

February 2025

3 - 30 Shevat 5785



Inside this issue:

<i>Upcoming Events</i>	2
<i>Reflections from Rabbi Morais</i>	5
<i>Let's Talk with the President</i>	7
<i>Housekeeping</i>	8
<i>Donations</i>	9
<i>Yahrzeits</i>	11

Temple Notes:

- Interested in Friday Night Live and using your musical talent to celebrate Shabbat? Contact the office: (814) 454-2426 or office@TAHerie.org.
- Please note that the Temple will be closed on Monday, February 17th in observance of President's Day.

Join us for a

TU BISHVAT FRUITFUL SEDER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH
ACCOMPANYING THE TGIS DINNER

QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE OFFICE
OFFICE@TAHERIE.ORG | (814) 454-2426

A top-down photograph of various fruits and nuts arranged on a light blue fabric. There are several wooden bowls containing dates, olives, and almonds. There are also pomegranates, some whole and some cut open to show the seeds, and some wheat stalks scattered around. The background is a light blue marble pattern.

Events:

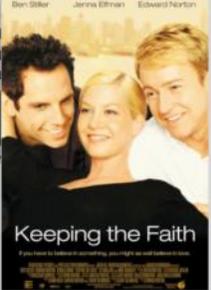
TempleHood Presents:

Movie Night

Monday, February 10, 2025 @ 6:45pm
 Erie Movie House: 3424 Westlake Road

Cost: \$10 per person, includes refreshments
 Movie starts promptly at 7:00pm
 Discussion after the movie

Keeping the Faith






JOIN US TO PLAY MAH JONGG
 AT TEMPLE ANSHE HESED

February Dates

AT 3PM
No teacher available

AT 6PM

MONDAY, FEB 10

THURSDAY, FEB 13





Please join Geshar
 to celebrate

Tu B'Shvat

Sunday, February 9, 2025
 11:30 AM

Please RSVP at TAHerie.org

No cost, but please consider
 bringing tzedakah to help
 plant trees in Israel

Save the Date

for our

Passover

Second Night Seder

Sunday, April 13th at 5:00 PM

More details to come!





WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US
FOR A PULPIT EXCHANGE

Temple Anshe Hessed
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH AT 6:15PM
Rev. Jean N. Kuebler guest speaking during Shabbat Services

AND

**Faith Evangelical
Lutheran Church**
SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH AT 10:15AM
Rabbi S. Robert Morais guest speaking during Sunday Services

5414 EAST LAKE ROAD
ERIE, PA 16511




Join us for a Middle-Eastern inspired
Purim
Dinner and Celebration!

Saturday, March 15th at 6:00 PM
Habibi Restaurant
127 West 14th Street
Erie, PA 16501

*Cost is \$30 a person.
RSVP by March 1st.
Attendance is capped due to venue.*

This restaurant does not serve alcohol, but you can BYOB.



Messages from Our Neighbors

Kearsarge Area Food Pantry:

We served 99 households in January which consisted of 158 adults, 139 children, and 57 seniors. On January 9th, we did not have any milk. We did use the food that was donated from 24 Days of Advent and food donations from the Temple which were received just when we needed the help.

On January 23rd, we had a bounty of food, including milk, produce, fruit, eggs, bread, and sweets. Judy & Greg from New Hope joined us and are a great addition to our volunteer staff.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email the office (office@TAHerie.org) or Ellie Tanenbaum (ellietanenbaum@gmail.com).

Christian Ministries:

Yoleena Hull's 2nd Annual Toy Drive was a huge success due to the hardworking members of the Yoleena Hull Toy Drive Committee and our Community Partners through donation and/or volunteer hours.

With your assistance, we were able to serve 178 families, 62 more families than in 2023; 494 children, 177 more than in 2023. We gave out more than 1,400 toys.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Yoleena Hull Annual Toy Drive!

The Book of Ruth Club

In memory of one of its founding and most faithful members, Ruth Waidley.

PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL BE MEETING IN PERSON AT THE TEMPLE AND ON ZOOM. JOIN US EITHER WAY!!!!

OUR NEXT MEETING IS:

Monday, February 24, 2025

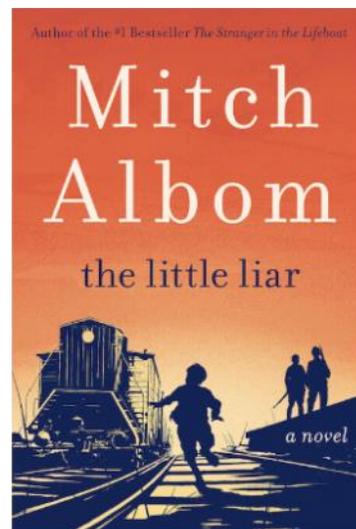
7:30 PM

At the Temple

Or via Zoom Join URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88169606965>

The Little Liar By Mitch Albom

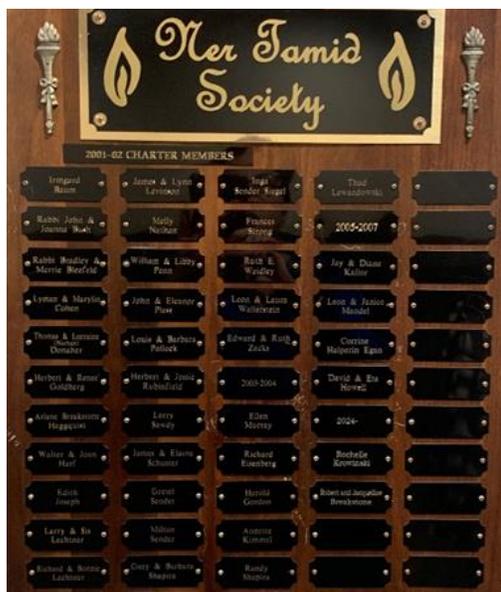
A powerful novel that moves from a coastal Greek city during the Holocaust, to America, where the intertwined lives of three survivors are forever changed by the perils of deception and the grace of redemption. Eleven-year-old Nico Krispis never told a lie. When the Nazi's invade his home in Salonika, Greece, the trustworthy boy is discovered by a German officer, who offers him a chance to save his family. All Nico has to do is convince his fellow Jewish residents to board trains heading to "new homes" where they are promised jobs and safety. Unaware that this is all a cruel ruse, the innocent boy goes to the station platform every day and reassures the passengers that the journey is safe. But when the final train is at the station, Nico sees his family being loaded into a large boxcar crowded with other neighbors. Only after it is too late does Nico discover that he helped send the people he loved to their doom at Auschwitz. Nico never tells the truth again. Mitch Albom interweaves the stories of Nico, his brother Sebastian, and their schoolmate Fanni, who miraculously survive the death camps and spend years searching for Nico, who has become a pathological liar, and the Nazi officer who radically changed their lives. Narrated by the voice of Truth itself, it is a timeless story about the harm we inflict with our deceptions, and the power of love to ultimately redeem us.



For those who plan ahead:

Our March selection is The Daughters Of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans: A Story of Love and War by Catherine Grace Katz.

Thanks to the many who have given us some great recommendations. We are always ready to hear others. Please forward them as well as **any questions** about the book club to Janice Wittmershaus at JKWittmershaus@gmail.com



NER TAMID SOCIETY TEMPLE ANSHE HESED

Next time you are at Temple, look for this plaque. There is one recent addition. A big thank you goes out to:

Amy Cohen Paul, Jerry Newfarmer and family

The purpose of the Ner Tamid Society is to encourage members to join and make a bequest to the Temple in their wills and estates to help ensure the financial security for the Temple's future needs.

By including charitable giving in your estate plans, you can leave a legacy that extends far beyond your lifetime.

The members of the Ner Tamid Society thank you for considering us in your estate planning.

**Please contact the Temple office with any questions:
office@taherie.org or at 814-454-2426**

Reflections from Rabbi Morais

Supporting LGBTQ+ Rights: A Reform Jewish Perspective

It has been 10 years since the Union for Reform Judaism passed its historic resolution to recognize and protect the rights of Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming People (read the full resolution here: urj.org/what-we-believe/resolutions/resolution-rights-transgender-and-gender-non-conforming-people).

Reform Judaism has consistently upheld the principle that all individuals are created B'tzelem Elohim—in the Divine image (Genesis 1:27). This foundational belief underscores the sacred worth of every person, affirming the full inclusion and equality of LGBTQ+ individuals within our synagogues and the wider Jewish community.

The Torah teaches us, “You shall not oppress the stranger, for you know the soul of the stranger, having been strangers in the land of Egypt” (Exodus 23:9). This commandment calls us to embrace those who have historically been marginalized, ensuring that all members of our community feel valued and affirmed. LGBTQ+ individuals, who have often faced exclusion and discrimination, deserve our full support and solidarity in both policy and practice.

In Pirkei Avot, we are reminded: “Do not separate yourself from the community” (2:5). Reform Judaism interprets this as a call to create spaces where every individual, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation, can find belonging and spiritual connection. This teaching challenges us to affirm the diversity of identities within our communities as a reflection of the Divine’s vast creativity.

We are deeply concerned by recent U.S. presidential executive orders that have stripped away protections for transgender individuals. Such actions contradict the Jewish imperative to “seek peace and pursue it” (Psalm 34:15), as they foster division and endanger lives.

Temple Anshe Hesed, and Reform synagogues around our country, stand as beacons of inclusivity, celebrating LGBTQ+ individuals through rituals, programming, and advocacy. This commitment aligns with the Talmud’s teaching: “Whoever saves a single life is as if they have saved an entire world” (Sanhedrin 37a).

May we continue to draw upon the wisdom of our tradition as we advocate for justice, ensuring that our communities are places of refuge, love, and affirmation for all. Together, we can uphold the sacred value of inclusion in every aspect of Jewish life.

Shalom,

Rabbi Morais

**150th ANNIVERSARY
REUNION PICNIC**

Save the date
Saturday, July 26

Temple Anshe Hessed
5401 Old Zuck Road
Erie, PA 16506

Do you know someone who lived in Erie and
attended Temple Anshe Hessed?

Forward contact information to us, so we
can send them an invitation!

We can't do it without your help!

Questions? Contact the office (814) 454 2426 | office@TAHerie.org

The Campaign to Sustain Temple Anshe Hessed and
Reform Judaism in Northwestern Pennsylvania

L'Dor V'Dor: From Generation to Generation

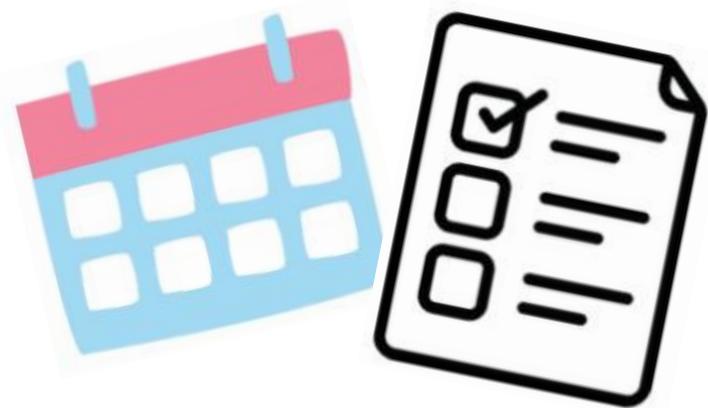


Give a Meaningful Gift Today!

The impact of your gift to a qualifying Fund
today will be **doubled** by the generous
1:1 match campaign by the Salata Family.

Please contact the office with any questions: office@taherie.org | (814) 454-2426

We have raised \$35,500 towards the
Salata Match Campaign so far!
Let's keep it going!



Join us for the TempleHood
planning meeting on Thursday,
February 27 at 7pm. Desserts and
wine provided. Come with your
ideas and suggestions!

Hanukkah Latke Party Pictures!



Let's Talk with President Craig Reynolds

It is not unusual for there to be Jewish versions or alternatives to American holiday celebrations, and Valentine's Day is no exception.

The American Valentine's Day falls on February 14th. The Jewish version, Tu B'Av, is the fifteenth of the Hebrew month of Av, generally in August.

The Talmud tells us, "The Mishna taught that Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel said: There were no days as happy for the Jewish people as the fifteenth of Av and as Yom Kippur. The Gemara asks: Granted, Yom Kippur is a day of joy because it has the elements of pardon and forgiveness, and moreover, it is the day on which the last pair of tablets were given. However, what is the special joy of the fifteenth of Av?"

Of course, being Jews, there are at least a half dozen explanations as to why the fifteenth of Av is such a joyous day. My favorite justification comes from a story in Torah that the Talmud and Midrash explain.

In the book of Numbers, the five orphaned daughters of a man named Zelophehad come before Moses, the High Priest, the chieftains, and the whole Israelite assembly to plead their case. They explain that their father died, leaving no sons as heirs.

They fear that upon reaching Israel when the land is divided among the tribes, as women, they will not be able to inherit the land that would have gone to their father. So, Moses takes their case to G-d. G-d agrees with them and tells Moses that women should inherit their father's share of the land if there are no male heirs.

Later, male heirs from Zelophehad's daughters' tribe complain to Moses and the chieftains. They understand that since men have the primary right of inheritance, the heirs of any man who marries one of Zelophehad's daughters will inherit their share of the land. If they are from a different tribe than the daughters, then the daughters' tribe's share of the land will be diminished.

Once again, Moses goes to G-d, and He gives Moses instructions. The daughters are told they can marry any man they wish, but only among the men of their father's tribe. Therefore, daughters among the Israelite tribes who will inherit land must marry someone from their father's tribe so that tribal shares are not diminished. Zelophehad's daughters agree to abide by G-d's instruction.

Talmud and Midrash describe the next episode in the story. The sages explain that the instruction to marry within their tribe was only meant to be binding on that generation. Sometime after the conquest of the land and the tribal land divisions were carried out, on the fifteenth of Av, it was declared that inter-tribal marriage was allowed. The Talmud tells us that the Sages established that day as a permanent day of rejoicing.

Like most Jewish holidays, the joyous celebration of Tu B'Av has evolved over the centuries. It is still celebrated in Israel in modern times where it is often seen as a romantic holiday with similarities to Valentine's Day.

talktempleTAH@gmail.com

Craig

Housekeeping

We want to respond to concerns raised regarding the sidewalk conditions over the last few weeks.

We try to be proactive in ensuring the parking lot and sidewalk conditions are safe; however, this year has yielded some truly challenging weather conditions. We had two separate instances where the plowing necessary for clearing the parking lot caused secondary issues, and both issues have been addressed.

Joe, our Building Manager, clears the sidewalks and liberally applies salt ahead of Shabbat and other events during the winter months. He is aware of the concerns about the slippery conditions and is considering other ways to address them.

We will continue to monitor conditions and be proactive about applying the solutions and resources we have available to their best effect. Safety and accessibility are of paramount importance to us, and your feedback about the slippery conditions is invaluable in addressing it. If you have further suggestions about improving conditions, please let us know.

Other Updates:

- As a reminder, our phone system does not have a missed call log. If you don't leave a message or send the office an email, the staff has no way to know that you called. If you need a callback, please leave a message with your name and number or send the office an email. Thank you!



Donations

General Donations

Arthur & Mildred Wainer
Joel Wolf

In honor of the 150th Anniversary

Mal Schuster

In memory of Beatty Emch

Marc Marks

In memory of his wife of 51 years, Kristine Ruth Marks, mother of Dr. Jared, Emily, and David Marks. Daughter-in-law of Dr. Joseph J. and Madeline L. Marks

Marc Marks

In-kind donation of goods

Thank you for including my family in the book. I would like to donate my copy where it will be appreciated and of good use.

Helen Friedman

Campaign to Sustain TAH

Darlene & Robert Przybyszewski

5401 Old Zuck Road Building Fund

Rochelle & Bill Krowinski
Lyrica Parker & Daulton Drexel
Dennis and Amy Vidmar
Rabbi and Joanna Bush

Harf Family Joy of Judaism

In honor of Walter Harf's birthday

Bobbi Pollock

In honor of Walter Harf – our grandfather and great-grandfather, on behalf of our family

Josh, Danielle, Jonah and Raylee
Gadharf

Pulpit Flowers

In memory of David Joel Mandel

Jan Mandel

In memory of Isador Pinski

Jan Mandel

In memory of Sylvia K. Berman

Laurie Penn

Rabbi Mitzvah Fund

In honor of Danielle's Bat Mitzvah

Jackie & Bryan Spry

With appreciation

Lybov Zelinskaya

Remembrance Fund/Perpetual Memorial Fund

In memory of Sylvia K. Berman

Laurie Penn

Schuster Fund

Rochelle & Bill Krowinski

In honor of the Baby Naming of Eliana

Renee Bell

Julie Cohen

Board Mitzvah Maker

Sender Family Rabbinic Chair

In memory of the 150th anniversary, especially remembering Rabbi Bernard Perelmutter

Deborah Perelmutter

Temple Endowment

Bobbi Pollock

In honor of the Baby Naming of Eliana

Renee Bell

Rochelle & Bill Krowinski

In honor of our 150th Anniversary

Debra Thompson

In honor of our campaign fund

Jonathan Spitzer

Tikkun Olam

In honor of the Baby Naming of Jackie and Bob's grandchild

Janice Wittmershaus

wishing you a
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Birthdays

Feb 2	Ted Kobierski
Feb 3	Brad Ford, Robin Fox, Alan Maldet, Jack Anon
Feb 4	Barry Warshaw
Feb 5	Grace Bernstein
Feb 8	Jessie Rhoades
Feb 9	Ava Gardner
Feb 10	Berko Chervatskiy
Feb 11	Karen Kobierski
Feb 12	Brad Fox
Feb 13	Eric Bernstein
Feb 19	Roberta Barilla
Feb 22	Jacob Braman
Feb 23	Sabrina Ford, Sandra May
Feb 25	Joshua Gardner, Naomi Warshaw
Feb 26	Miriam Braman, Diane Knight-Kallor
Feb 27	Connel Stout
Feb 28	Matthew Krotzer, Hunter Skornick

Anniversaries

Feb 27 Rabbi John & Joanna Bush

Thank you

Thank You to our Temple family for the anniversary greetings.

Sandi and Joe May

The 150th Anniversary Book is lovely, thanks to all who contributed and worked so hard!

Beth & Dan Nicoson

Board Meeting Highlights - January Meeting

** The Board continues to meet remotely via Zoom with occasional in-person meetings. All congregants are welcome to attend as guests - just contact Bright in the office for the Zoom link!

** The Temple Financial Statement through December 2024 was reviewed and the financials continue to be in good shape.

** The Board approved the creation of the Salata Family Fund which was started with a \$1 million dollar donation from Jean Salata, whose family were members when they lived in Erie. The fund will be focused on adult education, engagement, and technology to support those programs. In addition, Jean Salata has pledged up to \$250,000 in matching funds for all funds donated to the standing Temple Funds this year.

** Hanukah was a wonderful community gathering and it raised over \$2,400 including \$1,100 from the auction.

** Rabbi Morais presented his report including many upcoming Temple events. Check your emails for the weekly updates!

** The Board voted to allocate funding for down payments for the 150th Family Reunion Picnic – be sure to Save The Date – Saturday July 26th!

** The Board approved two new membership applications - Welcome back to our returning Temple Member, Larry Sawdy and to new members Devorah Denato Ponsoll and Kyle Ponsoll, who live in Edinboro with their two children.

** A Mitzvah Maker is chosen at each Board meeting for Board Members to make donations. This month's recipient is the Endowment Fund.

Any questions? Ask a Board Member! Our next Board Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on February 20th 2025.

Submitted by Julie Cohen

Yahrzeits

Feb 7/8

Caroline Biernbaum, Dina Levi, Rose Berenstain, Issac Cohen, Betty Gorman Levy, Isaac B. Grabuski, Carl Luntz, Helene Neubauer, Frances Falk Oppenheimer, Albert Schuster, David Lester, Rosalind Levick, Max Hess, Louis Hiller, Herma Schaack, Janice Schuster, John Holter, Pauline Jacobson, Irving Kullback, Blanche Levi, Renee Goldberg, Max Loeb

Feb 14/15

Julia Brown, Howard Fritz, Bertha Frank Schaffner, Myrtle Fox Levine, Rudolph Herzog, Lewis Jacobson, Freda Loeb, Wilford Joseph Luries, Lewis W. Steinbach, Mrs. Samuel Frank, Jacob Voss, Joseph Gold, George Harris, Raya Gorelik, Catherine Kaufman, Samuel S. Gardner, Michael Levee, Emma Nicholson, Herman Warhaftig, Manfred Jerome Berliner, Morris Casselman, Myrna Urkov

Feb 21/22

Morris Fox, Gabriel Schaffner, George J. Small, Lillian Steinberg, Grace Yetta Yurick, Karin Levy, Jennie Schaffner Phillips, Abraham Reese, Julius Sender, Meyer Sunstein, Abraham Weintzenkorn, Lillian Levick, Matilde Schaffner, Simon Glaser, Leighton Goldsmith, Eve Lochner, Albert Singer, Gregory Thorpe, Mose Cohen, Anna Hershfield Epstein, Lee Samuel Good, Sarah Nast Kamber, Anna Poser, Ida Prussin, Myer Rothstein, Irving Todtman, Anna Basch, Julius Harf, Samuel Kreiger, Marion Levy, Minna Mayer Levy, Flora Burstein Shapiro, Mitzi Kerness

Feb 28/Mar 1

Hans Haurwitz, Alexander Morris, Celia Slater, Alan Wolf, Sigmund Feuchtwanger, Francis H. Keim, Amelia Levi, Sol Hirsch, Elias Hassel, Ella Sulzbacher, Zachary Vigliotta, Alice Schuster, Isobel Silin, Werner Baum, Dorothy Emerman Brody, Hyman Cohen, Richard Eisenberg, Blanche Salomon, Richard Ronis, Al Bernstein

Service Dedications



Did you know that you can dedicate a Service in memory of, honor of or celebration of a loved one or event? The cost is \$18 per occasion/person. Please contact the Temple office for more information or to put in your dedication.



5401 Old Zuck Road
Erie, PA
16506

Phone: 814-454-2426
Fax: 814-454-2427
Email: office@taherie.org

TAHerie.org

People of Loving Kindness

Temple Anshe Hessed is a Reform Jewish congregation guided by Torah and dedicated to perpetuating Judaism and its traditions through education, worship, and social action in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Services

Friday, Jan 31st

6:15 p.m. Shabbat Evening Services

Saturday, Feb 1st

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services

11:00 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, Feb 7th

6:15 p.m. Shabbat Evening Services

TGIS Dinner and Tu BiShvat Seder

Join us for a Celebrations Oneg!

Saturday, Feb 8th

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services

11:00 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, Feb 14th

6:15 p.m. Shabbat Evening Services

Saturday, Feb 15th

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services

11:00 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, Feb 21st

6:15 p.m. Shabbat Evening Services

Saturday, Feb 22nd

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services

11:00 a.m. Torah Study

Friday, Feb 28th

6:15 p.m. Shabbat Evening Services

Pulpit Exchange with Rev. Jean N. Kuebler

Saturday, Mar 1st

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services

11:00 a.m. Torah Study

Join us for Torah Study on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86496554700>

Join us for Services on YouTube.

<http://bit.ly/TAHServices>

To view the Temple's full calendar, print the monthly calendar or register for classes and events please visit our website Calendar at [Monthly Calendar - Temple Anshe Hessed \(taherie.org\)](http://MonthlyCalendar-TempleAnsheHessed(taherie.org))