

THE TREE TABLET



IN THIS ISSUE:
CELEBRATING CANTOR NOVICK
HAMAKOM & HAMISHIM
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
AND MORE

FEBRUARY 2022

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THE TEE TABLET - A "GEM" OF A PUBLICATION

We are all familiar with the traditional depiction of the tablets that Moses carried down from Mount Sinai, the two stones rounded at top with letters inscribed on one side. Yet, if we dig deeper into our ancient texts we might be surprised with another depiction of what these tablets looked like.

We read in Exodus that Moses went up the mountain and saw that under God's feet was pavement that looked like lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky. One verse later we read, "Adonai said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone with the law and commandments I have written for their instruction.'" (Exodus 24:12)

Many rabbinic commentators look at these verses together and conclude that actually the tablets were not carved on grey stones but instead were taken from God's throne and were made of lapis lazuli or sapphires, blue stones as bright as the sky. Perhaps the movies and the paintings get it all wrong; they should depict Moses with bright blue tablets walking down Mount Sinai. The commandments from God were not just written on any ordinary stone but instead created with a precious stone or hidden gems, making the words from God even more special. With this interpretation, we have a new way to look at one of our most ancient symbols.

And we too now have a new way to look at one of our own ancient Temple texts; our Temple Bulletin is getting a refresh!

Welcome to "The TEE Tablet" a quarterly publication from our synagogue family. After two years like no other we felt that it was the perfect time to revision our bulletin. No longer will the bulletin be only about upcoming events and programs but we hope that it will highlight our sacred community. We want it to be a publication where you learn about fellow Temple members, staff and clergy. We want it to be a publication where you gain new insights into your Judaism, find new ways to practice a holiday, or where you can check out a new recipe or song. We want it to be a place where our congregants can share poetry, stories and/or artwork. The TEE Tablet is about our community and we can't wait to highlight all of our voices – that will truly make it a precious tablet.

We believe that it is a fitting name that represents our past texts but also looks towards the future. While The TEE Tablet won't be written on sapphires or lapis lazuli, we hope that you will find some hidden gems in it!

Rabbi Ethan Prosnit

CELEBRATING CANTOR NOVICK

For 36 years, Cantor Martha Novick has brought music, warmth, love, connections, and her heart to our Temple Emanu-El community. She has celebrated with us at our simchas, guided us during challenging times, and lifted our spirits. We now get to mark her Double Chai anniversary and celebrate our amazing senior cantor as she retires at the end of June.

We are planning many celebrations for Cantor Novick including:

- A Cantorial Concert - Sunday, April 3
- Nefesh Mountain Music Shabbat - Friday, May 20
- A Double Chai Gala Weekend, June 10 – 11, 2022
- And more...

What you can do to get involved:

- Save the date and make sure you participate in one or more of the wonderful events above.
- Send a note to share a favorite memory or memories with Cantor Novick here:
www.tewnj.org/cantornovick
- Volunteer to make this year one to remember.

Thank you in advance for taking part as we celebrate Cantor Novick and create a lasting legacy in her honor.

We look forward to sharing many *l'chayims* with all of you in the coming year.

B'shalom,

Marci and Michael Schoenbach – Co-Chairs
Rabbi Charles and Dr. Terry Kroloff – Co-Chairs
Rabbi Ethan Prosnit
Terri Klass, Temple President



CELEBRATION OF CANTOR MARTHA NOVICK

SAVE THE DATES AS WE CELEBRATE A YEAR OF CANTOR NOVICK

Special Shabbatots

Union Prayer Book Shabbat
Friday, March 18 at 7:45 PM

Nefesh Mountain Music
Shabbat
Friday, May 20 at 6 PM

Cantorial Concert

Sunday, April 3 at 7 PM

Double Chai Gala Weekend

Shabbat Service
Honoring Cantor Novick
Friday, June 10

Double Chai Gala
Saturday, June 11

Look out for more information in the eblasts if you would like to be involved in the festivities and ways to sign up. For questions please contact Carol Jassin at cjassin@tewnj.org

WWW.TEWNJ.ORG/CANTORNOVICK

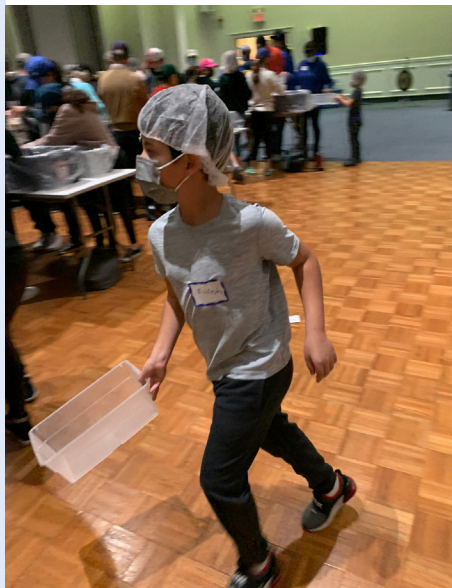
Temple **עמנו אל**
Emanu-El of Westfield

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Thank you for helping us pack 20,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger



Rise Against Hunger is an international humanitarian organization with a mission to end hunger by empowering communities, nourishing lives and responding to emergencies.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: INTERVIEW WITH

MICHELLE BECK

What was it like growing up at Temple Emanu-El?

It was amazing. I moved here when I was 9 and in the fourth grade. My parents were looking to find a community and so we got involved right away. My parents were fortunate enough to make friends right away and so was I. I learned a lot about myself and being Jewish. After my bat mitzvah, my parents asked if I wanted to continue my education at the Temple and of course I said yes. It was an amazing experience!

What is your favorite Temple memory?

One of my favorite memories was coming to a Friday night service when I was 10. It was actually one of my first times ever coming to a Shabbat Service. But this was a really special service because Elie Wiesel was a speaker that night. That was the night I realized just how special the Temple was and how special it was to be a Jew. It was an unbelievable experience to witness a real survivor and a Jewish icon. Of course my bat mitzvah was another incredible memory too!

Why did you decide to join the Temple in your adult life? How long have you been a member?

When I got engaged I was living in Manhattan while my fiancé was living in NJ. We were trying to figure out where to live and we decided to move to Westfield because I knew I wanted to come back to the area where I grew up and join Temple Emanu-El. It was something that was always important to me. We got married in November 2010 and moved to Mountainside in 2011. We've been members for ten and a half years.

What is your involvement at the Temple?

There are three areas where I'm really involved. The first is that I am on the board. My position is the Recording and Corresponding Secretary. The second is through Sisterhood as the Membership Vice President. The third is through my volunteer work in the office.

What is your favorite Jewish holiday?

Probably Rosh Hashanah. I like the fact that it's the Jewish new year and we can mark new beginnings. It is the time where everyone can come together and be with family.

What is your favorite Jewish food?

Latkes - definitely latkes.

Are you watching anything good on Netflix?

I'm watching *You*. I also love *Succession* on HBO. It's awesome.

Favorite local restaurant?

Cosimos in Westfield.

What's one thing you want people to know about the impact that the Temple has made on your life?

I want people to know that it is a very special place. It's a place where I found out who I was and what kind of Jew I was. I'm so proud to be part of this community.

Thank you Michelle for taking the time to speak with Temple Emanu-El about your experiences here and letting us learn more about you! We can't wait to continue those traditions with you!



EARLY CHILDHOOD

It has been an incredible year so far in our Early Childhood Program! In just a short few months, our children have learned, played, adapted and grown together. Here is what they have been up to:



The babies love playing and exploring together!



Here are the toddlers learning about fall with pumpkins and leaves!



The two's class is never bored in the outdoor play area, TEVA. Here they are playing in the mud kitchen.



Sensory play is a big part of everyone's day - especially in the three's class!



Our Pre-K class celebrates Havdalah every Monday morning. What a great way to start the week!



The Kindergarten children are using their brand new Chromebooks! We are so grateful to Sisterhood for purchasing them.



Every week the children and their teachers come together for Shabbat. The children sing songs, eat challah and have fun welcoming Shabbat.

For more information about our ECE, please go to:
www.tewnj.org/early-childhood
or contact Jill Cimafonte at jcimafonte@tewnj.org or
908-232-7663.

HaMakom is Union County's Jewish community 8-12th grade program and part of Temple Emanu-El's Youth Learning and Engagement. Together, we share in worship, education, social action, and cultural activities.

Temple Emanu-El, and its partnering Synagogues, opened a Union County HaMakom (the place) for all Jewish teens emphasizing joyous and engaged learning.

Who are the partnering Congregations?

Many of the local Union County Reform and Conservative Temples are participating in the program including: Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael, Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim, Temple Sha'arey Shalom, Temple Sholom, and Temple Beth O'r Beth Torah.

What is the goal of the program?

The goal of the program is for teens to learn about topics that they are actually interested in rather than us telling them what they should be learning. HaMakom also provides a safe place for teens to meet socially with other Jewish teens (as well as teachers and clergy) who they may not have had the opportunity to meet otherwise.

What kind of classes are offered?

HaMakom teens get to pick from a variety of classes. The year was broken up into mini-mesters, each with a theme:

Mini-mester one: Jewish history. That can be history of comedy, history of stage, fashion, or flat out history.

Mini-mester two: Jewish text which includes Torah, midrash, talmud, art and more.

Mini-mester three: Jewish ethics.

Mini-mester four: Diversity in our community and beyond.

What are examples of classes that are offered?

Jews in Comedy - What Makes Jewish Humor Jewish.

From the Borscht belt to Hollywood, some of the best and most influential comedians have been Jewish. From Mel Brooks to Larry David to Sarah Silverman, we will examine what makes humor quintessentially Jewish.

Stars of David: Jews on Broadway

The lights of Broadway would just not be the same if they weren't illuminating Jewish singers, dancers, and composers. Join us for this look at how Jewish and musical culture intersect.

Israeli History: Growth and Changes

For a young country, a lot has happened! Join Lia, who is visiting from Israel, on a whirlwind tour of where Israel has come from, and where it is going.

American History Through Jewish Eyes

Have you ever wondered what Jewish life was like in colonial times? Did Jews fight in the Civil War - and on which side? Did Jews ever put a man on the moon? Join this class to find out!

Women World Changers

This class will explore the lives and historical contexts of Jewish women who changed the course of history. From religious leaders to educational change makers to philanthropists, these women changed the Jewish world.

History of Reform Judaism

From Berlin to Boston, the Reform Movement has asked questions about how to integrate authentic Judaism with modern living. Join this class to understand the birth and beginnings of this process.

And so much more!

Why should parents enroll their teens in HaMakom?

Parents should enroll their teens because it gives teens the opportunity to experience Jewish learning their own way. While the learning is rich and meaningful to the teens because they get to choose their own classes. In Hebrew, HaMakom translates to the place, and this is the place that a Jewish teenager would want to be. Not only do they get to hang out with other local Jewish teens, but they get to learn about topics that actually interest them.

I'm ready to enroll! How do I know if I am qualified and how do I enroll?

As long as you are members of any of the participating congregations, you are eligible to join! Since learning takes place in mini-mesters, teens can arrange for an easy entry point and without feeling like they are behind in the class. It is not too late to join and there are even scholarships available for those who need! Contact Samara Schwartz at sschwartz@tewnj.org to get started. You can also check out the HaMakom website: <https://www.unionhamakom.org>.

Thank you to Jewish Federation for generously funding our program!



DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HAMISHIM?

Are you 50 or older and interested in getting more involved at Temple Emanu-El but don't know where to start? Come join Hamishim!

Hamishim consists of social programs for members who are interested in adult focused small group gatherings and activities. It's a great way to meet and interact with others.

PS – Hamishim means 50 in Hebrew but there are no hard and fast rules as to who can participate.

Since Hamishim launched in November of 2020, many Temple members have participated and shared how much they've enjoyed the programs! Yay! And thank you! Hamishim has worked hard to help build and strengthen connections at Temple Emanu-El by offering multiple opportunities for interaction among members who are simply interested in adult focused small group gatherings.

What were these programs?

Since November 2020, we offered 22 Zoom programs with more than 300 participants. Members came together over a variety of common interests to interact and learn something new. We hope you were one of them.

Here is what we did over the past year:

Sweets in the Sukkah was our first in person gathering this year. We were finally able to be together and socialize while enjoying delicious desserts and playing bingo!




We also did some traveling:



עמנו אל Emanuel
Emanu-El at TewNJ


WE TRAVELED TO:

- PORTUGAL
- ISRAEL
- SPAIN
- THE LOWER EAST SIDE
- BUDAPEST
- JAPAN
- THE BALTIC STATES



עמנו אל Emanuel
Emanu-El at TewNJ

WE PLAYED GAMES, DISCUSSED TV SHOWS,
MOVIES QUOTES AND BOOKS.



עמנו אל Emanuel
Emanu-El at TewNJ

WE JOINED
MUSEUM TOURS
ABOUT:

- Golda Meir
- Race in Religion
- Houdini
- Jews and Monticello
- Seamstresses of the Holocaust
- Hollywood Blacklist

So, what's next?

Our goal is to meet in person and be more social. More fun with less Zoom! If you would like to see Hamishim grow, please reach out to email hamishim@tewnj.org and share your thoughts, ideas or just let us know you would like Hamishim to continue. You can also check out our website at www.tewnj.org/hamishim.

A LOOK BACK AT THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

Thank you for being with us for the High Holy Days.

Here are some meaningful moments we shared together:

Before the High Holy Days during the Hebrew month of Elul, the clergy dressed the Torahs and reflected on what a year it has been and the sweetness of what was to come.



We opened Rosh Hashanah with the Kulanu service, which was a beautiful and interactive intergenerational worship experience for families with children in grades 2-7. We were lucky it was such a beautiful day so our families could worship from the tent.



We then moved to the main Sanctuary service. Thanks to the hard work of Mike Kenny and the custodial staff, the seats were spread out and sectioned off so everyone could maintain proper social distancing and feel safe. Here is a peek inside the Sanctuary as congregants began to enter.



This year, we needed to think creatively about how we could add an additional worship location for those who still wanted to be connected to the Temple without having to be inside. This is where the idea of the Simulcast Service started. We turned our tents into a prayerful space where we worshiped together, and were able to watch the Sanctuary Service live. Those who attended the Simulcast services got their own Shofar blasts and visits from the clergy so everyone felt connected.

In the afternoon, the children and their families had a blast (and heard the Shofar blast) during the Tiny Tot Services.



If you attended a service in the tent, you may have been given the opportunity to look at the Torah. Here is Rabbinic Intern Becky Jaye sharing a beautiful moment with the children who got to share in this meaningful experience.

We were fortunate enough to be able to use technology for the Simulcast services as well as our virtual streaming services so that many of our congregants and their families could watch from home. Here is a glimpse of just part of the technology setup.



The clergy ended the High Holy Day worship experience with Neilah and Havdalah and the final blow of the Shofar from Rabbi Prosnit.



Thank you to everyone who made these High Holy Days possible.

From the custodial staff, admin, religious school, early childhood, dedicated congregants and lay leaders, and of course the clergy, who made all of this happen, we thank you for making this a meaningful and unique High Holy Day worship experience. We look forward to seeing you for the High Holy Day 5783 services!

TEMPLE EMANU-EL'S
5782 KOL NIDRE APPEAL
THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS



THANK YOU FOR DONATING TO THE ANNUAL KOL NIDRE APPEAL

**Thanks to the generosity of all those who donated, we have
surpassed our fundraising goal!**

Every donation that was made was important and helped us get one step closer to our goal. Our Temple community is very grateful for the support.

The funds we raised from our annual Kol Nidre Appeal are a vital part of our Temple Emanu-El's budget. The Kol Nidre Appeal preserves our traditions and sustains the present, while investing in our Temple's bright future. The Kol Nidre Appeal allows us to continue to offer programming and education to congregants of all ages.

*thank
you*

FOR YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT OF
TEMPLE EMANU-EL

CANTOR GOLDMAN'S INSTALLATION



We celebrated the installation of Cantor Ilana Goldman as the Assistant Cantor of Temple Emanu-El of Westfield on Friday, October 22. The Temple Emanu-El community has been incredibly impressed by Ilana's joy, ability to connect with congregants of different ages and spiritual needs, wisdom, and warmth. Ilana fills the sanctuary with beautiful music on Shabbat and holidays, inspires young children to sing in the youth choir, brings energy and love to our preschool families, and guides our b'nai mitzvah students and families with compassion and support.

Cantor Goldman spent her senior year of high school at Interlochen Arts Academy in MI and continued her education at Lawrence University in Appleton, WI where she majored in music and religious studies with a minor in psychology. She received her Masters of Sacred Music and was ordained from Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion. During her time in cantorial school, she had the privilege of holding several student pulpits at diverse congregations including Temple Micah in Washington D.C, Vassar Temple in Poughkeepsie, Scarsdale Synagogue and East End Temple in NY. She especially values her training as a chaplain intern at Bellevue Hospital where she completed two units of Clinical Pastoral Education bringing music, prayer and comfort to patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The installation service consisted of music, blessings, and songs from the clergy of Temple Emanu-El: Rabbi Ethan Prosnit - Senior Rabbi, Cantor Martha Novick - Senior Cantor, and Rabbi Victor Appell - Associate Rabbi. Cantor Goldman was also joined by 2 visiting cantors and mentors, Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller and Cantor Chanin Becker, a performance from the TEWNIES (Temple Emanu-El's youth choir founded by Cantor Goldman), as well as a very heartfelt performance with her mom, Amy Goldman, on cello.

Cantor Goldman shares, "Becoming a cantor is about fulfilling a role that echoes the very deepest parts of my being. As your cantor I will strive to cultivate a holy community where connection thrives and each individual feels seen, heard and valued. My mission is to emphasize the sacred human-to-human connection that is singularly possible through music and liturgy. Music creates an imprint on our souls like nothing else."

We look forward to having Cantor Goldman part of the Temple Emanu-El community for years to come!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Here are just some of the upcoming events you have to look forward to:

EREV SHABBAT SERVICES

EVERY FRIDAY AT 6:00 PM. CHECK WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

Join us every Friday in the Sanctuary or from the comfort of your own home for Shabbat Services. Hear the beautiful music from our Cantors and the powerful words from our Rabbis.

HOLY SCROLLERS AND SATURDAY MORNING MINYAN

MEETS WEEKLY ON SATURDAY MORNINGS BEGINNING AT 8:15 AM

SIMCHAT SHABBAT

MEETS EVERY SECOND AND FOURTH SATURDAY AT 9:00 AM

Join us for a meaningful Simchat Shabbat. This service combines contemporary and traditional music and prayer. Join us in person or on Zoom!

TINY TOT SHABBAT

MEETS ONCE A MONTH ON FRIDAY EVENINGS OR SATURDAY MORNINGS. CHECK WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

Join us for Tiny Tot Shabbat where we will sing, dance and have fun with Rabbi Prosnit and Cantor Goldman. Geared for children ages 0-6 and their families.

BIBLE CLASS

MEETS WEEKLY ON TUESDAY MORNINGS AT 9:45 AM

How does the Torah ignite my inner wisdom? Participants study the Book of Samuel plus the latest events of concern to the Jewish people. Bible class begins at 9:45 AM but feel free to join at 9:30 AM to chat!

TIKKUN OLAM EVENT: PACK EMERGENCY FOOD BAGS FOR JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF CENTRAL NJ

MEETS THE LAST TUESDAY, OF EACH MONTH AT 4:00 PM

Sponsored by The Mandy Reichman Feeding Program, Jewish Family Services of Central New Jersey, and Temple Emanu-El. Help us pack 100 emergency food bags to Jewish Family Services of Central NJ each month!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR PURIM!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16 BEGINNING AT 5:00 PM

This Purim at Temple Emanu-El, you can expect lots of laughs, a bubble show, an awesome shpiel and megillah reading, and even a beer garden! We even have a Purim Amazing Race! All events are perfect for people of all ages. Check out www.tewnj.org/purim for more information.



Check out our website for more information for these events:
www.tewnj.org or call the office at 908-232-6770

TEMPLE EMANU-EL'S KOL TZEDKEK SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS:
A ONE TIME ONLY LIVESTREAM EVENT WITH ISABEL WILKERSON,
AUTHOR OF "CASTE: THE ORIGINS OF OUR DISCONTENTS"



Thursday, March 31 at 7:30 PM

Building on Temple Emanu-El's highly successful Zoom presentation last March by Bryan Stevenson, one of the most influential social justice lawyers of our time and author of "Just Mercy", we are excited to officially launch **The Temple Emanu-El Kol Tzedek Speakers Series**, an annual program addressing various topics of critical importance to the betterment of our world and how we can move forward with hope and action. The lecturers we consider will be acclaimed authorities from their respective fields of specialization. The Hebrew term *Kol Tzedek* means righteous voice.

Timed to coordinate with the Passover season, when we reflect on our people's enslavement in Egypt and flight to freedom, this year's presentation - to be delivered by Isabel Wilkerson, will draw from her most recent #1 New York Times Bestseller "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents", published in 2020. Based on her deep research into the history of caste systems, Wilkerson delves into our country's treatment of Native

Americans and African Americans as well as what the Nazis learned from studying America's caste history and applied to their plan for elimination of the Jews. Given the rise in anti-semitism and acts of hatred against other minorities, her topic is extremely relevant during these troubled times.

A Pulitzer Prize-winning bestselling author of "The Warmth of Other Suns", Wilkerson has taught at Princeton, Emory and Boston universities and lectured at more than 200 other higher academic institutions in the United States, Europe and Asia.

This event is open to the community! Make sure to share this event with your family and friends!

**Let us be inspired by righteous voices.
Join us for this one night only livestream event.**

**Register & Learn More Here:
www.tewnj.org/isabel-wilkerson**

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