

TEMPLE OF ISRAEL

APRIL 2022 BULLETIN

ADAR II — NISAN 5782



happy
Passover

Wishing all of you a blessed and joyous Passover with family & friends...

Temple of Israel will help matches so that everyone will be able to share the holiday with others.

Please consider hosting a family/individual(s) who might otherwise be alone this holiday. If you are able to host or need to find a home to share seder dinner, please contact Sherry Rotz at sherry.rotz@gmail.com or 973-727-8329.

Thank you for sharing in the great mitzvah of hospitality.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR 2ND NIGHT ZOOM SEDER
SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH AT 6:00PM

Click [HERE](#) to join the Zoom Seder

Meeting ID: 836 2658 9905

Passcode: 619116



Potatoes and Sunflowers by Rabbi Emily Losben-Ostrov

Over the last couple decades my seder plate has gotten very crowded. My plate may have started as a traditional seder plate with just six items, but over the years we've added more to the plate and therefore added even more meaning to our Seder.

First, we added the **orange**, as a symbol of inclusivity for all who might be marginalized, with thanks to [Susannah Heschel](#). Then we began adding a **tomato** as a sign of our obligation to overturn modern day slavery, such as is still happening with far too many [farm workers](#) in America. Next, we've added an **olive** as a symbol for peace and the need for peace in Israel and the Middle East.

At least twice I've even added non-food items to the seder table - a **lock** to represent the need for prison reform and a **watch** to stand in solidarity with the "Time's Up" movement in order to work for real gender equality and support for those who have been abused and harassed.

AND...over the years, I've also included a **potato** on my seder plate to show solidarity with our fellow Jews in the Former Soviet Union. Twenty years ago, I had the opportunity to teach and lead seders in Belarus. I was amazed to learn that due to the harsh winters and general conditions, parsley and other green vegetables were not always available for Pesach, but there was never a shortage of potatoes. Since they both come from the ground, potatoes are a suitable substitute for the parsley, the karpas, and can just as easily be dipped in salt water.

Today, more than ever, we need to stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people, and adding a potato is a great way to remind ourselves of our connection to Am Yisrael (the people of Israel). This year, when we dip a potato in salt water, we will know it is not just for the tears our ancestors shed, but also for the tears that are being shed today by the millions of Ukrainians about fighting and fleeing.

You might think that sunflower seeds would be the obvious symbol at this time for Ukrainian solidarity. However, some people consider sunflower seeds to be "kitniyot" and therefore not Kosher for Passover. While most Reform, Conservative, and Sephardic Jews are "allowed" to eat kitniyot on Passover, we wouldn't want to introduce something that could divide us, instead of unite us. Therefore, let me suggest adding actual **sunflowers** or pictures of sunflowers to your seder table. In doing so we can be reminded that Passover represent Spring and the eternal promise of blossoming. May the time soon come when peace will blossom, as well.

APRIL 2022 CALENDAR at TOI

Friday, April 1

7:00 Shabbat Services (Rb/Z/F)

Sunday, April 3

10:00am Religious School (Z)

Tuesday, Apr 5

5:00pm Torah Study (Z)

Thursday, Apr 7

9:30am LCS Board Meeting (Z)
1:30pm Membership Com. Meeting (Cf/Z)
5:30pm Technology Meeting (Cf/Z)
7:30pm Nosh of Judaism (Z)

Friday, Apr 8

7:00pm New Member Shabbat Services (RC/Z/F)

Saturday, Apr 9

10:00am Bat Mitzvah of Addie Fikry (Z)

Sunday, Apr 10

10:00am Religious School (RC)
10:00am Mazel Tots (RC)
12:30pm Welcome Spring Picnic in the Park (O)

Tuesday, Apr 12

3:00pm RPC Meeting (Z)
5:00pm Torah Study (Z)
6:30pm Tikkun Olam Meeting (Z)

Wednesday, Apr 13

7:00pm Holy Sparks - Virtual Museum Tour
Celebrating 50 Years of Women in the Rabbinate (Z)

Thursday, Apr 14

3:00pm Thoughtful Aging (Z)
7:30pm Nosh of Judaism (Z)

Friday, Apr 15

5:00pm Shabbat Services – abbreviated (Z/F)

Tuesday, Apr 19

5:00pm Torah Study (Z)
6:30pm TOI Board Meeting (RC)

Thursday, Apr 21

7:30pm Nosh of Judaism (Z)

Friday, Apr 22

10:30am LCS Book Club (O)
7:00pm Shabbat Services (RC/Z/F)

Sunday, Apr 24

10:00am Religious School (Z)
9:30am Meals on Wheels delivery (R/& K)
3:00pm WJFF Opening Day (O)

Monday, Apr 25

1:00pm Discussion: Exploring Jewish Values
Through a Talmudic Prayer:
Eilu D'varim (Rb)

Tuesday, Apr 26

11:00am Temple Blood Drive (RC)
4:00pm LCS Happy Hour
5:00pm Torah Study (Z)

Wednesday, Apr 27

1:00pm Spring Library Series, HUC, pt 3 of 3 (Z)

Thursday, Apr 28

7:30pm Nosh of Judaism (Z)

Friday, Apr 29

7:00pm Shabbat Services (RC/Z/F)

Saturday, Apr 30

10:30am Bar Mitzvah of Micah Gans (Z)

O Offsite

ONLINE

Z Zoom
F Facebook

REIBMAN CENTER

Cf Conference Room
K Kitchen
Rb Rosenberg Hall

HOLY SPARKS - A VIRTUAL TOUR CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF WOMEN IN THE RABBINATE Wednesday, April 13th at 7:00pm

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7786413847>
Meeting ID: 778 641 3847
Call In: 646-558-8656



Rabbi Sally Priesand's ordination as the first woman rabbi in America opened the way across all denominations and around the globe, setting in motion the first steps toward inclusion, diversity, equity, and empowerment of new cohorts redefining Jewish leadership over the past 50 years.

"Holy Sparks" features the works of 24 leading contemporary Jewish women artists evoking the identities and consecrated paths of 24 women rabbis who were "firsts" in their time.

This art exhibition is a collaboration between HUC-JIR's Dr. Bernard Heller and Skirball Museums and The Braid, and a culmination of The Braid's documentation of 200 pioneering women rabbis' stories, shared online in partnership with the Jewish Women's Archive.

Join us for a special virtual tour with Jean Bloch Rosensaft, Director, Dr. Bernard Heller Museum. Click [HERE](#) for a short biography of Jean Block Rosensaft

EXPLORING JEWISH VALUES THROUGH A TALMUDIC PRAYER: EILU D'VARIM Mondays, April 25th and May 9th at 1:00pm



"These are the obligations without measure, whose reward, too, is without measure"

Please join Rabbi Jim Apple and Jane Brody in a discussion of Jewish values as identified through the actions enumerated in this Talmudic prayer.



TORAH on TUESDAYS APRIL 5, 12, 19, and 26 at 5:00pm

We would like to invite you to join us as we study the Torah to bring its insights into our daily lives while learning more about our world and creating a sense of community. New attendees welcome...

Click [HERE](#) for Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 974 991 253
Passcode: 899037
Call In: 646-558-8656



HOW TO USE PSALMS: Ancient Jewish and Early Christian Perspectives with Dr. AJ Berkovitz

Spring Library Series (pt 3 of 3) Hebrew Union College
Register at: huc.edu/libraryseries/spring

Jews and Christians who lived in the ancient world did more than read and interpret they Bible. They lived it. In this lecture, we will explore the various ways in which Jews and Christians encountered the book of Psalms outside of the often-polemical context of biblical interpretation. We will "go on the ground" and explore various forms of pious practice into which both Jewish and Christian enmeshed the Psalms.



LADIES CONCORDIA SOCIETY

Happy Passover from Ladies Concordia Society

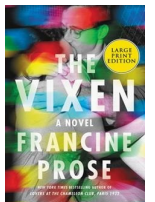
March was a very busy month for Sisterhood. We ushered in Adar II with an outdoor Rosh Chodesh service and a joyous meditation. The weather was perfect! Then on the 9th, Ellen Balser taught us to make hamantaschen for Purim. Thank you, Ellen. We concluded the month with book club on the 18th and a wonderfully informative program on Health Care Decision Making on the 24th. Our sincere thanks to Sam and Jane Brody whose presentation was based on their book, Voice of Experience: Stories About Health Care and the Elderly.

APRIL EVENTS:

~ **Passover 2022** - As has been the tradition at the Temple of Israel, Ladies Concordia Society has hosted the Second Night Seder for several years. After many hours of discussion between LCS, RPC and Rabbi Emily, we have made the decision not to hold a Temple/ Community Seder this year. This was based on the following two factors: (1) preparation for this year's seder would have needed to begin earlier this year, at the same time that Omicron was rearing its ugly head and (2) we were unable to enlist the number of people we would need to make a temple/ community seder successful. Though we cannot provide this opportunity for our community to be together in-person this Passover, we are asking you to help ensure that no one will spend the holiday alone. If you are willing to host an individual /family or individuals who will be alone this coming holiday or if you need a place to go for a Passover Seder, please contact Sherry Rotz at sherry.rotz@gmail.com or 973-727-8329. It is a mitzvah to open your doors to others for the seder. We are hoping that we will be able to arrange matches so that everyone will be able to share the holiday with others.

Looking to 2023, God willing, Shai Abisch will head the committee that will plan and implement our Temple/Community Second Night 2023 event. If you are interested in working on the committee, please contact Shai at foodsoft@aol.com

~ **LCS Book Club** **NOTE DATE CHANGE: Due to Pesach, the LCS Book Club will meet on Friday April 22nd at the home of Sharon Levy. Please RSVP to Sharon at sj.levy@verizon.net or 571-241-7214. We will be discussing THE VIXEN by Francine Prose.



~ **Sisterhood of the Traveling Havdalah Celebration** - Coming Soon... The focus of this project is to bring Havdalah into the lives and practices of LCS and Temple members and increase community among members of all generations. A Havdalah kit will circulate around our Jewish community with everything you need to get started in celebrating Havdalah, the close of Shabbat, with a brief ceremony that stimulates all the senses. Whether you celebrate within your family or invite friends to join you when Havdalah visits your home, we invite you to write about your experiences in a shared journal (online or in print). You can share recipes, songs, comments, prayers, photos, sketches etc. with others who will receive the kit and your words. This will be a cumulative product that can endure and bring community to participants. How to get involved: Sign up with Linda Bronstein at lissbronstein@yahoo.com. Decide on how to make your time with Havdalah special. Hold your Havdalah celebration on the date you pick. Invite others to join and then journal about your experience. Return the kit to the Reibman Center or pass it to the next signed-up participant.



SAVE THE DATE (more info to follow)

- ☆ **Tuesday, April 26th at 4:00pm** - Join us for curated wines, cheese, charcuterie and chocolate
- ☆ **Sunday, May 22 at 12:00pm** - Be our guest at the 2021-22 Paid Up Membership Luncheon.
- ☆ **Friday, June 24 at 7:00pm** - Sisterhood Shabbat and Installation If you are interested in participating in the service, please contact sherry.rotz@gmail.com



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS WEEKEND ~ April 9th - 11th

We will honor new members of the past 1½ years

**Friday, April 9
at 7:00pm
Reibman Center**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS SHABBAT

We will honor new members of the past 1½ years at the Shabbat service

Questions about either event

- Contact Myrna Cronen at
mcronen@umass.edu



**Sunday, April 11
at 12:30pm
Long Leaf Park**

WELCOME SPRING PICNIC IN THE PARK

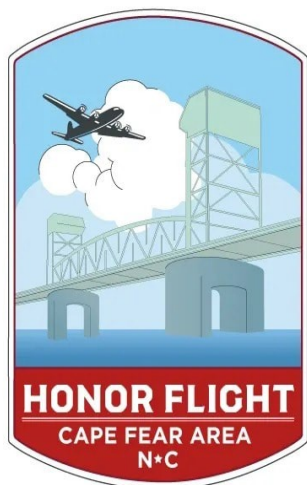
Get to know new members and reconnect with old friends.

- ☆ *Welcome spring and our new members.*
- ☆ *Nearby restrooms, playground, and free parking.*
- ☆ *Boxed lunches and beverages provided*
- ☆ *Get to know new members and reconnect with old friends.*

Deadline to RSVP Wednesday, April 6 by 8pm ~ [RSVP HERE](#)



Members Ed and Elyse Brown from Southport, have finally become grandparents!
James Conner McCarthy, son of Jessica and Ted McCarthy of Woodbridge VA, was 7 pounds, 13 oz. when he entered the world on March 10, 2022.



HONOR FLIGHT of THE CAPE FEAR AREA

On April 30, three Temple of Israel members ~
Rabbi James Apple
Richard Eisen
Bob Sneiderman

will be among the 75 Veterans that will be on the inaugural flight of the Honor Flight of the Cape Fear Area. You are invited, along with family and friends, to greet the Veterans at Wilmington International Airport (ILM) when they return from their day of honor and remembrance in Washington.

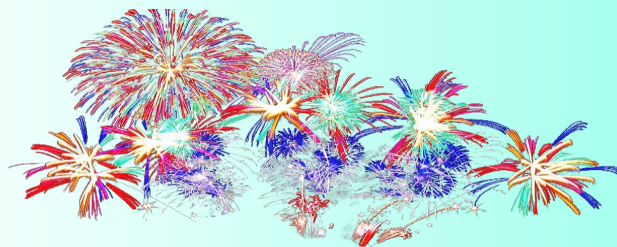
The [Honor Flight of the Cape Fear Area](#) is one of the newest hubs in the national Honor Flight Network. The mission of the organization is to honor Veterans for their service with an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, DC to visit the memorials and monuments built in their honor. It has been 11 years since an Honor Flight has departed ILM, and the community is encouraged to come out to welcome the Veterans home after their special day.

It is expected that the flight will arrive approximately 8:30 PM, but you should monitor the local media and the Honor Flight CFA Facebook and Instagram pages for updates and specific instructions on parking, etc.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Walter & Beth Pancoe	4/1
Martha & Randy Eisenberg	4/6
Sherry & Steven Rotz	4/11
Audry & Jeremy Bickwid	4/12
Tessa & Robert Cheek	4/15
Maureen & John Rea	4/15
Joshua Heinberg & Ania Welin	4/22
Ellen & Bill Angus	4/29



HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

Judith Apfelbaum	4/2
Alan Katz	4/2
Nancy Robert	4/2
Lisa Seigler	4/2
Belle Smith	4/2
Jayce Bartley	4/4
Deena Korman	4/4
Leona Weissman	4/4
Brandy Seidel	4/5
Justin Burchfield	4/6
Sally Mann	4/8
Donald Messer	4/8
Addison Fikry	4/10
Jeffrey Zimmer	4/16
Tammi Crunkleton	4/17
Martin Weinberg	4/18
Meghan Beecher	4/20
Carolyn Rhodes	4/20
Ruben Ostrov	4/21
Rebecca Rhine	4/21
Jonathan Strickland	4/23
Alexa Brown	4/24
Matthew Guetta	4/24
Sarah Gaby	4/25
Rachel Shapiro	4/25
Leyla Gans	4/26
Heidi Enzor	4/27
Ron Rothberg	4/28
Emily Moree	4/29
Lara Poppel	4/30
Sheldon Rosenberg	4/30
Susan Silver	4/30

Introduction to Judaism

NOSH of JUDAISM An abbreviated "Introduction to Judaism" Course 10 Thursdays, starting March 3rd 7:30pm—9:00pm

Even though this class has begun, please feel free to join us for the remaining classes.

Topics Include: Jewish Sacred Texts, Holy Days and Festivals,
Jewish History, Jewish Lifecycles
Theology and Beliefs, And So Much More!

To Register for the Class please email noshofjudaism@gmail.com
with the following information:

- Name, Email address, phone number, Community where you live, Why are you interested in taking this class?, If you are taking this class for the purpose of conversion, who is your sponsoring Rabbi?

You must register for the class to receive the Zoom link

If you have any questions, please contact Rabbi Emily

at rabbilosben@gmail.com

The cost for this class is a suggested donation of \$36. Information to make a payment will be provided upon registration, and no one will be turned away for inability to pay.



HARRIS TEETER VIC CARD

Support the Temple's Religious School by re-linking your Harris Teeter VIC card to **4549**
(must be done every new school year).

Go to www.harristeeter.com/default.aspx?pagelid=32 and follow the instructions.

Rabbi Emily Losben-Ostrov
rabbilosben@gmail.com

Rabbi Emeritus, James Apple
japple2665@aol.com

Temple of Israel Office
910-762-0000

Temple Administrator, Nancy
Robert
templeoffice@temple-of-israel.org

Temple Website
www.temple-of-israel.org

Temple Facebook
facebook.com/TempleofIsraelWilmington/



Persian Lessons

April 24 3:00 PM

Greener Pastures

April 25 7:00 PM

I Am Here

April 27 7:00 PM

The Automat

May 1 3:00 PM

Love & Mazel Tov

May 1 7:00 PM

Latter Day Jew

May 2 7:00 PM

Free Virtual - Exodus 1947

May 3, May 4, May 5

wilmingtonJFF.org

Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts

Many special events during the festival...Happy Half Hour and Q&A with Bob Bahr, Yom Hashoah Commemoration and Yom Ha'atzmaut special presentation.

All Festival passes ~ \$54. Go online to order your tickets/passes today...

JOIN OUR CASUAL CHOIR



We hope you enjoyed the choir's performance at our Friday night Purim service on March 18th.

Any member with a desire to be part of this group can join us! So, **Please join us.** We want you, and we need you. Alan Silverman and Morris Levy will be leading the organizational effort on behalf of the RPC.

If you are interested in joining the Choir, please contact either:

Morris Levy at melevy11@verizon.net or 571-241-7213

Alan Silverman at alansil1111@aol.com or 954-253-4941

We look forward to hearing from you AND hearing you!

★ MAZEL ★ TOV ★

Micah Gans

Saturday, April 30th at 10:30am

Click [HERE](#) to join Zoom Event

Meeting ID: 860 2921 9603

Passcode: 336246 **Call In:** 646-558-8656

Bar Mitzvah Date: April 30th 2022

Parents: Stuart and Leyla Gans

School/Grade: Broughton HS / 9th grade

Favorite Subject: Math

Favorite Hobbies: surfing / fishing / skateboarding

Favorite Book/Author : Followingby Jeffry W. Johnston

Favorite Jewish Holiday: Chanukah

Favorite Jewish Memory: Sitting with family and sharing matzo ball soup

Jewish Hero (and why): Anne Frank, because she was so strong and brave during the holocaust and wrote about it so future kids could understand what she went through.

Favorite Quality about yourself: I like to think I'm kind and respectful to everyone

Goals for Jewish Studies: being that my Bar Mitzvah has been postponed/delayed a couple of times because of Covid among other things, I really want to finish and have my BarMitzvah

When I grow up I want to be: an Architect or a Marine Biologist

Mitzvah Project: As of right now my mitzvah project is and will be to donate/fund raise money for families affected by the Ukraine crisis



Addie Fikry

Saturday, April 9th at 10:00am

Click [HERE](#) to join Zoom Event

Meeting ID: 879 9914 1945

Passcode: 587308 **Call In:** 301-715-8592

Bat Mitzvah Date: April 9th 2022

Parents: Stephanie Mann & Chris Fikry

Mitzvah Project: Volunteering at Good Shepherd



Religious School News

By Felecia Becker,
Assistant Director



Shalom, everyone! We are so excited to share how our past month went!

To start off, last month we had lots of Purim celebrations! The weekend before the Carnival the students learned all about the Jewish holiday and we even “dressed up” using the

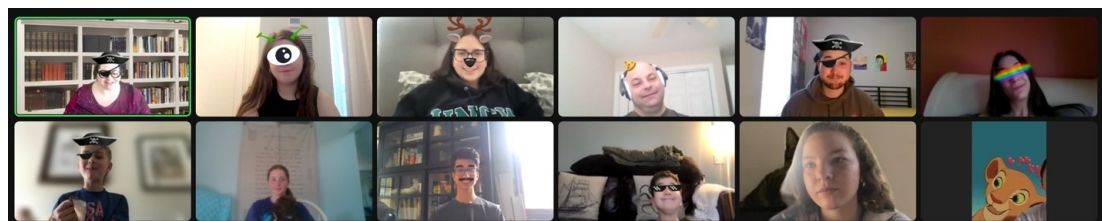


Zoom filters! (See below) The lesson consisted of a look at the book of Esther and we had the students read through the Purim story. For each section of the story the students broke into groups and had to either draw or act out their section of the story. Below is some of the virtual art they made. After getting prepped and ready for Purim, the next weekend we had an amazing Purim Carnival with B’nai Israel!! The students had so much fun playing carnival games and even jumping in the bouncy house! Thank you to everyone who helped make the carnival a rousing success!



Moving on from the Purim carnival, the next week the students started learning all about the joys of Shabbat! We started by asking the students what they do to celebrate Shabbat and then went over all the blessings you say. After going over the prayers we had students break into groups with a teacher and we had a “Shabbat Debate!!” The debate was, which item that we use on Shabbat is the best. Is it the candles, the wine, or the Challah? By the end of the debate, we had the older students decided and the winner was... Challah!!! We had so much fun, and the kids learned a great deal about Shabbat.

Thank you also for supporting our Candy Sale Fundraiser. It was a success. April is our last full month of school for the year, and as always, we are so excited to continue the learning.



APRIL 1, 2022

Marion Brooks
Yehudah Ben Gershon
Manny Kaplan
Charles Agnoff
Charles Brody
Morris A. Pancoe
Stanley Garil
Saul Roth
Harry Samet

APRIL 8, 2022

Arthur Horowitz
Ruth Stone
Miriam Friedman
Arkadiy Grushko
Rita Meyer
Jacob Levinson
Lenore Pancoe
Meyerhoff

Rose Artin

Nova Jane Cheek
Sigmund Strauss
Frances Kornhauser
Charles Austin Kreinik
Enid Steinsaltz

APRIL 15, 2022

Sophie Liebman
Trudie Rosenthal
I. Jacob Sternberger
Dr. Joseph L. Fetterman
Sylvia Beecher
Ralph Godwin
Henry (Hank) Linnett
Cecile Fetterman
Mendelson
Frances Askenas Vitiello
Fela Jaskolka
Abe Sherman

YAHREZEITS for APRIL

Wilbert Staub
Irving Tick
Gertrude Abramowitz
Audrey Bronstein
Lillian Pleeter
Harry Stone

APRIL 22, 2022

L. Rena Balsinger
Helen Kornhauser
William Pruss
Fitzhugh Wallace
Murray Wasserman
Ronald Lee
Abraham Shrier
Irving Warhaftig
Tess Silverman

Max Breitberg
Ernest Alton Grunsfeld III
Stanley Rosenberg

APRIL 29, 2022

Julienne Misrahi Barnett
Sadie Silver Goodman
Tillie Landy
Michael G. Blakeman
Meyer Zucker
Constance Wallace
Aronson
Hulda O. Jacobi
Lillian S. Sternberger
Marvin Kromis

** on Memorial Board*



UPDATE from the RESTORATION 150 COMMITTEE

Since its inception in 2021, the Restoration 150 Committee has been hard at work raising funds and raising awareness of the need to restore our historic, architecturally significant synagogue, the oldest in North Carolina, and one of the oldest ten in the United States.

Of the slightly more than 400 donations received so far, 167 have come from members of the Temple of Israel and 248 from non-members. Several of the donations from members have been given more than once. Copies of **The History of the Temple of Israel**, by President Beverly Tetterton, have been distributed to donors of \$100 or more, who have requested them. This has attracted many donors. We are now distributing from our third printing.

Donations have come in from Germany and England and around the country. The greatest number of **donations come from the city of** Wilmington with 144 donations, which demonstrates the importance of historic preservation within our city. Leland follows with 33 donors having sent in one or more donations. **Star News** gave us great publicity, and the story was picked up by the **Greensboro Daily News**. We received 14 donations from the generous people of Greensboro. Other donations have arrived from far and wide. We have now received donations from Atlanta, GA, Boca Raton and Boynton Beach, FL, Brooklyn, Castle Hayne, Carolina Beach, Chapel Hill, Charleston, Charlotte, Chestnut Hill, MA, Chevy Chase, MD, Chicago, Chocowinity, NC, Colorado Springs, Columbia, SC, Crouse, NC, Cornelius, NC, Dayton, OH, Delray Beach, FL, Dublin, OH, Durham, East Brunswick, NJ, Eden, NC, Fairborn, OH, Greensboro, Leland, Lumberton, Madison, NC, Mansfield, PA, Naples, FL, New York City, Okotie, SC, Palo Alto, CA, Quakertown, PA, Raleigh, Rocky Point, San Antonio, TX, Shallotte, Southport, Stanford, CA, Strasburg, VA, Supply, Tarawa Terrace, NC, Whiteville, Willard, Winston Salem, Winnabow, Woodbury, NY, Wrightsville Beach, and York, PA

With over 400 donations ranging from \$10 to \$100,000, the bank tellers were hiding every time Alan Katz came in to make deposits. Packing and sending out books to those who requested them has also been a herculean task. Our publicity group has done outstanding work. We are thankful for the support from Alan Katz, Josh Heinberg, and Nancy Robert. We also appreciate Malinda Zimmerman and the Van Vekoven's for help with relocating the books. With the help of Shelly Artin, Gwynneth Waters, Sam Grunsfeld, and Beverly Tetterton, we have been able to keep up with notes of gratitude and receipts to the donors.

The geographic disbursement and generosity of **our** donors clearly demonstrates the need to proceed with the restoration of the Temple of Israel. The Restoration 150 Committee remains committed to raising funds for the restoration and maintenance of the Temple as our sanctuary and house of assembly. We are now organizing three fund-raising events. By reaching out to other people, we have reduced the financial burden on our congregants. However, it is not too late to contribute.

Glenn Tetterton, Co-Chair
Peggy Pancoe Rosoff, Co-Chair



Getting to Know the Temple of Israel – Organ

~ By Naomi Kleid with help from Rabbi Emily Losben-Ostrov, Beverly Tetterton, Glenn Tetterton, and Peggy Pancoe Rosoff

Last time, we heard from several people who wrote “love letters” to the Temple. This time we’ll pivot, literally, and turn to look at the West wall at the back of the sanctuary. At the pew level, we see the massive welcoming wooden doors. Above the doors, in the small balcony (sometimes referred to as the choir loft or organ loft), we see the large pipes from a rare Pilcher-tracker organ.

According to Wikipedia, “tracker” refers to a type of pipe organ in which the actions of the organist’s fingers and feet cause air to flow through the pipes via a direct mechanical linkage between the keys or pedals pressed by the organist and the valve that allows air to flow into the pipe(s) corresponding to the note.

A name plate above the organ keyboard identifies the organ maker as Henry Pilcher’s Sons, Louisville, Ky. According to the [Pilcher organ website](#), Henry Pilcher (1798) originally came to the US from Canterbury, England. He studied organ building under his older brother William in London and then under the renowned New York organ builder Henry Erben. Henry had five sons. Henry Pilcher Jr. passed the business to his two sons Henry Wendower and William Edward. Some 2,000 organs were built with the nameplate “Henry Pilchers’s Sons.”

According to the Temple website, temple-of-israel.org, only three such pipe organs remain in use. Our organ was funded by the Ladies Concordia Society and installed in 1906. It was made in the U.S., restored in 1990, and may need a “check-up” when the sanctuary is reopened after being cleaned of mold, mildew, and other air contaminants. Donations are always welcome to the Temple’s [Charles Woodward Organ Fund](#) to help maintain and preserve this wonderful musical piece of history.

To play the organ, the organist uses keys, stops, peddles, and sheet music (when necessary). While doing all that, he or she must coordinate with the Cantor, cantorial soloist, or choir singing at the far end of the sanctuary, at the east wall in front of the congregation – communication is based on practice, strict timing, and visual cues that the organist watches for in a mirror above the organ controls. Being an organist in the Temple of Israel is obviously not an easy task, but the congregation has been blessed to have a number of gifted players.



Charles Woodward played for us for an amazing 50 years, according to Board of Directors President, Beverly Tetterton. Rabbi Emily Losben-Ostrov, adds that in honor Mr. Woodward’s long service to the Temple, he was named an “honorary member” and a restricted fund was created in his name to preserve and maintain the organ and make sure it is used.

More recently, Cantorial Soloists have been singing from the bimah. Sometimes a small choir sings from the front of the Temple. Our current organist is John Sullivan, who also directs our new Casual Choir, which is always looking to include new voices. We remember Mr. Woodward fondly and wish all the best to Mr. Sullivan and his choir.

Whenever we hear the singers and whenever the organ is played, the resulting sound fills the space with music that resonates in our soul, heart, and mind and adds a strong, universal, emotional dimension that matches our prayers. I look forward to the time when we can once again hear our special organ fill our wonderful Temple with its full-throated sound, and we can all sing together to its accompaniment.