi Olshein, a donation may be made in any amount to Temple Israel's *Tzedakah* Fund. Monies from this fund are used to support all the needs of our Temple and both our local and international communities. In turn, Rabbi will receive a note from Temple saying you have made a donation to the fund in her honor. Contact the Temple Office to make a donation. 561-833-8421.

WELCOME COMMITTEE – Chair: Peter Eckstein – 561-704-2336

- Opportunities to welcome Rabbi Salkin to our community are in the very early planning stages. Contact Peter to join in. More information will follow in the weeks and months to come. Everyone's participation is encouraged.

Thank you for your support,

Marty List
President

Elaine Feldmesser
Co-Chair Transition Team

Judy Shuster
Co-Chair Transition Team

A Tribute To Rabbi Cookie Lea Olshein

After 8 years leading our congregation in innovative worship services, programming, life cycle events, religious school and so much more, Rabbi Cookie Lea Olshein will be leaving our synagogue this month but will continue to remain in our hearts.

Rabbi Olshein has brought and strengthened many programs here throughout the years, with an unparalleled commitment to our members and community. Our Beatles and Broadway Shabbats are examples of her creative musical spirit and her Blessing of the Animals is a small token of her love of all life. Her dedication to our students is evident, whether as interim Religious School director with added musical instruction or joining them on their sleepover trips (including at the zoo!) She has relaxed our minds, body and spirit through her Day Spa for the Soul and various discussion groups and she addressed sensitive issues within Courageous Conversations. Rabbi created fun at our Open Houses during our ShaBaBeQues, has delighted us with witty Purim costumes and has brought self-reflection through her *Hineini* services. Through affiliations including the Shalom Hartman Institute and Union for Reform Judaism, she has led many thought-provoking classes. And she has turned our world upside down... or at least our Purim Breakfast for Dinner!

As we say farewell and wish her the very best in her next endeavor, we hope you enjoy this photographic glimpse and its memories of Rabbi Olshein at Temple Israel.





Personal Memories of Rabbi Cookie Olshein

After eight years at Temple Israel, Rabbi Cookie Olshein's last Friday evening Shabbat service will be June 12. A Rabbi leads the congregation as a group but interacts with each congregant as an individual. These are a few personal memories Rabbi Olshein shared by Temple Israel members, edited for length.

Ilene Weinstein: "My niece, Rabbi Sari Laufer, came to visit and went to Temple. When my mother died, my niece was in communication with Rabbi Cookie, who added my mother's name to the Kaddish list. I attended and felt a great connection to Rabbi Olshein. I joined Temple Israel because of Rabbi Cookie."

Carlos Escobar: "Her smile transcended acceptance, understanding, and worship throughout the congregation."

Michell Escobar: "When Rabbi Olshein spoke, she had a way of making me feel like she was only speaking to me. To have that warmth and sense of open arms in a community is something I've never experienced before and will always cherish."

Jennifer Strauss: "My first memory of Rabbi was my first service here at Temple. During service, my toddler nephew ran up the aisle. Rabbi reached down and picked him up and continued services. That was when I knew we had a temple home."

Dave Aronberg: Rabbi Olshein always made me feel at home and at peace, no matter what "mishegoss" was going on in the outside world.

Beryle Goverman: "'How can I help?'. 'Take a deep breath'. Rabbi has been an angel to me since the day we met, always available to talk - and to talk me down."

Paul Cohen: "Rabbi Olshein brings the Torah to life in Torah Study. We read a few sentences and spend a half-hour discussing the text. Her probing questions lead us to see the words in a different light. I always learn something new from her, even though I have read these portions so many times in my life."

Charlie Eaton: "At some point in almost every Friday service, Rabbi Olshein would say, 'Tonight, we're going to do something a little different', and she would. It made every service special."

Ellen Goldenson: "The first time I met Rabbi Olshein, I confessed that I was a lapsed Jew who hadn't been affiliated with a Synagogue for over forty years. Bracing myself for a scolding, I was astonished when she said 'Welcome home' and offered a big hug."

Robert Kanner: "HamiltonHamiltonHamilton".

Sheila Lutin: "Rabbi Cookie always made services enjoyable with her wonderful imagination."

Carol Garrett: "I was struggling with the Mitzvah of eating Matzah. I'm gluten intolerant. Rabbi took my hands and told me in the Torah we are not to do anything against our health. She said, 'I wouldn't want to go against what another Rabbi says, but it's in Torah you can tell him.' Every further conversation just furthered my faith in her 'Doing the right thing for the right reasons'."

Barbara Hatzfeld: "Rabbi Olshein noticed I said my mother's name every week during the loved ones' illness time. She had me contact the office and add her name to the list."

Lewis Kapner: "Her caring messages always helped the healing process."

Adrian Sandoval: "I will always remember Rabbi Olshein for kindness, her love, and willingness to give everyone her undivided attention."

Cady Sandler: "I always appreciated how welcoming and non-judgmental Rabbi Cookie is. She made me feel totally comfortable, and her emphasis on meeting people where they are helped me transition into being more actively involved in my Jewish life again."

Barbara Brizel: "Rabbi Olshein was there for me when I needed it most. To talk and talk to cry and laugh to understand."

Rorri Geller-Mohamed: My kids would look forward to going to synagogue to see Rabbi Olshein. I love how she gave my 2 and 4-year olds the opportunity to blow a real shofar and see the Torahs in the ark up close. She really includes kids, and they love it.

Colby Stern: "She told me that everyone prays in their own way and recommended that I should pray by playing songs on my guitar, which I found to be super cool advice."

Roberta Cirino: "I will always be grateful for Rabbi Olshein's inspirational and special Shabbat Services and words of Torah, which brought me to services every Friday night for the first time ever in my life. Rabbi Olshein's words of hope and healing supported me through the most difficult times of my life."

Isabel Lucas: "Her kindness and acceptance of people is exceptional."

Jordyn Strauss: "She took an active part in me getting out of my shell, so much so that now I am President of the Youth Group, active in NFTY (Reform Jewish Youth Movement), and a teacher in the Temple religious school!"

Gayle Bard: "I benefitted most from Rabbi saying, 'A flower never grows in a place of always being right'."

Amy Devore: "During my son Ben's junior year of high school, he went on an educational temple trip with Rabbi Olshein to Washington DC. He had gotten into the George Washington University but had not been offered a scholarship. Rabbi Olshein encouraged him to go into the office and ask for one while they were there. They gave him a \$60,000 scholarship. Rabbi Olshein said, *'You don't get what you don't ask for!'*".

Alev Yalman: "When I asked her how to think about a "religious" matter, she has always empowered me by asking what my choices are. *'You always have a choice to decide what is right for you.'* I am grateful for all she has made me think and decide for myself.

Arif Mohamed: "We have come to know her as Rabbi Cookie, which fits her perfectly because she is warm, welcoming, and a very sweet person. As an interfaith family, we always felt like we had a home or a place to go where we felt welcomed and included with Rabbi Cookie, which we appreciated very much."

Esther Perman: "What I love and respect about Rabbi Olshein is her humanity. The drive she had to pursue the rabbinate as a second career – and her fierce commitment to Judaism and imparting her knowledge – reflect this, as does her unwavering dedication to matters of social justice. Yet she's as real as the rest of us – joyous game show contestant, unabashed Hamilton groupie, proud bargain shopper!"

Mary Arpe: "My fondest memories about Rabbi Olshein were when she was away on vacation! This is not a joke. Rabbi has spent several of her summer days at the Chautauqua Institution. Her love of Judaism and of teaching there is contagious. Everyone there loves her for so many reasons and I am sure looks forward to her return when she comes back in 2021 when the institution reopens."

Pam Rada: "I always enjoyed running into Rabbi Cookie at events in the community. Her warm personality made me feel like an old friend and reminded me of the beautiful Jewish community that is always with us".

Rita Holtz: "On occasion, I would stop off at Temple and Rabbi would hear my voice and say *'Is that you, Rita? Come into my office when you're finished!'* I would and felt so much better after speaking with Rabbi Cookie".

Kristine Thurston: "My most precious memory of the Rabbi is how cared for and supported that we felt after our son Ben's death in September. Her spiritual presence was so important to getting us through those early difficult days."

Lynn Levy: "She impressed me with her skills and joy of cooking. There were quite a few recipes that I will always use, so Rabbi will be a constant in my memory. She made me more creative in the kitchen."

Fred Apel: "My affiliation with Cookie Olshein, for a few years since joining the Temple, was strictly that she was our Rabbi. My true appreciation and admiration for her developed at the time of a family crisis when she unexpectedly appeared by our side in the hospital at 2 AM. She came not only as a rabbi but as a caring and compassionate friend to comfort and console our families at a time of grief. It was a time our families will always remember with gratitude."

Barbara Willen: "Her free and liberal spirit should be a beacon to all of us, and she does indeed deliver something different every time she speaks and acts--a charisma I have never experienced before in Judaism, her flair, faith and ever uplifting words that always inspire to do the right thing for humanity and ourselves."

Barbara and Len Gray: "We met Rabbi Olshein when we were new to West Palm Beach, and Barbara's mother had just unexpectedly passed away. She guided our family through this difficult time with warmth, compassion, empathy, and the personal touch of someone who appeared to have always known us. Rabbi Olshein is the reason we are members of Temple Israel."

Rikki Bagatell: "Rabbi sits on the floor with her guitar and literally gets down on the kids' level to engage in song and conversation with them. It is a very humble and meaningful act."

Eric Lieberman: "One Hanukkah night you joined us for a celebration here. When I called to invite you, I was so excited you were free and able to join us and you said *'It's funny how I don't get invited anywhere because people think I'm invited everywhere! I'm so happy to join you!'*"

Sherry Jacobs: "My most special moment involved my Mother Fay, of blessed memory. When I mentioned that she was in hospice care on her last days and unconscious and down in Manalapan, Rabbi said she wanted to go see her. When I said Mom would not likely know she was there, she said she needed to go anyway. This, despite my Mother was not a member of the congregation. After Mom passed and the Funeral, which was held up North in New Jersey, Cookie offered to hold a Memorial Service for Mom at her Condo in the Social Hall. It was beautiful and so touching- everyone- including me was in tears."

Terry Resk: "Never before has serenity so totally enveloped me as during Shabbat services at the beach. When I think of Rabbi Olshein and the programs like that which she brought to TI, I see the morality and compassion of the quintessential Rabbi, coupled with the creativity and innovativeness of a Disney engineer."

Maureen Katz: "Favorite Rabbi Olshein quotes: *'How can help?'* and *'I'm always a phone call away.'*"

Howard Berman: "I found interesting Rabbi Olshein's innovative Shabbat services such as *'Shabbat on Broadway'*, *'Shabbabeque'*, *'Upside-down Purim service'* and *'Proneg'*."

Ruth Salkin: "Rabbi Olshein, you were with me through a very tough time, and that will be forever remembered".

Jay Axelrod: “When I stopped in to fill out a membership application, I was asked if I wanted to meet Rabbi Olshein. Having previously been a member of a large NYC congregation, I was surprised that I could just stop into the Rabbi’s study and have a “meet and greet”. So I did stop in to meet Rabbi Cookie and had a great first conversation. Since then, I have always been more than just a familiar face; Rabbi Olshein always remembers my name and my story. It is that personal aspect of her rabbinate that I have grown to appreciate.”

Michael Gelfand: “Never having met her, greeting her as she arrived as a “Young Clergy Program” participant, she bounded up the steps with a smile, not knowing who the guests for dinner or the Gelfand family, she quickly settled in, relaxed, and joined into the discussion of Jewish geography and purpose for delightful evening.”

Irma Morris: “One of my fondest memories of Rabbi Olshein is the wonderful experience she offered the women of Temple Israel at her ladies day out at her wonderful Spa. The afternoon always had a theme and we studied, had wonderful discussions, and made wonderful things to take home. I shall always treasure my Mezuzah and think of Rabbi and the beautiful day at Temple devoted to women.”

Susan Rieser: “We were drawn to Rabbi Olshein’s warmth and kindness, empathy and candor, grace and humor. Inspired to view the world through her spiritual lens, it opened within us the desire to lead fuller Jewish lives. Memories of Rabbinic wisdom may fade, but our appreciation and affection are forever.”

Stuart Bagatell: “Rabbi Olshein was there when our family needed her. She was able to connect with our sons as they mourned the loss of their beloved Great Grandma Rose.”

Elaine Feldmesser: “Jewish journeys are Rabbi Olshein’s specialty, and she is at her best while helping others define their own Jewishness. We’ll always remember her joy in celebrating the journeys of members of the congregation.”

Debbie Haft: “Rabbi Olshein officiated our daughter’s wedding in a very meaningful and personal manner. She was able to do this because she invested the time with the future bride and groom with many one on one sessions.”

Donna Fishman: “When I had a serious health issue, Rabbi Olshein came to the hospital. I remember opening my eyes and saying, ‘Rabbi, am I dying?’ She said, ‘No, I am here to pray with you that you will be better soon and back at Temple Israel.’ She made me feel so proud to be a Jew and a member of the Temple Israel mishpacha!”

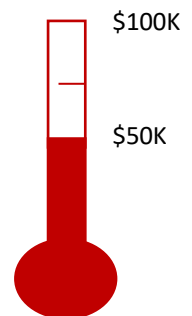
Jeff and Jill Douglas: “Rabbi Olshein you have been such a welcoming, approachable, and thoughtful presence at Temple Israel. You are so cheerful and motivating.”

With these and other wonderful memories, Rabbi Olshein will always be remembered at Temple Israel.

WONDERFUL NEWS... and a Challenge!

The Carter “Six Feet of Togetherness” Challenge

In May, **Don Carter generously donated \$50,000** to cover unexpected, COVID-19 related revenue shortfalls at Temple Israel... **and we’re challenging the Congregation to collectively match his donation!** Your philanthropic support will help us close the expenses gap, transition Temple Israel into our next phase, allow us to attract new members and develop additional innovative programs and services. Kindly accept this challenge to help Temple Israel grow even further! Please send your gift directly to the Temple (indicate “Togetherness” on the memo line) or to discuss special arrangements or opportunities, contact Karen Szeinberg at (561) 833-8421 or karen@temple-israel.com.



Thank you, Don!

MAZEL TOV!

Congratulations to Christa Simkowitz and Casey Richards (and their families) on their conversion to Judaism! After a year of studying with Rabbi Olshein, each has avowed her devotion to the Jewish religion, culture and people. Casey and Christa individually met with a Bet Din online, accompanied by Rabbi Olshein and Cantor Kruk, and were welcomed as a member of K'lal Yisrael (the Community of Israel.) MAZEL TOV!



Webinar Exclusively for URJ Small Congregations
June 23 at 3PM
Antisemitism As A Form of Hate

Presented by Kenneth S. Stern, director of the Bard Center for the Study of Hate.



Mr. Stern is an award-winning author and attorney, and was most recently executive director of the Justus & Karin Rosenberg Foundation. Before that he was director of the division on antisemitism and extremism at the American Jewish Committee, where he worked for 25 years.

Mr. Stern's op-eds and book reviews have appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, USA Today, the Forward, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and elsewhere. Mr. Stern has appeared on the CBS Evening News, Dateline, Good Morning America, Face the Nation, the History Channel, PBS, and many other television and radio programs, including National Public Radio's Fresh Air and All Things Considered, and WNYC's On the Media.

Mr. Stern was the lead drafter of the "working definition" of antisemitism now adopted by the U.S. Department of State. He was also an integral part of the defense team in the historic London Holocaust denial case of David Irving vs. Deborah Lipstadt.

Participants are required to register in advance for this webinar:
https://bard.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bitNaiV_T7Wn3XO_aZc-zw

Please note: This webinar is exclusively for members of URJ congregational communities.
 Please do not share this link on social media.



THE HISTORY OF
ISRAEL FASHION:
FROM THE KIBBUTZ TO
THE BIG CITY, TEL AVIV

Sun., 6/7, at 2pm via Zoom

Speaker:
Liraz Cohen-Mordechai ("Liri")

We are excited to share this program
with two other Reform congregations to
bring you this interesting speaker!

Join us as we explore the story of Israel, with each milestone presented having two "layers": history and fashion. We will discover how significant events have influenced the creation of a new "Israeli outfit" time and time again — immigration, wars, feminism, equality, technology and more. Also learn what's next for the Israeli fashion scene!

Zoom instructions will be distributed beforehand.
 For more information, contact the Temple Office at (561) 833-8421 or tioffice@temple-israel.com.



JOIN YOUR FELLOW TI MEMBERS FOR

KEHILAH &
COFFEE
via Zoom

Let's share our experiences and listen
prayerfully, raising each other up. We look
forward to sharing this time with you!

TUESDAYS AT 11:30AM

A NEW TOPIC EVERY WEEK!

Check your emails or contact the Temple Office at
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 Zoom sign-in information and future dates!

GIVE YOURSELF THE GIFT OF
STOPPING FOR A MOMENT ...

WINE AND
UNWIND
(WITH TIWPB)

Pour yourself a glass of wine (or
juice or tea or coffee or anything
you want) and get ready to let
go and unwind from the day!

MEMBERS, join us for our
ONLINE Check-in and Sharing ...
look in your e-mail for how you can
connect via Zoom (or telephone)!

THURSDAYS AT 4:30PM



TEMPLE ISRAEL PROGRAMS... via ZOOM!

Here's our calendar of what we've put together SO FAR... and there's MORE TO COME!

We're constantly creating additional opportunities for you, so please contact our Office, check your emails and look at our website -- temple-israel.com -- for more information and updates including instructions on how to "Zoom" with us. Stay engaged with Temple Israel... we're here for you!

June 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|--|---|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 11:30 am <i>Kehilah & Coffee</i> | 3 10:30 am Chair Yoga with Ellen Goldenson 7:00 pm Taste of Judaism | 4 4:30 pm Wine & Unwind | 5 6:30 pm <i>Erev Shabbat</i> Worship service with recognition of Sophia Feuer & Hana Hale (<i>B'not Mitzvah</i>) | 6 9:30 am <i>Torah Study</i> |
| 7 2:00 pm The History of Israel Fashion From the Kibbutz to the Big City, Tel Aviv | 8 | 9 11:30 am <i>Kehilah & Coffee</i> 5:30 pm Social Action Committee Meeting | 10 10:30 am Chair Yoga with Ellen Goldenson | 11 4:30 pm Wine & Unwind | 12 6:30 pm <i>Erev Shabbat</i> Worship Service honoring Rabbi Olshein with presentations | 13 9:30 am <i>Torah Study</i> |
| 14 | 15 | 16 11:30 am <i>Kehilah & Coffee</i> | 17 10:30 am Chair Yoga with Ellen Goldenson | 18 4:30 pm Wine & Unwind | 19 6:30 pm <i>Erev Shabbat</i> Worship service | 20 9:30 am <i>Torah Study</i> |
| 21 | 22 | 23 11:30 <i>Kehilah & Coffee</i> | 24 10:30 am Chair Yoga with Ellen Goldenson | 25 4:30 pm Wine & Unwind | 26 6:30 pm <i>Erev Shabbat</i> Worship service | 27 9:30 am <i>Torah Study</i> |
| 28 | 29 | 30 11:30 <i>Kehilah & Coffee</i> | | | | |

Pray ☆ Connect ☆ Thrive

Contributions

as of 5-18-20

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You*

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support Temple Israel by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions.

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Eunice & Jim Baros
Janice Rosenberg

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In Honor of:

Rabbi Cookie Olshein

Thank you for your support and your contribution to the lovely Memorial Service for Cynnie List
Marty & Karen List & Family

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In Memory of:

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Joan Terr

Judith Kanter

Jacob Holuboff

Roberta Cirino

Milton Stern

Roberta Stern

Ronald Ross

Corinne Weisblatt

Stanley Weisblatt

Lynn Ross Levy

June Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Jessica Wacks | 12 Rachel Kaslow |
| 2 Amy Devore | 12 Robert Newman |
| 2 Ruth Salkin | 13 Allison Rothschild |
| 3 Jared Maltz | 15 Barbara Willen |
| 3 Helene Rivlin | 16 Tom Jankus |
| 4 Judith Devore | 16 Chris Skaletsky |
| 4 Steven Gross | 18 Stephanie Meehan |
| 5 Sharon Hotchkiss | 19 Marcia Fligman |
| 6 Zawra Bentolila | 21 Alan Shuster |
| 8 Cantor Michael Kruk | 22 Olivia Rada |
| 8 Ruby Small | 25 Alexis Weissman |
| 9 Trudy Livingstone | 26 Hana Hale |
| 9 Howard Solomon | 26 Terry Resk |
| 9 Emma Strauss | 27 Robert Green |
| 10 Jennifer Strauss | 27 Ronald Levinson |
| 11 Aiden Conde | 28 Rita Menitoff |
| 11 Jefferson Douglas | 29 Sherry Jacobs |
| 12 Jim Baros | |

June Anniversaries

- 2 Edward & Deanna Roos
- 10 Dick & Rhona Shugarman
- 11 Sandy & Jill Sirulnick
- 13 James & Katherine Bronstien
- 18 Rabbi & Rita Menitoff
- 21 Charlie & Valerie Eaton
- 21 Morris & Rita Zabarkus
- 22 Howard & Joanne Green
- 22 Michael Gelfand & Mary Arpe
- 23 Hugo Ottolenghi & Deborah Hirsch
- 24 Gene & Judy Devore
- 24 Peter Hut
- 25 Rabbi Howard & Eileen Shapiro
- 25 Scott & Zawra Bentolila
- 26 Perry & Joi Lynn Young

Mazel Tov



Our heartfelt *Mazel Tov* to Adrian and Angelica Sandoval on the birth of their son Daniel Sandoval, born May 23rd (19.25" long, weighing 6 lbs). Congratulations also go to siblings Victoria and AJ!



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