

# TEMPLE TOPICS

Vol. LXXXII No 3  
January/February 2021  
Tevet/Sh'vat/Adar  
5781



**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
Shabbat on ZOOM  
Friday, January 15th, 7:00 pm  
Visit [www.tinr.org](http://www.tinr.org) in "Events / Connect" for details.

ESTHER SAVED OUR LIVES TONIGHT  
AN ELTON JOHN PURIM  
IS BACK!



**Purim is Back!**  
Thursday, February 25th, 7:00 pm  
Visit [www.tinr.org](http://www.tinr.org) in "Events / Connect" for details.



**Congregational  
Mitzvah Season  
2021**

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# Contact Us

## Clergy

**Deborah A. Hirsch**  
Interim Rabbi  
[RabbiHirsch@tinr.org](mailto:RabbiHirsch@tinr.org) x212

**Randall M. Schloss**  
Cantor  
[CantorSchloss@tinr.org](mailto:CantorSchloss@tinr.org) x219

**Helene S. Reps**  
Cantor Emerita  
[HSReps@verizon.net](mailto:HSReps@verizon.net)

## Education

**Rebecca Elkus-Ferst**  
Chavaya Director  
[RElkusFerst@tinr.org](mailto:RElkusFerst@tinr.org) x221

**Laurie Thomas**  
Kehillah School Director  
[Lauretta.Thomas@BrightHorizons.com](mailto:Lauretta.Thomas@BrightHorizons.com)  
x227

## Administration

**Anita Aronoff**  
Executive Director  
[AnitaAronoff@tinr.org](mailto:AnitaAronoff@tinr.org) x214  
*Changed extension from 216*

**Frank Chavez**  
Facilities Manager  
[FrankChavez@tinr.org](mailto:FrankChavez@tinr.org) x248

**Mary Ann DeRosa**  
Reception x210  
[MaryAnnDeRosa@tinr.org](mailto:MaryAnnDeRosa@tinr.org)

**Ellen Egan**  
Bookkeeper  
[EllenEgan@tinr.org](mailto:EllenEgan@tinr.org) x217

**Orietta Schneider**  
Communications Director  
[OriettaSchneider@tinr.org](mailto:OriettaSchneider@tinr.org)  
x215

**Beverly To**  
Clergy Assistant &  
Life Cycle Coordinator  
[BeverlyTo@tinr.org](mailto:BeverlyTo@tinr.org)  
x211

**Camp Pinebrook**  
**Jesse Gallop**  
Camp Director  
[Jesse@CampPinebrook.com](mailto:Jesse@CampPinebrook.com)  
x223

## Officers

**Rich Alter**  
President  
[Alter.Rich@gmail.com](mailto:Alter.Rich@gmail.com)

**Jamie Deutsch**  
Vice President  
[DerekandJamie@gmail.com](mailto:DerekandJamie@gmail.com)

**Sally Meisner**  
Vice President  
[SallyMeisner@gmail.com](mailto:SallyMeisner@gmail.com)

**Marjorie Ostrove**  
Vice President  
[MOstrove@gmail.com](mailto:MOstrove@gmail.com)

**Dan Pomerantz**  
Vice President  
[DPomerantz@optonline.net](mailto:DPomerantz@optonline.net)

**Adam Egelberg**  
Treasurer  
[AdamEgelberg@gmail.com](mailto:AdamEgelberg@gmail.com)

**Jennifer Goldman**  
Secretary  
[JenniferGoldman7@gmail.com](mailto:JenniferGoldman7@gmail.com)

## Affiliates

**Janet Frey**  
WRJ Sisterhood  
Co-President  
[JanetDubielFrey@gmail.com](mailto:JanetDubielFrey@gmail.com)

**Jennifer Herbst**  
WRJ Sisterhood  
Co-President  
[JSHerbst@yahoo.com](mailto:JSHerbst@yahoo.com)

**Todd Pekats**  
Brotherhood Co-President  
[ToddPekats@live.com](mailto:ToddPekats@live.com)

**Mitchell Tarnopal**  
Brotherhood Co-President  
[Mitchell.Tarnopal@randrealty.com](mailto:Mitchell.Tarnopal@randrealty.com)

## Temple Topics Deadline

The deadline for the March/April Temple Topics will be Sunday, February 14th.

**Vol. LXXXII No 3 - Double Issue**  
**Printed 6 times a year.**



## Make a Membership Pledge for 2020-2021

Join your fellow congregants in supporting Temple Israel as best you can for the 2020-2021 year.

Visit [www.tinr.org/donate](http://www.tinr.org/donate) to see the options to help guide you in your pledge as you reflect upon what Temple Israel means to you, and to our wider community.

Thank you for your consideration and support!

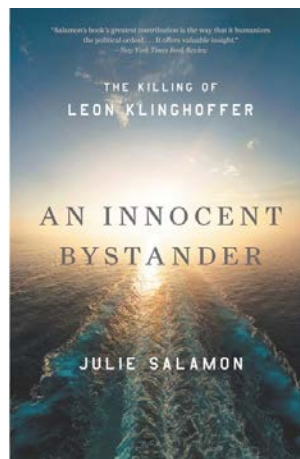


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## Snowbirds

Are you leaving for the Winter? Give us a call to let us know you're leaving so "Temple Topics" can find you! We don't want you to miss Temple Israel happenings!



## Sisterhood Read Event

**"An Innocent Bystander: The Killing of Leon Klinghoffer"**

**See p. 12 for details**

## Sympathy

## We send condolences to...

- The Families who have lost family members to COVID-19
- Elaine Weiss, on the loss of her cousin, George Nadel
- Rachel Davis, on the loss of her father, Robert L. Stern
- Charles Coleman, on the loss of his father, Dr. M. Donald Coleman
- Lauren Pekats, on the loss of her step-father, Dr. Reuben Reiman
- Ilissa Herskowitz, on the loss of her mother, and longtime Temple member, Marion Herskowitz
- Matthew Kates, on the loss of his cousin, Hillary Kraft

*"May their souls be bound up in the eternal bond"*

## Mazal Tov

## Congratulations to...

- Lisa Keller & Saky Yakas, on the birth of their new grandson, Abraham Daniel Clayman Yakas, son of Benjamin Yakas, and his wife, Ellie
- Anita Aronoff, on being nominated to serve on the NATA (National Association for Temple Administration) Board. Board of Trustees members, Clergy, and Staff honored Anita with journal ad(s) that were presented during the NATA virtual conference in December 2020.

*Send all your good news to [OriettaSchneider@tinr.org](mailto:OriettaSchneider@tinr.org)*

## New Members

## Welcome!

**We welcome the following to our Temple Israel family!**

- Sean & Meagan McSherry, and their children, Sean and Ryan (a Kehillah family)
- Paul & Judith Barton
- Dr. Michele Barton, and her child, Alana
- Rebecca Scharf & Allen Yesilevich, with their children, Harper (in Kehillah), and Riley

# From the President

# The Rabbinic Search Committee

I would like to update you on our search for a new rabbi. I just participated in the most recent meeting of the search committee. As an ex-officio member of the committee I've had the opportunity to participate in a few of the meetings and have spent hours with the group. That seems like a lot of time if you don't know that this group has participated in, and organized, dozens of meetings and spent hundreds of "man"-hours tirelessly working to find Temple Israel's next spiritual leader.

The committee has 2 co-chairs and 9 members. The co-chairs are both Board members. Of the other 9 members, one is a current Board member, two are past Board members, and the other five are congregants, including one of our teens. While the chairs may have had some inkling of what lay ahead for them when they accepted their roles, none of the other committee members could have realized they were taking on a second part-time job when they agreed to serve.

My flippant comparison to a part-time job minimizes what they've undertaken. With a part-time job you do your time and walk away. This group is acutely aware of the long-term implications of their work. They've approached every aspect of their task with a sense of responsibility and fidelity to Temple Israel that's an enormous burden to them, and a blessing to the rest of us. I've been awed by the time and thought they have devoted towards assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the many candidates and how each candidate might be received by the many different cohorts in our congregation.

Many in this group were not previously acquainted with one another. Thrown together they've tackled difficult issues, navigated tough conversations, and are approaching the point where they can recommend a candidate to the Board. I've had the opportunity to meet with the remaining candidates. I'm heartened in the knowledge that any one of the remaining candidates will be a wonderful fit for Temple Israel.

At the same time, seeing such love and devotion to our community from such a wide assortment of our members, has renewed my optimism regarding Temple Israel's future. I have no doubt that some of the members of this group will be future leaders of our congregation. If I'm right, our next rabbi will have dedicated lay leadership partners to join with in ensuring Temple Israel remains a vibrant Jewish community for another generation.

Rich Alter,  
Temple President

## Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 16, 2020

Rabbi Hirsch offered a Word of Torah as we continue to celebrate Chanukah. "*Mah nishtanah ha lilah ha zeh?*" The festival of lights. It's a time of darkness. Our hearts are heavy. With the vaccine becoming available first to front line workers, we don't know when it will be delivered to the general population. We look at this holiday with reflection. How do we look at life differently in light of COVID? When we exit this pandemic, what do we take from it? Cantor Schloss sang "Al Ha-Nissim" with guitar accompaniment.

### Reports:

Rabbi Hirsch gave her report. She is at the 6-month mark of her tenure as Temple Israel of New Rochelle as Interim Rabbi. Over the next few months, Rabbi Hirsch will be reaching out to the

*continued on p. 13*

## Rabbi Search

## Continuing

Dear Congregants,

The search for Temple Israel's permanent rabbi continues. We are currently interviewing candidates with a variety of skills and backgrounds. We continue to keep in mind all the parlor meeting and survey feedback provided by our congregants to obtain the best "fit" for our congregation. ZOOM has been our most helpful innovation due to the pandemic. Through repeated interviews, and introductions to our clergy, staff, board, and past presidents, we hope to hire the person most suited for this position. We have also included teachings with our Chavaya students and short D'Var Torah teachings to our adult cohorts and board members.

Please know that we are working tirelessly to ensure that our congregation's needs are met.

We would like to thank our committee members, clergy, and senior staff for helping us throughout this process.

Thank you ,  
Ilissa Warhit and Carolyn Dudek, Search Committee Co-Chairs

### Search Committee Members

Warren Agatston, Brian Heaps, Jennifer Herbst, Dalia Levine, Rebecca Lippel, Mark Mangot, Marilyn Morris, Carly Rieger, Dan Weiser

## Rabbi's Note

# As We Enter 2021

It's hard to believe six months have passed since my arrival at Temple Israel

Indeed, many things have changed, and many things have remained the same. COVID-19 continues to impact our lives and redefine 'normal' in our daily routine and temple calendar. These past months have not unfolded as planned regarding face-to-face meetings (without masks) and coffees with congregants. Despite the obstacles imposed by COVID-19, I am grateful for the connections I've forged to date with staff, students, lay leadership, parents, worshippers, Torah and Responsa class participants. I have admiration and respect for the rabbinic search committee that, like the ancient Kohathites who carried the sacred ark on their shoulders, is dedicated to their mission of finding the next settled rabbi. I have come to appreciate the Temple Israel community—and the deep connections so many have to the congregation and one another. "Being social" has been difficult in a COVID-19 world, and yet, the Temple Israel Cares and Social Action committees have done amazing outreach. And when we meet virtually—the concern shown on those small square screens,

speaks volumes. Despite the fact that we seem to be living in a Groundhog Day scenario, I am excited to be working with a board committee on aligning the lay governance and day-to-day staff management of the congregation by delineating the various roles of key stakeholders. In addition, I look forward to guiding the nominating committee on creating an annual cycle for identifying and onboarding new temple leaders.

One year ago, I was planning a Village Temple teen Civil Rights trip to Alabama. Recently, I looked at my pictures and watched the video of the 87 year-old pastor, Calvin Woods, Sr, past president of the Birmingham Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Pastor Woods was the last person in Birmingham to see Dr. King alive, as he drove him to the airport to catch his flight to Memphis in April 1968. In looking at those pictures and watching the video of Pastor Woods singing "This Little Light of Mine," I was reminded of one of the aspects of Temple Israel that hasn't changed: it's commitment to the greater New Rochelle community and its involvement in the Interreligious Council of New Rochelle, of which Deborah Maher serves as vice president.

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## Cantor's Note

# The Power of Music

*"Whenever the [evil] spirit of God came upon Saul, David would take the lyre and play it; Saul would find relief and feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him."*

- 1 Samuel 16:23

Jewish music is as old as Judaism itself. In Torah we see (and hear) Moses, Miriam and all Israel sing a song of redemption upon being freed from Egypt. We sing some of those same words today in "Mi Chamocho." Three books later, at the end of Moses' grand speech to the Israelites when they are about to enter the Promised Land, Moses again turns to song. And the 150th and final Psalm instructs us most simply, "Praise God with harp, lyre, timbrel, drums, dance... and cymbals!" Above, we see another musical reference, that one of our greatest leaders, King David himself, was skilled in music. Notably, he uses music to provide emotional support and comfort to the afflicted King Saul.

These examples are not bound by a common function or meaning, but rather simply by music. Music accompanies our

lives, both reflecting and affecting our emotions. We turn to music for praise, prayer, celebration, lament, and comfort. In our community, at this challenging time, we truly feel this full range of emotion. And yet, one of the cruelist ironies of the pandemic has been the prohibition of singing together. We cannot come together to sing in prayer on Shabbat. For those who love the theater or opera, stages are dark. As I write this, we are only a couple weeks away from our annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. commemoration Shabbat service which normally features the "Coalition Choir." Music is one of our most powerful of emotional tools, but like so much else right now, our participation is severely restricted.

But it is not completely forbidden. We may not be able to sing together as we would have in previous years, but we can still sing. And we can still hear music. I miss collaborating with professional musicians, with our volunteer choirs, with our children. But on a personal level, I find myself turning to music for inspiration and comfort perhaps more than in the past. Our MLK service (January 15th) will at least

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# Temple Israel is Grateful

## Todah Rabah - Thank You

### Temple Fund

**Judy & Don Pinals**, in memory of Ken and Jeff Stier's beloved father, Milton  
**Leroy Fadem**, in memory of Gustave & Ruth Getter  
**Sally & Steve Meisner**, in appreciation  
**Myrna & Bill Roberge**, in honor of the Roberge family, David, Mara, Hayden, and Ellie from their proud & loving parents & grandparents in appreciation for the High Holidays  
**Jackie Bitterman & Dan Pomerantz**, in appreciation  
**Mark Pinals**, in honor of Judith & Donald Pinals  
**Cindy & Jeffrey Stein**, in honor of Henry Meisner's Bar Mitzvah  
**Janice & Warren Agatston**, in honor of Henry Meisner's Bar Mitzvah  
**Barbara Gordon and Family**, in memory of Esther K. Isenberg & Jack Isenberg, beloved parents and grandparents  
**Marion and Ilissa Herskowitz**, in memory of Marion and Ilissa's beloved husband and father, Allen Herskowitz  
**Valerie Etra**, in memory of Hillary Kraft; in appreciation  
**Rachel & Richard Relkin**, in appreciation  
**Dianne & Brian Heaps**, in appreciation  
**Elaine & Alan Ascher**, in appreciation  
**Linda Capozzola**, in honor of Michael & May Goldberg's grandson, Zachary; in honor of Bob & Carol Kurzman's first grandchild, Olivia  
**Fredy-Jo & Lewis Grafman**, in memory of James Kunen  
**Susan M. Saril**, in honor of Susan Saril's favorite daughter-in-law, Jackie, who has a special place in her heart

**Beatrice Mark**, in appreciation  
**Tailwind Youth Athletics**, in sincere appreciation for your generosity through the years  
**The Kramer and Lipman Families**, in memory of Beth Behr to maintain her garden memorial

### Rabbi Hirsch' Discretionary Fund

**Bettina Blume & Elliot Kassoff**, in honor of Eli Kassoff's Bar Mitzvah and with thanks and great appreciation  
**Thomas & Caitlin Thorpe**, in appreciation of Rabbi Hirsch for all her help & guidance  
**Marc & Marjorie Mangot**, in honor of Charlie Mangot's Bar Mitzvah  
**Helene Reps**, many thanks  
**Charles & Barbara Coleman**, in memory of M. Donald Coleman, Lewis W. Gleekman & Evelyn Wilensky; in honor of Rabbi Hirsch for her kindness  
**Robin Maccabee and family**, with gratitude to Rabbi Hirsch for all her support

### Cantor Schloss' Discretionary Fund

**Marilyn & Neil Altabet**, in appreciation  
**Bettina Blume & Elliot Kassoff**, in honor of Eli Kassoff's Bar Mitzvah and with thanks and great appreciation  
**Elaine Weiss & Bill Weil**, in appreciation of Cantor Schloss for the uplifting weekly Shabbat services  
**Marc & Marjorie Mangot**, in honor of Charlie Mangot's Bar Mitzvah  
**Helene Reps**, many thanks  
**Robin Maccabee and family**, with gratitude to Cantor Schloss for all his support

**David & Julie Rosenbluth**, in honor of Anna's Bat Mitzvah

### ASL Interpreting Fund

**Ilissa & Paul Warhit**, in memory of Robert L. Stern  
**Edward Emanuel**, in memory of Bob Stern

### Benevolence Fund

**Marc & Marjorie Mangot**, in honor of Charlie Mangot's Bar Mitzvah

### Brotherhood Fund

**Ilissa & Paul Warhit**, in honor of the birth of Michael & May's grandson, Zachary Levi Shapiro

### Building Fund

**Fadem Family Foundation**, Sanctuary renovation  
**Charles S. Raizen Foundation, Inc.**, Sanctuary renovation

### Camp Pinebrook Program Fund

**Edward Emanuel**, in memory of Bob Stern

### Chavaya Program Fund

**Jen & Larry Goldman**, in honor of Henry Meisner's Bar Mitzvah and the Meisner Family  
**David & Julie Rosenbluth**, in honor of Anna's Bat Mitzvah

### Endowment Fund

**Elaine & Alan Ascher**, in appreciation

### Music Fund

**Linda Capozzola**, in honor of Rabbi Hirsch and Cantor Schloss for the in-person services  
**Linda Capozzola**, in memory of Dr. M. Donald Coleman, father of Charles (Barbara) Coleman

**Mia & Adam Egelberg**, in memory of Robert L. Stern  
**Mary Ann DeRosa**, in memory of Robert L. Stern; in memory of Dr. M. Donald Coleman, father of Charles (Barbara) Coleman

### Social Action Fund

**Toni & Alan Hoffman**, in honor of Henry Meisner's Bar Mitzvah  
**Dalia Levine & Mike Weiss**, in memory of of Hillary Kraft  
**Richard Marx & Deborah Rubin-Marx**, in honor of Jamie Deutsch being named Woman of the Year by the Boys and Girls Club of New Rochelle  
**Mary Ann DeRosa**, in memory of Hillary Kraft, Matthew Kates's cousin  
**Rosing Family**, in honor of the Gips Family at Hanukkah  
**Charles & Barbara Coleman**, in memory of M. Donald Coleman, Lewis W. Gleekman & Evelyn Wilensky; in honor of Mia Egelberg for her kindness

### Temple Israel Cares Fund

**Toni & Alan Hoffman**, in memory of Gustave & Ruth Getter; in honor of of Jack Egan's speedy recovery  
**Richard Marx & Deborah Rubin-Marx**, in honor of Henry Meisner's Bar Mitzvah  
**Mary Ann DeRosa**, in honor of Henry Meisner's Bar Mitzvah; in honor of Eli Kassoff's Bar Mitzvah; in memory of Marion Herskowitz

# The Tamid Society



## LEAVE A LEGACY TO THE TEMPLE

Please consider joining with those who have pledged a legacy to the Temple by joining the Tamid Society. There is no minimum gift required. You will simply gain the satisfaction of providing the Temple with a gift to help ensure all the benefits you have enjoyed will be passed on to future generations. All it takes is a provision in your will to remember the Temple.

The following Temple members have made such a pledge; new members will be listed in future issues of Temple Topics:

Janice & Warren Agatston  
Barbara & Frank Axel  
Bernice Braun (estate)  
Leroy Fadem  
Evelyn Jacobs (estate)  
Lilly Kaplan (estate)  
Carol & Arthur Ostrove  
Carole & Mitchell Ostrove  
Lloyd Robinson  
Amy Sincoff (estate)  
Mady & Jeffrey Stier  
Ilissa & Paul Warhit

For more information, please contact Anita Aronoff at the Temple office by calling (914) 235-1800 or email [AnitaAronoff@tinr.org](mailto:AnitaAronoff@tinr.org)

**Temple Israel thanks you!**

## Social Action Membership Donation

Warren & Janice Agatston  
Neil & Marilyn Altabet  
Dr. David Amstel & Simona Covell  
Dr. Wilbert & Ina Aronow  
Franklin & Barbara Axel  
Richard & Karen Balick  
Mitchell & Brandy Benson  
Anne Casey  
Maryellen Chomsky  
Larry & Susan Cohen  
Ms. Ellen David  
Derek & Jamie Deutsch  
Jay & Laurie Dubner  
Daniel & Amy Ecker  
Adam Egelberg & Mia Kirschner-Egelberg  
Valerie Etra  
Leroy Fadem  
Brian & Laura Feinblum  
Beth Feldman  
Saul & Lynn Fleer  
Joel & Almarie Fridovich  
Donald & Natalie Handelman  
Russell Handelman & Susan Schwartz  
Brian & Dianne Heaps  
Marion Herskowitz  
Kenneth & Meredith Hilton  
Alan & Toni Hoffman  
Howard Horowitz & Alisse Waterston  
Dr. Gerald & Sandra Hyman  
Dr. Matthew & Jennifer Kates  
David & Sara Kaye  
Jocelyn Kenner  
Dr. Kyle & Judith Lipton  
David & Rachel Long  
Marc & Marjorie Mangot  
Richard Marx & Deborah Rubin-Marx  
Gregory & Diana Nero  
Mark Nowak & Dr. Carolyn Dudek  
Herbert Ornstein  
Judith Osten  
Dr. Donald & Judith Pinals  
Gary & Gail Polsky  
Dr. Daniel Pomerantz & Dr. Jacalyn Bitterman  
Mr. James & Dr. Jill Rieger  
Lloyd Robinson  
Steve & Jana Rockoff  
Donald & Bonnie Rosenfeld  
Dr. Gary & Dr. Suzanne Rothbart  
Michael & Beth Sadicario  
Steven & Jackie Saril  
Heidi Siesfeld  
Dr. Herbert Smith & Sharon Blinkoff  
Leonard & Berdie Stein  
Dr. Jeffrey & Madeline Stier  
Christopher & Leah Tahbaz  
Bryant Wang & Whitney Barrat  
Paul & Ilissa Warhit  
William Weil & Elaine Weiss  
James & Elizabeth Weingast  
Michael Weiss & Dalia Levine  
David Zensky & Linda Cuggino

## High Holiday Appeal

Joel Barad & Tobe Epstein

*Rabbi's Note: continued from p. 5*

Indeed, during these times of national division, it is imperative that we forge open communication for shared values and action.

Once again, Temple Israel will be hosting the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Shabbat service. This year the service will be online and held on Friday, January 15 at 7:00 pm. The sermon will be delivered by Rev. Wallace Noble, St. Catherine AME Zion Church. The service, though shorter than in years past, will be replete with meaningful prayers, reflection and music.

As we enter 2021, let us remember the words of Dr. King, "The ultimate measure of a person is not where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where they stand at times of challenge and controversy." How much these words resonate during this time of COVID-19, national division, and continued congregational healing.

In the new year of 2021, *Hashiveinu Adonai...* Help us to return O God to a world where we can embrace each another with arms as well as words...to in-person family gatherings of more than 10...to a sanctuary filled with song and no masks...to a world where COVID-19, and not our voices, is muted.

May it be a good 2021!

*L'shalom*

Rabbi Deborah A. Hirsch

*Cantor's Note: continued from p. 5*

feature recordings of the Coalition Choir from years past along with live musical prayer. Shabbat Shirah (January 29th), the Shabbat of Song which features the Song of the Sea from Torah, will still highlight special music, including the works of one of our sweetest singers of Israel, Debbie Friedman. Her 10th *yahrzeit* will be observed this month. In February we will finish what we started last year and finally present, *Esther Saved our Lives Tonight: an Elton John Purim*. Yes, ZOOM Purim will be different, but we can still enjoy a timeless story and fun music.

Finally, mark your calendars for Saturday evening, March 13th. Our Fourth Annual Music benefit will be unlike years past, but will be sure to lift your spirits and secure the future of the role of music at Temple Israel for years to come.

Wishing you all health and well-being, aided by the power of music.

Cantor Randall M. Schloss



# Good Things Coming THIS Summer!

Happy 2021!

Camp Pinebrook is busy planning for our best summer yet! Running camp during COVID-19 has been challenging, but filled with blessings. To be able to serve children who haven't been allowed a normal childhood has been humbling and awe inspiring. Last summer we saw campers who were struggling with stress and social isolation from their peers. Camp was like a magical bubble that brought back their childhood. It reminds me every day that what Camp, Kehillah, and Chavaya do is more than programmatic and learning. We offer our youth a safe home of respect and love. That was my inspiration for being a rabbi. Growing up in the Midwest, it was the synagogue that was always welcoming and caring. Camp Pinebrook continues that legacy of bringing the values of community, respect, teamwork, compassion, and encouragement into the daily lives of our campers. As a result, we continue to see our camp program grow and strengthen.

When I hire my staff, I look at their skills and background. And it is when they connect to their own calling of love and responsibility that I know they are ready. It is powerful to see young adults gain life skills in their first job and grow personally by serving others. And in that experience, they become true members of the Pinebrook family. Year after year, we have high schoolers, college students, and adults that bring forth their very best selves, inspiring and leading our campers. Being a camp director nourishes my soul because on two levels I see the future of the Jewish people and the greater community has wonderful potential and great people

to lead: in a world that is too often dark with hate, hurt, and negativity. It is our youth and young adults who have idealism and love. And I believe that the future of Judaism will be strong because of them.

In the world today, information and learning has been associated with success. And yet, our youth need mentors and role models more than ever. Being the director of Camp Pinebrook reminds me constantly that there is a yearning for belonging, serving, and caring about humanity. It is in that spirit that we continue to be successful. I am proud to share that this year, even with all the challenges of COVID-19, Camp Pinebrook has our strongest recruitment numbers. This summer will be our largest yet.

If you know any families with campers ages 3-8, or young adults ages 16 and older; please talk to them about Camp Pinebrook. We hope to continue to build a special summer home for our community. I can't wait for June 28th (camp's opening day), even if it means wearing a mask and not being able to hug my campers. I know my soul needs it and so does theirs. Our future is in making sure that our children feel loved and their souls are nourished in this time of chaos.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Temple Israel and the Camp Pinebrook community.

May we all have patience and hope,  
Rabbi Jesse Gallop  
Camp Pinebrook Director



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## ...by the seeds you plant!

Goodbye 2020, Hello 2021! Happy New Year from Kehillah!

We have shepherded the New Year into our classrooms with much joy. From July 13, all the way to the New Year, Kehillah has not had a single confirmed case of COVID. We are incredibly proud of the staff at Kehillah for keeping everyone safe. The year presented many challenges, and we met them as a community with strength, resilience, and perseverance. Since our July reopening, Kehillah has welcomed 17 new children to our community. Our Kehillah families have also welcomed 9 new babies into the world! Congratulations! We look forward to seeing what 2021 has in store.

January brings new resolutions, change, and an important holiday - Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This day celebrates the importance of diversity, inclusivity, and the milestones of the Civil Rights moment. Here at Kehillah, we are proud to have a community of diverse individuals. We are excited to create a 'Diversity Tree' – each class will add to the leaves and branches of our tree to showcase the beauty of Kehillah.

February brings *Tu Bish'vat* Our classrooms will have their own *Tu Bish'vat Seder*, where the children will eat from three different categories of fruits and nuts – fruits with a hard shell or peel that cannot be consumed (oranges, coconut, etc.); fruits with an edible outside, but inedible pits or seeds

(olives, cherries, etc.); and fruits which are eaten inside and out (grapes, raspberries, etc.). This is a time for taking care of the earth. Here at Kehillah, we recognize the importance of caring for our planet, and redoubling our efforts to help where we can. Recycling, reusing materials, and going green are just a few of the ways we will be engaging with the earth this year.

Reflecting on this past year, as difficult as it has been, has filled us with joy and pride for Kehillah. This community has turned every challenging day into an opportunity for children to learn and grow. Our teachers have created a nurturing environment where all children can develop and thrive, and have helped parents feel safe and grounded. Our community has encouraged each other, cared for each other, and made the impossible possible. As we enter the New Year, we hope you take a quiet moment to pause and reflect on the tremendous impact you have made on so many lives, and we hope you feel inspired and energized by the decisions you make. Whatever direction this year takes you, take care of yourself, your family, and those around you.

We leave you with a quote: *Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.*

Laurie Thomas  
Kehillah School Director

Danielle Cohen  
Assistant Kehillah School Director



## Pivoting

We've reached the midpoint of our year. Just twelve months ago, I remember boarding a flight with my family to visit our good friends in Atlanta. COVID-19 was far away and unthreatening. Yet within weeks, we realized we might need to pivot - and we did. Without much training, and with almost no equipment, we rallied through the end of the year and planned to make 2020-2021 as exciting as we could. We began our year meeting outdoors, taking advantage of our beautiful campus. By the end of October the seasons had changed and after feedback from our families and teaching staff, we made the necessary safety and health preparations to move indoors. One week before Thanksgiving we were forced to pivot again and move online due to a significant increase in cases.

Fast forward to the present, Chavaya resumed on January 4th and we have continued to meet online. The Chavaya educators, our clergy, *Manheegem* (teen facilitators) and *Madreechem* (teen assistants) who make this happen on a weekly basis are rock stars who have risen to the occasion,

explored and learned new technologies, and continued to engage and connect with our children and teens. I could not be more thrilled to work with this team! ZOOM also has presented me with the opportunity to be present within each group, and be able to be an active part of the learning taking place. In our Nitzaneem (3rd & 4th) and Ahleem (5th & 6th grade) we have modified our Hebrew program to include a 1:2 (one facilitator for every two children) structure to provide children with a more personalized experience. This change has been well received!

In our 7th-12th grade groups we have looked for ways to connect through learning and socialization. Our monthly Moving Traditions groups continue to meet and we've enjoyed competing in online Escape Rooms and other games. Our desire is to create experiences that bring our teens together because we know the upcoming months will continue to be difficult.

I hope that in my next Temple Topics article, I'll be able to share that we're meeting in-person.

# Social Action

## Many Ways to Help ... Temple Israel still NEEDS YOU!

### TI SHOPS

Temple Israel Shops continues! Thank you to our congregant volunteers and weekly shoppers, Greta Berenbaum, Jamie Deutsch, Beth Feldman, Marilyn Morris, and Debby Rubin-Marx. If you know congregants who may benefit from this program, please share this link <https://www.tinr.org/coronavirus/temple-israel-shops/> or have them call Amy Ecker at (917) 348-2301 or Mia Egelberg at (914) 629-2794.

### The Giving Tree

Although the Giving Tree went virtual this year, our congregation once again has gone above and beyond! Thank you to the Temple Israel community for being exceptionally generous this year. Our partner organizations all acknowledged how important and helpful our support is this year, even more so than in year's past. THANK YOU!

#### Here is what our community contributed:

127 Gift Cards distributed to The Jewish Board's Mann and Goldsmith's Center, PS 140, and Westchester Cares Action Program. In addition to the gift cards, the bags were filled with coloring books and crayons. The children at PS 140 also received white boards and markers to use for studying.

168 Gift bags for two WestCOP HeadStart programs - filled with four coloring books, crayons, a toothbrush, toothbrush cover and toothpaste

#### Significant donations to the following:

- Community Service Associates
- Hearts & Homes for Refugees
- HOPE Community Services
- The Sharing Shelf

#### Special Giving Tree shout outs to...

Toni Hoffman for designing this year's tree and helping hang and decorate along with Nancy Chez. Many participants returned their colored leaves which are on display in the lobby.

Orietta and Ellen assisting with marketing and donation collections. Mary Ann and Beverly for helping congregants with questions and drop-offs.

We greatly appreciate their help!





# Congregational Mitzvah Season 2021

**What about Mitzvah Day?** The SAC is developing projects for a "Mitzvah Season" by creating activities that can be completed at home on your own and via ZOOM as a community. These projects will begin to launch in January.

**Why are we waiting for January when there is so much need?** It is after the holidays that we hope to give support where it is most needed. During the holiday season non-profit organizations are inundated with much needed support but come February and March, donations and pantries often begin to dry up. Given the current situation, we want to ensure that we are working year-round to support these organizations.

**How can you help with Mitzvah Season?** Please step up to lead a project! Email [SocialActionTINR@gmail.com](mailto:SocialActionTINR@gmail.com) if you are interested or have an idea for a project.

**What are some of the projects in the works?**

1. **Cook for a Cause:** Marilyn Morris cooks regularly for HOPE Community Services or Community Service Associates. If you are interested in helping, please contact her at [marilynmorris123@gmail.com](mailto:marilynmorris123@gmail.com) to learn more.

2. **Toiletry Kits** that include personal hygiene items and laundry detergent. We need a leader for this project.

3. **Love in a Box** - decoupage shoe boxes together via ZOOM to fill with personal items or toiletries for children at The Jewish Board. This may be a joint activity with some of the clients of the Sally & Anthony Mann Center and will be led by Toni Hoffman and Margie Ostrove

*Love in a Box  
A Social Action Committee Project*

*We're reaching out to everyone,  
Creative people let's have some fun.*

*"Love in a Box" - it's up to you,  
Follow the directions and you'll know what to do.*

*Paper, scissors and glue to make things stick,  
Your innate whimsy is sure to do the trick.*

*You'll produce a GIFT that once held shoes,  
And your "Love in a Box" will be a treat for someone to use!!*

*Details to follow - no artistic skills required!*

4. **Project Linus** - The SAC will provide material for members to make their own knotted fleece blankets at home. Visit [www.tinr.org](http://www.tinr.org) in the "Events / Connect" section to sign up.

5. **Shopping for a Cause:** Provide members with pantry items most needed by local soup kitchens. We need a leader for this project.

6. **Smiles for the Homebound** - packaging rugelach, tea, and a homemade card to deliver to some of our own congregants. We need a leader for this project.

7. **Succulents and Cards** - decorate a flat of succulents and make homemade cards to deliver to local nursing homes (coordinated by Deb Blatt)

*For more information on Mitzvah Day, visit [www.tinr.org](http://www.tinr.org) in the "Events / Connect" section.*

The SAC will continue to share local volunteer opportunities and needs as we learn of them. We want everyone to be safe and will do our best to find appropriate opportunities.

The SAC tries to send out regular emails checking in with updates about local volunteer opportunities, upcoming projects, and collections. If you would like to be added to our email distribution, please email us at [SocialActionTINR@gmail.com](mailto:SocialActionTINR@gmail.com)

**Please feel free to reach out:**

Amy Ecker: [amybrose@gmail.com](mailto:amybrose@gmail.com) or (917) 348-2301

Mia Egelberg: [miaegelberg@gmail.com](mailto:miaegelberg@gmail.com) or (914) 629-2794

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

Hoping to see everyone in person sometime soon!

# Brotherhood Sisterhood

## Starting a New Year!

As we start the New Year there is reason for optimism. While we still have to continue our vigilance: wear a mask, wash our hands, and keep our social distance, people are finally getting vaccinations and there is reason to believe there is light at the end of the tunnel. We are looking forward to having Shabbat dinners with you, Brotherhood Breakfasts, Bourbon & Bible, the Purim Carnival, Golf Outing, Booze & Schmooze, and so much more. However until then, we want you to know that Brotherhood is here for you. If you need help with something (food, medicine, etc), or maybe just want to talk or take a walk with someone please reach out to us.

Todd Pekats and Mitchell Tarnopal  
Brotherhood Co-Presidents



**Todd Pekats**  
ToddPekats@live.com  
(917) 992-5704  
Brotherhood Co-President



**Mitchell Tarnopal**  
mitchell.tarnopal@randrealty.com  
(914) 552-1566  
Brotherhood Co-President



### BROTHERHOOD/ SISTERHOOD Temple Food Bank Challenge

During this pandemic, food challenge and food insecurity has risen to a crisis level. Families and children are going to sleep hungry. Many of those receiving food from food banks, used to donate themselves. Brotherhood & Sisterhood want to make a difference. We are initiating a challenge to all Temple members to donate towards this cause to help those in so

much need. Our goal is to raise \$25,000 and it is our desire that not only will we donate this money but we will also participate in distributing this food.

Please donate any amount you feel comfortable contributing by sending a check to the Temple for the "Food Bank Challenge" or by going on online at [www.tinr.org](http://www.tinr.org) under "Connect with Temple Israel."

Happy New Year!

We hope that all Temple Israel members and staff are staying healthy, and were able to enjoy the Chanukah season as much as possible during these trying times.

Sisterhood sponsored a virtual tour of the NYC Tenement Museum on December 20th. The event was open to anyone in the community and was appropriate for all ages, including families with kids. On December 14th, Sisterhood read Chanukah books to Kehillah School classes over ZOOM. In the new year, Sisterhood has more virtual events planned, including our popular Common Read. Stay tuned, we will let you know more when we know the details.

Please remember to pay your Sisterhood dues. These funds help us to contribute financially to Temple Israel of New Rochelle and sponsor the fun events that we have throughout the year.

As always, if you have ideas for programming you would like to see, please reach out to us. We are always happy to hear your suggestions and would love to hear from you.

We hope that in 2021 we can eventually all be together in person, but until then we are hopeful for a better world in January.

Best wishes for a healthy, safe and better new year for everyone,

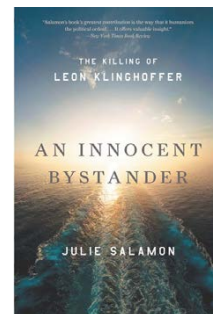
Janet Dubiel-Frey and Jennifer Herbst  
Sisterhood Co-Presidents



**Janet Dubiel-Frey**  
janetdubiefrey@gmail.com  
Sisterhood Co-President



**Jennifer Herbst**  
jsherbst@yahoo.com  
Sisterhood Co-President



### NEXT READ EVENT

Start reading "An Innocent Bystander: The Killing of Leon Klinghoffer", by Julie Salamon. It is the story of the murder of Leon Klinghoffer, a disabled Jewish American by Palestinian terrorists aboard a cruise ship. This event, moderated by Rabbi Hirsch, will be either April or May. Details to follow.

### CURL UP WITH A GOOD BOOK

Although it is still not safe to have open access to our library, we continue to acquire new books weekly. Books may be requested through our online site: [www.librarycat.org/lib/HandelmanLibraryTINR](http://www.librarycat.org/lib/HandelmanLibraryTINR) and held at the front desk for pick-up.



Watch for these new books due to be released January – February and added to our collection:

**The Lost Boys: A Decker/Lazarus Novel**, by Faye Kellerman. Faye Kellerman returns with an atmospheric, face-paced mystery set in bucolic upstate New York, full of unexpected twists and turns that build to a shocking and surprising end—the latest thrilling entry in her New York Times bestseller Decker/Lazarus series.

**Our Darkest Night: A Novel of Italy and the 2nd WW**, by Jennifer Robson. To survive the Holocaust, a young Jewish woman must pose as a Christian farmer's wife in this unforgettable novel from USA Today bestselling author Jennifer Robson—a story of terror, hope, love, and sacrifice, inspired by true events, that vividly evokes the most perilous days of World War II.

**Send for Me: A Novel**, by Lauren Fox. An achingly beautiful work of historical fiction that moves between Germany on the eve of WWII and present-day Wisconsin, unspooling a thread of love, longing and the powerful bonds of family.

**Bugsy Siegel: The Dark Side of the American Dream**, by Michael Shnayerson. (Part of the Yale U. Press Jewish Lives Series.) The story of the notorious Jewish gangster who ascended from impoverished beginnings to the glittering Las Vegas strip.

### Virtual Library

Stephanie Krasner, the Temple Librarian, offers book selections and descriptions every week. They are listed on the Temple website's homepage at [www.tinr.org](http://www.tinr.org) in the SpotLight section (<https://www.tinr.org/spotlight/virtual-library/>) located on the bottom of the Temple website homepage.

The Library is still physically closed due to COVID, but you can reserve a book (and many new ones are coming) by visiting <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/HandelmanLibraryTINR>. Once you reserve the book it will be waiting for you at the front desk at the Temple. If you have questions please contact Stephanie at (914) 636-1204 or email [stephkras11@gmail.com](mailto:stephkras11@gmail.com)

Worship, Chavaya, and other committees at the Temple. She plans to have conversations about what changes we should make and what programs can we strengthen that are currently in existence. Rabbi Hirsch has learned a great deal about our congregation. In particular, she has learned that Temple Israel of New Rochelle is a social congregation! While COVID-19 has been an impediment for us to socialize and come together, we are congregating virtually. We are looking at additional opportunities this winter for adult education.

On behalf of Rabbi Hirsch, Dan Pomerantz, an officer of the Board, spoke about two matters.

1. A COVID-19 Temple Task Force was formed and committee members, who are all medical professionals, include Dan Pomerantz, Julie Rosenbluth, and Jeff Stier. The committee has been meeting with senior staff on what we can do and what we ought to do as a Temple. We are careful about our gatherings and we are looking to keep things meaningful when we do congregate. The Task Force will reconvene in the new year. Plans are made in short order because things are changing so rapidly.
2. Governance: A committee is reviewing roles of various leader stakeholders at Temple, including the president, the executive director, and the rabbi, as we move forward into 2021 and to prepare for our permanent rabbi. The committee is also clarifying Board responsibilities and will present updated job descriptions, in line with the Temple's bylaws.

Adam Egelberg provided the Treasurer's Report. The Temple is ahead of budgeted total membership contributions due to several large individual contributions from members. We should not be complacent, however, because we are well-behind collecting from members. We are grateful for all of our members' support.

With respect to Kehillah, we do not expect to come close to the \$370K operating surplus that was budgeted. The YTD operating surplus is \$60K. It is materially greater than month ago because of federal grants that Bright Horizons passed along to TINR. We continue to look for tenants to rent available spaces. Sixty-two campers enrolled for Summer 2021 to date. Jesse is going to contract for the extended two-week camp over the summer. We are ahead of previous years to date with our recruitment. We applied for the Paycheck Protection forgiveness and anticipate receiving the forgiveness.

Our treasurer, Adam Egelberg is available to our congregation if any member has questions about TINR's financial status.

Anita Aronoff, our Executive Director, reported that membership collections in December were down, at 86% of budget. We are making efforts to reach out to members who have not made commitments. We are also considering an appeal letter for the end of the year. Temple Israel is not alone in seeing a decline in membership collections.

Anita presented the membership report and reported that a number of families are relocating out of the area.

Marjorie Ostrove reported on Kehillah. With COVID-19 restrictions in place, we have 71.5 "FTE" participants, with a forecast of growing 2 to 3 per month. Kehillah recently held a virtual Chanukah celebration that was widely attended by

# List of Funds

## Support Temple Israel

### Please support Temple Israel!

Annual pledged membership contributions and tuition fees cover only a portion of the actual cost of Temple Israel's wide range of ritual, educational, and social activities. We depend on your support.

To facilitate the act of *Tzedakah* (charitable giving, typically seen as a moral obligation) Temple Israel provides an on-line form to make giving easy. Visit [www.tinr.org](http://www.tinr.org), and click on "Donate" on the upper right hand corner.

Simply choose the amount you want to give and for what purpose. If you wish to give to several funds, we will apportion your donation as you wish: evenly to multiple funds or you may type in a specific amount for each fund in the space provided. A list of funds is found below, and to the right. Of course, you may include a dedication(s) for each fund. When making a donation "in honor" or "in memory" of someone, those honored will be promptly informed of your thoughtfulness. Donations "in honor" or "in memory" of someone are also acknowledged right here in Temple Topics. We are happy to facilitate anonymous donations at your request.

Once you have completed the on-line donation form, please click the "submit" button. Your wishes will immediately be sent to us and we will contact you regarding the preferred payment method (check or credit card), if there are questions. We accept MasterCard, Visa, and American Express.

### Thank you for supporting Temple Israel!

**Temple Operating Fund** – To support Temple Israel programs, Jewish education, social activities and operations

**ASL (American Sign Language) Interpreting Fund** – To provide funding for ASL interpreting and to build the bridge between the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the general Jewish Community

**Brotherhood Fund** – Brotherhood of Temple Israel of New Rochelle, also known as the Men of Reform Judaism (MRJ), is a group of dedicated Temple members, spanning all ages, who volunteer their time and effort on behalf of Temple members and the New Rochelle community.

**Camp Pinebrook Program Fund** – To enhance programs associated with Camp Pinebrook.

**Chavaya Program Fund** – To support Chavaya programs

**Endowment Fund** – Used to maintain and expand religious, educational, cultural, social and philanthropic activities of the Temple

**Gladys & Murray Goldstein Cultural Center Fund** – Enables the Temple to present exhibits and improve the Cultural Center

**Hospitality Fund** – For the holding of Kiddush and Oneg Shabbat receptions

**Kehillah School Childhood Program Fund** – To support Kehillah programs

**Sidney & Ruth Lapidus Fund** – For adult education funding

**Music Fund** – To support musical programs and cultural life of the Temple

**Prayer Book Fund** – To enable the Temple to purchase prayer books

**Joan Sanders Transportation Fund** – To enable congregants who do not drive to get to services

**Sisterhood Fund** – Temple Israel of New Rochelle Sisterhood brings together all generations of women within our synagogue to serve our congregation. Our Sisterhood sponsors a variety of social, religious, and community activities throughout the year.

**Social Action Fund** – To support social action projects in our synagogue and neighborhood communities

**Temple Israel Cares** – Enables the committee to provide meals for congregants who have been hospitalized or are recovering from illness and to provide Shiva baskets

**Youth Involvement Fund** – Enhances youth programs

**Rabbi Discretionary Fund** – This fund allows the Rabbi to support a wide variety of charitable causes.

**Cantor Discretionary Fund** – This fund allows the Cantor to support a wide variety of charitable causes.

### Make a Membership Pledge for 2020-2021

Join your fellow congregants in supporting Temple Israel as best you can for the 2020-2021 year. Visit [www.tinr.org/donate](http://www.tinr.org/donate) to see the options to help guide you in your pledge as you reflect upon what Temple Israel means to you, and to our wider community.

Thank you for your consideration and support!

### Did You Know?

You can pay Temple dues or make donations to the Temple with appreciated stock?

If you would like to do so, please follow the directions below:  
Janney Montgomery Scott LLC #0374 Janney Montgomery Scott LLC  
Physical Certificates: Janney Montgomery Scott LLC  
26 Broadway 9th Floor Mezzanine New York, NY 10004  
Account Registration: Temple Israel of New Rochelle (Operations)  
Account Number: 6286-6155

Temple Israel of New Rochelle also gratefully accepts donations of real property. Please contact Anita Aronoff, Executive Director, to discuss in confidence and advise her of your donation at (914) 235-1800.

over 100 unique viewers on ZOOM. Marjorie thanked Rabbi Hirsch and Cantor Schloss for their efforts. Thanks to the Social Action Committee, Sisterhood, and the Early Childhood Committee for all of their support, donations and volunteer time. Several Sisterhood members read to the Kehillah children for Chanukah - an excellent opportunity for all to participate.

The Rabbinic Search Committee led by Carolyn Dudek and Ilissa Warhit provided an update. We are currently in the process of virtually meeting candidates. The Search Committee brought in two candidates in December.

The President, Rich Alter, gave a brief report. Brian Feinblum, who heads up the marketing committee, plans to talk to the Board in January.

Rebecca Elkus-Ferst provided the Educator's Report. Chavaya concludes its semester shortly. We are seeing solid attendance in the lower grades, but a decline for the

high school since we went virtual. This is not a surprise. We are hosting different events including an "Escape Room" event for our teens. Rebecca plans to revamp programming in the high school, recognizing the need for more social connection, rather than emphasizing our curriculum. Changes are on the horizon also for 4-6th graders, to provide additional attention on Hebrew learning since we moved to a virtual model.

With respect to Old Business, a motion was made to recommend to the Congregation to amend By-Laws, Section 4.5, specifically the final sentence: "At least every other fiscal year the Treasurer shall arrange for an independent audit of the Temple's books and records." The intent was to find cost-savings. Rather than conduct an audit every year, the proposal was to pay for an independent audit every other year. The Board voted and opposed this measure.

With respect to new business, the Board reviewed the clergy's annual requests relating to parsonage. As the employer, we vote on designating a certain portion of their income as non-taxable as per IRS regulations. The vote passed during Executive Session.



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