



July 2016  
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# Temple Bulletin

## Temple Welcomes a New President

*Joshua Wease, President*

I have some good news and some bad news to share.

The good news is that the Board and Rabbi Schadick have entered into a new contract for the next three years. His new contract will begin July 1 and run through June 30, 2019.

The bad news is that with the state of Temple's finances, Rabbi Schadick has agreed to a significant cut in pay and benefits for the next three years. This is bad news for the Rabbi, his family and our congregation. While the Temple has been witnessing an ever decreasing contribution base. It has reached a point that our finances are having a certain and negative impact on our community.

For most of last year, we ran at a deficit, essentially operating from "donation to donation" as dues trickled in. We were bracing for a budget shortfall of about \$15,000. Thankfully, with the spectacular turnout at the Gala this year, we were able to fill the budget gap by raising an astounding \$20,000 at the eleventh hour. Many thanks to Rick Rinzler and everyone who attended or contributed.

The Board was in a difficult position. The Temple's operating budget are fixed expenses. Rather than run the risk of having a shortfall that could mean missing payroll or not being able to pay our electric bill, the Board made the painful, but fiscally responsible, decision to ask Rabbi to agree to a reduction in pay and benefits. Rabbi agreed. A sacrifice that would only be made by someone who really cares about this community. It is also a sign that things need to change.

The Board's priority this year is to stabilize the Temple's finances and

improve community engagement. I have received dozens and dozens of suggestions, comments, and concerns from the community over the past year as President-Elect. Some of the goals the Board will accomplish this year are:

1. Improve communication between the Board and the Congregation
2. Improve how the Board raises funds for Temple's operating budget
3. Improve Board transparency, and
4. Improve communication and relationship building among all congregants

My monthly reports will focus on what the Board is considering and how it is working to accomplish these goals.

The immediate task for the Operating Committee and Temple Board is to set the Temple's budget for the fiscal year starting July 1. I estimate that this year's budget will be approximately \$400,000. This is not an insignificant amount for a Temple that has approximately 240 families. We are also working on resolving Temple's URJ dues, which have gone unpaid for the past five years. Many thanks to Mort Finkelstein, who is helping us resolve that problem.

This summer, we will be making significant changes to how members make contributions. We will improve the statements that members receive. We are working on enabling members to make contributions online. We will also be improving transparency by communicating to members, usually with each statement, how the Temple is doing financially.

While we have some challenges to deal with, the Board is committed to leading a vibrant Jewish community in Grand Rapids. ✨

# Thoughts from the Rabbi

Rabbi Michael Schadick

***Rabbi Schadick is completing the last 8 weeks of his sabbatical this summer. These are the words he shared with Noah Spungen and Thomas Turrentine on Friday, May 20. This was the occasion of their Confirmation.***

The students of the famous Rabbi Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev came to their teacher with this question. Why does every tractate of the Talmud begin on the second page? He replied, "However much we learn, we should always remember that we have not even reached the first page."

Jewish knowledge is supposed to be a lifelong pursuit, a journey that we take not simply to acquire more information, but a journey that we take to grow who we are as human beings, to improve the very essence of who we are.

I hope that in the years you have been coming here to Sunday school our teachers have imparted this wisdom to you in their own way, that whatever their subject matter was, whatever their course hoped to cover, it was only the very tip of what the subject was, a chance to whet the appetite for more knowledge. I think we sometimes forget what a treasure trove of wisdom our faith has at its very core. And this treasure trove is always yours for the taking, whether today or tomorrow, or at any time in your lives.

Shira reminds me each week how challenging it is to get up for Sunday school each week. She tells

me in no uncertain terms about all the homework she has and all things she has to get done. And so tonight I applaud your commitment to coming getting up on Sunday mornings and coming for class, knowing full well that there were other things that you very well could have been doing during this time. The rite of Confirmation is simply a moment in your teenage lives, to say in your own way, I confirm who I am as a Jew. I am proud of my heritage. I am proud of my people. And I am proud to announce that I will continue to live by the tenets of this faith for all of my days. And we, this rabbi, your parents and your grandparents, and your extended families are very proud of this commitment that you are making here tonight.

You both are quite blessed young men. Each of you has parents and grandparents that love you dearly, in ways that I cannot begin to express in words. They are also wonderful role models for how it is to live life. Your families are generous. Your families are involved, not only in the life of this synagogue, but also in the life of this community in which we live.

I know it is quite trite to say this, but I must. "Where have the years gone?" We have watched you grow and mature and become fine young men. And for that we do indeed give thanks this night.

What we wish for you tonight is a lifetime of blessings, love and joy, peace and contentment, strength and courage, and fulfillment in whatever avenues you choose to pursue. And as your rabbi, I hope that your faith will play an important role in your life, guiding you and instructing you and assisting you as you journey on the path ahead.

Our ancestors journeyed from Egypt to Sinai during these weeks in history, from Passover to Shavuot. What they came to accept at the foot of that mountain, was accepted for all future Jews. Thank you both for continuing on this chain of transmission, for accepting this sacred responsibility, the faith of our people, Jewish life, and may you insure that it is indeed passed to the next generation.

I hope that and pray that you will never forget the importance of your link to our chain.

*Amen*



## Debate Series Continues Over the Summer

The next Your Opinion Matters & Brunch will be Sunday July 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. The topic for this month: Is the problem with minority opinion when they derail the majority or when they don't get a respectful consideration? All are welcome to join this discussion group. Please RSVP to Jim Siegel at [jims@siegeljewelers.com](mailto:jims@siegeljewelers.com) so that he knows how many eggs to scramble. ☆

## July Food Bank

The next food bank distribution day will be Wednesday, July 20th at 8:00 AM.

We support 60 families each month with nutritious food and fresh vegetables from the Ahavas Israel Corners of the Field Community Garden.

Please contact Barb Duchemin to help with this mitzvah! ☆

## Confirmation Class of 2016

*On Friday, May 20, 2016 we celebrated the confirmation of Noah Spungen and Thomas Turrentine. Noah is the son of Sharon and Eric Spungen, grandson of Tammy & Stan Spungen. Thomas is the son of Joan & John Turrentine, grandson of Tom & Mickie Fox.*

### Being Jewish

*Thomas Turrentine*

Being Jewish gives me a sense of belonging. I am a member of the Jewish community. I am part of my Jewish family and I am tied to all of the Jews that have come before me. It gives me a sense of the past, present and also the future.

Learning about what those who have come before me have gone through has given me a greater appreciation for not only the things that I have, but the time that I live in. I have the freedom to practice Judaism, to be a Jew and that is not something that has always been possible.

I feel that being Jewish gives me the basis for being a good person in general. I appreciate nature, I am honest, and I try to be kind and caring. I respect my family and my community. I am allowed to ask questions and to have my own opinions and beliefs.

Being Jewish is one facet of me that makes me unique. It is helping me to become a good person, a good family member and a good member of the community.

I am proud to be confirmed today. Members of my grandfather's generation were confirmed here. My mother, her two sisters and her brother were confirmed here in Temple Emanuel. I am pleased to affirm my faith. ☆

## The Importance of Being Jewish

*Noah Spungen*

Being Jewish has always been important to me. From celebrating holidays to attending services, to having my bar mitzvah, Judaism has always been a big part of my life. I have always had a strong connection with it, and that connection affects me in many ways. It teaches me how to be a good person, to treat everyone with respect. It teaches me to give *tzedakah*, and to help those less fortunate than me. It teaches me *tikkun olam*, "healing the world," making the world a better place. It teaches me to follow the Ten Commandments, and the rest of the teachings of the Torah.

Another aspect for me of being Jewish is going to Sunday School every Sunday. It has taught me a lot over the years. When I was younger, I learned a lot about the different holidays, but as I grew older we started learning about more current and serious things, such as the situation of what is going on in Israel and the Middle East.

I also have a lot of memories that being Jewish gave me. My biggest memory is that of my Bar Mitzvah, when I lead a service and became a Jewish adult. A lot of my other memories have to do with celebrating holidays. I remember celebrating Passover with my large extended family. I remember celebrating Rosh Hashanah with my grandparents and my cousins. All of these memories have led to a great Jewish childhood of following Jewish traditions.

My confirmation means that I am confirming who I am as a Jew and that I plan on following Judaism for the rest of my life. ☆

## July Service Calendar

We thank our members for leading services this summer while Rabbi Schadick is away on sabbatical. He will return on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Friday, July 1st**

**6:15 PM**

**Shabbat Services**

Barbara Duchemin leads services. This will be a Red, White & Blue Jeans casual Shabbat to kick off the holiday weekend.

**Friday, July 8th**

**6:15 PM**

**Shabbat Services**

Mary Kaneti leads services. We thank Peg & Mort Finkelstein for hosting the Oneg Shabbat following services.

**Friday, July 15th**

**6:15 PM**

**Shabbat Services**

Rabbi Emeritus Albert Lewis leads services. We will celebrate July birthdays & anniversaries.

**Friday, July 22nd**

**6:15 PM**

**Shabbat Services**

Barbara Duchemin leads services. Summer Salad Shabbatluck dinner following services. Bring a salad to share and stay for dinner!

**Friday, July 29th**

**6:15 PM**

**Shabbat Services**

Shel Kopperl leads services.

## Yahrzeits

### July 1, 2016

Irene Bregman  
Paula Eppinger  
Neil Gaynes  
David Gillette  
Alex Gittlen  
Herbert Javery  
Edna Levine  
Gladys Mais  
Reynold Mais  
Myer Sapoznik  
Stanley Schadick  
Beth Schwartz  
Hy Sweet  
Arthur Zoellner

### July 8

J. Brock Albert  
Joseph R. Antonucci  
Gertie Benjamin  
Adrienne Brown  
Manuel Brown  
Hilda S. Fox  
Helen Gold  
Malo Hoenke  
Simon Landman  
Jacqueline Menuck  
Christian Rider  
Claire Rae Silbar  
Maurice Wilner  
Mark Wren-Robbins

### July 15

Sarah Armour  
Sarah Chevan  
Clarissa Druker  
Midge Frank  
Thaddeus Gusciora  
David Katonak  
Abe Kollenberg  
Marilyn Levitt  
James Pappas  
Bertha Phillips

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## Birthdays & Anniversaries

*We wish a mazel tov and happy anniversary to our members celebrating in July. Please join us at Shabbat Services on July 15<sup>th</sup> to share your blessings and receive a chocolate bar!*

## July Anniversaries

July 2 Dafna & Greg Kaufman  
Peggy & Marc Leven  
Lisa & Mark Rapoport  
July 3 Linda & Gregg Zizos  
July 4 John Weber &  
Maureen Selfon  
July 6 Tracy & Joe Chrenka  
July 7 Davida & Peter Dennen  
July 9 Julie & Evan Rossio  
July 17 Deb & Dan Mankoff  
July 20 Debbie & Michael Warsaw  
July 21 Jessica & Eric Varley  
July 22 Jeralyn & Rhett Pinsky  
July 25 Michelle & Craig Wolff  
July 26 Jane & Niels Bach  
July 31 Lauren & Ryan Vetter

### Social Action Committee Invites Everyone to Join!

Do you like social media? You will LOVE social action! Friend me on Facebook—HG Goldfarb—Events will be posted on FB, in the newsletter, and weekly e-mail alerts. I love feedback! Do you have an idea for an event or a project? Tell me what's important to YOU?? Let's ROCK SOCIAL ACTION TOGETHER!

See you soon!!

~Helena

helenagoldfarb13@gmail.com

## July Birthdays

July 1 Cherri Johns  
Lynn Hollander  
Glenn Barkan  
July 3 Jay Forstner  
July 4 Linda Albert  
Mort Finkelstein  
Emma Wease  
July 5 Eva Alfonso  
July 6 James Symonds  
John Weber  
July 8 Barbara Remes  
July 9 Owen Baxter  
Frankie Specter  
July 11 Rebecca Joyner  
Hal Ostrow  
Douglas Siegel  
July 12 Aliana Dubois  
Susette Tauber  
July 13 Amy Van Fossen  
Michael Winestock  
July 14 Dr. Rick Hay  
July 15 Claire Montague  
July 17 Beau Joyner  
July 19 Melissa Belfer  
July 20 Richard Sorota  
July 21 Maya Varley  
David Shapiro  
July 22 Jordan Newman  
Ezra Fechtner  
July 23 Michael Presant  
July 24 Miriam Chapiro-Luboff  
July 25 Abigail Rapoport  
Hailey Warsaw  
Richard Stevens  
Eileen Enoch  
July 27 Barbara Adelman  
July 28 Michael Wiener  
July 29 Joseph Rosenthal  
Jaclyn Dennen  
Lynn Weaver  
July 30 Anna Rapoport  
Chad Zagel  
Sharon Sun-Mei Mah  
July 31 Donald Lystad





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27 Michigan Jewish Historical Society Conference Michigan Jewish Women Who Made A Difference 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM	28 Comprehensive Therapy Center Camp 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	29	30	1 Social Hour 5:30 PM Shabbat Services 6:15 Barbara Duchemin Leads	26 Sivan 2
3	4 Temple Office Closed	5 Comprehensive Therapy Center Camp 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Writers Group 1:30 PM	6	7 Operating Committee Meeting 6:00 PM	8 Social Hour 5:30 PM Shabbat Services 6:15 Mary Kaneti Leads Oneg Shabbat hosted by Peg & Mort Finkelstein	3 Tamuz 9
10 Your Opinion Matters & Brunch 10:00 AM	11 Temple Office Closed	12 Comprehensive Therapy Center Camp 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	13	14 Temple Board Meeting 6:00 PM	15 August Bulletin Deadline 12 Noon Social Hour 5:30 PM Shabbat Services 6:15 Rabbi Lewis Leads Birthday/Anniversary Blessings & Chocolate	10 Tamuz 16
17	18 Temple Office Closed	19 Comprehensive Therapy Center Camp 8:00 Writers Group 1:30 PM Temple Office Opens at 12 noon--Cathrin on vacation	20 Food Bank Distribution 8:00 AM	21	22 Social Hour 5:30 PM Shabbat Services 6:15 Barbara Duchemin Leads	17 Tamuz 23
24	25 Temple Office Closed	26 Comprehensive Therapy Center Camp 8:00	27	28 -----Ted on vacation. Building emergencies are not allowed.----- GRSO Picnic Pops at Cannonsberg Ski Area 7:30 PM with early picnic. Tickets \$12 each.	29 Social Hour 5:30 PM Shabbat Services 6:15 Shel Kopperl Leads	27 Tamuz 30
31	1 Temple Office Closed	2 Comprehensive Therapy Center Camp 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Writers Group 1:30 PM	3	4 Operating Committee Meeting 6:00 PM	5 Social Hour 5:30 PM Shabbat Services 6:15 Jonathan Golden Leads	2 Av 6

## Join Us at the GRSO Picnic Pops on Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>

Temple has a block of tickets for the Grand Rapids Symphony Picnic Pops: The Music of The Beach Boys on Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are only \$12 each thanks to underwriting from the Tom & Mickie Fox Family Fund.

The music starts at 7:30 p.m., but come early to picnic with the group! These are general admission lawn seats, so you will need to look for the Temple Emanuel sign when you get there.

Tickets are available at the Temple Office. Call 459-5976 to get yours! ☆



The Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra Picnic Pops at  
Cannonsburg Ski Area.