



March 2020

# The Menorah

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

## Rabbi's Message

To my Temple Emanuel family,

We are confronted with a new unsettling reality as we all worry about our families, our friends, and ourselves.

This COVID-19 Pandemic has reminded us of the importance of good health and how interconnected we all are as human beings.

Our religion teaches us to come together as a community to support one another in times of need, but in the words of a colleague, the coronavirus has put us in uncharted territory. The best medical advice is telling us to separate ourselves from community in order to slow the spread of the virus. I want to stress to everybody that physical separation does not mean spiritual separation.

We have moved our Shabbat services to an online format and our students will be able to attend classes online as well. Like so many others we will move from physical connection to virtual connections in order to learn, pray, and help those in need. We will find ways to stay connected and draw closer to our community even as we distance ourselves physically for protection.

In a post from the URJ (Union of Reform Judaism), they wrote, now is the time to show the power of community, not the lack of it, connecting online in lieu of in person gatherings will allow us to create community, and bring solace and comfort to those in isolation.

Please be assured that I am available on my phone to offer support and comfort to anyone who wants to reach out to me. I hope you are doing as well as possible during this uncertain time. Please stay safe and follow the guidance of the CDC and your healthcare professionals.

I will pray for our community and the individuals that comprise it and hope that you will add your prayers to mine as we confront this crisis with faith and not in fear.

B'Shalom

Rabbi David Goldstein

(561) 889-6333



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Online Services:**  
**Fridays 7:30 pm**  
**Saturdays 10:30 am**

**Wednesdays 7 pm**  
Torah Portion Discussion Online

**Online Trivia Fun**  
3/22 4 pm

**Online Book Club**  
4/14 & 6/9 11 am

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

# Temple Emanuel

600 Lake Hollingsworth Drive, Lakeland, FL 33803-2363

Rabbi David Goldstein - President Allen Shane

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TempleEmanuelLakeland/](http://www.facebook.com/TempleEmanuelLakeland/)



March 13, 2020

Congregants and Friends of Temple Emanuel,

With cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19) increasing across the globe, many synagogues and their communities are feeling anxious or even fearful. Our top priority at Temple Emanuel is to ensure the safety and well-being of our congregants, their families, friends, and greater Lakeland community.

Out of an abundance of caution, the Temple Executive Committee has decided to suspend all services, Religious School, and group activities until further notice. This will be effective Friday, March 13, 2020.

The Temple Board will continue to monitor the information provided by our Federal, State and local authorities and make any other needed changes.

In order to minimize the disruption, the board is researching the usage of an online meeting service to stream services.

As we have updates , we will distribute them via email and post them on the Temple website

[www.templeemanuellakeland.com](http://www.templeemanuellakeland.com) and Facebook page [www.facebook.com/TempleEmanuelLakeland/](http://www.facebook.com/TempleEmanuelLakeland/).

Best Regards,

Allen Shane

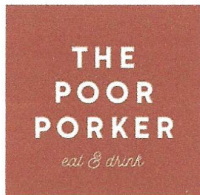
President

Temple Emanuel



The global outbreak of COVID-19 continues to warrant the attention of each and every one of us as we work together to keep our community safe. Out of an abundance of caution for the safety and care of our attendees and vendors, Temple Emanuel has decided to reconfigure our fundraising event scheduled for this Sunday, March 15th from a physical venue to a virtual venue. Look for more information next week about our online auction opportunities.

We are deeply grateful to all of our sponsors as well as our venue, The Poor Porker, and restaurants who have worked tirelessly on our behalf. Please make every effort to show your support for our fabulous restaurant sponsors:



We appreciate your understanding and continued support as we navigate these unexpected developments. Stay safe and don't miss out on the fun of Live Artfully in 2021.

In good health,

Jodie Snyder and Shelley Robinson  
Temple Emanuel Fundraising Chairs





## **President's Message**

With cases of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) beginning to appear locally and increasing throughout Florida and the United States, life came to a screeching halt when our public health officials and government leaders initiated social distancing, and the postponing or canceling of group meetings.

We often take our good health, family, friends and our community for granted. We have rapidly learned the importance of these and how we can live without the multitude of outside activities and events that have previously filled our daily schedules. Now is the time for us to come together as a Temple family and support our fellow congregants and friends.

Our top priority at Temple Emanuel is to ensure the safety and well-being of our congregants, their families, and friends while attending our services, religious school, and other activities. The decision to suspend all activities at the Temple was a difficult decision made by the Executive Committee to protect our congregants from any possible exposure.

Our Rabbi and the Temple board did not let it get us down, but instead moved into an alternate plan to continue Shabbat Services, Hebrew School and other activities with the use of technology. We have instituted an online meeting platform to resume Temple activities and business with minimal disruption.

We had our first Torah study session and everyone that attended really enjoyed the discussion and the online format. We are planning to continue our weekly Torah Study.

We will hold Shabbat Services on Friday evenings at 7:30 pm and Saturday Shabbat morning services at 10:30 am (Note: The Shabbat morning service will begin an hour later than our regular start time.)

Hebrew School will resume on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm. Parents please stop by the education building and pick up a copy of the siddur for your child prior to Wednesday the 25th.

Book Club, Trivia and our Yom Hashoah program will meet as previously scheduled using the virtual meeting format.

Please check your email, the Temple website and Facebook page for updates and the links to join our online meetings. I look forward to seeing everyone online at our services and other events.

Stay Safe and Healthy. Stay inside and remember to wash your hands frequently!

Allen Shane  
President  
Temple Emanuel





## YOUR YEAR TO VOLUNTEER

### Connect ... Engage ... Make a Difference

Join us to make Temple Emanuel the best it can be. With your time, talent and skills, we can provide fun, fellowship, events and activities. There is something for everyone!

Won't you help us? Please send your response by email to: [office@templeemanuellakeland.com](mailto:office@templeemanuellakeland.com)



### Committees:

- ♦ **Ways and Means** - oversee and coordinate fundraising activities; solicit special donations when needed; explore possibilities for increasing income.
- ♦ **Marketing** – help publicize events and programs at Temple Emanuel. Work on our website and Facebook page. Create items for the weekly update and publish the quarterly Menorah newsletter.
- ♦ **Membership** - identify and recruit new congregants; welcome newcomers and non-affiliated members of the community and acquaint them with various aspects of the synagogue.
- ♦ **Planning – Socials and Events** - help plan, publicize and execute various programs and events for the congregation.
- ♦ **Sunshine / Visitation** - reach out to our congregants during stressful times in the hospital or at home.
- ♦ **House & Grounds** - help monitor and assist with synagogue maintenance and upkeep; make recommendations for improvements/repairs and identify long-range capital needs.
- ♦ **Telephone** - coordinate the phone tree for special events to call and recruit participation.



Thank you to our Temple Family for not only celebrating the simcha of Josh becoming a bar mitzvah with us but also supporting him along the way. We are so fortunate to be surrounded by such a great community.

Scott and Jennifer Audette

## About the Archives -In Memorium

By Cat. Eskin

### **Alan Goldsmith, “Judaism is Even Bigger Than I Ever Imagined”**

As the archivist for Temple Emanuel, I am sadly tasked with the job of memorializing those we have lost. Having not grown up here, I sometimes do not have a connection with the bereaved or the one they have lost. This is not one of those times. I first met Alan Goldsmith fifteen years ago when he was home visiting his mother and his legions of friends in the area. He was vivacious, excited and so willing to serve in any way possible. I met him at Saturday morning services where he sang with such skill and sincerity that even my infant (the fidgety Manny) quieted down to listen.

I already knew Rhoda and so when Alan told me some stories about growing up in Lakeland, I was riveted—I was, after all, about to raise children of my own in Polk County. I had not yet begun the Archives project. Alan was among the first group of people I interviewed and was part of the inspiration for the “Growing Up Jewish” project. His generosity and forthright honesty are the things that stood out most to me. He avoided gossip, choosing instead to be either constructive or nostalgic in his choice of reminiscences. The middle child, Alan always worked for consensus, for peace. His Jewish community was a personal source of strength and represented an empowered way for him to move through the world.



*From left: Alan, Alissa & Marc Goldsmith,*

Early in our interview, Alan described junior congregation under Rabbi Irwin Cutler: Cutler instigated a stamp program (much like the S & H Green Stamps that some of us may recall) which featured different stamps for the parashot of the week. Once a child had collected a certain number, he or she could trade them in for prizes at the Gift Shop. Alan loved the reward system and would save them up to trade for prizes! Though Rabbi Cutler would leave after a short time, Alan saw him years later at USY conventions and Camp Blue Star and always reminded him of those stamps.

Rabbi Louis Gorod was on the pulpit when Alan became a bar mitzvah in March of 1969. At that time a retired cantor, Samuel Glassman, was part of the congregation and took the young boy under his wing. Alan spoke about how Cantor Glassman taught him multiple tunes, far more than he would have learned through “regular” training. More importantly, Alan found acceptance among the minyan at Temple Emanuel. The men praised the 12-year-old and encouraged him. Alan remarked that his focus—even as a child—was learning about Judaism, a spiritual interest that was quite different from that of many of his classmates at the Sunday School. After his bar mitzvah, Alan continued to attend Saturday morning services each week (even during high school), leading prayers and reading from Torah.

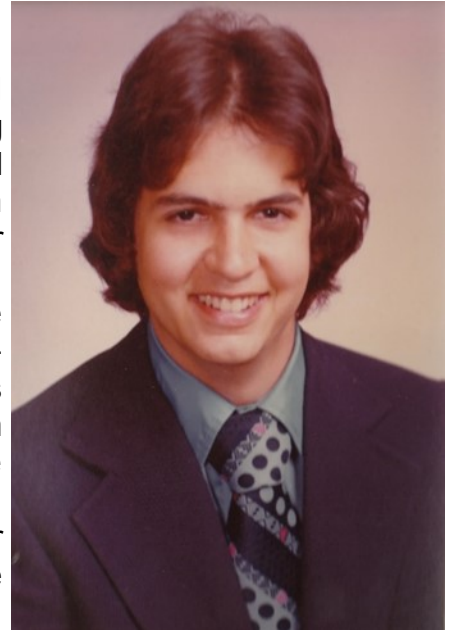
A life-long musician, Alan mentioned the “singing magpies” during our interview—his pet name for the choir of Temple Emanuel was based on the choir’s sweet voices, filling the sanctuary through the slats of the choir loft, which shielded the singers from view. He also recalled that his father donated a *shofar* to the synagogue on the condition that Alan be taught to blow it properly. Murray Horowitz, a regular at Saturday morning services, taught him with great patience and seriousness.

Alan respected that gravity, making the choice to prioritize his Jewish practice: he would take off from school on festival days—one of the only kids who would—and laughed at the memory of those celebrations featuring him “and a bunch of old men.” His mother knew how much attending meant to him and never nagged him about all of his unexcused absences.

Alan was one of only about 6 or 7 Jewish kids at Lakeland High School, and while there was sometimes racial and ethnic tension, he felt immune to it. “I knew who I was.” He was similarly unfazed by the loss of vision in his eye at age 7; he was shot with a BB-gun accidentally by a 5-year-old. “Things happen,” he reasoned. “I had my other eye.”

Alan was a fierce friend and a confirmed joiner. I would be remiss if I didn't mention that he was an Eagle Scout, a distinction that he shared with his father before him and his son after him. He made long-lasting ties through USY and Jewish organizations as well. A self-professed “band geek,” he was resigned to playing games on Friday nights in high school, but “that never interfered with my USY stuff.” As an officer and sometimes host of USY conventions in Lakeland, Alan prioritized his Jewish connections and made frequent trips to Tampa, St. Pete and Daytona Beach to be with his Jewish friends. His first serious girlfriend, and LHS prom date, was from Jacksonville, FL. He praised his parents—especially his mother—for making a space for him, even when he took up a lot of it! He confided that he went through a stage during his junior year of high school when he wanted to be kosher and insisted on his own pots and pans and dishes. “Bless her, my mother never complained,” he told me. “I know she was relieved when I gave it up.”

Alan Goldsmith, TEP Picture, c.1975



For his college choice, Alan knew he wanted a school that had a Jewish population—he even joined a Jewish fraternity, TEP, when he went to USF. Visiting South Texas College of Law in 1978, he of course found a synagogue: Congregation Brith Shalom in Bellaire. He effused about how he knew immediately that he had found a home. He taught Sunday School, served on the Men's Club, Choir, Youth and Friday Night Ruach Committees. Most importantly, he watched his own children become b'nai mitzvoh in that home. Alan was proud of his children—of their smarts, of their talents, of their sense of responsibility in the world. He showed them both how to serve others and why it was important to do so. While he never went through with his original plan to attend the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, he did become a cantor and, from around 1994, lead High Holy Day services at synagogues like our own, small outposts of Jews who appreciated his humor and his lovely voice.

Coming back to Temple Emanuel was like a “time warp” to Alan. His fond memories certainly made standing at the Torah table on the pulpit familiar and reassuring. The twinkle in his eye as he would lead a prayer or whisper conspiratorially with his doting mother remind us that we can come home. Where he came from mattered to Alan Goldsmith. He had no doubts about his roots, harbored no reservations about his faith, and imposed no limits on the love he gave to everyone. According to Alan, “We [all] have the opportunity to make ourselves the chosen.”

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/alan-goldsmith-obituary?pid=195563425>





*Monthly Profile: This month we feature Mavra Kear! Read her interesting story here and more member profiles at: <https://templeemanuellakeland.com/member-profiles/>*

*Where did you grow up?*



I am Florida-born (Miami). My brother, Kenneth, was born 16 months later and then my father transferred from Army Reserves to active duty and we started traveling. His first assignment, much to the alarm of my grandparents, was Germany. Returning to the States about a year later, the family returned to Tampa (near my mother's parents) while Dad served a tour in Viet Nam. My kindergarten, Seaborn Day School on Davis Island, is still there! I went to first grade in El Paso, Texas and second grade in Ft. Greely, Alaska. This tiny post is 100 miles north of Fairbanks. I loved the parka that my mother made. Dad showed us how to make snow angels. He also made a time lapse photo of the four hours of sunlight one winter day. If bison wandered near the playground, my brother and I were allowed to go into a neighbor's house without asking permission first. The memories of a 7-year old are interesting.

Mavra and brother Ken in parkas!

I started third grade in Ft. Greely, but Dad got orders to go back to Viet Nam. The family moved to Satellite Beach, Florida where there was spare housing back in our home state. I remember standing on the beach with Mom and Ken to watch Apollo 15 go up. Dad returned safely and we moved to Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas where I finished fourth and fifth grades. The Army allowed 30 days leave for a change of station. We had a pop-up tent and camped across the country, enjoying the sights.

The next assignment was Key West. We detoured to Indianapolis for the summer while Dad attended an executive officer training program. We lived in our new camper – a full 25 feet with walls, oven, and shower for the four of us. Around this time the Army figured out that moving thousands of families from one end of the country to the other every year was not cost effective. We lived in Key West for three years; my entire junior high school in one place. Then, four years of high school in West Springfield, Virginia. To me, that was our biggest environment change, moving from small, easy-going Key West to Washington, D.C. metropolis. I returned to our home state for college at the University of Florida and my brother had to split high school to finish his last two years in Junction City, Kansas (Ft. Riley). Dad retired from the military two years later and my parents have lived south of Tampa ever since.

*Where did you go to school-college-degree-major?*

My mother flew with me from Kansas to UF. I moved into the residence hall, Mom left, and there I was at my parent's alma mater with 35,000 peers. I didn't know a single soul. Due to high enrollment, I was in a "triple" with two 'JAPs' (Jewish American Princess) from Miami. Talk about culture shock.

I contemplated joining the military. It is probably fortunate that I realized immediately that I was lousy at following orders without question. I considered medical school, but thought the schedule sounded terrible. I settled on nursing school "because I can do that anywhere I live."





I worked as a registered nurse in Gainesville for about a year before starting a Master's degree to become a Nurse Practitioner. I wanted the independence compared to an RN. I met my husband, Clay, at a single professionals mixer and we married in 1989.

After working at a few different clinics in Gainesville, Brandon, and Bartow, I decided to open my own medical office in Lakeland. To help pay the bills in those early months, I taught part time at Florida Southern College. It turns out I enjoyed teaching more than being a business owner. I needed a doctorate to be a professor, so I closed my office and then, while teaching full time and working two part time Nurse Practitioner jobs, I attended University of South Florida and earned a PhD in Nursing.

I taught nursing for a total 17 years, rising from adjunct professor to Director of Nursing at Florida Southern before being lured to Polk State College to open their Bachelor's in Nursing program. I was always active in the Florida Nurses Association and while at Polk State I was elected FNA President. By the end of the two year term, I was tired of academia and ready to return to clinical practice.

I now work one job only and love it. I provide primary care services at Peace River Center, a community mental health organization. My patients are indigent and marginalized. I am rewarded by at least one patient every day telling me how much they appreciate the time I spend with them. Many have gone without care for years and have complex health problems. I cherish their trust. Every day is different and requires a lot of thinking and creative problem solving.

*Who are/were your siblings, parents, and grandparents and what affect did they have on the person you have become? What does being Jewish mean to you?*

I have the luxury to look back now and bask in the enjoyment of a stable, happy nuclear family. My mother grew up in Tampa and father in Miami, each surrounded by their conservative Jewish families. My grandfathers both were business owners as well as active in local and regional B'nai B'rith and Jewish Federation. My grandmothers worked along side them.

My parents always framed our moving positively. It was an opportunity see our country. Leaving friends was natural; so was making new friends. Living in a new home was a time to clean out drawers and re-decorate. This foundation made me resilient and an optimist. I believe this is also a reflection of our Ashkenazi Jewish heritage. I am third generation American. Grandma and Grandpa Hurwitz emigrated from Lithuania as children.

Because my family lived mostly on small Army posts, my father served as the lay leader for religious services. When we were near a temple, I attended Sunday School, otherwise Mom taught us. I remember Hebrew class with my brother in Key West. I chose not to have a Bat Mitzvah service there, but had a confirmation service at Fort Belvoir, Virginia where my brother celebrated his Bar Mitzvah service. (See photo – I just got contact lenses and my braces are off!)



My parents instilled a strong religious and cultural connection to Judaism. Attending Friday night services and observing holiday rituals was part of our routine. I carried on that routine at college, attending Friday dinner and services at Hillel. As a college senior I served on the Hillel Board and then continued on as a community member of the Board for a few years.

## **BAT MITZVAH NEWS**

Robbie and Amy Morris invite the congregation to share in their happiness as their daughter, Eve Yael, leads services as a bat mitzvah on Friday, May 8th and Saturday, May 9th.

Eve is a 7th-grader at Lakeland Montessori Middle School. Her afternoons are typically filled with flute and dance lessons, and she loves to draw in her free time. She's also found a new interest in reading and watching Japanese anime.

Eve's service project to commemorate her commitment to a Jewish adulthood is called "Magnets for Mitzvah." She's made several sets of glass pebble magnets in various designs to sell in sets of four for \$5. Eve plans to donate her earnings to kidsPACK, a local nonprofit organization that provides food to homeless and hungry children.



## **Join Services Online**

Temple Emanuel is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

### **Topic: Shabbat Services / Classes**

Join Zoom Meeting with your computer

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/697026562>

Meeting ID: 697 026 562

You may also dial in via telephone.

+1 646 558 8656 US

or

+1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 697 026 562

I have been a member of Temple Emanuel since moving to Lakeland in 1995. Admittedly, I am a far more active congregant in recent years. I believe this is due to life cycle timing, but I give some credit to Rabbi Goldstein and his engaging manner and emphasis on inclusiveness.

I am an in-between age at our Temple. I arrived here in my 30's but, without children (by choice), had no reason to be part of Sunday school or Hebrew school activities. The elders welcomed me but we had little in common. Now that I am closer in age to the retirees who are active, we all relate better to each other. I foresee becoming even more involved in the next decade.

*What are your interests and hobbies? What book is on your nightstand right now?  
What is one thing people would be surprised to learn about you?*

I am an avid reader, mostly romance or mystery. My husband and I enjoy boating and target shooting. We are both certified pistol instructors. We have owned boats for about 20 years. I can drive the truck and 26 foot trailer, have successfully backed the rig down a ramp to launch and capably pilot the boat. Clay has never let me dock the boat at a marina. However, I did manage to beat him once in a balloon shoot with a M1-Carbine rifle. In writing this short biography, it has become clearer to me where I get my keen sense of independence.



Mavra and her Dad

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Would you like to share your story?

Please contact Irma Cole at [irmacole26@gmail.com](mailto:irmacole26@gmail.com) We would love to learn more about all our temple members!

Thank you Mavra for being this issue's featured profile!

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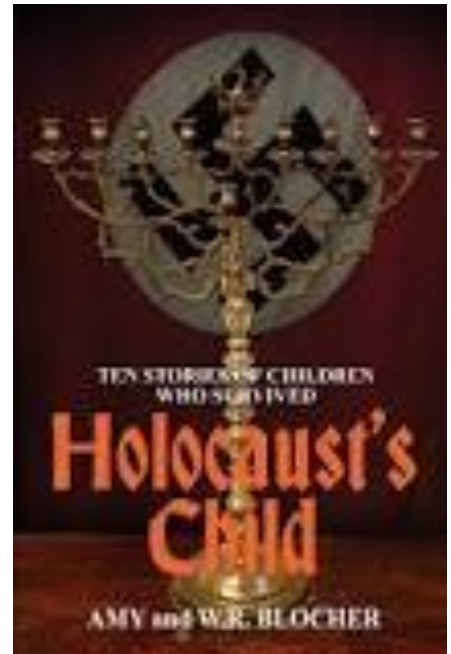


## **BOOK CLUB NEWS - Jane Renz**

Our next Book Club will be held on April 14, 2020 at 11 am via the internet. The selection is *Holocaust's Child*, written by our very own Amy and Bill Blocher.

The book contains stories of 10 survivors, sharing their tales of hope and perseverance. Everyone is welcome to join us! Contact Jane Renz for details on how to access the meeting online.

[https://smile.amazon.com/Holocausts-Child-Stories-Children-Survived/dp/162006135X/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=ABHCE0Y5J82U&keywords=holocaust%](https://smile.amazon.com/Holocausts-Child-Stories-Children-Survived/dp/162006135X/ref=sr_1_1?crid=ABHCE0Y5J82U&keywords=holocaust%20book)



Our JUNE Book Club meeting will hopefully be held on the 9th at 11 am in the Main Building. If not, we will do another internet meeting.

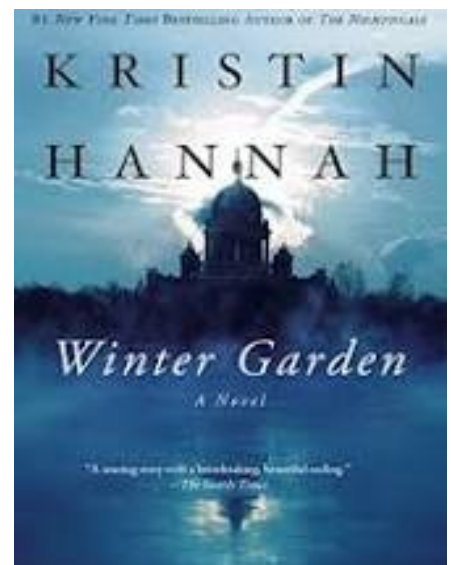
Our selection is "Winter Garden" by Kristin Hannah. An optional lunch will follow the meeting.

Here is a link to purchase the book:

<https://smile.amazon.com/Unknown-Winter-Garden-A-Novel/dp/B0036UZC5Y>

Mesmerizing from the first page to the last, Kristin Hannah's "Winter Garden" is one woman's sweeping, heartbreaking story of love, loss, and redemption. At once an epic love story set in World War II Russia and an intimate portrait of contemporary mothers and daughters poised at the crossroads of their lives, it explores the heartbreak of war, the cost of survival and the ultimate triumph of the human spirit. It is a novel that will haunt the reader long after the last page is turned.

Contact is Jane Renz: [jane7751@aol.com](mailto:jane7751@aol.com)



# FRIEND US!



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Also check out our Website Calendar, Photo Gallery, Member Profiles, Videos, Archives, and more!!

[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. Setting up Tables and Chairs for Events
4. Power Washing.
5. Odd Jobs and Maintenance.
6. Being a Greeter at Services.



Let us know when you are available.

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

Help support your Temple with your time! Speak to Allen, Tammy, or Rabbi and let them know you are available. It's a Mitzvah!

## **The HEARTH Project : Homeless Education Advocates Restoring The Hope**

**The HEARTH Project and Polk County Public Schools are dedicated to assisting homeless and in-transition families and children by eliminating barriers to school enrollment, attendance, stability, and overall academic success. We work to ensure that children experiencing homelessness have the same opportunities for educational success as housed students in Polk County.**

**Currently we have a great need for the following items: 1. School supplies and 2. Food and gas gift cards**

**Giving a monetary donation is one of the best ways to help the students in our program. With these donations, we are able to purchase grocery gift cards, bus passes, gas cards, and hygiene kits, and provide assistance that will allow a kindergartener to attend a field trip with her friends or purchase a senior's cap and gown for graduation.**

**If you would like to make a monetary donation, please send checks payable to the Polk Education Foundation with "Hearth Project" noted. Donations can be mailed to the Hearth Project at P.O. Box 391, Bartow, FL 33831.**

**You can also donate online through the PEF website by going to: Polk Education Foundation Website**

**Click on the icon "Donate Money" and type "Hearth" in the "Specific Program" information box. All monetary donations will generate a thank-you letter with the Foundation's 501(c)(3) determination for tax purposes.**

**Your donation helps make the difference in our students' lives. This additional support we provide would not be possible without your generosity. Thank you for helping our students have what they need to be successful in school!**

**Contact Information:**

**1915 South Floral Avenue**

**Bartow, FL 33830**

**(863) 534-0801**

**\$25 buys two weeks' worth of bus passes or 2.5 hours of a van driver's time to support school attendance and parental involvement. Your help makes it possible for a student to attend school while waiting for a bus route to be established or a parent to attend a teacher conference.**

**\$25 buys a backpack full of school supplies. Thanks to your gift he will be prepared to learn at school!**

**\$25 is the average amount of a grocery gift card that we give to families. Your generosity allows Mom to go to the grocery store and buy food for dinner.**

**More Information here:**

**<https://polkschoolsfl.com/hearth/>**



==JOIN



FOR==

# BOOK CLUB



**TUESDAY JUNE 9TH**

**11 AM TO 12 PM**

*Optional lunch out afterwards*

**OUR SELECTION IS "WINTER GARDEN"  
BY KRISTIN HANNAH**

**WE MEET IN THE LIBRARY IN THE MAIN BLDG.**

Temple Emanuel is extremely grateful to our generous sponsors and urges readers of The Menorah to consider utilizing their services! Thank you !

TEXT ORDERS ACCEPTED UNTIL 6PM FOR NEXT DAY DELIVERY



**DANIEL ITTLEMAN**  
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 DANIEL@THEFRESHPREPKITCHEN.COM



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## The Menorah

Are you enjoying our quarterly newsletter?

What else would you like included?

The next issue of The Menorah is scheduled for June 2020.

The deadline for submissions will be May 31st.

Please contact [irmacole26@gmail.com](mailto:irmacole26@gmail.com)





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Tu B'Shevat







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## The Eagle and the Dragon 2.20.2020 by Marc Rapke

The next destination on our round the world tour was China and Tibet in May 2019. We just had to see for ourselves the metamorphosis of one of the planet's oldest agrarian societies into a thriving cosmopolitan nation with multiple megalopolises and ambitions to be the most powerful country in the world. In the 1980's, Deng Xiaoping formulated the "One Country, Two Systems" principle which allowed only One China but, two divergent systems of government, permitting both socialism in Mainland China and a second set of economic, legal and financial principles applying in Hong Kong and Macau.

### Shanghai

Our first stop is Shanghai. Population 24,000,000 or three times NYC. What amazes me is the construction. Drive past an empty city block and the next block is completely filled with 20 story high rise residences. Our guide says that the plan to move 70% of the population from the rural areas to the cities is well underway. He mentioned that his apartment in Beijing was on the 18<sup>th</sup> floor, was 420 square feet and accommodated him and his wife and child together with his parents. Public transportation enabled him to only spend 3 ½ hours a day getting back and forth to the hotel where we stayed. Gorgeous vistas of the old and new Shanghai, the classical Yu Yuan Gardens (Garden of Happiness), the Jade Buddha Temple, pagodas, lakes, ponds, and magnificent pavilions are there for us to marvel at. Everything is kept immaculate and in full bloom attended round the clock by contented uniformed workers.



### The Visit to Lhasa

Flying over the Himalayas again, our plane navigates the narrow approach to the Lhasa airport between the Himalayan mountain peaks. Frightening. An hour's bus ride later we arrive in Tibet which seems to be a separate country in name only. The Chinese dominate every aspect of this "autonomous region" with the exception of a handful of Buddhist enclaves. The Chinese annexation of Tibet was not pretty. Our first excursion was to The Sera Monastery, one of Tibet's three most important university monasteries. We all assembled on the perimeter of the "debate Court" awaiting the 2:00 pm appearance of the monks. They were sharply dressed in their flowing monk robes crafted in material of carmine red. Then the one on one debates begin and the observers hope that the hand and body gestures of the monks don't cause injury from the frantic gesticulations.

### The Potala Palace

Deemed to be one of the grandest monuments in Asia, the Potala Palace was built in the 17th century. It boasts more than 1,000 rooms including the Red Palace where the Dalai Lama once lived, 10,000 chapels and a labyrinth of mysterious dungeons. At Lhasa's altitude of 13,780 feet, the formidable climb up 204 irregular steps is one that we will long remember. Migrating from room to room and marveling at the work of 1,500 artists and craftsmen responsible for this amazing structure. And, it is the repository of 200,000 statues of the incarnate living Buddha. 8 Dalai Lamas are also interred there. The present Dalai lama has been in exile since 1959. At age 84, he now lives in the Punjab province of India.





## To Keep Out the Foreigners



Nothing in China is more immediately recognizable than the Great Wall. It was started 2700 years ago and myriad additions were made over time. The Wall spans 4000 miles of China's northern frontier. We proceed by bus many miles into the countryside and finally pass through a tunnel that clocks nearly a mile in length. A wide colorful gate appears as we come to rest in an empty parking lot. Behind it lies a portion of the Wall. Our guide arranges for our admission as three busloads of school children arrive at this section of the Great Wall called Badaling or "the ancient section". The children are soon gone without climbing the steps. Our small group is alone. The Great Tourist crowds are 25 miles away.

The challenge is to start up the steps to the first observation platform. About 150 steps later, it's time for the view of beautiful mountain passes, plateaus and grasslands. As I am exploring the photo angles, Stephanie starts walking straight up the steps to the next platform. I have to pass. Others in the group ventured to the third lookout platform.

This 7th century fortification was built by captives and farmers taken from the countryside. The full length of the wall qualifies as the longest graveyard on earth. As exhausted

workers collapsed dead, they would be buried in the foundations of the wall. Creepy.

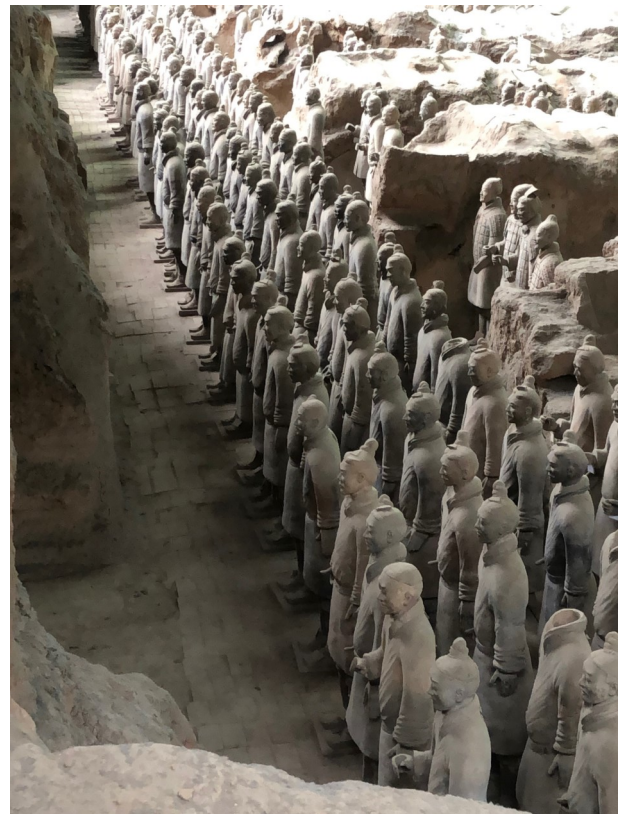
## Calisthenics and the Emperor's Army

In Xian we joined the residents in Xing Qing Park for morning exercises. Everyone was given a red feather folding fan to wave while dancing to the music. At the finale of the exercises, the Chinese band ensemble led by its perky female conductor did a special performance of "Jingle Bells", all capped off by mutual rounds of applause and cheerful smiles.

The Terracotta warriors was an unforgettable experience. This archeological site was discovered by farmers in 1974 and continues to be unearthed. Thus far it consists of more than 7,000 finely sculpted life-size soldiers, horses and chariots that were entombed with Qin Shi Huang, China's first emperor. Its purpose was to protect the Emperor in the afterlife. 700,000 laborers worked around the clock for 36 years to craft the statues, each based on a different living soldier.

## A House in the Country

In the city of Xian we had a chance to visit Donghan Village in Huxian County. Villagers had mostly been relocated but a few remained in their homes where a single light bulb illuminated a house. One cheerful resident, age 85, was very mobile and was questioned about her lifestyle. She had no pain or arthritis and her secret was found in her bedroom which she proudly showed us. Her bed consisted of boards and her pillow was a concrete brick. The house was equipped with an outhouse that was conveniently just outside the kitchen door.



Continue on next page



We next went to the modern adjoining suburban houses just 100 yards away. Conveniences were plentiful there and we had an opportunity to have snacks, make noodles from scratch and make paper cutouts that transformed into butterflies. New vehicles were in every driveway but the noodle making area in the suburban kitchen was shared with an oversized Harley Davidson bike. Fortunately, the bike hadn't been ridden recently. We enjoyed sharing our meal at a round table for 12 in the dining room and the noodles were tasty. All the while I felt like we were being subjected to a propaganda campaign but we anticipated this.

### A Final Thought

As of this writing, there are two startling developments taking place in China: 1) chaos reigns in Hong Kong where pro Democracy activism is challenging the "Two Systems" policies and 2) recent U.S economic measures have stanchd the bleeding in U.S. v. China commerce by making one sided (Chinese) trade relations into a two sided (bilateral) affair. My bet is that the American Eagle will continue to fly towards Democracy for China.



The lighting in the Sanctuary is being updated. We have a number of fluorescent bulbs and ballasts available as follows:

- 13 48" T12 Fluorescent bulbs (Used)
- 32 48" T8 Fluorescent Tubes (Used)
- 6 48" T8 Fluorescent tubes (New)
- 7 48" T12 Fluorescent Tubes (New)
- 2 Ultra Miser 120 Volt Instant Start Ballasts (Used)
- 4 GE Electronic 120 Volt Ballasts 2 lamp rapid start electronic ballasts B240R120RH (Used)
- 10 GE Pro Line 120 Volt High Performance electronic ballasts T12 Rapid Start GE240RS120-DIY (Used)

Contact Allen Shane [president@templemauellakeland.com](mailto:president@templemauellakeland.com) 863-604-0767

## “The Class of 2020”

About the Archives

by Cat Eskin

Time moves according to the academic calendar in my world, a calendar that reflects our Jewish year better than the Gregorian calendar, come to think of it. Still, it always surprises me when “all of a sudden” I’m looking at another decade and my year is already half over. Something like that happened in January when I realized that I would be offering my “Jewish Biography” course at the College again after a hiatus of five years.

This year’s class is a wonderful smattering of folks, all with colorful lives and a deep devotion to their identities—cultural, religious or both—as Jews. I have no Jewish students in my class and I have instigated what I call the “J10,” a series of 10-minute lectures designed to help the students navigate the *bissel* of Yiddish or the gastronomic punctuation marks that would surely throw my *goyishe kinder* for a loop. I have been stumped by a question or two, but my investment in Rabbi Telushkin’s *Jewish Literacy*, a mountain of a book, has helped tremendously.

Among the Class of 2020 are a lawyer, a director, a doctor, a rabbi, a nurse, an activist and an electrician, plus a husband and wife team. My *bubbe* would *kvell*. I am so very grateful for the willingness of my fellow congregants to be part of my students’ learning. The narrator’s for this year’s Temple Emanuel Archive Oral History projects are: **Rabbi David Goldstein, Lizandra Iszak, Daniel L. Leviten, Gary Rabin, Marilyn Signer** (back after 11 years!), **Norman Small, Harry Wlodawski, Marlene Wlodawski**, and the inimitable **Marvin Wyman**.

I wrote a draft of this “Class of 2020” back in late February, having no inkling of what March would bring (in like a lion?). First, all gatherings and events at the College were cancelled. Then, on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, FSC students were instructed to head home by 5 pm the next day, a hiatus of 2-3 weeks, during which we would institute remote instruction. A week later, the campus has required all non-essential staff to work from home and, pursuant to the Florida Department of Education mandates, are sending home even international students and, most disappointing, canceling graduation.

My Jewish biography students—many of whom are seniors who were set to graduate in May—are still diligently working on transcriptions and gathering evidence for their non-fiction work. Though they will not be able to present their work to you all in person, we are planning 200-300 word essays on each of our narrators for publication in *The Menorah* over the next months. I, and my students, are sad we will not be able to share with you the amazing things we have discovered about the depth of character, wild sense of adventure, and poignant moments of our co-religionists in person. “Polk County Jewry and Creative Biography” or “The Class of 2020” may not be walking across the stage this year, but that does not make their journey any less significant.

Feel free to contact me ([ceskin@flsouthern.edu](mailto:ceskin@flsouthern.edu)) if you have any questions.

