



December 2020

# The Menorah

Temple Emanuel ~ 600 Lake Hollingsworth Dr.  
Lakeland FL 33803 ~ 863-682-8616



## Rabbi's Message

For eight nights, starting with the 25th of the month of Kislev, Jews celebrate the victory of the Maccabees, a brave group of warriors that defeated the mighty Syrian Greeks. Every winter we commemorate this military miracle by lighting the Hanukkah candles, increasing the glow of spirituality in the world and saluting

those who keep the dream of freedom alive.

Interestingly, the Torah portions we read at this time of the year also highlight dreamers. We learn about the visions of our patriarch Jacob and his son Joseph, followed by pharaohs butler and baker and then pharaoh himself. The resounding theme of the power of dreams offers us help amidst darkness, echoing the prophet's Zacharias motto "Not by might but by Spirit" shall we all live in peace.

Rabbi's Message continues on Page 4

## President's Message

Dear Friends,

The year 2020 is passing in a most unprecedented way. No one would have predicted last year that we would be in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been challenged to find new ways in an online environment to continue our religious services and Temple activities.

Our High Holiday Services were quite different this year, Although they were virtual, they were nevertheless meaningful and spiritually uplifting. We received many emails and notes complimenting the Rabbi and Cantor, the service content and zoom format. Many expressed how much they enjoyed the service.

Todah Rabah to Rabbi David Goldstein and Cantor Victor Geigner for the many hours they dedicated to planning, preparing and leading our services. Our Ritual Committee coordinated the Book of Remembrance and handled all the needed preparations to make the service flow smoothly.

Thank you to Jane & Brian Renz and Tammy & Ira Serebrin for coordinating, assembling and distributing the Rosh Hashanah gift bags to our congregants.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Farewell Rivkah 12/5**

**Polio Talk 12/6**

**Chanukah Program  
12/13**

**Book Club 12/15**

**Mayor Mutz 1/3**

Visit our [website calendar](#)  
& our [Facebook page](#) for  
details on all events!

At our Kol Nidre Service, Jon Trohn presented the High Holiday Appeal. He spoke of the impact Temple Emanuel has had on the Trohn family, and the important role Temple Emanuel plays as a center for religious, educational and social activities in Polk County, Florida. Jon reviewed the progress we have made in renovating the sanctuary, and the many other capital expenses we face in order to maintain the buildings, restore the caretakers house, repair our Torahs, increase security, revamp the handicapped parking area, etc. We need 100% of our members to contribute to this capital campaign at a level they find comfortable for their personal situation.

Our immediate goal is for us to be back in our Sanctuary. With the generous contributions we received to date we have been able to replace the air conditioner in Berkovitz Hall, seal all of the windows in the Temple building, repair and seal leaks in the wall above the Bema, remove the asbestos in the Sanctuary ceiling, remove the worn carpeting and clean the seating. We still need to replace the ceiling and the flooring, and complete woodworking repairs.

Our zoom Shabbat Services have enjoyed increased attendance. We've had a variety of activities including book club, adult education classes, informative guest speakers, game days and musical concerts.

The Temple was fortunate to be gifted with a large collection of fine costume jewelry. Thank you to Irma Cole for coordinating a successful zoom Jewelry Sale and then selling the remaining jewelry online to benefit the Temple. Thank you to our members and local jewelers who donated jewelry and gift certificates for door prizes. Thank you also to the Jewelry Sale committee: Jane Renz, Tammy Serebrin, Sheri Hewson, Diane and Floyd Stern, Meg Goldberg and Kathy Shane.

Several members participated with VISTE to help deliver Thanksgiving Dinners to their clients. We decorated placemats and shopping bags, helped deliver meals and donated food to their emergency food pantry to help the needy. Thank you to Mavra Kear, Jillian Robinson and the Key Club for helping decorate the bags and placemats. Thank you to our members who helped deliver meals.

The Temple is participating in the United Way Holiday Tree fundraiser at the RP Funding Center. Shelly Robinson and Jodie Snyder created a beautiful Hanukkah display that is being enjoyed by visitors to the Center. The display will be up until the end of December. We will also participate in the holiday story time and give the children attending our Hanukkah display treat bags with dreidels, gelt and instructions on how to play the dreidel game.

Please join us for an informative presentation by Mark Scolnick on Sunday, December 6th on the history of Polio and the work Rotary is doing to eradicate it worldwide. We also look forward to your joining us online for our Chanukah Party on Sunday, December 13th .

As we move into 2021, we pray for the day that the pandemic will be under control and we may once again gather together for services and social activities in our beautiful Temple.

Wishing everyone a very Happy, and Healthy New Year 2021!

Allen Shane

President Temple Emanuel



## Chanukah at the RP Funding Center!

The RP Funding Center is hosting its 2nd Annual City of Lakeland Holiday Tree Decorating Contest benefiting United Way of Central Florida!

Last year, with only city departments participating, 14 trees lined the halls of the RP Funding Center, adding holiday cheer while also creating unity. The competition was close but Lakeland Linder International Airport came out on top as the 1st place winner. Last year the City of Lakeland raised \$92,080.44 for United Way of Central Florida.

This year, the RP Funding Center is extending an invitation to other businesses and organizations to become a part of this new tradition. This provides companies an opportunity to show their creativity, promote their brand and raise money for the United Way in a unique way.

The contest will take place at the RP Funding Center from November 20 thru December 31. The public is welcome to view the trees in our corridors and vote during RPFC business hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.



## **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS** by Sheri Hewson

Shalom!

The 3d grade class has begun their second Hebrew workbook and is quickly finishing the Aleph Bet (reading and writing)! They learned the "Shema" prayer and all the rules and traditions of the mitzvah and are now working on Chanukah prayers. They can even play Hebrew Hangman in script!! These young women are fast learners!!

The 5th and 6th graders have completed the full Shema prayer, The Ashrei, and are now working on the Amidah. Our goal this year is to not only be able to lead a Friday service but to know the basics of all services so we can actively participate in any service anytime! Now that they know what to do with their Tallit, do we need someone to teach us to wrap tefillin?

Thanks to all the parents who have helped with the zooming and scheduling; we couldn't do it without your help! Todah Rabah!!

Be well and have a wonderful Channukah!

Best,

Miss Sheri



## Rabbi's Message Continued from Page 1

Every single flame on every Hanukkah menorah is a small victory, reminder of the triumph of good over evil throughout history. This holiday recalls those dreamers, from biblical times to the present, who were committed to the transformation of a barbaric world into one of liberty and justice for all. Moreover, we are reassured of the efficacy of the secret weapon in our arsenal, the power of dreams.

Jewish survival requires toughness and fortitude, an indefatigable resolve to advocate for liberty and self-expression. As a once enslaved people, we instinctively rally against injustice inflicted on any group. Hanukkah further refined the Passover message of freedom, emphasizing that bondage can also be spiritual. Our endurance is predicated upon our ability to learn G-ds word, to remain separate, to worship as we choose.

The Greeks prohibited the three things they perceived as crucial to maintaining the Jewish covenantal claim: observing the Sabbath, commemorating the new moon, and circumcision. The Maccabees felt compelled to take up arms because of these prohibitions. Hanukkah reminds us to "keep the dreams alive" in spite of tribulations that we may face. During the week of Hanukkah we can reflect on all injustices suffered by all people, feeling a sense of unity with those afflicted throughout history and today.

Hanukkah is the time to remember that the battle of the Maccabees must be fought in every generation. Like Jacob and Joseph, whose stories illuminate the season, we must reclaim our connection with the dreams of our people, but not at the expense of our connection with all of humanity. We will continue to fight for distinct Jewish identity while making this world a better place for all people and all nations. Let us realize Dr. Martin Luther King's dream of a "Day when all of G-ds children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing together with the words of the old folk song, "free at last, free at last, great G-d almighty, we are free at last".

Happy Hanukkah and a happy new year coming...hopefully when we will finally get control of Covid.

Rabbi David Goldstein (The above is excerpted from "The Joy of Judaism" By Sam Glaser)

## **B'NAI B'RITH NEWS**

B'nai B'rith meetings will be via Zoom until further notice. December speaker not announced at press time. If you are not on the B'nai B'rith email list and wish to be, email Bob Baum at rbaum428@gmail.com.

## **THANK YOU**

To Sharon Lakin: We have been enjoying Sharon's piano playing during Friday night Zoom services. If you haven't been joining us, please do, her music is wonderful and adds so much to our time together.

An Expression of Gratitude: To our Rabbi, president and members who remind us that it is so important to find meaningful ways to stay connected during these trying times. To the strength, creativity and kindness of our incredible Temple community which inspires us each and every day by the impact they make on our lives. Thank you, Marilyn Signer



## FSC Student Profile

### Rabbi David Goldstein: Grace Under Pressure

By Jordan Reed



Rabbi is confirmed, 1967.

Rabbi David Goldstein is a Florida native, born in Miami, but he has spent years working up and down the East Coast, and around the world. He excelled in school; his father, a very influential figure in his life, wanted his son to become a lawyer. As everyone knows, that did not happen! After graduation, Rabbi made Aliyah and traveled to Israel. He received a bachelor's degree in psychology, and continued with rabbinical studies.

This led to his declaring residency in Israel and being immediately drafted into the IDF. Upon his return to the United States, he pursued a career as a rabbi. The job that brought Rabbi back to Florida was a position as the Jewish chaplain for the Federal Corrections Institute in Miami, or the FCI. While there, Rabbi Goldstein championed the issue of establishing kosher food offerings for not just Jews but observant black Muslim prisoners as well. In Palm Beach Gardens in 1994, Rabbi rallied the Jewish community to support Oksun Kalmutz, whose children were kidnapped and taken to Israel by their father. It was through the community's help that she was able to bring her children home.

After Rabbi Goldstein's retirement, he discovered that he hated retirement! He returned

to the pulpit by joining Temple Emanuel in Lakeland, a Jewish community that brings him pride and joy. Rabbi serves as an example for the community; his compassion and unconditional support is a model of ethical behavior. Congregations swell around him and his commitment to continual growth as a person and a

religious leader is something we could all strive to imitate.



Rabbi, Thanksgiving Interfaith service, Catholic Church, 2017.



Rabbi, the soldier, 1972.

*In Memorium "Such Adventures!": Althea Grace Sofness Miller (1926-2020)*

By Cat. Eskin

As I prepare to write about Althea Grace Miller (nee Sofness), I feel inadequate to the task. Over the years, I have been asked to write memorials for many of my fellow congregants. Each time, I do so with a profound sense of responsibility. The men and women whom I eulogize are my fellow congregants; they are also my friends. Althea, who lived a life of tikkun olam, was a mentor, a partner in crime



*Joe & Althea Miller with the Slakmans, 1966.*

and a loving supporter of everyone. She loved to talk about the mother who gave her such a distinctive name: Althea Grace. Jeanette Sofness saw in her baby daughter the beauty and style that would typify the woman she became. To list Althea's accomplishments and try to articulate each of her many virtues would be impossible (not to mention that it would likely be inaccurate and certainly an injustice). Althea had a quality that the Italians call sprezzatura: an artless art that makes whatever one does or says seem natural. While the renaissance coiner of the term, Baldassare Castiglione, saw sprezzatura as a successful concealment of the effort it took to appear

graceful, Althea's beauty, charm, wit and style were real. She didn't need to pretend—though many people may not have realized the sheer volume of work she accomplished, with such flair, on a daily basis.

So, in lieu of a re-telling of Althea's life, I will turn instead to a story—more a series of stories—she narrated for me in July of this year. I tried to speak with Althea each week during the height of the pandemic and that day I asked her tell me about her very first trip to Lakeland; she obliged. I have edited one of her digressions: her extended praise of the hard work of her sister and brother-in-law, Joe and Cele Stone. As always, she wanted to point out the accomplishments of others rather than simply tell a story about herself. Amid the loss we feel today, the seven decades of commitment to her Temple and her community, let us imagine Althea Grace Sofness heading towards adventure in the early summer of 1944. She was just 18.

Joe Stone was stationed at Lodwick Airbase where he was a flight instructor; the couple didn't have to live on the base so in 1944, Joe & Celia lived in a garage apartment at 115 ½ Patten Heights.

That spring, when Althea and her best friend Elaine graduated from high school up in Boston, the pair were given a trip to Florida. They carefully planned the three-week adventure, which involved a long train ride. The first stop was New York City, where the pair met up with a girlfriend who had married and moved to Philadelphia. The women arranged a meet for cheesecake at Lindy's and then took in a matinee of Oklahoma on Broadway. "It was marvelous," Althea remembered.

As the sun set, Althea and Elaine rushed back to Pennsylvania Station to retrieve their bags and catch the south-bound train. They were riding in coach without sleeping berths, so "We didn't sleep at all," she laughed. "We were young and 18 years old. We didn't care!"

That first trip to Lakeland was "like heaven." The garage apartment where Joe and Cele were living was very small, plus Cele was pregnant with her first child (Marty). With Cele's help, they rented a room across the street at 127 for their stay. Their hosts, Dr. and Mrs. Alan Clarke, had a room free; their son Sam was in the Army.



*Althea clowning around in 1944.*



Cele made sure the girls had a good time, sending them to USO parties on the base and other activities around town. When the pair wanted to go into town to see a movie on afternoon early in their stay, Cele lamented that she didn't have a car—Lakeland just had one taxi and it was usually very busy. Though Celia called for the cab, she suggested that the girls just wait on the corner of Patten Heights and South Florida Avenue. "Some kind people will stop and give you a lift." Althea, the city girl, incredulously asked, "you want us to get into some stranger's car?" Cele explained that that was what people did. Althea laughed, remembering her hesitancy about getting into that first car and how beautifully it all worked out. "We did that to get to and from downtown Lakeland for the rest of the trip...and to get home, too!"



Althea waits for a ride in 1944.

Elaine and Althea also took a trip to Orlando. Althea's cousin, Melvin Leventhal, was stationed in Orlando at the time. Elaine had a bit of a crush on him and so the pair took the bus over to Orlando to visit. Later in the day, the girls were walking along Lake Eola—where her sons live today—when a sudden afternoon rainstorm drenched them. The wet was bad enough, but the water made the "cute yellow dress" Althea was wearing start to shrink! She remembers being breathless and laughing as she desperately tried to pull the hem down as the two ran back to the bus station. "Such adventures! It was a special time in our lives."

The 1944 trip also marked Althea's very first run-in with Florida wildlife. One night, when she was staying at the Clarke's home, she woke up and went to get a glass of water. That night, as she ventured into the kitchen, she saw her first Florida cockroach. "I thought I was in the jungles. I screamed! It was so frightening. That was my introduction to the roaches of Florida. Everyone had them. If you opened a door they flew in!" (I should note that as she told me the story in July, she prefaced it by insisting that the house was very clean and well kept.)



Althea & Joe Miller, wedding day

The trip was galvanizing for her friendship with Elaine, who was Althea's maid of honor a few years later. Looking back, Althea loved the way that her very first trip introduced her to the people who would play such important roles in her life. Her sister and brother-in-law, of course, but also Lakelanders. Althea stayed in Sam Clarke's room with Elaine and only a few years later, after her marriage to Joe Miller, she would go to Dr. Sam Clarke's office and be informed that she was pregnant with her son Mark. Clarke delivered all three of her children (Jeffrey & Karin, too). Sam was her doctor until he retired. "The wonderful part was that I had that relationship with Dr. Sam Clarke (and his wife Eunice) for the rest of my life—a good part of the rest of my life. It was so unusual! That I lived in his parents' home when I was visiting. People you never dream of—the furthest thought in my mind would be that their son would be delivering my children just a few years later."

Althea valued all of her relationships—those with her family, with her close friends, and with all of the people with whom she came in contact. Her interest in others was genuine, from the strangers who picked her up and drove her into town to the couple who gave her a room during that first visit. She was willing to listen and to discover new perspectives. She liked people and people liked her. Certainly, her beauty was striking, yet what we remember is how she made us feel special, cherished. She followed through. She checked up and in. She led by example. Althea reached out her hand and waited, patiently, smiling, for your hand to touch hers.



**Monthly Profile: This month we feature Sheri Hewson. Thanks Sheri for sharing your story with us!** Read other profiles at: <https://templemanuelakeland.com/member-profiles/>

I grew up on the border between Stoughton, and Sharon MA but my Synagogue, and friends and family were mostly in Sharon, so that's where I spent most of my time. The Corman family were well known there. My uncles owned a Kosher Hotel and Restaurant and a dry-cleaning business. My mom, Phyllis Weiner was in communications and on the radio in Boston. My dad, David Allen Hewson, was a Jazz musician and music teacher. I grew up with my brother Scott, who was my 3d Birthday present, and both of my mother's parents. My grandmother, Anna Rose, was Orthodox so we were raised very traditionally with 6 sets of dishes, but as our shul became Conservative, so did we.

I don't think my father's family ever really accepted his conversion and later us. My dad's dad died when he was an infant and my grandmother was from an old Yankee family (we are grandchildren of Ethan Allen) so things were a bit awkward at times. They were not religious but we did spend Christmas there. No prayers were ever said except when Chanukah was at the same time and we would light our Menorah for our family members to see.

My grandmother, Anna Rose Corman Weiner had the biggest influence on my life not only because of her Jewish faith, but for her strength and fortitude when facing a life threatening illness. I emulated her and was lucky, I'm still here and I'm not planning on going anywhere! She suffered from Parkinson's Disease. I had to grow up quickly to help her out, and my mom around the house, as well as taking care of my brother. It was my grandmother's devotion to Hashem and her beliefs that I hold in my heart and it is she who had the most influence on me, who I became, and how I handle my own illness. I have Combined Variable Immunodeficiency which means I do not produce antibodies, in my case, including to vaccines. It is a T & B cell genetic defect that I was born with. As a result I also have severe lung damage from a lifetime of pneumonia. I moved to Florida so I do not have to isolate 8-9 months a year in Massachusetts anymore. (Yes, it's a bit ironic now with Covid-19, but I am still better off here though!) I give myself weekly infusions of Human Gamma Globulin subcutaneously (below skin) so I can live a mostly normal life. It takes 36 - 48 hours each week to recuperate from the infusions. That is why my emails have the signature asking to donate plasma. If you are well, please consider doing so. Thank you!

I also grew up very close to my cousin Brian, my mom's sister's (Auntie Jan's) son. We were like the Hardy boys and Nancy Drew until Star Wars came out... then we were Luke, Leia, and Han!! I was very studious and went to services all the time. When I was 12, I began studying at Prozdor, a division of the Hebrew Teachers College in Brookline, MA. By 13 I was conducting Junior Congregation Services at my shul and by 17 teaching Hebrew school (and attending college). I was active in USY, volleyball, coached my brother's baseball team with my Grandpa (moms Dad, David) and worked as a babysitter and then I got a job selling clothes as soon as I was 15 years old.

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Professionally, I had my first poem published in a regional paper when I was 15 and my first sports column in regional papers when I was 16. By the time I was 19 I was working for George Stephanopoulos on the Dukakis Campaign and still going to college. I had my own Political and Legal column, with my friend who would give the opposing view, a “she said she said” in the Emerson College newspaper.

I attended Emerson College in Boston where I majored in Political Communication and Law. Basically, I was trained to be a Press Secretary and a “Spin Doctor”. I then went to law school and began my career in public service. I worked mainly as a Public Affairs Officer/Communications Specialist for the government and the military. Over the last decade I had my own PR firm and one of my clients was a musician and chef and we had a very successful gourmet healthy food company in the Greater Tampa Bay Area. I am now searching for my next adventure. My most interesting and challenging job was definitely selling soups in the Florida summers ... then again, did you ever try my mango-gazpacho?

I have 2 grown children, my oldest, Jacob is 26 and working in the family business, Engraving Signs and Awards, with his Dad. My Daughter, Rachel, 24, is a scientist who specializes in water, soil, and plants and helping farmers grow better, natural crops all over the world (she has been a vegetarian since birth). When they were young, I went home to Sharon, with my then husband, to raise them, to be in a mostly Jewish community and to grow up with the next generation of cousins as I did.

I have been with Temple Emanuel a little over 3 years now and teaching going into my 3d year!

My interests are in music, nature, and hiking. I just started reading “Jew(ish)” on my Kindle. Because I’m still mourning my dog Lily, my favorite book right now is, “The Rescue at Dead Dog Beach... One Man’s Quest to Find a Home for the World’s Forgotten Animals” by Stephen McGarva . My all time favorite though is “Eats Shoots and Leaves...the Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation” by Lynne Truss, because, as you know, it's all about the comma (& I LOVE Pandas!)

One thing that might surprise people is that I am also part Irish and the singer Bono (Paul David Hewson) is my first cousin (once removed).

My proudest achievement has been watching a bill regarding child support that I suggested and lobbied for, become law locally and then federally. Then I worked for MA Child Support and helped develop the system to make the law technically enforceable. It was one of my earliest jobs and still my proudest!

The best advice I would give my younger self is to slow down. I was always in a rush, not sure why. I would slow down and take time to try different things and travel. I have no regrets, but maybe it wouldn’t have been so terrible if I did take time off between College and Law School or between school and marriage.

Deadline for the next Menorah is February 28, 2021. Do you want to be our next profile? Please send inquiries, info, articles, images, comments, etc. to [irmacole26@gmail.com](mailto:irmacole26@gmail.com)

## **BOOK CLUB**

The Temple Emanuel Book Club will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, December 15th at 11am. Our selection is “The Color of Love” by Marra B. Gad. To purchase, use this AmazonSmile link:

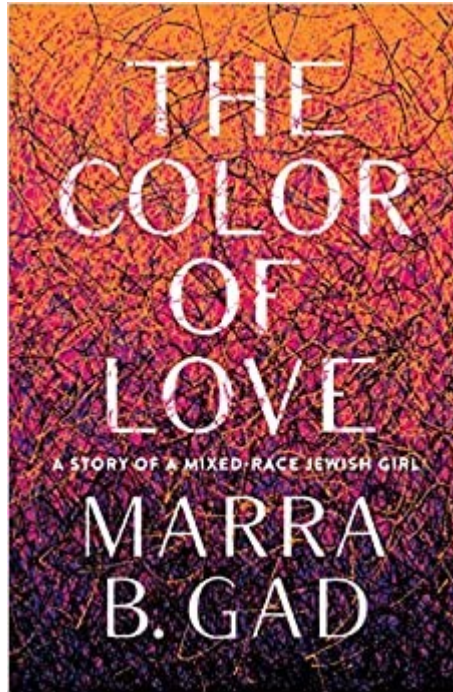
<https://smile.amazon.com/Color-Love-Story-Mixed-Race-Jewish/dp/157284275X>

Winner of the 2020 Midwest Book Award in Autobiography/Memoir, *The Color of Love* is an unforgettable memoir about a mixed-race Jewish woman who, after fifteen years of estrangement from her racist great-aunt, helps bring her home when Alzheimer’s strikes.

In 1970, three-day-old Marra B. Gad was adopted by a white Jewish family in Chicago. For her parents, it was love at first sight—but they quickly realized the world wasn’t ready for a family like theirs.

Marra’s biological mother was white, and her biological father was black. While that she was “a mixed-race, Jew—was not “black enough” or told Muslim, but not Jewish. In Jewish spaces, she was mistaken for the Christian. Even in her own extended family,

Marra’s family cut out those relatives who could not tolerate the color of her skin—including her once beloved, glamorous, worldly Great-Aunt Nette. After they had been estranged for fifteen years, Marra discovers that Nette has Alzheimer’s, and that only she is in a position to get Nette back to the only family she has left. Instead of re-watching as the disease erases her avenge, Marra chooses love, and making space for a relationship that was never possible before.



unwed, white, and Jewish, and her still a child, Marra came to realize that it was OK to be Christian or Jewish spaces, she was mistaken for the Christian. Even in her own extended family,

tives who could not tolerate the color of her skin—including her once beloved, glamorous, worldly Great-Aunt Nette. After they had been estranged for fifteen years, Marra discovers that Nette has Alzheimer’s, and that only she is in a position to get Nette back to the only family she has left. Instead of re-watching as the disease erases her avenge, Marra chooses love, and making space for a relationship that was never possible before.

*The Color of Love* explores the idea of *yerusha*, which means “inheritance” in Yiddish. At turns heart-wrenching and heartwarming, this is a story about what you inherit from your family—identity, disease, melanin, hate, and most powerful of all, love. With honesty, insight, and warmth, Marra B. Gad has written an inspirational, moving chronicle proving that when all else is stripped away, love is where we return, and love is always our greatest inheritance.

Contact Jane Renz: with any questions at [jane7751@aol.com](mailto:jane7751@aol.com)

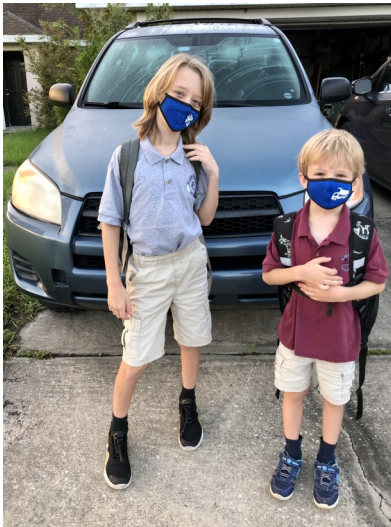
## ***Save the Date***

We are pleased to announce that on January 3, 2021 we will be featuring Lakeland Mayor Bill Mutz as our guest speaker via Zoom. Be sure to mark your calendar for this very special program!





## GOOD NEWS!



It's a big year for the Boston boys as Asher started middle school and Calder started Kindergarten!

Julia Sedloff; studying violin under Hal Grossman, starting at University of Oklahoma, following him to University of Kentucky Louisville and once again to complete her Master of Music degree in violin performance at University of Oregon. Go Ducks!

Manny Barickman was inducted into the National Honor Society at Harrison School for the Arts in November.



Melody Eckert 's University of Florida junior year piano recital was November 19, 2020. Due to the pandemic there were no guests in attendance. The recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the Bachelor of Music in Combination with an Outside Field. Melody Eckert is from the studio of Dr. Jasmin Arakawa. Melody played pieces by Beethoven, Schumann, Rachmaninoff, and Mompou. There is an hour long video recording at this link: <https://youtu.be/IT3pqzRIC2Y>

Our congregant and dear friend, Rivkah (Marie) Eisen, is making Aliyah to Israel on December 8th. After delays due to COVID-19, she is excited to begin life anew in Northern Israel in the town of Carmiel.

Bob Bowers is working on his doctorate in Anthropology and Sue is working with various charities.

Joan Greenbaum's granddaughter, Taylor Oliver, has been selected to be research editor for Florida Law Review at the UF Levin College of Law.

The Hebrew phrase tikkun olam means "repair the world." Will our new vaccines repair the world? The head scientist at Pfizer is Mikael Dolsten. The Pfizer CEO is Albert Bouria. The Chief Medical officer for MODERNA is Tal Zaks. Guess what they have in common. They are all Jewish!



Harris Estroff was presented the key to the city by Mayor Mutz on Tuesday December 1st marking the official closing of Nathan's Men's Store ending a 78 year presence in downtown Lakeland.

Happy Retirement Harris and Linda!

## Jamie Geller's Latkes

### INGREDIENTS

4 medium Idaho potatoes  
6 tablespoons Extra virgin olive oil,  
such as Colavita  
3 eggs, beaten  
2 tablespoon matzoh meal  
2 teaspoon kosher salt  
1/2 teaspoon coarse black pepper  
Applesauce or sour cream(optional)

### PREPARATION

Prepare a large bowl filled with cold water.

Peel potatoes, and as you finish each, place in cold water to prevent browning.

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat.

Cut potatoes lengthwise into halves or quarters so they fit into food processor feed tube. Process potatoes using the blade that creates thin, shoestring-like strips and transfer to a large bowl.

Add eggs, matzoh meal, salt and pepper and mix well.

Drop 6 to 8 spoonfuls of mixture into hot oil. Using the back of a spoon, pat down each latke to flatten it. Put as many as you can in the skillet without crowding. Putting them too close together will make them soggy.

Fry 3 to 4 minutes on each side, until golden and crisp around the edges; repeat procedure until finished with all the batter.

Blot excess oil with paper towels.

Serve warm with applesauce or sour cream, if desired.

### TIPS

Cornmeal is a great substitute for matzoh meal and will also make your latkes nice and crispy.

12 MIN DURATION—20 MIN COOK TIME –12 MIN PREP TIME—8 SERVINGS

\*\*\*\*\*

What is your favorite Latke Recipe? Post it on our Temple Facebook Page! <https://www.facebook.com/TempleEmanuelLakeland/> or send to [irmacole26@gmail.com](mailto:irmacole26@gmail.com)





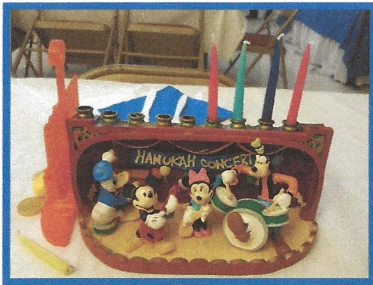


## Chanukah Menorah Fun!

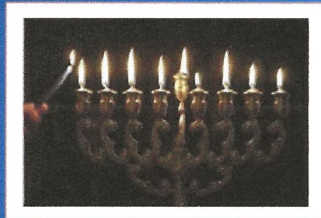
We are inviting you to create a Menorah like we have never seen before! Think BIG or small, but be creative and think outside the box. This is a great activity for kids, adults, families, or on your own.

Your Menorah doesn't have to work, but it does have to have 9 candle holders. You can use any materials you want. Anyone remember the sushi menorah from the Robinson family in 2016?

Have your Menorah creation ready to show during our Chanukah Program via Zoom on Dec. 13th at 6 pm.



## TEMPLE EMANUEL CHANUKAH CANDLE LIGHTING PROGRAM



*With Cantor Victor Geigner*

Sunday, December 13th at 6 pm via Zoom





## **Travels with the Rapkes—Last Tour to Vietnam** by Marc R. Rapke

It seems incredible to us that we were about to make our third trip to Asia within 16 months. It was late February and ominous reports about a worldwide pandemic were beginning to surface in the news media. Little did we know the risks that we were about to undertake on our journey to 4 nations in South-east Asia. Our prior Destination list included Nepal, China, and Tibet. Cambodia, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam were places that we had only seen on maps but nevertheless had gained indelible notoriety thanks to the events of the late 1960's and early 1970s.

### **Cambodia**

Our flights from Orlando through Seoul, South Korea took us to Cambodia 26 hours later. During the course of the plane flights, Stephanie had an opportunity to see six movies before finally falling asleep. My tally was 1 ½ and lots of rock and roll. I don't know whether I would characterize this part of our trip as a great experience, but it was all worth it when we arrived in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Recovering from our journey, we were in advance of our group that would share the next 16 days with us.

Our hotel was across from the U.S. Embassy and we were warned that there was tight security and we were advised not to photograph the Embassy from the hotel. Our first adventure was riding a “tuk-tuk” (pedal rickshaw) to the Central Market. It was endless. It covered several square blocks with booths that sold everything from jewelry to wet animals. Unknown to us, “wet animals market” was to become a term associated with the source of the pandemic.

That night we learned that only 10 people were in our group since 8 tour goers had chosen not to come on the trip due to the virus. We nicknamed ourselves the “TEN” and still continue to be in touch 6 months later.

Perhaps the most anticipated destination on our trip was in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Angkor Thom, the last capital city of Angkor dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It was



built by Khmer King Jayavarman VII and was home to over one million people, the second largest city in the world at that time. The Angkor Wat temple is dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu and is adorned with the world's longest bas relief narrating stories from Hindu mythology. Angkor Wat is considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World.

Back on the road, we make a curious roadside stop. There are four choices that are all fried Cambodian favorites: waterbugs, frogs, locusts and silkworms. To my surprise, several colleagues are avid buyers. We said ‘no’, even if locusts are kosher. Later, in Vietnam, we

visited the “Whiskey Village” where one could quench one’s thirst with whiskey in bottles that were flavored with a baby python. The 5% tourist discount didn’t change my mind.



Next we visited the Killing Fields, a memorial to those murdered (two million!) in the mid 70's by Pol Pot, the brutal leader of the Khmer Rouge regime. We stood on a wooden walkway that stretched out for many acres. Human bones and shredded clothing filtered up from the bare ground throughout the Fields. We were walking above a cemetery with no markings at all. Our Guide, Nu, from Thailand told us what we were witnessing and we then listened to the narrative of a one armed man who survived death by eating tree bark and grass roots and knowing enough about planting rice to avoid execution. The educated class without this knowledge was executed first. We all made a small donation and wished him well.

## Thailand



Upon our arrival, we learned that the tours starting after our tour would be cancelled. Despite repeated daily uncertainty, our adventure continued for the time being.

Bangkok is a city of 5 ½ million people. There are 68 million in total who mostly speak Thai. The Royal Thai Government is a constitutional monarchy but the Buddhist religion, the monarchy and the military have helped to shape its society and politics.

Our first stop was the elaborate Grand Palace, the glittering centerpiece of the city, a sprawling complex of temples, halls, and pavilions built around immaculate lawns and gardens. Its main attraction is Wat Phra Kaew, known as the temple of the Emerald Buddha.

We continued on our temple tour to Wat Pho, the oldest and largest temple in the city with its astonishing reclining Buddha, over

150 feet long and nearly 49 feet high. He is covered in gold paint. Now I know how Gulliver felt on his travels.

Remarkable were the ubiquitous billboard signs advertising moisturizing and whitening face creams, an indicator of the city's preoccupation with youth and complexion. The absence of billboards depicting accident lawyers was a pleasant change from home. Driving through Bangkok, we could appreciate the fascinating mix of ancient and modern buildings.

Early the next morning we took a trip to the flower market. The market filled an entire city block and offered large flower arrangements for less than \$1. The custom is to purchase flowers which are brought to the temples to honor the Buddhas.



That evening, we attended The Cabaret Show which was called the "lady-boy" show. This Las Vegas style review made its theme apparent when we realized that the show featured women who had previously been men and were dressed in elaborate costumes reflecting their new preferences.



## Laos

We had a wonderful welcoming ceremony in Laos where we were greeted by a dozen Laotians in a Baci ceremony where our presence as visitors was acknowledged. Each of the Laotians tied a string around each of the wrists of the TEN and many still wore some of the strings for the balance of the trip. A local rice wine that had the potency of vodka was used to toast the visitors repeatedly. Alcohol is prohibited except for these ceremonies. At the end, some were slow to get up.



The northern Laotian city of Luang Prabang was declared a world heritage site by UNESCO. By day, we visited the Wat Xieng Thong temple built in 1560. At night, the main (and only) street became a marketplace selling home made crafts, rice paper and clothing items. The people were quite friendly and haggling was encouraged.

We were told that the south of Laos was covered with several million land mines and we saw the graphic evidence of large numbers of Laotians missing limbs and facial parts as we traveled through north Laos.

We all awoke especially early to participate in Almsgiving. We gathered alongside a street in front of the monastery and sat on low benches awaiting the procession of meditative orange robed Buddhist monks collecting their food for the day. As they passed by, we sat lower than the monks and in a good position for scooping sticky rice out of a bowl that we were given and placing it in the buckets that they each carried. I didn't consider this as subordinating ourselves to the monks but rather just engaging in the local customs.

## Vietnam

Our visit to Vietnam represented deep rooted conflict for me as I was one of millions of loyal Americans who totally opposed the war in Vietnam. I thankfully passed on the government's offer to send me on a one way trip to Vietnam in the early 1970's. Now we were there and hearing repeated accounts about



how misplaced the U.S.'s presence was for nearly a decade and the horrendous lethal toll it took on America and Vietnam.

We made an overnight trip to Halong Bay which sits in the Gulf of Tonkin on the northeast coast of Vietnam. There are more than 2,000 limestone islets that rise up out of the emerald sea and local legends abound inspired by their shapes which have been likened to dragons, sails, and human heads. It took us nearly four hours to travel there including a stop at a huge arts market that sold statues that weighed many hundreds of pounds. I opted for a 4 ounce bag of mango candies instead.



Arriving in Halong Bay, we drove past blocks and blocks of tourist shops but none were open and no one was on the street. We drove past a huge amusement park works and no one was to be seen. At our hotel, the TEN, we were booked into 9<sup>th</sup> floor rooms and when we all met in the lobby, we learned that there were no other guests in the hotel. The hotel personnel wore no masks, which was equally puzzling. Pandemic or no pandemic?



Our tour boat of the Bay the next morning was one of 5 in the harbor. We were told that over 200 boats toured the Bay on a typical day. As we cruised along Halong Bay, one got the feeling of a primordial world until the captain received a cell phone call. On the return, the boat landed on an islet with a gorgeous cave system which was surely inhabited by primitive peoples. Beams of light through openings in the labyrinthine cave system's ceiling illuminated the rich blended colors of the cave walls. The visit did not disappoint.

Returning to Hanoi the next day, we visited the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum. Ridged military discipline punctuated the sanctity given to their national patron. After a considerable walk, we stood in a single file line to access the interior of the tomb and passed dozens of smartly attired armed soldiers all through the winding way inside. Uncle Ho, as he is nicknamed, lies in state in a 58 degree temperature controlled room and millions have been spent in preserving his body. 59 seconds later we filed out of the Mausoleum.

Fortunately almost our entire itinerary was available for us until our last day. The Women's Museum was substituted for our trip to the peasant countryside to visit the rice farmers. Two floors of the museum were dedicated to dioramas of traditional indigenous Vietnamese life through the centuries and the significance of ancestral religions, especially Mother Earth. The fourth floor celebrated the heroines of the war with America. One exhibit heralded a freedom fighter that claimed to have destroyed 22 U.S. armored tanks. Another instance of "Too Much Information".

Our 16 days of history, aesthetics and revelations had come to an end. Amazingly, the TEN are all still in touch although the topic is now basic survival.

We were right on time in the lobby for our transportation to the airport for the 24 hour trip home only to learn that our flight was cancelled due to virus restrictions at the Korean airport. Learning what we could from the hotel clerks was unsettling since their English was limited. The pandemic news became all encompassing.

The next morning our ride thankfully arrived and we wound our way through the Hanoi airport terminal. This was the beginning of the 24 hour plane trip home. When arriving at our connecting flight in Tokyo, almost no one was in the terminal. Happily, the flight to America was on time. It was March 15 and the pandemic had now been declared a world wide emergency.

Truly, our experience was a once in a lifetime and we are hopeful that soon people will be able to travel again and that this was not "The Last Tour From Vietnam".



# TEMPLE EMANUEL CHANUKAH CANDLE LIGHTING PROGRAM



*With Cantor Victor Geigner*

**Sunday, December 13th at 6 pm via Zoom**



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FOR==

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**TUESDAY DECEMBER 15TH**  
**11 AM TO 12 PM**

**OUR SELECTION IS "THE COLOR OF LOVE"**  
**BY MARRA B. GAD**

**MEETING VIA ZOOM - ALL ARE WELCOME**





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***Chanukah items remaining from our Silent Auction that we are now offering for sale:***

- \$ 5 - Made in Israel box of 48 solid blue and white candles about 5 inches tall. Will burn for over one hour. New – unopened.
- \$3 - Vanilla Scented Candle in a hand painted ceramic holder with dreidels, stars, and menorahs. 4" x 3.25". Unused. Ceramic holder has a line.
- \$5 - Ceramic Star shaped Candy Dish, 8.75 x 2.25 inches. White and blue. Heavy.
- \$12 - Boxed Set of 4 Stainless Steel Gourmet Spreaders. Handles are highly decorative with stars and menorahs. Blues, gold, white colors. Measure about 5" long.
- \$28 - Set of 4 Ceramic Festival of Lights Plates designed by Chris Bubany. Measure 9.5" and each shows a different side of a Menorah. Very colorful and in perfect condition. No chips, cracks, or utensil scratches. Look to be new and unused. Dishwasher and microwave safe.

Please contact [irmacole26@gmail.com](mailto:irmacole26@gmail.com) to purchase! Thank– you!







Follow Temple Emanuel on Facebook to keep up with the latest news and events.

<https://www.facebook.com/TempleEmanuelLakeland>

Also check out our Website for our History, Calendar, Photo Gallery, Member Profiles, Videos, Archives, and more! You can pay dues and donate right from the website too!

[www.templeemanuellakeland.com](http://www.templeemanuellakeland.com)

### **CAN YOU HELP?**

Do you have a few hours to spare once in a while? Temple Emanuel can use your help with small projects like:

1. Delivering collected food donations to VISTE.
2. Stuffing Envelopes.
3. Calling Members & Friends
4. Power Washing.
5. Odd Jobs and Maintenance.
6. Planning events

Let us know what your interests and availability are. Do a Mitzvah!

Contact: [office@templeemanuellakeland.com](mailto:office@templeemanuellakeland.com)

Help support your Temple with your time! Speak to Allen, Tammy, or Rabbi.

Thank -you!

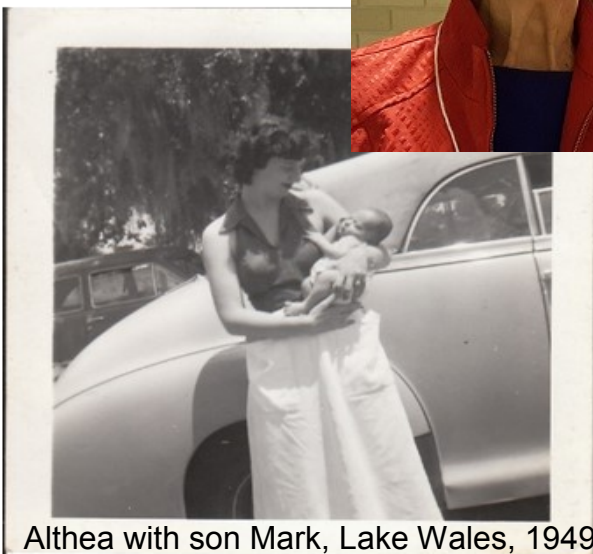


## **A few more Althea Pictures....**



At Temple Emanuel July 2018

Althea and her family at the Temple's Tribute for her, 9.22.18



Althea with son Mark, Lake Wales, 1949.

## **JUDAICA PRESENTATION**

Our May 2020 Judaica Presentation is available for viewing by clicking on this link:

<https://templeemanuellakeland.com/judaica-collection-prese.../>

You will see a Collection of Judaica from members and friends of Temple Emanuel. Feel free to share the link with your family and friends!

WHAT IS JUDAICA? For our purposes, we have chosen to define Judaica as all those objects that enhance the celebration of being Jewish. As Jews we adhere to rituals that affirm our identity and connection to our history and traditions.

We have included everything that was submitted by 23 members and friends of Temple Emanuel Lakeland. Please note that not everyone is a professional photographer and no major touch ups were made, just some cropping and a few images were lightened. The glare is real, but we all understand how that happens.

We hope you enjoy this collection as we view ourselves as a community, celebrating our past and present through Jewish objects. May your spirit be kindled as if you were lighting the Shabbat candles for the first time. There was much joy and learning putting the presentation together. I thank you for allowing me this creative journey into your hearts and homes.

As a postscript, please pardon the imperfections! We recorded this during a Zoom presentation so there are some glitches. We hope you enjoy anyway! Thanks for tuning in.

Irma Cole



## **JEWELRY SALE**

On Sunday, October 25th pm Temple Emanuel held a very successful Jewelry Sale Fundraiser via Zoom. We continued to sell during the drive by pick up. Now we are selling items online and in a local shop. All profits are benefitting Temple Emanuel. If you want to do some holiday gifting, please consider shopping with us! Thanks!

Contact [irmacole26@gmail.com](mailto:irmacole26@gmail.com)

Here is a sampling of items available for purchase...prices start at just \$15!





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